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

GENEALOGY

Part Three of Three

Updated August 2019 • Compiled by Joseph Peter Staker


Genealogy and history of 93 families that came to Tazewell and Woodford Counties 1830-1856
Above, Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand (1773-1844) of Châteauroux, department of Indre, France, aide-de-camp to Napoleon Bonaparte. In the 1830s he recruited Amish Mennonites for a student farm to test new agricultural methods, then employed them on his own farms.

ON THE COVER, clockwise from upper left: Tazewell County, Illinois; the flag of the Black Ball Line of packet ships running between Le Havre, Liverpool, and New York; the coat of arms of Trippstadt, overlapping the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Bavaria and the Wittelsbach family, who invited Amish Mennonite families to reside on their properties after the 1712 expulsion from Alsace; passengers embarking at Bremen circa 1848, as pictured in Harper’s Weekly in 1874; and background, hay baling © copyright 2012 Terry Tabb, used by permission.

Center: the coat of arms of modern Switzerland.

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


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

In the Bernese dialect a Zehr can be a boarder or tenant. The Heimat or place of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname is Aeschi bei Spiez. The village is located on a ridge between the Kander Valley [Ger. Kanderthal] and the southwestern shore of Lake Thun. There are few instances of the surname in records there before the mid-1700s; the decision to make it the Heimat may have something to do with its relatively larger size in comparison to adjacent small villages that have more relevance.

The Zehr family that we will follow accounts for almost all of the known Anabaptist lines. However, there is a ‘wildcard’ that might lead to some Anabaptist descendants. A census of Anabaptist heads-of-household at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1703 lists Bäntz Zehr and Peter Zehr. They are absent from a similar census taken the following year.

A marriage entry created July 8, 1687 at Steffisburg said that Peter Zehr von Räütingen [Reutigen] had married Barbara Schütz von Blumenstein (a Schütz is a guard). Reutigen is inland on the western shore of Lake Thun, five miles south of that city. Blumenstein is six miles west of that city.

Peter’s baptism entry has not been found. Reutigen, Blumenstein, Oberstocken, Niederstocken, and Pohlern were located in the Stocktal, a valley between the Stockhorn chain of alps and the ridge-plateau that holds Amsoldingen.1 A Protestant Reformed church at Reutigen served Reutigen, Niederstocken, and Oberstocken. Thus the remark that Peter Zehr was von Räütingen may only have meant that he came from any of three villages in the parish of Reutigen.

The three oldest registers of baptism records for the parish of Reutigen covering the years 1550-1697 have been missing since before 1901.2 Perhaps the baptisms of Peter and two of his sons were recorded there. There were still Zehrs in the congregation when a profile of Reutigen parish was created in 1861; they lived at Niederstocken.

It is also possible that he was the Peter Zeÿer baptized at Wimmis (adjacent below Reutigen) July 12, 1663, a son of Hans Zeÿer and Anni Wÿss.

It is thought that Peter and Barbara lived at Oberstocken after marrying. Family passdown said they departed from that location when they emigrated.

Children of Anabaptists Peter Zehr and Barbara/Bäbi Schütz include:

1. Anni Scher (as found) was baptized at Blumenstein March 16, 1690, a daughter of Peter Scher and Bäbi Schütz.
2. Johannes Schrag was born before 1698, and died at Struth, Lower Alsace April 21. On Aug. 19, 1718 at Hambach (since 1891 Waldhambach, three miles northwest of Struth) he married Anna Bürcki.
3. Christian Zehr was born before 1712.

Christian Zehr was born before 1712. At about that time the family traveled down the Rhine River to Struth in ‘Crooked Alsace’ (a part of Lower Alsace that projects into the region of Lorraine) to work as cultivators. Several unidentified brothers or Zehr families may have made the trip in the same time frame.

Circa 1733 Christian married Elisabeth Koch. Their children include:

1. Christian Zehr was born circa 1735, and died at Neuviller [now Neuviller-la-Roche] in 1786. He married Freni/Véronique Martin. One son, Johannes/Jean Zehr, married his cousin Barbe Zehr (below). A daughter Freni Zehr (also found as Françoise or Véronique Serre) married Jean Litwiller; see LITWILLER, ILLINOIS LITWILLERS for background on this couple. Some sources also attribute Michel Zehr as a son. Michel Zehr was born circa 1755, and died on Olferting estate at Gros-Réderching, Moselle June 1, 1813. He married Catherine Esch, Anne Marie Kohler, and Magdalena Farny. Their family resettled at Croghan, Lewis County, New York.
2. Daniel Zehr was born at Struth circa 1735.

Daniel Zehr was born at Struth circa 1735.

In 1777 he married Catherine Zehr. She was born at Struth circa 1750, and died there Dec. 24, 1805. Her German-language civil death entry describes her as age 55, and her husband Daniel as age 70.

Daniel died in the home of his son-in-law Johannes/Jean Springer at Struth May 21, 1819. His French-language civil death entry describes him as a cultivator, the 84-year-old widower of Catherine Zehr, and a son of

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1 Pohlern was part of the parish of Thierachern until 1922, when it became part of the parish of Blumenstein.
2 In 2014 Oberstocken, Niederstocken, and Höfen bei Thun merged to become Stocken-Höfen.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Chrétien Zehr and Elisabethe Koch. It was witnessed by son-in-law and cultivator Jean Springer, 44 (he signed 'Johannes Springer'); and son and cultivator Joseph Zehr, 34.

Children of Daniel Zehr and Catherine Zehr born at Struth include:

1. Katharina/Catherine Zehr was born April 15, 1778. On Jan. 27, 1798 at Struth she married Johannes/Jean Springer. He was born circa 1776, a son of Daniel Springer and Marie Kohler. They migrated to Bavaria in 1819. Among their children was David Springer, who lived at Solln (a southwestern Munich suburb) and sailed with his wife Elizabeth Guth on the Minnesota in 1849. David was born at Struth Oct. 14, 1806, died at Hopedale April 16, 1884, and is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. See SPRINGER for background on this couple.

2. Daniel Zehr was born Feb. 8, 1782, and died at Farnisville in 1856.

3. Joseph Zehr was born in May 1784, and died at Worth (also found as 'near Metamora'), Woodford County April 17, 1872.

4. Barbe Zehr was born May 17, 1791. On Aug. 29, 1811 at Struth she married her cousin Johannes/Jean Zehr. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Zehr [he signed Johannes], 28, born at Neuviller Sept. 3, 1783, a son of the deceased cultivator Chrétien Zehr and his widow Véronique [Martin] Zehr. The bride was described as Struth resident Barbe Zehr, 20, born at Struth May 17, 1791, a daughter of cultivator Daniel Zehr of Struth, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Zehr. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Springer, 36, brother-in-law of the bride, and weaver Chrétien Ketzel, 29, both residents of Struth. They resided at Nitting, Moselle.

DANIEL ZEHR

Daniel Zehr was born at Struth, Lower Alsace Feb. 8, 1782, and died at Farnisville in 1856.

On June 3, 1802 at Windstein, Lower Alsace (28 miles east of Struth) he married Magdalena Unzicker. Their German-language marriage entry calls them 'Daniel Zähr' and 'Magdalena Hüntzicker.' Witnesses included Joseph Zähr, 47; Christian Zähr of Sultzthal, 51; and Christian Bäch of Windstein, 35.

Magdalena was born at Windstein May 8, 1785, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria Dec. 16, 1838, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Unzicker and Barbara Ullman. She was a second cousin to Elizabeth Unzicker, the wife of Valentine Birky, and Daniel Unzicker, the husband of Magdalena Kahn.

In October 1803 the family entered a two-year lease on the dairy farm Abtsried, a property of the Wessobrunn monastery, about 34 miles southwest of Munich. They lived at Berg am Laim 1810-17. This was a small mountain known for its brickworks, which is now a district on the east side of Munich. On Dec. 2, 1818, they purchased property at Mannried (27 miles northwest of Munich), which was sold Dec. 15, 1827. From 1828 they lived on the Mang estate at Hanfeld (18 miles south of Munich), where Magdalena died Dec. 16, 1838.

Five of their children emigrated and stayed at least temporarily at Slabtown (now Congerville in Montgomery Township). In 1849 Daniel emigrated from Hanfeld as a 67-year-old widower with the family of his nephew David Springer.

Daniel and David joined a group departing from Bremen on the Minnesota (his traveling companions are listed in EIGSTI). They sailed via Liverpool to New York, arriving June 21, 1849. Many in the group traveled directly to Central Illinois.

Daniel reunited in Tazewell and Woodford Counties with his sons George (possibly immigrated 1835), Christian (immigrated 1839), Peter (immigrated 1844), and Jakob/Jacob (immigrated 1848), and possibly with daughter Magdalena. Oldest son Daniel followed in 1853, and only son Joseph remained in Bavaria.

Daniel died at the Farnisville home of son Christian in 1856, and is thought to be buried in Slabtown Cemetery. Children of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker include:

1. Daniel Zehr

Daniel Zehr was born at Struth June 8, 1803, and died during a cholera epidemic in his home at what is now Congerville, Woodford County Aug. 11, 1855.

On May 12, 1827 at Hilgertshausen-Tandern, Bavaria (27 miles east of Augsburg) he married Barbara Ingold. She was born on the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingbach (about four miles from Annweiler) in Nassau-Weilburg circa 1800, and died at Arzsbach bei Dachau Aug. 5, 1831 (an entry was...
created at nearby Pellheim), a daughter of Joseph Ingold and Elisabethe Gungrich. She brought one child to the marriage:

- Joseph Ingold was born Jan. 24, 1826, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Nov. 5, 1909. He sailed from Bremen on the Teutonia, and arrived at New York Aug. 29, 1861 with the family of Johannes/John Augsburger and Marie Oesch (see AUGSPURGER). On Nov. 8, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Unzicker; the ceremony was conducted by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in 1844, and died in 1871. On Jan. 14, 1872 in Tazewell County Joseph remarried to Barbara Ernst. She was born at Wilmot, Ontatio circa 1833, and died in Livingston County Dec. 8, 1887, a daughter of Christe/Christian Ernst and Madeleine Chepach (Schlabach). The 1880 census of Pike, Livingston County shows them as Joseph Ingold, 55, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; Barbara, 44, born in Canada to French parents; Henry, 16, born in Illinois; Joseph, 13, born in Illinois; and David, 10, born in Illinois. Herald of Truth, January 1888: "On the 8th of December in Livingston County, Ill., of dropsy, Sister Barbara Ernst, second wife of Joseph Ingold, aged 53 years. She was buried on the 11th. Services by Daniel Grieser, Chr. Zehr, and John P. Schmitt. She leaves her husband and three stepsons to mourn her departure." Gospel Herald, November 1909: "Joseph Ingold was born in Bavaria, Germany Jan. 24, 1826; died Nov. 5, 1909; at the home of his son Joseph, near Flanagan, Ill., where he spent the last eighteen years of his life; aged 83 y. 9 m. 11 d. In his early youth he united with the A. M. Church, and was faithful to the end. In 1863 he was united in holy matrimony with Barbara Unzicker. To this union were born three sons. In 1871 his wife departed to the spirit world. In 1872 he was married to Barbara Ernst. She preceded him to the spirit world in 1887. He leaves to mourn his departure three sons, twenty-one grandchildren and many friends. Funeral services were held at the Waldo A. M. Church, conducted by the brethren, John Birky and D. W. Slager. Interment in the cemetery nearby. Peace to his ashes." Joseph is buried with his first wife Barbara Unzicker under a joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

Children of Daniel Zehr and Barbara Ingold include:

a. Daniel Zehr was born at Söcking, Bavaria May 3, 1828, and died at Wolcott, Indiana May 20, 1915 (per the Indiana Death Index). On Dec. 13, 1855 in Tazewell County he married Anne Marie/Mary Wagler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace Nov. 28, 1834 (her birth entry called her Anne Marie Wagner), and died Feb. 14, 1894, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli. They are found on the 1880 census of Gridley as farmer Daniel Zehr, 53, Germany; Mary, 48, France; Daniel Jr., 19; John, 16; Phoebe, 14; Reuben, 8; Lydia, 4; Mary, 12; and Priscilla, 10; all children born in Illinois. Mary Wagler is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County. The 1900 census of Indian Grove, Fairbury Township shows landlord Dan.I Zehr, 72, born in Germany in May 1828 to a father from France and a mother from Germany, immigrated in 1853; and daughter Lyddie Zehr, 22, born in Illinois in April 1877 to a father from Germany and a mother from France. A headstone in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Wolcott gives Daniel the dates 1829-1915. Nearby is the grave of his daughter Lydia and her husband; a joint headstone describes them as "Stortz, Lydia Z., 1877-1936, Phillip R., 1878-1944."5

b. Magdalena Zehr was born at Söcking Dec. 2, 1829, and died there in April 1830.

c. Christian Zehr was born at Mannried, Bavaria July 27, 1831 (per a civil entry, headstone says Aug. 1, 1831), and died at Providence, Bureau County Oct. 4, 1891. On June 5, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Jakobina/Jacoline 'Phoebe' Eigsti; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Pellheim, Bavaria Aug. 7, 1838 (headstone Aug. 1, 1838), and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Nov. 25, 1913, a daughter of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho. Herald of Truth, November 1891: "On the 4th of October, 1891, near Providence, Bureau County, Ill., Bro. and deacon Christian A. Zehr, aged 60 years, two months and four days. He lived in matrimony 32 years. His widow, nine children, and nine grand children mourn his departure. He was prepared for the great change. His affliction was in his stomach (gastritis). Buried in the Indiantown graveyard, on which occasion services were held by Joseph Springer, of Hopedale, Ill., and Joseph Buercky, of Tiskilwa. The deceased brother as well as his wife, whose maiden name was Eyste, were natives of Bavaria, Germany. He lived 10 years in Woodford Co., and three in Tazewell Co., before he settled here 24 years ago." They are buried in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa.

On Nov. 6, 1832 Daniel remarried to Magdalena Müller. The entry created at Pellheim described the groom as Daniel Zehr, a resident of Arzbach House No. 10, born in June 1804, a son of Daniel Zehr and widower of Barbara Ingold. The bride was described as Magdalena Müller, a resident of Wellenburg bei Augsburg, born in 1806, a daughter of Christian Müller and Anna Schönbeck.

At Arzbach bei Dachau, Daniel was described as a castle carpenter/ builder with Christian Birki (of the 'Little Red Birky' branch). He became minister and elder in Bavaria.
On July 26, 1853 a public notice posted in Neueste Nachrichten aus dem Gebiete der Politik [Latest News from the Field of Politics] announced that farmer Daniel Zehr of Pettenbrunn (22 miles above Munich) intended to travel to North America with his family. He sold a Pettenbrunn property Sept. 1, 1853.

Gary L. Yordy found the passenger list of the Germania out of Bremen, which arrived at New York Nov. 19, 1853. It gives the family as Daniel Zehr, 50, farmer; Marie, 45; Christian, 22, farmer; Magdalena, 18; James [Jacob], 16; and Mary, 14; and their place of origin as Pettenbrunn. Son Daniel may have been accidentally omitted from this list, because his 1900 census report says he also immigrated in 1853.

The Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database shows that Daniel Zehr of Woodford County purchased 91.2 acres of federal land at what is now Congerville for 25 cents per acre Dec. 15, 1854. Daniel's status within the Mackinaw meetings is uncertain, given the presence of Christian Farny and other senior ministers, but he was highly regarded in deference to his status as an elder in Bavaria.

The circumstances of Daniel's death are given in SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING. Christian Smith died Aug. 2, 1855, and his wife Magdalena Aug. 4; Magdalena's brother Andrew Schrock and neighbors John Lantz and Jonas Kauffman died Aug. 5. As a minister and elder, Daniel was called to attend to the Smith children. He delivered the graveside eulogy at a funeral Aug. 10, spent the evening at home, and died there the following morning.

Daniel was buried in Slabtown Cemetery with many other cholera victims. Magdalena died Feb. 27, 1899, and is also buried in Slabtown Cemetery.

Children of Daniel Zehr and his second wife Magdalena Müller include:

d. Magdalena Zehr was born at Arzbach bei Dachau July 20, 1834 (headstone July 27, 1834), and died at Goodfield, Woodford County May 19, 1919. On April 8, 1856 in Woodford County she married Joseph Sutter (also found as 'Suttor'). 6 He was born Oct. 10, 1829, and died Sept. 26, 1860, a son of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch. Joseph's status as a deserter from Bavarian military training may explain why they do not appear on the federal census (see SUTTER). On Aug. 2, 1868 in Woodford County Magdalena remarried to widower Magnus Helderle. He was born Sept. 6, 1840, and died May 11, 1909. He had married his first wife Elizabeth Sommer in Woodford County June 8, 1864. 7 The blended family appears on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as farmer Magnus Holderley, 39, Baden; Lena, 46, Baden; Mary Sutor, 23, Illinois; laborer John Sutor, 20, Illinois; Christian Holderley, 15, Illinois; Magdalena Holderley, 10, Illinois; Sarah, 8, Illinois; Emma, 6, Illinois; and Lydia, 3, Illinois. They resided next door to Magdalena's brother Jakob /Jacob Zehr and Anna Roth. Magdalena and Magnus are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville, Woodford County.

e. Jakob/Jacob Zehr was born at Arzbach bei Dachau July 25, 1837 July 25, 1836 death entry), and died at Indian Grove, Livingston County May 12, 1922. On Sept. 20, 1865 in Woodford County he married Anna Roth. She was born in Butler County, Ohio Sept. 29, 1844, and died in Livingston County Dec. 31, 1895, a daughter of Andrew Roth and Anna Zimmerman. They appear on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as farmer Jacob Zehr 42, Bavaria; Annie, 36, born in Ohio to parents from France; six children born in Illinois; and Magdalena [Müller] Zehr, 75, Bavaria. They resided next door to the Helderles. They are buried in the South Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County.

f. Maria/Mary Zehr was born Feb. 15, 1839, and died May 3, 1903. On Sept. 11, 1864 in Woodford County she married Michael Miller. 8 He was born in Germany July 14, 1838, and died Oct. 7, 1882. They are found on the 1880 census of Gridley, McLean County as farmer Michael Miller, 39, born in Germany to a German father and French mother; Mary, 41, born in Germany to German parents; John, 15; Anna, 11; Benjamin, 10; and Samuel, 5; all children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Gridley Village shows landlord Mary Miller, 61, born in Germany in February 1839. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

2. George Zehr

George Zehr was born on the Abtsried dairy farm, a property of the Wessobrunn monastery (34 miles southwest of Munich) circa Jan. 23, 1806. George may have been the first of the Zehr family to emigrate from Europe. He is thought to have arrived in America May 26, 1835, though we could not determine the original source of this date found in several sources.

On Oct. 11, 1846 in Tazewell County he married Catharine Gundy. She was born May 5, 1817. The family is found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County next door to brother Peter Zehr as brewer George Seers, 44, Germany; Catharine, 34, Germany; and Madeline, 1, Illinois.

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6 Woodford County records list them as Joseph Sutter and Molitine Sear.
7 Woodford County records list the first marriage as Magnus Holderle and Elizabeth Somer, the second as Magnus Holderly and Magdalena Sutor.
8 Woodford County records list them as Michael Miller and Mary Behr.
The 1870 census of Gridley, McLean County shows farmer George Sears, 50, Beren [Bayern, or Bavaria]; Magdalena, 42, Beren [Catharine Gundy?]; Magdalena, 20, Illinois; Joseph, 18, Illinois; and Christian, 16, Illinois. They were living next door to the household of David Augspurger (found as 'Augesperger') and his second wife Elizabeth Schertz.

Catharine died at Flanagan, Livingston County Sept. 6, 1872. *Herald of Truth*, December 1872: "On the 6th of September, in McLean Co., Ill., of lung fever, Catharine Zehr, aged 54 years. A great number of relatives and friends followed her to the grave, to bestow the last tribute, of respect departed. She was beloved by all, and had been several years blind, but with her spiritual eyes she held to Him who is invisible as though she could see him. She bore her affliction with Christian resignation. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite church, and left a bereaved husband and three children to mourn their loss. Funeral services by Ch. Schlegel and John P. Schmitt, from *1 Cor. 15*." She is buried in Waldo Cemetery.

George is found on the 1880 census of Gridley, McLean County as a 74-year-old father-in-law from Anhalt living with farmer Jacob Augspurger, 32; his daughter Lena, 32; and a grandson Albert Augspurger, 2.

George Zehr died in Livingston County Feb. 3, 1886. He is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington, where his headstone says he "died Feb. 3, 1886, aged 80 Yrs. 10 Ds."

Children of George Zehr and Catharine Gundy include:

a. Magdalena Zehr was born circa in East Peoria, Woodford County Feb. 24, 1849, and died at Richwoods, Peoria County Nov. 1, 1919. On Jan. 8, 1871 at Danvers, McLean County she married Jacob Augspurger; minister Joseph Stuckey performed the ceremony. Jacob was born in Butler County, Ohio Aug. 23, 1847, and died at Chenoa, McLean County Nov. 17, 1932, a son of David Augspurger and his first wife Magdalena Unzicker. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.


c. Christian H. Zehr was born at Slabtown, Woodford County Nov. 2 or 23, 1853, and died at Chenoa Aug. 23, 1932. On Nov. 23, 1882 at Danvers, McLean County he married Mary Magdalena Unzicker. She was born in Clark County July 24, 1862, and died at Chenoa Aug. 23, 1932, a daughter of Joseph Unzicker (a son of Daniel Unzicker and Magdalena Kahn) and Magdalena Schmucker. They are buried in Lexington Cemetery at Lexington, McLean County.

3. **Joseph Zehr**

   **Joseph Zehr** was born at Bogenhausen (now a district on the east side of Munich, next to Berg am Laim) Nov. 29, 1807, and died there Dec. 9, 1807.

4. **Joseph Zehr**

   **Joseph Zehr** was born at Berg am Laim Nov. 18, 1810, and died after a logging accident at Beigarten, Bavaria (12 miles east of Hanfeld) April 30, 1871.

   On May 14, 1837 he married Katharina Oesch. She was born at Hanfeld May 8, 1814, and died at Walchstadt, Bavaria (eight miles southeast of Hanfeld) Oct. 25, 1856, a daughter of Andreas Oesch and Katharina/Catherine Bürrki and Katharina Augspurger/Augsburger.

   On March 13, 1857 at Berg am Laim he remarried to Jakobina Miller. She was born at Wellenburg (a suburb of Augsburg) March 12, 1818, and died at Beigarten Jan. 13, 1890, a daughter of Christian Miller and Magdalena Oesch.

   Joseph was the only son who chose not to emigrate from Europe. He is thought to have had a son and a daughter.

5. **Christian Zehr**

   **Christian Zehr** was born at Berg am Laim Nov. 12, 1812, and died at Deer Creek Sept. 19, 1893.

   He sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Rhone*, arriving at New York June 17, 1839. The passenger list shows Christ Zear, 26, Bavaria. His name appears three lines below that of Jacob Imhof, 24; and Peter Imhof, 23. Peter Imhof or Imhoff later became elder of the conservative Augspurger congregation in Butler County. Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller also brought their family on this voyage.
On Sept. 5, 1841 in what became Woodford County Christian married Elizabeth Landes. She was born in Ohio circa 1814. She was a daughter of Rudolph Landes and Nancy Plum, and a younger sister to Tazewell County pioneer settler Joseph Landes. She came to Illinois some time after the fall of 1833 (when she relocated with her family from Ohio to Carroll County, Indiana), likely accompanied by another brother Rudolph [Jr.]. For background on their family see the Appendix, LANDES.

Elizabeth died in 1843, shortly after giving birth to a daughter, Magdalena.

On Aug. 20, 1844 in Tazewell County Christian remarried to Marie/Mary Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle April 16 (April 23 headstone), 1823, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 22, 1893, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows farmer Christian Sears, 38, Germany; Mary, 28, France; Matlan [Magdalena], 8, Illinois; Joseph, 5, Illinois; Josephine, 2, Illinois; and Mattan [Magdalena] Stine, 14, Germany. They resettled at Deer Creek in 1852.

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Tazewell County: "The family has been known in this section since the spring of 1852, when the...Christian Zehr...settled on Section 25, Deer Creek Township, where he engaged in the general farming and stock-raising business on a scale exceeding that of his neighbors, and raising expectations in the popular mind which were more than realized...and in time became the owner of 900 acres of land, the greater part being valuable and productive. As his children became of age he apportioned farms to them, thus giving them a start in life to which his own youth had been a stranger."

The 1860 census of Mackinaw shows them living next door to brother Peter Zehr as farmer Christian Zears, 48, Germany; Mary, 37, Germany; and six children born in Illinois. They are also found on the 1870 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christian Zehr, 57, Bavaria; Mary, 47, France; Elizabeth, 16, Illinois; Christian, 14, Illinois; Liddy, 8, Illinois; and Samuel, 6, Illinois (son Joseph Zehr, 24, lived next door; brother Peter Zehr, 52, is found on the same page). They are also found on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christian Zehr, 68, Bavaria; Mary, 58, France; Lydia, 17, Illinois; and Samuel, 13, Illinois.

Herald of Truth, October 1893: "On the 19th of Sept. 1893, in Tazewell Co., Ill., of general debility, Bro. Christian Zehr, aged 81 y., 7 m. He leaves his wife and six children. Funeral services by Joseph King and Joseph Stuckey in German and English from Psa.90." Herald of Truth, December 1893: "On the 21st of November, 1893, in Tazewell Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age and epilepsy, Mary, maiden name Oyer, widow of Christian Zehr who died two months ago. Her age was 71 years and 7 months. She leaves six children, who were present at her funeral on the 23d. Funeral services by Joseph Stuckey, at the house, and at the Deer Creek M.H. by him and Solomon Yoder from John 11 and 2 Cor. 5. Sister Zehr longed for the end and we have reason to believe she is at rest." They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

The recollections of Christian's daughter Elizabeth, written in the 1930s:

"I was born in 1854 in a log cabin which contained only two rooms and no floors. The roof was made of clapboards. This cabin was situated along the Mackinaw River which was only two jumps wide. It is now about 80 feet wide. There were fourteen log cabins in the community where I was born. I was the last one born in the long [sic] house, for soon after that my father made his own bricks out of clay and built a brick house.

My father's wagon was made out of logs with broad axe and saw and not one pound of iron in it. I saw him work in the field with that wagon and three yoke of oxen a great number of times. He also built a log barn - 70 ft. by 40 ft. My father made his own plow out of wood. This was a one-horse plow and it took one row for one round.

We always went to church in the wagon. The church was twenty-five miles away. In those days church services were held in houses, while now it is held in buildings used for that purpose only. In years after, we rode in spring wagons. Now automobiles are used almost entirely, and if it rains we can't get there.

My father put the wheat and grain on the barn floor and threshed it out with clubs. Now all farmers have threshing machines. He put the corn on the barn floor and stamped it out with horses, fanned it, put it in sacks, and took it to market. Now corn shellers are used. He cut his grain with a cradle and one of us had to follow with the garden rake and make bundles, another to bind it. They now have a machine which does both cutting and threshing.

It always seemed that my father was blessed, for he was never too tired or busy for family worship. God blessed him with six children. My father was born in 1812 and was always a hard working man. He died when he was 82 years of age....

I think the old days were a blessing and a comfort. The times now are so different that they are hard to get used to. I think the automobiles and high ways of living spoil things. Then the neighbors helped each other without pay; now it is pay for every quarter of an hour. During the years 1861, '62, and '63, the Civil War was fought. Two of my uncles were drafted but my father bought substitutes for them. The Civil War and also the World War are sad memories.

9 A Woodford County transcription from the original handwritten record names them as Christian Sein and Elizabeth Landes.
I was married in 1873 to Mr. Andrew Ulrich. We lived with my folks for two years and then moved in 1875 to Harlen farm, a mile and a half east of Deer Creek. From the Harlen place, we moved to Deer Creek. We raised four children. I have fourteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. My husband died February 13, 1919. Since then I have lived alone. Up to this time I have made 168 quilts.

God blessed me and still does, for he keeps me well. My wish is that God may bless the whole relationship."

The child of Christian Zehr and his first wife Elizabeth Landes was:

a. Magdalena Zehr was born in Illinois March 21, 1843, and died at Manson, Iowa July 28, 1914. On July 28, 1863 in Woodford County she married her second cousin Andreas/Andrew Zehr, a son of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Kohler. See his notes in DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH ZEHR.

Children of Christian Zehr and his second wife Marie/Mary Oyer include:

b. Joseph Zehr was born in Woodford County Jan. 22, 1846, and died at Aurora, Nebraska March 19, 1920. On Sept. 8, 1867 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Yoder. She was born at Pleasant, Ohio Dec. 11, 1847, and died at Aurora May 12, 1916, a daughter of Joel Yoder and Lydia K. Yoder. They are buried in Aurora Cemetery.

c. Josephine 'Phoebe' Zehr was born in Woodford County Feb. 11, 1849, and died at Deer Creek April 16, 1897. On Aug. 20, 1874 in Tazewell County she married Christian King. He was born at Liberty, Butler County, Ohio Oct. 13, 1840, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 23, 1924, a son of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. They are buried in Stumbaugh Cemetery at Goodfield, Woodford County. See KING for details of his three marriages.

d. Elizabeth Zehr was born at Deer Creek Sept. 28, 1854, and died Aug. 1, 1948. On March 6, 1873 in McLean County she married Andrew Ulrich. He was born at Peoria June 5, 1848, and died Feb. 18, 1919, a son of Peter Ulrich and Anna Oyer. They are buried in Stumbaugh Cemetery at Goodfield, Woodford County.

e. Christian Zehr was born at Deer Creek March 12, 1857, and died at Olio, Woodford County Oct. 12, 1926. On Feb. 5, 1878 at Roanoke, Woodford County he married Magdalena ‘Malinda’ Roeschley. She was born at Washington March 29, 1858, and died in McLean County April 17, 1899, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Roeschley and Elizabeth Salzman. Christian and Malinda are found next door to his parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as Christian Zehr, 23, Bavaria; and Malinda, 22, Alsace. On April 29, 1900 in McLean County he remarried to Mary Almeda Imhoff Miller. She was born at Washburn, Woodford County Oct. 17, 1874, and died at Peoria Oct. 10, 1940, a daughter of Joseph Imhoff and Emma Jane Webber. She is buried in Parkview Cemetery at Peoria.

f. Barbara Zehr was born at Deer Creek in 1859. She does not appear on the 1870 census.

g. Lydia 'Liddy' A. Zehr was born at Deer Creek March 29, 1863, and died there Oct. 9, 1935. She is found as a 17-year-old living with her parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek. On July 22, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Jacob D. Roeschley. He was born at Washington in March 1857, and died in 1909, a son of Johannes/Jean Roeschley and Elizabeth Salzman. They are found on the 1900 census of Montgomery as Jacob Roeschley, 42, born in Illinois in March 1857 to French parents; Lydia, 38, born in Illinois in March 1862 to parents from Germany and France; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

h. Samuel Zehr was born at Deer Creek Jan. 8, 1867, and died at Chenoa, McLean County June 30, 1940. He is found as a 13-year-old living with his parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek. On June 16, 1887 in McLean County he married Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Lehman. Their household appears on the 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County as Samuel Zehr, 33, born in Illinois in January 1867 to German and French parents; Lizzie, born in Illinois in April 1869 to French and German parents; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

6. Magdalena Zehr

Magdalena Zehr was born at Berg am Laim March 12, 1816. She may have been the 'M. Zehr, 32, farmer, Germany' on the passenger list of the Virginia. That ship departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York July 2, 1849. It is likely that she was the Magdalena Zehr who married Christian Oesch in Tazewell County June 17, 1851. He was born at Hanfeld, Bavaria Dec. 5, 1819, and died at Elm Grove Oct. 12, 1908, a son of Andreas Oesch and Catherine/Katharina Augspurger. If so, she died before 1860 (see ESCH/OESCH for a list of their children). On May 8, 1860 in Woodford County Oesch remarried to Marie Aversol/Mary Aversoll.

7. Peter Zehr

Peter Zehr was born at Hilgerhausen-Tandern (adjacent to Mannreid) Dec. 30, 1818, and died at Slabtown April 6, 1886.

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10 The 1860 census erroneously switched 'Phoebe' (found as a 5-year-old) and Elizabeth (found as an 11-year-old).
Peter Zehr was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Aug. 24, 1851; died at his home near Fisher, Ill., Mar. 14, 1922; aged 70 yrs. 11 ms. He suffered from a complication of diseases. He bore it very patiently. He was married to Barbara Heiser of Morton, Ill., June 8, 1876. To this union were born five children (Mrs. Catharine Cender, Dan P. Zehr, Katharina Heiser, and Catherine Wagler).

Daniel, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Oyer) Zehr, was born March 9, 1849, at East Peoria, Ill.; died June 5, 1942, at Deer Creek, Ill. His illness was of short duration, caused by a paralytic stroke, which occurred about 12 hours before his death. His passing was just as he lived. Calmly and quietly he passed into his eternal rest. He was united in marriage to Katherine Heiser Jan. 13, 1874. She preceded him in death May 15, 1911. His oldest son (Jacob) also preceded him in death. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth Oyer, Peter, Amos, and Matilda, all of near Morton; Mrs. Ida Birkey and Daniel, both of Fisher. He is also survived by 43 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren, one brother, Samuel of Fisher, Ill., one sister, Mrs. Phebe Zehr of Manson, Iowa, and a host of other relatives and friends. In his youth he confessed Christ as his Saviour, was baptized and became a member of the Mennonite Church of which he has been a faithful member until death. In his youth he attended church up to the last Sunday he lived and taken a great interest in his Master's service. The greatest part of his time during recent years was spent in reading the Bible which seemed to be his greatest treasure. He had a meek and quiet spirit and always showed great interest and love for his family and for his fellow men, manifesting a friendly spirit to every one he met. Funeral services were held June 8 at the Morton Mennonite Church in Morton, Ill., in charge of Bros. J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill., and Simon Litwiller, Minier, Ill. Interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery near Deer Creek, Ill."

d. Peter Zehr Jr.] was born in Tazewell County Aug. 24, 1851, and died at Foosland, Champaign County March 14, 1922. On June 8, 1876 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Heiser. She was born Nov. 1, 1857, and died at Foosland Nov. 16, 1934, a daughter of Jacob Heiser and Catherine Wagler. Gospel Herald, March 1922: "Bishop Peter Zehr was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Aug. 24, 1851; died at his home near Fisher, Ill., Mar. 14, 1922; aged 70 y. 6 m. 18 d. He suffered from a complication of diseases. He bore it very patiently. He was married to Barbara Heiser of Morton, Ill., June 8, 1876. To this union were born five children (Mrs. Catharine Cender, Dan P. Zehr, Mrs. Lizzie Cender, Mrs. Amelia Birky, and Joseph A., who preceded his father in his infancy). He leaves 15 grandchildren, three brothers, and three sisters. Five brothers and one sister preceded him to eternity. He united with his time during recent years was spent in reading the Bible which seemed to be his greatest treasure. He had a meek and quiet spirit and always showed great interest and love for his family and for his fellow men, manifesting a friendly spirit to every one he met. Funeral services were held June 8 at the Morton Mennonite Church in Morton, Ill., in charge of Bros. J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill., and Simon Litwiller, Minier, Ill. Interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery near Deer Creek, Ill."
the Mennonite Church in his youth. June 10, 1883 he was ordained to the ministry in Deer Creek, Ill. In 1893 he was ordained bishop in charge of the East Bend congregation near Fisher. He was known for his heart concern for the flock. His last prayers were for her welfare. The funeral was held Mar. 17, 1922, conducted by Bros. Samuel Gerber, C. F. Derstine, and Bros. Ezra B. Yordy. Text, *I Thes. 4:14; II Cor. 5:1.* *Gospel Herald,* December 1934: "Barbara, daughter of Jacob and Katherine Heiser, and wife of Bishop Peter Zehr, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Nov. 1, 1857; died Nov. 16, 1934, at the home of her daughter (Mrs. Alvin R. Birkey of Foosland, Ill.); aged 77 y. 15 d. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful member until death. She was united in marriage with Peter Zehr, June 8, 1876. To this union were born five children, three of whom are now living... Her husband also preceded her in death, having died March 14, 1922. She leaves 19 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Two grandchildren have gone on before her. She also leaves one sister (Mrs. Fanny King of Fisher, Ill.) and five brothers (Christian of Goodfield, Ill.; Peter of Foosland, Ill.; Isaac of Fisher, Ill.; Samuel and Daniel of Morton, Ill.). Four sisters and two brothers preceded her in death. She leaves a large host of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the East Bend Mennonite Church with Bro. Harold Zehr of Fisher, Ill., and Bro. Ezra Yordy of Eureka, Ill., in charge. Text, *Job 5:26.* Interment in East Bend Cemetery." They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.

e. Christian Zehr was born in Tazewell County Nov. 1, 1853, and died there Jan. 3, 1854.
f. Elizabeth Zehr was born in Tazewell County Feb. 2, 1855, and died at Goodfield Jan. 29, 1933. On Feb. 25, 1877 at Goodfield she married Christian W. Heiser. He was born at Allentown, Tazewell County in 1854 (per his headstone), and died at Goodfield Dec. 12, 1938, a son of Jacob Heiser and Catherine Wagler. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.
g. Jacob Zehr was born at Mackinaw July 15, 1857, and died there Nov. 16, 1857.
h. John Zehr was born at Mackinaw Nov. 22, 1858, and died there Nov. 21, 1860.
i. Andrew Zehr was born at Mackinaw Aug. 15, 1860, and died five days later.
j. Mary Zehr was born at Mackinaw Aug. 6, 1861, and died Jan. 18, 1937. In 1886 she married Joseph Baecher. He was born March 31, 1853, and died at Fisher, Champaign County June 30, 1931, a son of John Baecher and Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.
k. David Zehr was born at Mackinaw April 21, 1864, and died at Manson, Iowa Feb. 7, 1924. On Dec. 28, 1886 he married Elizabeth M. Zehr. She was born in Woodford County April 12, 1866, and died at Manson, Iowa April 12, 1924, a daughter of Andrew Zehr and Magdalena Zehr. *Gospel Herald,* February 1924: "Bro. David D. Zehr was born at Deer Creek, Ill., April 4, 1864; died Feb. 7, 1924; aged 59 y. 9 m. 16 d. He died of injuries sustained in a railroad accident. He lived in the neighborhood of his birthplace until manhood. On Dec. 28, 1886, he was married to Lizzie, daughter of Andrew and Magdalena Zehr. He lived in Fisher, Ill., 2 years and at Flanagan, Ill., 6 years. In the spring of 1897 he moved with his family to Manson, Iowa, where he resided until God called him. Those who remain of his family are his wife and five children as follows: Martha E., Mrs. Rosa Roth, Silas P. Zehr, Alvin W. Zehr (who is suffering from the effects of the accident, but is doing nicely at present), and Anna L., wife of Clyde Garber, all residing in this vicinity. The following brothers and sisters survive: Elizabeth, wife of C. W. Heisey, Mary, wife of Joseph Baecher, Phoebe, wife of Christian Zehr, Daniel Zehr, and Samuel Zehr. He united with the Mennonite Church in his early youth and in his early manhood was much interested in Sunday school and church work. He was of the number who helped to organize the Sunday School at Fisher, Ill., and served as superintendent while living there. He was among the first ones to move to this neighborhood and was active in the organization of this congregation. He was the second ordained minister in this congregation and was ordained May 19, 1902, and ordained to the office of bishop May 16, 1909, serving as minister 22 years and as bishop 15 years. The last few weeks of his earthly life he would say about every night, "I wish Jesus would come." Just before he left his home on the night of the accident he was reading in our church paper, and said, "I wish I were well so I could go and do more or could get the young people together so they could do more." Funeral services were held at the Manson Mennonite Church in charge of Bro. J. W. Hess. Text, *II Cor. 5:1.* There were about 500 people present who had come to pay their last tribute of respect to our departed brother. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery.
l. Phoebe Zehr was born at Mackinaw Dec. 3, 1866, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 25, 1949. On March 30, 1886 in Tazewell County she married Christian S. Zehr. He was born May 18, 1864, and died at Manson May 17, 1938, a son of Andrew Zehr and Magdalena Zehr. *Gospel Herald,* October 1949: "Phoebe, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Zehr, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Dec. 3, 1866; passed away at her home in Manson, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1949; aged 82 y. 9 m. 22 d. She was the last surviving member of a family of thirteen children. Even though she carried the heavy responsibility of raising a large family, she was always in relatively good health until the last two years, when she was bedfast most of the time. On March 30, 1886, she was united in marriage to Christian Zehr, who preceded her in death eleven years ago. They lived in Illinois the first twelve years of their married life, after which they moved to Manson, Iowa. One son (Emmanuel) passed away five years ago. Surviving are 9 children (Bertha - Mrs. Will Birkey, Arthur, Ben, Ada - Mrs. Ray Sutter, John, Lena - Mrs. Aaron Sutter, Clarence, Elmer, and Cora, all of Manson, Iowa), 22 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a large number of other relatives and friends. In her youth she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, of which she was a faithful and consistent member until death. As a mother in the home she was devoted to her task. During her illness she was patient and appreciative of the care given by her daughter (Cora) and other members of her family. Funeral services..."
were held Sept. 27 at the Manson Mennonite Church, with Nick Stoltzfus in charge, assisted by Ed Birkey. Interment was made in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

m. Samuel Zehr was born at Deer Creek Feb. 24, 1870, and died at Fisher, Champaign County March 31, 1943. On Sept. 27, 1892 in Champaign County he married Magdalena 'Lena' Unzicker. She was born in 1870, and died March 1, 1939, a daughter of Christian Unzicker and Maria Gingerich. Gospel Herald, April 1943: "Samuel S., son of Peter and Elizabeth (Oyer) Zehr, was born near Goodfield, Ill., Feb. 24, 1870, departed this life March 31, 1943, at the home of his son, Sam M., near Fisher; aged 73 y. 1 m. 7 d. He had been in failing health for the past 18 months and for the last 10 months has been bedfast. He lived in this vicinity for the past 53 years. In his early youth he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite church, of which he was a faithful and consistent member until the time of his death. He was united in marriage to Lena Unzicker Sept. 27, 1892, who preceded him in death March 1, 1939. He was the youngest of a family of thirteen, one sister Phoebe Zehr, Manson, Iowa, surviving him; also three sons (Aaron E., Foosland; Sam M., Fisher; and Albert R., Foosland) and six grandchildren. He was ordained to the office of deacon June 1906 at the East Bend Mennonite Church in which capacity he served in the Church, also assisting in the ministry until his health failed and he asked to be relieved from this responsibility. Funeral services were conducted at the home of his son by Bro. Harold Zehr, and at the East Bend Mennonite Church by Bro. J.A. Heiser. Text, Job 14:15. Burial in the East Bend Cemetery. The room is quiet, all is still; the place is vacant, 'tis God's will. Soon long you have waited for your rest, our blessed Lord knows what is best."

8. Jakob/Jacob Zehr

Jakob/Jacob Zehr was born at Mannried, Bavaria Sept. 17, 1825, and died at Goodfield Feb. 22, 1898. According to Auswanderung, Jakob Zehr, a serving farmhand at Hanfeld, emigrated from Bavaria in 1848 bound for Illinois with 400 florins in hand. He went directly to Slabtown, and purchased land in the Zimmerman Ford area on the Mackinaw River. On April 21, 1850 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Ehresman. She was born in Germany Sept. 11, 1830, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 27, 1902, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and Elizabeth Barnett. They are found on the 1850 census of Woodford County living next to older brother Christian: Jacob Sears, 25, Germany; and Eliza, 20, Germany. Jacob was ordained as a minister by the Mackinaw meeting June 12, 1859, and later served the Roanoke Mennonite Church and Goodfield Mennonite Church. He became elder May 20, 1863. He attended assemblies of ministers in 1866, 1871, 1872, 1875, and 1878, despite suffering severe migraine headaches. They appear on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer Jacob Zehr, 42, Bavaria; R. Annie Zehr, 36, Ohio; with six children born in Illinois, and Magdalena [Müller] Zehr, 75, Bavaria. Herald of Truth, March 1898: "Montgomery Township, Woodford County, Ill., lost one of its oldest and most respected citizens on Tuesday morning of Feb. 22nd, 1898 by the death of Pre. Jacob Zehr, at his home in Mackinaw valley, near Zimmerman's Ford. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, Sept. 17, 1825 and immigrated to America in the spring of 1848. On April 21st, 1850, he was married to Elizabeth Ehresman and settled on the farm upon which he died. This farm he entered from the government and by hard labor succeeded in making it a comfortable home, leaving his family well provided for. His family consisted of four sons and five daughters of whom one son and two daughters preceded him to the grave; his wife, six children and eighteen grandchildren survive him. Bro. Zehr united with the Amish Mennonite Church in early youth and remained a faithful member to the time of his death. On the 12th of June 1859, he was chosen by the above named church as minister of the Gospel, and on May 17th, 1863 ordained as bishop. It was ever his highest aim to fill this charge according to God's ordinances as long as He gave him power and health to do so. He was a sufferer from nervousness or sick-headache more or less for nearly forty years, which wore on him so that for the last four or five years his health has been so poor that he was unable to preach. This seemed to be his greatest sorrow in his declining years; yet by his patience in his sufferings and his trust in his Master he was ever setting a good example to others who visited him, and to his family. About four months ago he was partly paralyzed and from that time was confined to his bed and as helpless as a child, patiently awaiting her Master's call to come up higher. His life on earth was an exemplary, upright, humble one, highly respected by all who knew him. While the sorrow of his death is general, yet it is mitigated by the knowledge that after a long and useful life a good man has gone to the home he so longed for."

They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

Children of Jakob/Jacob Zehr and Elizabeth Ehresman born at Slabtown, Montgomery Township, Woodford County include:

11 The marriage entry lists Elizabeth Ehresman as 'Eliza Anersman.'
a. Magdalena Zehr was born Nov. 26, 1855, and died April 4, 1890. On Oct. 28, 1875 in McLean County she married Jacob Wolber. He was born on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach, Baden (above Pforzheim, now called Königsbach-Stein) Feb. 13, 1849, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 17, 1931, a son of Christian Wolber and Susanna Hochstettler (according to his death entry). He had an aunt Catherine Wolber who married Daniel Ehresman/Ehresmann at Königsbach July 26, 1840; this couple came to Woodford County circa 1852-58. See The Appendix, WOLBER for earlier generations of the family. Jacob Wolber sailed from Bremen to New York, and arrived at New York March 25, 1868. He appears on the passenger list as Jac. Walber, 20, farmer, Germany. The 1880 census of Deer Creek shows farmer Jacob Wolber, 31, Germany; Magdalena, 24, Illinois; daughter Elizabeth, 3, Illinois; daughter Susan, 1, Illinois; and brother/farmer Christian Zehr, 20, Illinois. Following Magdalena's death Jacob may have remarried to her younger sister Phoebe Zehr. He is found on every census of Deer Creek 1880-1920. A passport application he submitted at the Pekin Courthouse May 13, 1913 stated that he was naturalized at Pekin Oct. 23, 1880, and described his immigration voyage as Bremen to New York, departing March 7, 1868. He described himself as a farmer at Deer Creek. He also stated that he intended to return from Europe within four months. Jacob's death entry stated that he was buried at Deer Creek, but did not name a cemetery; it named his wife as Phoebe Wolber.

b. Katharina/Katharine 'Katie' Zehr was born April 2, 1858, and died at Fisher, Champaign County April 14, 1921. On Aug. 27, 1876 she married Christian Oyer. He was born at Washington May 23, 1852, and died at Fisher, Champaign County May 20, 1929, a son of Joseph Oyer and Anne/Anna Peter Schmitt Roth. See OYER for background on this couple including their obituaries.

c. Christian J. Zehr was born March 3, 1860, and died in Los Angeles Feb. 19, 1946. On Feb. 26, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Lydia Springer. She was born at Hopedale July 7, 1867, and died at East Bend Township, Champaign County Aug. 3, 1945. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher, Champaign County.

d. John Zehr was born April 21, 1862, and died at Normal, McLean County June 30, 1919. On Dec. 28, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Lydia Springer. She was born at Hopedale July 7, 1867, and died at East Bend Township, Champaign County Aug. 3, 1945. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher, Champaign County.

e. Phoebe Zehr was born June 9, 1864, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 21, 1939. In 1891 she may have married Jacob Wolber, who had been married to her older sister Magdalena until 1890. Their obituaries give the date Jan. 1, 1891, but we could not identify a civil marriage entry in Illinois. The 1900 census of Deer Creek shows them as farmer Jacob Wolber, 51, born in Germany in February 1849, married 24 years; Phoebe, 34, born in Illinois to German parents in June 1865, married 24 years; Emma V., 17, born in Illinois in August 1882; John R., 15, born in Illinois in December 1883; Christian A., 8, born in Illinois in April 1892; Mary M., 4, born in Illinois in December 1895; and Jessie E., 2, born in Illinois in August 1898. Twenty-four years would have expressed the time since Jacob's marriage to older sister Magdalena. In 1910 they amended the number, reporting that they had been married 19 years. Gospel Herald, November 1931: "Jacob, son of Christian and Susan Wolber, was born in Koenigeback, Baden, Germany, Feb. 13, 1849; died at his home near Deer Creek, Ill., Oct. 17, 1931; aged 82 y. 8 m. 4 d. He came to America at the age of 19 years, and lived in this community the remainder of his life. On Oct. 28, 1875, he was married to Magdalena Zehr, who preceded him in death 41 years ago. To this union four children were born. On Jan. 1, 1891, he was married to Phoebe Zehr and to this union were born four children. In his youth he united with the Mennonite Church and remained a faithful and active member until death. He enjoyed good health until two months ago, when he was stricken with an illness from which he never recovered. During this time he suffered much but bore it all patiently. He was resigned to the will of God and had morning worship with his family until the day preceding his death. He leaves his wife, and the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth Zehr, Mrs. Susan Heiser, Mrs. Otto Guengerich, John, Alvin, Lena (a patient at the Oak Knoll Sanitarium), and Esther. One daughter, Ada, preceded him in death in 1902. He also leaves two sisters and one brother in Germany, 17 grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held from the church at Deer Creek, Oct. 19, in charge of Bro. E.B. Yordy, Ellison and J.D. Hartzler." Gospel Herald, November 1939: "Phoebe, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Zehr, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., June 6, 1864; died at her home in Deer Creek, Ill., Oct. 21, 1939; aged 75 y. 4 m. 12 d. At the age of 15 she united with the Goodfield Mennonite Church, and remained a faithful member until her death. Jan. 1, 1891 she was married to Jacob Wolber, who preceded her in death Oct. 17, 1931. She had been in poor health for the past three years, failing more rapidly in the past six months. All through her life and even during her sickness she was always thinking of doing for others rather than herself. She was ready for the Lord's call and expressed a desire to be with Him. She leaves to mourn her departure Lena and Esther at home, Susan Heiser of Morton, Emma Guengerich of Deer Creek, John of Peoria, 19 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one sister (Lizzie Werner of Gibson City), two brothers (Chris Zehr of Los Angeles and Jacob Zehr of Fisher, Ill.), and a host of relatives and friends. Those who preceded her in death were her husband, an infant daughter (Ada), a son (Alvin), and a daughter (Lizzie Zehr). "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Funeral was held Oct. 23, in the Deer Creek Baptist Church with Brethren C. Warren Long of Peoria and Harold Oyer of Goodfield in charge."
f. Elizabeth Zehr was born Nov. 17, 1869, and died at Gibson City, Ford County Nov. 28, 1946 (the Illinois Statewide Death Index identifies her as Elizabet Werner). She married Joseph Werner (likely after 1900). He was born in Illinois Nov. 11, 1867, and died April 25, 1957. The 1940 census of Drummer Township, Ford County shows Joseph Werner, 72, Illinois; Elizabeth, 71, Illinois; and daughter and music teacher Fern, 38, Illinois; and that on April 1, 1935 they had been living at Fisher, Champaign County. Joseph and Elizabeth are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.

g. Jacob E. Zehr was born Aug. 8, 1872, and died in Champaign County Aug. 11, 1950. Circa 1897 he married Emma Miller. She was born in Illinois March 25, 1876, and died Oct. 23, 1955; a daughter of Christian Miller and Rachel Sharp. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.

JOSEPH ZEHR

Joseph Zehr was born in May 1784, and died at Worth (also found as 'near Metamora'), Woodford County April 17, 1872.

On June 7, 1806 at Cirey-sur-Vezouze, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Anne Verly [Swiss Werli or Wehrli, also found in French as Verle]. She was born circa 1782, and died at Metamora, Woodford County after 1870, a daughter of Ulrich Verly (who died Dec. 20, 1782) and Magdalena Steiner, who was present and consenting. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Christianne Verly, 29, brother of the bride from La Frimbolle [found as La Frimbonne], and Christianne Kerbre [he signed 'Christian Gerber'], 53, cousin of the bride from Harcholin, Cirey [Harcholm is a forest between Cirey-sur-Vezouze and La Frimbolle]. The groom signed 'Joseph Znh' (with the old style Swiss-German 'n' for an 'e'), and the bride signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate.

They raised a family in House No. 37 at Struth, Lower Alsace, while Joseph worked as a miller.

We could not determine their immigration year (possibly before 1850, certainly before 1860), and a passenger list would provide some missing points.

The 1860 census of Worth shows Joseph Zehr, 80; France; and Anna, 82, France. They were occupying a farm that had been in the name of their son Pierre/Peter, who had died there in 1849 or 1850.

Joseph is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. It is assumed that Anna was also buried there.

Children of Joseph Zehr and Anne Verly include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr was born at Struth Sept. 1, 1807, and died in Woodford County Aug. 20, 1850. On Jan. 8, 1831 at Schalbach, Moselle (10 miles southwest of Struth) she married Pierre/Peter Schertz. He was born circa 1807, and died at Worth, Woodford County April 2, 1861, a son of Joseph Schertz and his first wife Marie Hirschi. For more on this couple see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL.

2. Joseph Zehr [Jr.] was born at Struth April 29, 1809, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 10, 1883. His civil birth entry described his father as a 25-year-old land owner and plowman [Ger. Burger und Ackermann].

3. Anna Catharina Zehr was born at Struth Oct. 20, 1810. She may have died before another daughter Anna was born in 1826, though no death entry is found at Struth.

4. Anne Marie Zehr was born at Struth Nov. 16, 1813. According to her obituary in the August 1896 issue of Herald of Truth (given in HOUSEHOLDER), Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr was born in Lorraine Sept. 25, 1816 (though the family was still living at Struth at that time). She died at Eureka June 28, 1896. On May 8, 1838 in the log structure called Burry's Church at New Sewickley, Pennsylvania she married Thiebaut/Debold Haushalter, later called Householder. It appears that her age was 'adjusted' around the time of her marriage, making her younger than her husband. They appear on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Debolt Householder, 35, France; Mary, 34, France; Henry, 10, Pennsylvania; Frederick, 8, Kentucky; and Mary, 4, Illinois; they were farming next door (at least adjacent on the census page) to brother Pierre/Peter Zehr and Catherine Springer, and in the adjacent section to Anne/Anna Zehr and her husband Joseph Schertz [Jr.]. See HOUSEHOLDER for background on his couple.

5. Pierre/Peter Zehr was born at Struth June 1, 1819. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Zehr, 38, and Anne Verlé, and noted that he was born in House No. 37. On Dec. 9, 1849 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Springer. She was born at Solln near Munich in 1829, a daughter of David Springer and Elisabeth Guth. Peter and Catherine may have died from cholera within weeks of the ceremony. Catherine's headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora describes her as, "Catharine Springer, Ehefrau des Peter Zehr gest. 1849." Peter's headstone says he was "Peter Zehr gest. 1849."12

12 Despite the headstone date 1849, some sources maintain that Peter did not die until August 1850. The misunderstanding may spring from the 1850 federal census of District 56 (Woodford County). It shows Peter Zehr, 30, France; Madalane, 25, France; and Anna, 65, France. It reflects the right location; the entry immediately before them on the census page is the Householder family. Yet we suspect that the names and ages were reported without visiting the home, six-to-nine months after Peter and Catherine were dead.
Joseph Zehr [Jr.] was born at Struth April 29, 1809, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 10, 1883. On Feb. 25, 1834 at Schalbach, Moselle he married Catherine Kohler. She was born at Rahling, Moselle Jan. 2, 1815, and died at Flanagan Oct. 31, 1884, a daughter of Andreas/André Kohler and Anne Birki.

Children born in 1841, 1844, and 1853 were likely born at Châlons-sur-Marne, though no civil entries are found there. Châlons-sur-Marne was the capital of the French department of Marne. A child born in 1856 was documented on a civil entry at Fagnières, an adjacent village.

On Jan. 8, 1852 Joseph [Jr.] wrote a letter to his father at Struth. He proposed sending his 16-year-old oldest son Christian to Struth to learn the mill trade.

Son Christian did spend time with his grandfather at Struth, where he may have caught 'American fever.' Or, with respect to the ongoing Crimean War, he simply found it prudent to emigrate from Europe before reaching the age of eligibility for mandatory military training. He departed his home Dec. 22, 1855, and boarded the Mercury at Le Havre Dec. 30. When the ship arrived at New York Feb. 22, 1856, its passenger list named "Christian Zerr, 21, farmer, Baden."

His father Joseph [Jr.] and the others followed, sailing from Le Havre on the Vision. They arrived at New York Jan. 2, 1857. The passenger list shows Joseph Zehr, 46, France; Catherine, 41; Anne, 16; Andreas [later Andrew], 15; Catherine, 14; Babette [later Barbara], 8; Pierre [later Peter], 7; Elisabeth, 5; Jean [later John], 3; and Joseph, 11 months.

Coincidentally, on Aug. 30, 1857 a 24,710-acre military training area called Camp de Châlons (now called Camp de Mourmelon) opened 14 miles north of Châlons-sur-Marne.

The 1860 census of Washington shows Joseph Sears, 52; Catherine, 45; Peter, 13; Joseph C., 6; Barbara, 15; Elizabeth, 11; and John C., 8; all from France. The 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County has farmer Joseph Zehr, 61, France; Catharine, 55, France; John, 18, France; Joseph, 16, France; and Valentine, 7, Illinois. And they appear on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer Joseph Zehr, 70, France; Katherinna, 65, France; and Valentine, 15, Illinois.

Herald of Truth, September 1883: "July 22nd, in Livingston county, Ill., of dropsy, Joseph Zehr, aged 74 years. Buried the 23rd. Many relatives and friends met to pay the last tribute of respect. Two daughters and a son of Seward county, Neb., came to see him a few days before his death, which gave him much satisfaction. During his sickness he suffered much from difficulty of breathing, yet he patiently bore it all. He set his housed in order, and had peace with God and man, and was prepared to die. He was a brother in the Amish Mennonite Church. He leaves an aged and bereaved wife, five, sons, three daughters, and many grand children. Funeral sermons by Christian Schlegel and John P. Schmitt."

Herald of Truth, December 1884: "On the 31st of October, in Livingston Co., Ill., Catharine, widow of Joseph Zehr (deceased), aged 69 years, 9 months and 29 days. Funeral services by Christian Rediger, William Egly, Christian Shlegel, and John P. Schmidt. Sister Zehr had to suffer much but she bore all her afflictions with patience and submission to the Lord. She expressed her desire to depart and to be with Jesus. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church."

Joseph and Catherine are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

Joseph left a handwritten family register that failed to mention some birthplaces. Children of Joseph Zehr [Jr.] and Catherine Kohler include:

The cause of the waterborne disease cholera would not be widely known for another 34 years. Until the discovery of the bacillus, cholera was thought to be a miasmatic disease - caused by 'bad air.' Thus the disease was supposedly not passed between individuals, but contracted from specific locations. Municipal clerks kept lists of homes that had been touched by the disease. An assigned census taker (often the municipal clerk) would have shunned such a home, and worn a cotton gauze mask or scarf during rounds.

Why the month of August, on no particular day? Perhaps it was assumed that Peter was alive for the census. Of course there was no record of his presence afterward. The 'guesstimator' may have noticed that the month of August falls midway through the 1850 census collection period June 1-Oct. 31.

In 1854 Filippo Pacini (1812-1883) of Florence, Italy published a paper called Microscopical Observations and Pathological Deductions on Cholera. He followed up with several more papers, but all were largely ignored. In 1884, one year after Pacini died in poverty, the bacillus Vibrio cholerae was rediscovered by German Robert Koch. Koch was already famous for having discovered the bacillus that causes tuberculosis in 1882. In 1905 Koch received the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

13 In 1997/98 Châlons-sur-Marne was renamed Châlons-en-Champagne. It is still the capital of the French department of Marne.
1. Chrétien/Christian Zehr was born March 6, 1835, and died at Milford, Nebraska Dec. 14, 1907. On Jan. 31, 1861 in Woodford County he married Catherine Roth. She was born in Ohio Oct. 1, 1841 (headstone date, though Oct. 10 is also found), and died at Meadows, McLean County June 1, 1910 (headstone date, though June 27 is also found). The 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows them as farmer Christian Zehr, 45, France; Catherine Zehr, 38, born in Ohio to French parents; Joseph, 13; N.E. (male), 9; John, 3; Peter, 1; Barbara, 15; and Katherine, 17; all children born in Illinois. They are found on the 1900 census of Precinct J, Seward County, Nebraska as farmer Christian Zehr, 65, born in France in March 1835, immigrated in 1856; Catherine, 58, born in Ohio to German parents in October 1841; son and farm laborer John, 23, born in Illinois in September 1876; Peter R., 21, born in Illinois in March 1879; and grandson Christian Birky, 12, born in Illinois in January 1888 to parents from Illinois. Herald of Truth, February 1908: "Christian Zehr was born in Lotringen [Lorraine], France, on March 6, 1835; died Dec. 14, 1907; aged 72 Y., 9 M., 8 D. He was united in marriage with Catherina Roth, Jan. 31, 1861. To this union were born thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters. He leaves a wife, four sons, two daughters, thirteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; also five brothers and three sisters. Two sons and five daughters preceded him to the spirit world." The 1910 census of Chenoa, McLean County has widow Catherine back in Illinois, living in the household of a daughter: Peter Rocke, 54, Germany, married 31 years, immigrated in 1879; Anna, 48, Illinois, the mother of four living children, parents from France and Ohio; and mother-in-law Katherine Zehr, 68, born in Ohio to German parents, the mother of 13 children of whom six were living. Christian is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford, Nebraska. Catherine is buried in Waldo Cemetery. (Obviously it is easy to confuse Christian Zehr and his wife Catherine Roth with Catherine Zehr and her husband Christian L. Roth - doubly so because the Catherines were born and died in the same years.

2. Anne/Anna Zehr was born May 17, 1837, and died at Worth, Woodford County April 2, 1870. On Feb. 10, 1857 in Woodford County she married Christian Schertz. He was born in 1832, and died in 1889. They are found on the 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County as farmer Christ Schertz, 29, France; Anna, 23, France; Madeline, 11 months, Illinois; Joseph [illegible]hauser, 16, Bavaria; and Elizabeth Zehr, 11, France. The 1870 census of Worth shows farmer Chris Schertz, 38, France; Catharine, 8, Illinois; Annie, 4, Illinois; domestic servant Elizabeth Zehr, 21, Illinois; and farm hand Samuel Casper, 21, Ohio. The 1880 census of Worth has farmer Christ Schertz, 48, Illinois; Catherine, 47, Illinois; Catherine, 18, Illinois; and Anna, 15, Illinois. Anne/Anna and Christian are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora as 'Anna Zehr Schertz, 1837-1870' and 'Christian Schertz, 1832-1889.'

3. Andreas/Andrew Zehr was born June 9, 1839, and died at Manson, Iowa June 10, 1915. He was permitted to emigrate in 1857 because he was considered too short for military service. On July 30, 1863 in Woodford County she married his second cousin Magdalena Zehr. She was born in Woodford County March 21, 1843, and died at Manson July 28, 1914, a daughter of Christian Zehr and his first wife Elizabeth Landes. They were given a farm by her father. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Zehr, 32, France; Magdalene, 29, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. They appear on the 1900 census of Lincoln, Iowa. The 1910 census of Lincoln shows farmer Magdalena Zehr, 67, born in Illinois to German parents, married 48 years; Andrew, 70, France (and marks to show that Andrew was inadvertently placed second); daughter Emma, 24, born in Illinois to French. They resided next door to a son David D. Zehr and a daughter Barbara E. Zehr. Gospel Herald, February 1914: "Magdalena Zehr was born in Woodford Co., Ill., March 21, 1843; died Feb. 17, 1914, in Calhoun Co., Ia; aged 70y. 10m. 27d. She was united in marriage to Andrew Zehr, July 28, 1863. To this union were born 11 children. Two children and one grandchild preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her departure husband, 9 children, 36 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. She united with the A.M. Church in her youth, and remained faithful until her death. She endured many trials and much suffering through her life. The last eight months of her life she was confined to her bed the greater part of the time. Her last illness was dropsy. She had a great longing to go home and be at rest. Funeral services at the home Febr. 19, and at the Cedar Creek Church at Manson. Opening by Bro. Jos. Egli. Text, by Bro. A.H. Leaman of Chicago. Gen. 5:24. Interment in the Rose Hill Cemetery.” Gospel Herald, July 1915: "Andrew Zehr was born in France June 9, 1839; died June 10, 1915; aged 78 y. 1 d. He came to America with his parents in December, 1855, and settled in Woodford Co., Ill. He united with the Mennonite Church in his youth of which Church he was a faithful member at the time of his death. He was united in marriage to Magdalena Zehr July 28, 1863. This union was blessed with 11 children. His wife and two children preceded him to the spirit world. Nine children, 36 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, four brothers, one sister, and a large circle of friends remain to mourn his death. Bro. Zehr's desire was to be at home in glory. The funeral was held at the Mennonite Church in Manson, Iowa, June 13. Bro. A.H. Leaman of Chicago, assisted by Bro. Risser of Eureka, Ill., conducted the services. Text, II Tim. 4:8. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery.

4. Katharina/Catherine Zehr was born Oct. 5, 1841 (per family register), and died at Milford, Nebraska April 20, 1910. On March 12, 1861 in Woodford County she married Christian L. Roth. He was born in Ohio April 20, 1840, and died in Seward County Aug. 2, 1903. Herald of Truth, September 1903: "On the 2nd of Aug. 1903, in Seward Co., Neb., Christian Roth, aged 63 years. Buried on the 4th. He had been in poor health for some time, but had improved considerably, when he was suddenly overtaken with a paralytic stroke, which speedily ended his life. He leaves his wife and ten children, also many relatives and friends to mourn his death." Gospel Herald, May 1910. "Katherine Roth (nee Zehr) widow of C.L. Roth, was born in Chalon, France, Oct. 15, 1841; died after a long sickness of diabetes near Milford, Neb., April 20, 1910; aged 68 y. 6 m. 15 d. She was united in marriage with C.L. Roth, March 12, 1861. To this union were born eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. Her husband and two sons
Joseph Zehr (also found as Joseph B. Zehr) was born at Châlons-sur-Marne Oct. 3, 1853 (per the family register, but no civil entry found), and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Jan. 1, 1940. On Nov. 18, 1879 in Livingston County he married Phoebe King. She was born at Waldo March 9, 1862, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Jan. 28, 1930, a daughter of Jacob King and Anna Neuhauser. They farmed at Waldo. History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church (1926): "Joseph B. Zehr was born at Châlons-sur-Marne, France, Oct. 3, 1853. He was the second child of Joseph and Anna Neuhauser. He attended school in the local village and later moved to the United States to continue his education. In 1874 he married Phoebe King, the daughter of Jacob King and Anna Neuhauser. Joseph and Phoebe farmed at Waldo, Illinois, and later moved to the Flanagan area. They had 12 children, all of whom lived to adulthood. Joseph and Phoebe were very active members of the local Mennonite church and were known for their kind and generous nature. Joseph passed away on Jan. 1, 1940, in Pontiac, Illinois, and is buried in the Riverside Cemetery at Albany, Illinois. Phoebe passed away on Jan. 28, 1930, in Pontiac, Illinois, and is also buried in the Riverside Cemetery at Albany, Illinois. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren all continued to be active members of the local Mennonite church and community. The Zehr family legacy continues to be an important part of the history of the Flanagan area."
united with the Amish church in 1869, and was baptized by Rev. Christian Ropp. He was married to Phoebe King, the daughter of Jacob King, November 18, 1879. The marriage was performed by Rev. Joseph Stuckey. Before his ordination he served as church trustee, secretary of the church, Sunday school teacher and Sunday school superintendent. Joseph Zehr was ordained to the ministry in 1887 and to the office of bishop by Joseph Stuckey October 19, 1890. He is at present bishop of the Flanagan Mennonite Church. He served on the Home Mission Board when the Chicago and Peoria Missions were established. He is one of the oldest ministers of the conference."

The 1910 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County shows farmer Joseph B. Zehr, 44, born in France in October 1855, immigrated in 1858; Pheby, 38, born in Illinois in March 1862 to German parents; Emma, 19, born in November 1880; Walter, 13, born in May 1887; Chester, 8, born in March 1892; Pearl, 5, born in August 1894; Edna, 3, born in December 1897; and Ruben, nine months, born in August 1899; all children born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Illinois. The family is also found at Waldo in 1910 and Pontiac in 1930 (where the 76-year-old widower gave his year of immigration as 1856 and his occupation as 'minister - Mennonite Ch.'),

Joseph served as elder of the Flanagan Mennonite Church from Oct. 9, 1890 until 1934.14 Joseph's death entry described him as a retired minister. He and Phoebe are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan as 'Phoebe Zehr, mother, 1862-1930' and 'Joseph B. Zehr, father, 1853-1940.'

**Ontario Zehrs**

A splinter from the Zehr families of Struth migrated from Alsace-Lorraine to Ontario. Though none of their descendants came to Central Illinois before 1856, they were familiar with families that did. **Joseph Zehr** and Barbe Eymann were the parents of **Joseph Zehr**. He was born at Ottwiller (adjacent to Struth, on its southwest corner) Dec. 31, 1784, and died at Woolwich Township, Ontario Jan. 29, 1845.

On April 22, 1817 in the Oderfang mill at St. Avold, Moselle Joseph married Anne Beller. She was born at Pontpierre, in what later became Moselle April 6, 1774, and died from complications of childbirth at St. Avold Jan. 7, 1818, a daughter of Pierre Beller and Barbe Hirschi.

On Jan. 23, 1819 at St. Avold Joseph remarried to Barbe/Barbara Kennel. She was born at Hellimer June 9, 1789, and died at Woolwich Township, Ontario Sept. 26, 1877, a daughter of Christian Kennel and Anne Hirschi. Joseph and Barbe/Barbara sailed from Amsterdam on the Margaret, and arrived at New York Aug. 18, 1825. The passenger list shows miller Joseph Swier or Snier, 36; Babary, 34; Joseph, 7; Catharine, 4; and Susannah, 2.

In Pennsylvania they befriended other new arrivals who were planning to resettle on land in Wilmot Township, Ontario. Lots in Wilmot Township were reserved for Amish Mennonite immigrants with little or no income. The Zehrs had substantial savings from the sale of a farm in Europe. They opted to purchase land in adjacent Woolwich Township from minister Johannes/John Stoltzfus and minister Christian König/King of the Mill Creek congregation in Lancaster County.

The following summer they joined an Amish Mennonite group traveling to Ontario. Their companions included Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eiman, Christian Farny, John Erb and his wife Veronica Schwarzentruber, and Michael Schwartz.

The household of widow Barbe/Barbara is found on the 1851 census of Woolwich as farmer Zehr, 63, widow, Mennonite; Susan, 24, Germany; Barbara, 22, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, 20, Canada; Barbara, 20, Canada; Christian, 20, Canada; and Peter, 18, USA.

Present day Zehrs in Ontario are descendants of **Joseph Zehr**. He was born in the Oderfang mill at St. Avold Dec. 31, 1817, and died at Wilmot Township July 25, 1905, the only son of Joseph Zehr and his first wife Anne Beller. Anne died only a week after giving birth.

On March 16, 1841 at Wilmot Township he married Anne Marie Liechti/Lichty. She was born at Largitzen, Upper Alsace (the last European home of the Ropps) Aug. 19, 1819, and died at Wilmot Township Sept. 20, 1900, a daughter of Christian Liechti and Madeleine Litwiller.

They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as farmer Joseph Zehr, 34, Mennonite; Mary, 32; Magdalena, 10; Joseph, 8; Barbara, 6; Mary, 4; Anna, 2; and Christian, 1; all children born in Canada.

They are buried in Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot.

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14 In 2001 Flanagan Mennonite Church merged with Waldo Mennonite Church to become Prairieview Church.
Zehr of Lembach

Windstein is 30 miles northeast of Struth. While the village of Struth is only four miles from the Lower Alsace [Fr. Bas Rhin] departmental border with the department of Moselle, the village of Windstein is only four miles below the present day border of Lower Alsace with Germany.

**Peter Zehr** was born circa 1730, and died in 1790. He married Anna Zwalti. They leased farming privileges on the Sulztalerhof estate above Windstein.

Amish Mennonites farmed on two Windstein properties: the Gunstalerhof immediately above the village, and the Sulztalerhof above that and thus closer to the border. Both were owned by the wealthy Dietrich family, who also owned the Jaegerthal foundry below Windstein (see YORDY).

Windstein civil records generally described the two farming operations as hamlets [Fr. cense]. It is unlikely that they would be described this way now; because of its out-of-the-way location, the entire community of Windstein has a present day population of fewer than 200, while the adjacent community Lembach has a present day population of 1,800.

Children of Peter Zehr and Anna Zwalti include:

1. Joseph Zehr was born circa 1759, and died in 1804. He married Catherine Beck (also found as Bäch and Boeck). She was born at Windstein circa 1759, and died there Feb. 18, 1810.
2. **Christian Zehr** was born circa 1757, and died at Lembach April 13, 1818.
3. Barbara Zehr was born circa 1758, and died on the Zellerhof at Petite Tenquin, Moselle April 23, 1800. She married Christian Oesch. He was born at Hellering, Moselle Dec. 24, 1756, and died at Hombourg Haut, Moselle July 14, 1818, a son of Hans Oesch and Katharina Zwalti. On Jan. 30, 1801 at Petit Tenquin he remarried to Barbe Esch. They relocated to the Oderfang mill at St. Avold, Moselle - an odd coincidence, because the mill also provided employment for the 'Ontario Zehrs.'

Laborer **Christian Zehr** was born circa 1757, and died on the Reislerhof April 13, 1818. Circa 1782 he married Barbara Sommer. She died on the Reislerhof Dec. 16, 1818. They had also farmed on the Sulztalerhof estate at Windstein, and at Lembach (adjacent to Windstein) in Lower Alsace. A general description of Lembach can be found in HABECKER.

According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, the farmhouse on the Sulztalerhof has a widow lintel where Christian carved his name in 1786.

Also according to Guth, they relocated onto the Reislerhof in 1808. The Forsthaus [forest house] Reislerhof was located in Ludwigswinkel adjacent to Dahn (now Fischbach bei Dahn) about two miles within the Bavaria side of the border with Lower Alsace. It was 10 miles northwest of Windstein and Lembach. After 1789 it was occupied by French nobility as a haven from the French Revolution. In this time frame the village of Ludwigswinkel grew up around it.15

Their children include:

1. Peter Zehr was born circa 1783, and died in 1810.
2. Magdalena Zehr was born on the Sulztalerhof estate above Windstein circa 1785 (her marriage entry says 1792), and died in 1804. On Sept. 5, 1812 at Lembach she married Christian/Chrétien Jordy. He was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt in the Pfalz circa 1790, and died on the Fleckensteinherhof estate at Lembach March 18, 1833, a son of Jakob Jordy and his second wife Veronika/Véronique Habecker.
3. Barbara Zehr was born in 1786, and died at Lembach June 4, 1836. She married Georg Steiner, a son of Daniel Steiner and Madeleine Beck.
4. Christian Zehr was born circa 1788. He married Elisabeth Rocke. She was born on the Lauberhof below Trippstadt, but was living on the Reislerhof at the time of their marriage.
5. **Johannes/Jean Zehr** was born on Lembach in 1792, and died there March 27, 1842.
6. Georg Zehr was born at Lembach May 19, 1800. On April 6, 1832 at Lembach he married Jacobine Steinmann. She was born on the Pfälzhof at Eusserthal Aug. 31, 1809, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Steinmann and Catherine Uhlmann. One witness on their civil marriage entry was laborer George Steiner, 47, brother-in-law of the groom. The groom signed 'Georg Zahr.' They farmed on the Fischwoogerhof near Dahn (16 miles north of Lembach).
7. Elisabetha Zehr was born at Lembach April 12, 1804, and died on the Fischwoogerhof in 1862.
8. Catherina Zehr was born at Lembach Jan. 8, 1807, and died in 1842.
9. Josef Zehr was born on the Reislerhof circa 1809, and died on the Fischwoogerhof in 1862.

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15 The Reislerhof family farm was established in 1783. It is now owned by the Forestry Commission.
Cultivator Johannes/Jean Zehr was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace in 1792, and died there March 27, 1842. On Feb. 9, 1825 at Lembach Alsace he married Magdalena/Madeleine Stepp.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Zehr, born in the hamlet Sulzthal at Lembach [actually in Windstein] in 1792, a resident of Sulzthal. He was the son of the deceased cultivator Chrétien Zehr, who had been a resident of the hamlet Reisler Hoff, and the deceased Barbe Sommer, who had also been a resident of the hamlet Reislerrhof; pre-marriage documents show the Rieslerhof as a location in Bavaria. The bride was described as Madeleine Stepp, the widow of cultivator Jean Bernard; born at Altenstatt [Altenstadt, on the east side of Wissembourg, on the present border of Lower Alsace and Germany] in 1793, a daughter of cultivator Henry Malinda, Barbara and Peter. Christopher, who has passed the years of his life in this county, was born in 1855; among the farmers of the county. Of the marriage above referred to five children are living - Joseph, Christopher, townships, where he rented farm property. He is now the owner of over 300 acres, and takes a leading position of the hamlet Reislerhof; pre-marriage documents show the Rieslerhof as a location in Bavaria. The bride was described as Elisabeth Stepp, born at Derstein July 29, 1793, a daughter of Joseph Lytwiler. In 1846 he located in Green Valley, Tazewell Co., whence removed to Hopedale in New York State. Afterwards he moved to Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Lytwiler, a born in Germany in an early day, probably about 1813. He crossed the Atlantic for the New World, and first located in New York State. Afterwards he moved to Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Lytwiler, a daughter of Joseph Lytwiler. In 1846 he located in Green Valley, Tazewell Co., whence removed to Hopedale township, where he rented farm property. He is now the owner of over 300 acres, and takes a leading position among the farmers of the county. Of the marriage above referred to five children are living - Joseph, Christopher, Malinda, Barbara and Peter. Christopher, who has passed the years of his life in this county, was born in 1855; married in 1877, Miss Anna Kaufman, a daughter of Christian Kaufman, of Germany."

Despite the date 1846 given above, it is probable that George and Barbara came to Tazewell County following their marriage in Ohio in 1851. They may have accompanied Barbara's widowed father Joseph and her siblings, who came in that year. Joseph's brother Peter and his wife Marie/Mary Mosiman has resettled from Milford to North Pekin (in a part that is now Groveland) in 1849.

16. The Stepps had another daughter who married an Amish Mennonite. On June 24, 1919 at Lembach Elisabeth Stepp married Christian Christner. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christian Christner, born at Windstein March 1, 1794, a son of cultivator Peter Christner and Madeleine Guth, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Elisabeth Stepp, born at Derstein July 29, 1793, a daughter of Henry Stepp and Anne Litt, and a resident of Pfaffenbrunn. One witness was father of the groom and cultivator Pierre Christner, 53. The Christners later migrated to Burgwalden, Bavaria. In 1828 Christian and Elisabeth traveled to Wilmot, Ontario. Christian died there after an accident in 1836. Widow Elisabeth and all of her children then resettled in the United States. She died at Wayland, Iowa in 1862, and is buried as Elizabeth Christner in Sommers Cemetery in Washington County, Iowa.

17. The minister's handwritten list was transcribed into Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as George Care and Anna Litwiller.
Mennonite Church History (1905) by J.S. Hartzler and Daniel Kauffman, in a table called 'Amish Mennonite Congregations in Western District Conference,' lists the first settlers of Hopedale as Joseph Litwiller, George Zehr, and others and the first minister as Christian Nafziger.

The 1860 census of Hopedale shows farmer George Yeare, 38, France; Barbary, 28, Ohio; [and at the top of the next page] Joseph Litwiller, 9, Illinois; Elizabeth, 5, Illinois; Christian, 3, Illinois; Magdalena, 1, Illinois; and John Orr, 25, Germany. In 1870 they are found there as farmer George Cear, 45, France; Barbara, 39, Ohio; Joseph, 18, Illinois; Christian, 13, Illinois; Madalena, 11, Illinois; Barbara, 9, Illinois; and Peter, 5, Illinois.

The 1880 census of Boynton has farmer George Zere, 54, France; Barbary, 50, Ohio; and Peter, 15, Illinois.

Herald of Truth, August 1899: "On June 12, 1899, near Hopedale, Tazewell Co., Ill., Barbara Littwiller, wife of George Zehr, aged 67 years, 8 months and 17 days. She leaves her husband, four children, twenty-one grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She lived in matrimony forty-eight years, was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church and well liked by all who know her. She always admonished her children to do good, and tried to do good herself. She always had hopes and was glad to go to Jesus. She was buried on the 14th. Funeral services were conducted by John Egli, J. Littwiller, J. Egli, and J. C. Birky."

Herald of Truth, June 1904: "George Zehr died April 16, 1904, at the home of his son, Christian Zehr, near Minier, Ill., at the age of about 78 years. He had been sick quite a long time, but was very patient in his affliction. His hope was built on Jesus' blood and righteousness. He was a member of the A. M. congregation at Hopedale, Ill. Buried April 17, in the A. M. burying ground near Hopedale, Ill. Funeral by John Egli, Sr., in German and Samuel Schertz in English."

1. Joseph Zehr was born in Tazewell County Dec. 24, 1851, and died at Hopedale Feb. 26, 1882. On July 23, 1871 in McLean County he married Eliza Saltzman. She was born in New Orleans Sept. 21, 1849, and died at Gridley, Livingston County Feb. 17, 1920, a daughter of Michael Saltzman and Elizabeth Schrag/Schrock. Herald of Truth, April 1882: "On the 26th of February, in Hopedale Twp., Ill., very suddenly, Joseph Zehr, aged 30 years and two months." The 1900 census of Hopedale shows landlord Eliza Zehr, born in Louisiana in April 1849 to parents from France and Germany; farmer George, 23, Illinois; Fanny [married to George], 21, born in Iowa in September 1878 to parents from Canada and Germany; Esther M., eight months, born in Illinois in November 1899; and Michael Saltzman, 83, born in France in March 1816. Joseph's younger brother Peter Zehr is found on the same page. On June 11, 1907 at Hopedale Eliza remarried to widower Valentine Neuhauser. He was born at Lorquin, Moselle April 2, 1841, and died at Gridley, Livingston County July 1, 1922, a son of Valentin Neuhauser and Barbe Schertz. On Oct. 19, 1867 in Woodford County he had married Anna Ropp. She was born at Farnsville, Woodford County June 23, 1845, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Aug. 25, 1903, a daughter of Christian Ropp and Magdalena Schertz. Valentine is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. Gospel Herald, March 1920: "Neuhauser - Eliza Salzman was born Sept. 21, 1849, at New Orleans, La.; died of heart failure at Gridley, Ill., Feb. 17, 1920; aged 70 y. 4 m. 27 d. On July 23, 1871, she was married to Valentine Neuhauser of Gridley, Ill. She leaves a sorrowing husband, two sons, two brothers, one half-sister, 10 grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church from her youth and was loved by all who knew her. Funeral services were held at the Hopedale Mennonite Church the 19th with Bros. Dan Slagel of Flanagan and J.C. Birky of Hopedale, in charge. Gospel Herald, June 1922: "Valentine Neuhauser was born in Lorraine April 2, 1841; died at his home near Gridley, Ill., July 1, 1922; aged 81 y. 2 m. 29 d. In 1853 he came with his parents to the vicinity of Peoria, Ill., where they remained about 10 years when they removed to Livingston Co., Ill. He was married to Anna S. Ropp of Hudson, Ill, in 1867, where they resided until 1872 when they came to the farm near Flanagan, Ill., where he spent the remainder of his life. To their union four children were born (Rosina, Emilia, Emil and Louisa) all of whom with the mother preceded him, she having passed away Aug. 15, 1903. He was married to Eliza Zehr at Hopedale, Ill. June 11, 1907, who died Feb. 17, 1920. In his youth he united with the A.M. Church of which he was a faithful member until called to his reward. He leaves one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, two step-sons and a number of step-grandchildren. Funeral services, July 3, at the house and Waldo Church by the home ministers and Bro. D.D. Miller. Text, Acts 7:66, latter clause. Internment in the Waldo Cemetery."

2. Elizabeth Zehr was born in Tazewell County circa 1855. We could not follow her after the 1860 census of Hopedale, suggesting she died young.

3. Christian Zehr was born at Hopedale June 16, 1857, and died at Deer Creek Aug. 10, 1922. On Oct. 3, 1876 he married Anna Kauffman. She was born in 1856, and died Dec. 4, 1879, a daughter of Christian Kauffman and his first wife Anna Zook; she is buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery. On Oct. 12, 1880 in Tazewell County Christian remarried to Anna Maria/Anna Mary Augsburger. She was born at Tremont Feb. 23, 1863, and died at Deer Creek May 21, 1928, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. The 1920 census of Deer Creek shows dairyman Christian Zehr, 62, born in Illinois to a father from Alsace-Lorraine and a mother from Ohio; Anna M., 56, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; and Alta B., 30, born in Nebraska to parents from Illinois. Gospel

18 This may be a marriage found on the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index as William Zears and Anna Kaufman in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1876.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

_Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois_  
_Herald,_ August 1922: "After a lingering illness of six months, Christian Zehr passed away August 10, 1922, at his home in Deer Creek, Ill. He was born June 16, 1857, at Hopedale, Ill. On October 3, 1876, he was married to Anna Kaufmann, who died December 4, 1879. On October 12, of the following year he was united in marriage to Anna Augsburger and to this union was born one daughter, Alta Barbara. In 1884 Bro. Zehr moved to Arapahoe, Neb., where he remained until 1893, at which time he returned to Pekin, Ill. Later he moved to Hopedale and then to Deer Creek, where he lived for the last twenty years. He was aged 65 y. 1 m. 25 d. In early youth he became a member of the Mennonite Church. He leaves to mourn his death a wife, one daughter, an adopted son, Leslie Stamm, two sisters, Mrs. Mike Saltzman and Mrs. Barbara Wallace, and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the home August 13, conducted by Brethren Jacob Zehr and Jonas Litwiller. Texts _Ps. 90,_ and _Job 14:14._ Burial in cemetery near Hopedale, Ill._

John 14:1-3; _Ps. 116:15._ Interment in Hopedale Cemetery._

4. Magdalena/Malinda/Lena Zehr was born at Hopedale May 18, 1859, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 30, 1948. On Jan. 26, 1873 in Tazewell County she married Michael Saltzman. He was born at New Orleans Nov. 1, 1851, and died at Hopedale July 17, 1920, a son of Michael Saltzman and Elizabeth Schrag/Schrock. They are found on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Michael Saltzman, 28, with lung fever, born in Louisiana to parents from France and Bavaria; Magdalena, 21, born in Illinois to parents from France and Ohio; and four children born in Illinois. _Gospel Herald,_ November 1948: "Saltzman - Lena, daughter of George and Barbara (Litwiller) Zehr was born in Hopedale, Ill., May 18, 1859; passed away at the Bloomington, Ill. Mennonite Hospital, Sept. 30, 1948; aged 49 y. 4 m. 12 d. In her youth she united with the Hopedale Mennonite Church, remaining a member until death. In 1873 she was united in marriage with Michael Saltzman, who preceded her in death on July 17, 1920. Surviving are five daughters (Mrs. Lizzie Unsicker, Minier, Ill.; Mrs. Andrew Sutter, Mrs. Barbara Naffziger, Mrs. Val Nafziger, all of Hopedale, Ill.; and Mrs. W.T. Eash, Flanagan, Ill.), one son (Raymond, Varna, Ill.), 13 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Two daughters predeceased her. Funeral services were held at the Hopedale Mennonite Church on Oct. 2, conducted by Simon Litwiller and P.E. Frey. Text: _Ps._ 23. Burial was made in the Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery._

5. Barbara Zehr was born in Tazewell County circa 1861. She married a Wallace, and was still living in 1922, according to the obituary of her brother Christian.

6. Peter Zehr was born in Tazewell County Sept. 6, 1864. On Feb. 23, 1886 in Logan County he married Christiana Sharpf. According to her death certificate she was born at Gronau, Germany Aug. 6, 1864, and died at Morton June 28, 1922, a daughter of Andreas Scharpf and Rosine Schlippe. Shortly after marriage they relocated to join Peter's older brother Christian Zehr and Anna Mary Augsburger at Arapahoe, Nebraska. In 1890 the two brothers were listed in the _Nebraska State Gazeteer Business Directory and Farmer List._ Their children were born at adjacent Holbrook. Christian and Anna Mary returned to Tazewell County in 1893. Peter and Christiana returned between 1896 and 1900. The 1900 census of Hopedale shows implant salesman Peter Zehr, 35, born in Illinois in September 1864; Christiana, 35, born in August 1864; immigrated in 1882; Barbara C., 13, born in Nebraska in 1887; Henry W., 12, born in Nebraska in June 1888; Peter C., 11, born in Nebraska in May 1889; Freda, 8, born in Nebraska in December 1891; Rosa, 5, born in Nebraska in July 1894; and George A., 3, born in Nebraska in October 1896. They are found on the same page as Peter's widowed sister-in-law widow Eliza Saltzman Zehr, born in November 1849, in a household that included her father, Michael Saltzman, born in France in March 1816. They also appear on the 1910 census of Washington: Peter Zehr, 45, born in Illinois to parents from France and Ohio, commercial trader - implement, Christina, 46, Germany, farmer - fruit farm; Henry, 22, farm laborer - home farm; Peter, 20, Nebraska, laborer - working out; Rose, 15, Nebraska; and George, 13, Nebraska. We cannot account for Peter after 1912. On June 5, 1917 at Washington their son Henry W. Zehr registered for the military draft. Henry's registration card said he was born at Holbrook, Nebraska Jan. 16, 1888; that he was single; and that he requested exemption on the grounds that he was the sole support of his mother. It was signed by registrar Chris Strubhar. The 1920 census of Washington was supposed to show each household as it stood on January 1. At the top of each page the census taker was supposed to give the date the households were actually enumerated. On a page enumerated January 15 there is a household consisting of Henry Zehr, 31, farmer, born in Nebraska to a father from Illinois and a mother from Wittenburg, mother tongue German; Anna [Henry's wife Anna Schuck], 29, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; Florence, six months, born in Illinois to parents from Nebraska and Illinois; and Christian [Henry's mother Christiana], 55, immigrated in 1882, naturalized in 1887, Wittenburg, Germany, mother tongue German, widowed. However, an article published in the Bloomington newspaper _The Pantagraph_ after the

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19 His younger brother Peter C. Zehr had already registered May 28, 1917. His card says he was born at 'Holdbrook', Nebraska May 9, 1879. He described himself as a student at North-Western College at Naperville. He asked for an exemption citing nearsightedness.
census enumeration - on July 30, 1920 - announced that, "Mrs. Christina Zehr of Washington has filed suit for divorce from Peter Zehr, whom she avers deserted her eight years ago." The obituary of Peter's brother Christian Zehr who died Aug. 10, 1922 indicated that Peter did not survive him. Peter is not named as a husband on Christiana's 1922 death entry. Nor does his death appear on the Illinois Statewide Death Index, suggesting that it took place before 1916 or, if later, outside the state.20 Christiana is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

20 The Broderbund database gives his date of death as Dec. 10, 1928, calling him by his son's name, Peter C. Zehr. We could not determine its reliability or the original source.
Yordy: Jordi of Wyssachengraben

See the preface to ZIMMERMAN for new information about the genetic background of the Jordi/Jordy/Yordy family.

The information in this portion leans heavily on the research of Gary L. Yordy and Carol Yotty Heilman. In December 2007 Gary found the key to the puzzle when he discovered his family’s association with Jaegerthal.

The Jordis and Joders may have indirectly taken their name from Theodor of Grammont, the first bishop of Octodorum (now Martigny in Canton Valais; see SWISS LEGENDS in the Appendix). Jordi is a diminutive form of Theodor, equivalent to Teddy.21 It might also be observed that abandoned newborns were generally christened with the names of saints.

Recall from the preface to ZIMMERMAN that the Jordis - a family linked genetically with the Joders, and having arrived in the area at about the same time - has always been much more populous and widespread in Canton Bern. Americans tend to think of the Yoders (derived from Joder) as a very large family, and the Yordys (derived from Jordi) as a very small one. In Canton Bern the Joder-Jordi balance was the opposite, well before emigration altered the numbers.

The Jordis thrived in rural foothill areas north and west of Steffisburg.

The earliest Jordis in Canton Bern may have lived in the scattered farm houses that made up Wyssachengraben, which was then a part of the parish of Eriswil. Their records were kept at the Protestant Reformed Church of Eriswil. Over time the communities separated. In 1908 Wyssachengraben became Wyssachen. It now has its own church. In 1904 genealogist-historian Julius Billeter published the 164-page book The Jordi Family of Wyssachengraben-Eriswil, Bern, Switzerland. It culled details from dozens of Jordi marriages at Eriswil in the 1670s and 1680s.

Johannes/Hans Jordy and Verena Lang are known to us from the civil marriage entries of their children. Their family appears on at least two Palatine census lists. In 1752 a census shows Johannes Jordi, wife, two children, and a farmhand living on property of the treasury office of the administrative district of Hohenecken, four miles southwest of Kaiserslautern. It was noted that Johannes had been a resident there for 18 years. In 1759 the same family appeared on a census of Kaiserslautern that described them as Hans Jordi, temporary tenant with Franz Dellmuth on the Bremerhof estate; wife; two sons (8½ and 2½ years old); and two daughters (15 and 5).

In Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth states that in 1765 the family was living on the Eselsfürth estate, now a district on the north side of Kaiserslautern. They relocated before 1773.

Children of Johannes/Hans Jordy and Verena Lang include:

1. Anna Jordy was born circa 1744. She married Jakob Müller of the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen. His first two wives had been Elisabeth Schenk and Anna Brenneman. He was one of the original three Anabaptist co-leaseholders of the Münsterhof estate in 1764, and they lived the remainder of their lives there.

2. Jean Jordy was born circa 1750.

3. Verena Jordy was born circa 1754. In 1785 she married Christian Eyer. He was born in 1757, and died on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach, Baden-Württemberg in 1812, a son of Rudolf Eyer and Veronica Kurtz. Their children include:

   a. Catherine/Katharina Eyer was born at Mattstall, Lower Alsace March 11, 1785 (Mattstall was absorbed into Lembach in 1972), and died at Königsbach, Baden May 9, 1848. On Feb. 4, 1815 at Riedselz, Lower Alsace she married Christian Wolber. He was born at Riedselz, Lower Alsace Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Joseph Wolber and Catherine Esch. Their daughter Catherine Wolber married Daniel Ehresman and settled in Illinois (see the Appendix, WOLBER).

   b. Daniel Eyer was born in 1792, and died Feb. 7, 1812.

   c. Jakobine Eyer was born Sept. 9, 1793. In 1818 she married Jakob Egli.

   d. Jean Eyer was born in 1802. He may have married Jacobine Rediger.

4. Jacob Jordy was born at Eselsfürth circa January 1758. In 1781 he married Magdalena Imhof. She was born on the Langensohlerhof farm at Trippstadt (eight miles south of Kaiserslautern) circa 1760-63, and died Sept. 17, 1787, less than two months after giving birth to her son Jakob. She was a daughter of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika.

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21 It might also be observed that goose-quill handwriting has its own peculiarities. Words that are not found in text, standing independently - such as the signatures on legal documents - often ended with a flourish that could be easily mistaken for an ‘e’ or an ‘i.’ And this sometimes passed into common usage. The flourish was added to ‘taper out,’ so that the last letter of the name would not be blotted or filled in by excess ink from the quill tip.
Roggy. They farmed on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt. Children of Jakob Jordy and his first wife Magdalena Imhof include:

a. Johannes/Johann/Jean Jordy was born Dec. 23, 1784, and died at Trippstadt in 1807. On March 24, 1805 at Trippstadt he married Veronika Habecker. She was born at Hofstäten Sept. 19, 1786, a daughter of Johannes Habecker and Elisabeth Imhof of Hofstäten. On April 7, 1809 at Trippstadt she remarried to Johannes Roggy (found on the civil entry as 'Jean Rocke'), a son of Johannes Roggy and his first wife Barbara Jutzi of the Lauberhof below Trippstadt.

b. Elisabeth Jordy was born in 1785. On Dec. 26, 1806 at Trippstadt she married Jakob Unzicker. He was born at Graveneck in 1781, a son of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Holly. This couple leased the Offental estate at Sankt Goarshausen after 1813. See UNZICKER for a list of their children including Peter Unzicker of Morton.

c. Jakob/Jacob Jordy was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt March 13, 1877, and died at Windstein, Lower Alsace Jan. 29, 1828. On July 29, 1806 at Windstein he married Catherine Zehr. Their civil marriage entry called them Jacob Jordi and Catharina Zährin. Witnesses included Peter Christner, 40; Peter Hirschberger, 37; and Christian Zähr der alt [senior], 50, of Soultzthal. Catherine was born at Windstein May 1, 1787, and died there Jan. 19, 1838, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Beck of the Sulztalerhof estate above Windstein. Her death entry described her as a 51-year-old shopkeeper, and a daughter of the deceased Joseph Zehr and the deceased Catherine Boeck. They lived in Windstein while Jacob's cousin Jacob was living at nearby Jaegerthal, and civil entries for both families are found at Windstein.22

After Magdalena Imhof's death, Jakob Jordy remarried to Veronika/Véronique Habecker. She was born at Hofstäten circa March 1765, and died on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace Dec. 22, 1827, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Habecker and Katharina/Catherine Schantz. Between 1790 and Aug. 1, 1797 Jacob took up the lease on the Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace. The name Jacob Jordy, described as a "bestander auf demFrönsburger hoff," is found as a witness on the civil death entry of Carolatha Häberlin at Lembach on that date. His age was given as 39 and one-half years. He signed 'Jacob Jordy erbestander.' An Erbbeständer is a property owner with ownership rights that can be passed down by descendants as long as conditions of the overlord are met. At the same time Veronika/Véronique's brother Johannes/Jean Habecker and his wife Katharina/Catherine Schantz were living on the nearby Katzenthal estate. The child of Jacob Jordy and his second wife Veronika/Véronique Habecker was:

d. Christian/Chrétien Jordy was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt in the Pfalz circa 1790, and died on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach March 18, 1833. On Sept. 5, 1812 at Lembach he married Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr. She was born on the Sulztalerhof estate above Windstein in 1792, and died at Lembach Dec. 25, 1856, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Beck. Their marriage entry stated that Jacob Jordy was deceased ("Jacque Jardy décédé, fermier a la cense de Willstein prés Trippstatt, Departement du Mont Tonnerre"), and Véronique Habecker was present and consenting. Witnesses included farmer Jacques Jordy, 27, of Windstein; and farmer Valentine Nafziger, 28, of Fleckenstein. The Jacques Jordy at Windstein was his cousin Jakob/Jacob Jordy, married to Katharina/Catherine Zehr, who was a sister to Christian's bride.

Christian's civil death entry described him as a 43-year-old laborer born on the 'Willstnahhoff' in Bavaria [the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt], a son of the deceased 'Ferone Habecker' and an unknown father. Their children born on the Fleckensteinerhof at Lembach include:

1) Catherine Jordé (as found) was born Aug. 1, 1813. On April 2, 1837 at Lembach she married Jean Roggy. He was born at Trippstadt Aug. 25, 1811, a son of Valentin Roggy and Catherine Habecker. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as 25-year-old Jean Roké, a laborer at Ramberg. He was born at Trippstadt Aug. 25, 1822, a son of the deceased Valentin Roké who had died at Trippstadt May 23, 1836, and cultivator Catherine Habecker, 60, a resident of Ramberg who was present and consenting. They signed Johannes Racke and Katharina Jordy.

2) Elisabeth Jordé was born May 24, 1816.

3) Jacques Jordé was born May 31, 1818.

4) Chrétien/Christian Jordé was born Aug. 31, 1820, and died at Bitche, Moselle June 23, 1869. On July 4, 1846 at Lembach he married Catherine Guth. She was born at Eppenbrunn, Bavaria Jan. 8, 1826, and died at Bining, Moselle June 10, 1885, a daughter of Jean Guth of Busenberg and Barbara Nafziger. They signed Christian Jordy and Katharina Guth.

5) Jean Jordé was born April 23, 1822.

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22 This Jakob/Jacob was living in Windstein while his cousin Jacob was living at Jaegerthal. Jakob/Jacob Jordy and Katharina/Catherine Zehr had a son Chrétien born at Windstein Jan. 30, 1812. Chrétien was not the 'Christian Yotty' who came to Woodford County. Chrétien married Barbe Eyer at Windstein Aug. 11, 1838, and died there Dec. 11, 1852.
6) Pierre Jordé was born Dec. 12, 1825, and died at Lembach in 1905. On May 4, 1858 he married Catherine Guth. She was born at Sturzelbronn April 30, 1837, a daughter of Chrétien Guth and Madeleine Steiner.

7) Joseph Jordy was born April 17, 1828. On Nov. 14, 1854 at Lembach he married Barbara Guth. She was born at Sturzelbronn Feb. 12, 1834, and died at Lembach Nov. 29, 1871, a daughter of Chrétien Guth and Madeline Steiner.

8) Madeleine Jordi was born July 30, 1831. According to Lorentz, she married Peter Zehr. He was born in 1822, and died in 1916, a son of Joseph Zehr and Barbara Steinmann. As a widow Veronika/Veronica Habecker remarried to Peter Nafziger at Lembach, Lower Alsace April 10, 1802. The civil marriage entry called her the widow of 'Jacob Yartÿ.' One witness was her stepson, Katzenthal estate leaseholder [Ger. Beständer] Johannes Habecker, 25. Peter was born on the Fleckensteinerhof Sept. 26, 1762, a son of Peter Nafziger and Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz. Veronika/Veronica died at Lembach Dec. 22, 1827. Her civil death entry described her as 62 years and nine months of age, born at Hochstätt [Hofstätten]; the widow of the deceased Jacques Jordi in her first marriage; the widow of the deceased Peter Nafziger in her second marriage; and a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Habecker and the deceased Frontine Imhoff. It was signed by her son, 34-year-old cultivator Chrétien Jordi.

5. Magdalena Jordy was born at Eselsfürth in 1764, and died on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach near Zweibrücken July 24, 1814. She married Johannes Imhof. He was born on the Aschbacherhof estate at Trippstadt circa 1763, and may have died March 30, 1812 (this date, found in several sources, coincides with the death of his father elsewhere), a son of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Roggy. They farmed on the Wilensteinerhof estate. The 1800 census of Trippstadt shows her as Magdalena Jorde, 36, farmer's wife.  

a. Elisabeth Imhof was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate circa 1791, and died on the Wahlerhof estate Oct. 13, 1857. On June 18, 1809 at Trippstadt she married Jean Güngerich. He was born at Höfstaten circa 1779, and died on the Wahlerhof estate Oct. 13, 1857 (note the same date), a son of Michael Güngerich and Barbara Habecker.

Jean Jordy was born in the Pfalz circa 1750, and died before 1816. He married Barbara/Barbe Esch. Their children include:

1. Jacob/Jacques Jordi (also found as Jordý) was born circa 1778.
2. Madeleine Jordi was born circa 1779, and died at Windstein Dec. 22, 1816. Her civil death entry said she was born in Allemagne [Germany] and was 37 years of age, a daughter of Jean Jordy and Barbe Eschen.

Jacob/Jacques Jordi (also found as Jordý) was born circa 1778. He married Catherine Schantz. They settled at Jaegerthal, adjacent to Windstein, Lower Alsace circa 1814.

THE JAEGERTHAL VALLEY

From 1602 to 1885 the Jaegerthal valley below Windstein was the site of an iron foundry. Industrialist Jean Dietrich (1719-1795) purchased the foundry in 1685. After purchasing the foundry Jean Dietrich obtained contracts to provide weapons for the French army, gaining favor with the Catholic king. This provided a modest start to the family's later fortune. They helped finance the War of Austrian Succession (1741-48) and the Seven Years War (1756-63). In 1761 the family became nobility, changing their surname to 'de Dietrich.'

Much of the land around the Jaegerthal foundry was owned by a competing family, and eventually the de Dietrichs established foundries in other locations that could ensure plentiful supplies of wood. By 1789 they directly or indirectly supported 3,000 workers, and owned more land than any other family in Alsace.

Philippe-Frédéric de Dietrich, a son of Jean, became the Royal Commissioner of Mines and the first mayor of Strasbourg before meeting the guillotine in 1793. Despite that reversal, family fortunes revived under Napoleon. They later expanded into railroad construction, automobiles, manufacturing, and chemicals as the conglomerate De Dietrich & Cie.

The original foundry is now a ruined brick shell, and Jaegerthal is part of Windstein.

Circa 1819 Jacob/Jacques and Catherine relocated to a site 'about 20 miles south of Munich.' This may have been Söcking or Hanfeld - adjacent villages about 18 miles south of Munich. Son Pierre/Peter's immigration traveling companions came from these villages.

Children of Jacob/Jacques Jordi and Catherine Schantz include:

- Christian Yotty may belong here.
- Jacob Jordi/Jordy may belong here.

1. Pierre Jordi/Peter Jordy/Peter Yordy. His civil birth entry created at Windstein stated that he was born at midnight July 26, 1815. It described his parents as Jacques Jordy, 30, and Catharine Schanin, living at Jaegerthal.
2. Jacqué Jordi was born June 28, 1818. A civil birth entry was created at Windstein the following day, describing her parents as cultivator Jacques Jordy, 40, a resident of Jaegerthal, and his wife Catherine Schantz.

3. **Jacquée Jordi/Pena Yordy.** She may have been the child born in 1818, but her headstone calls her Philippine Yordy, and says she was born at Munich June 24, 1819. She was also known as Pena/Jacobine Yordy.

**Christian Yotty**

**Chrétien Jordi or Christian Yotty** was born circa 1811, and died at Olio, Woodford County Nov. 7, 1870. We suspect but cannot prove that he was a son of Jacob/Jacques Jordi and Catherine Schantz.

He sailed from Le Havre on the *Granville* in the autumn of 1839, but arrived at New Orleans on the *Alexandre Toussin* Dec. 26.

Gary L. Yordy: "The passengers on the *Granville* are also listed as passengers on the ship *Alexandre Toussin*, which arrived in New Orleans two days earlier. In order to clear up the mystery, I went to the Maritime Museum at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. The following information was obtained from varied documents found there. Both the *Granville* and *Toussin* embarked from Le Havre, heading for New Orleans in the fall of 1839. The *Granville* (primarily a passenger ship) was to sail directly to New Orleans. The *Toussin* (carrying a few passengers and cargo) was scheduled to stop in Havana on its way to New Orleans. For unknown reasons, the *Granville* made an unscheduled stop at Havana on or about December 19, 1839. The steerage passengers on the *Granville* were then transferred to the *Toussin* to make the crossing of the Gulf of Mexico, arriving in New Orleans on Dec. 26. The *Granville* did not arrive until Dec. 28. The passenger manifest from the *Granville* had been copied in Havana and given to the captain of the *Toussin*. Thus both ship's lists show the same steerage passengers."

The *Granville* passenger list actually shows Bavarians Jacob Staller [Stalter], 34; Christ Jady [Jordy], 28; Catharina Staller, 30; Magdalena, 24; Johann, 5; and Maria, 3.

- 'Jacob Staller' was Catherine's brother born at Gern July 22, 1807; after this voyage he returned to Europe, marrying Catholic Anna Bächer at Munich April 23, 1841.
- 'Christ Jady' was later known as Christian Yotty.
- 'Catharina Staller' was a very pregnant Katharina/Catherine Stalter. She was born circa 1809, and died at Olio Oct. 11, 1894. She was a daughter of Heinrich Stalter (junior) and Jakobina Stalter, the owners of an estate at Gern, Bavaria.
- 'Magdalena Staller' was Magdalena/Madeleine Stalter, her sister. She was born in 1815, and died at New Orleans Oct. 27, 1893. She remained there while her sister went with Christian Yotty to Illinois. In 1840 she married gardener Christian Rupp, becoming his second wife. He was born in Germany in 1811 (passenger list) or 1813 (death entry age 52), and died at New Orleans June 29, 1865. He arrived in New Orleans on the *Platina* from Le Havre April 7, 1838; the passenger list shows Christian, 27; Barbara, 27; and Magdalena, 3 months. His first wife Barbara had died in 1840.
- Johann and Maria were children of Kaharina/Catherine Stalter.

Katharina/Catherine Stalter gave birth to a son Henry at New Orleans Dec. 29. Thus she brought three children north to Illinois:

1. Johann/John Yotty (also known as John B. Yotty) was born in Bavaria May 2, 1834, and died at Eureka Aug. 26, 1916. On Nov. 28, 1871 in Tazewell County he married Josephine Phillip. She was born in 1846, and died in 1894. Josephine was admitted to the Woodford County almshouse in 1889, according to the *Woodford County Almshouse Registers.*

   **Peoria Journal**, August 29, 1916: "The death of John Yotty, one of Eureka's respected German residents, occurred at his home in this city Saturday evening, after a short illness with something like blood poison. He was born in Bavaria, Germany May 2, 1834, but since he was 4 years of age Woodford County has been his home. Mrs. Yotty died many years ago...One sister and brothers also are left – Mrs. Mary Klopfenstein and Joseph Yotty of Eureka and Jacob Yotty of Iowa. Funeral services will be held from the residence at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning and from the Mennonite church, near Roanoke, at 1 o'clock."

2. Maria/Mary Yotty was born in Bavaria April 3, 1836, and died at Eureka Jan. 24, 1926. On Feb. 26, 1856 she married butcher and hotel keeper Joseph Klopfenstein. He was born at Belfort, Franche-Comté July 31, 1829, and died at Eureka Nov. 12, 1909, a son of John Klopfenstein and Catherine Klopfenstein. See KLOPFENSTEIN for more on this couple.

3. Henry Yotty was born at New Orleans Dec. 28, 1839, and died at Kearney, Nebraska Feb. 9, 1886. He enlisted in Company K (his name appears as Henry Yoty with the Peoria and Tazewell County company) Aug. 28, 1862, then was transferred to Company E (a Woodford County company) of the 108th Illinois Infantry Regiment. He

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*23 The registers are presently located at the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.*
promised to repay $800 principal plus 10 percent interest.

Cemetery, near their youngest child Jacob C. Yotty. They also appear on the 1880 census of Somer, Champaign County as farmer Henry Yotty, 40, born in Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Catharine, 1, Illinois; and [father-in-law] Henry Stalder [Heinrich Stalter], 74, Germany.

Before 1860, Family purchased 163 acres at Olio. The family appears on the 1860 census there as farmer Christian Yottea, 57, Baden; Catherine, 52, Baden; John, 25, Baden; Henry, 20, Baden; Joseph, 15, Baden; Jacob, 7, Illinois; Catherine, 10, Illinois; farm laborer Christian Christner, 35, Bavaria; and farm laborer Augustus Smith, 16, Bavaria. The value of their real estate was listed as $200, and their personal property as $400. These were extremely low figures for the county.

Within a few years Christian fell into financial difficulty. On March 15, 1867, Peter Yordy (who we suspect was his younger brother) co-signed on a note borrowing money from Worth farm laborer Jacob Gangloff. The note promised to repay $800 principal plus 10 percent interest.

Christian Yotty's household was presumably listed on 3-4 pages that are known to be missing from the original 1870 census of Olio.

Christian died on the Olio farm Nov. 7, 1870. His estate documents show that the $800 note was still unpaid with accrued interest. Christian and Katharina/Catherine are buried in unmarked graves in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery, near their youngest child Jacob C. Yotty.

Their children include:

1. Joseph Yotty was born in Woodford County Nov. 27, 1847, died at Eureka April 11, 1932, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. He appears on the 1830 census of Olio as an 83-year-old born in Illinois to German parents.

2. Catherine Yotty was born in Woodford County in February 1850, and died in Iowa in 1912. In 1870 she married Christian Ehrisman. He was born in Baden in 1844, and died at Manson, Iowa Aug. 21, 1920, a son of Daniel Ehrsman and Catherine/Katharina. They are found on the 1880 census of Danvers as farmer Christian Ehrisman, 35, born in Baden to a father from Württemberg and a mother from Baden; Catharine, 31, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Bavaria; with four children born in Illinois and Christian's younger brother Daniel Ehrisman, 17, born in Illinois.

3. Jacob C. Yotty was born in Woodford County April 27, 1853 and died at Kalona, Iowa Aug. 23, 1920. On Jan. 26, 1882 at Cazenovia he married Anna 'Annie M.' Bachman. She was born at Cazenovia Dec. 3, 1858, and died at Kalona, Iowa Dec. 18, 1933, a daughter of Jacob Bachman and Jakobina 'Phoebe' Zook. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. "...Funeral services were held at the residence at one o'clock Friday afternoon and the body was then taken to the Roanoke A.M. church where final services were held. Bishop Sam Garber was in charge of the services. There was a large attendance of former neighbors and friends at the services. The body was laid to rest in the cemetery near the church. Jacob Yotty was born in Woodford County, III., April 27, 1853, and died at his home west of Kalona, Iowa, Aug. 23, 1920 aged 67 years, 3 months and 26 days...Early in life he united with the Mennonite church, of which he was a member until death. On Jan. 26, 1882, he was united in marriage with Annie Bachman. To them were born four children; two sons, Chris H. and Bartholomew J., and two daughters, Elizabeth A. wife of John Speas and Jacobina C. wife of Jake Speas. All are living and with their mother, were present at the bedside at the time of death. Beside these he is survived by one brother and one sister, both of Illinois, and five grandchildren, who with a host of friends mourn his departure.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

home for himself and family in Iowa. His body was laid to rest beside the graves of his father and mother in the
cemetery near Roanoke."

Jacob Jordi/Jordy

Jacob Jordy was born sometime between 1810 and 1815, and died on the Pentlhof estate at Zeitlarn, Bavaria
sometime after Aug. 18, 1874 (on that day Jacob reported the birthdates of his children to inquiring municipal
officials).

In 1841 at Grossprüfening (now a neighborhood within Regensburg) he married Magdalena Schantz. German
genealogist Hermann Hage provided much of what we know about this couple.

Magdalena Schantz was born at Rimling, Moselle Aug. 16, 1813, and died in 1856. She was a daughter of
Christian Schantz, born at Nehwiller-près-Woerth in 1762, and his second wife Anna Imhoff. She was also a half-
sister to Grossprüfening leaseholder Caspar Josef Schantz (whose mother was Marie Bürki); and a granddaughter of
Jean Georges/Johann George Schantz and Catherine/Katharina Bürki of Nehwiller-près-Woerth (the location has
also been found as nearby Niederbronn-lès-Bains).

From 1841 to 1853 they lived as tenants of the Neuffert family on the Eichenhofen estate at Nittendorf, a
village seven miles west of Regensburg, Bavaria. From 1856 until 1874 widower Jacob lived on the Pentlhof estate
at Zeitlarn (five miles north of Regensburg).

Children of Jacob Jordy and Magdalena Schantz born on the Eichenhofen estate at Nittendorf include:

1. Maria Jordy was born Jan. 8, 1842.
2. Elisabetha Jordy was born Sept. 15, 1844, and lived at Karlstein (15 miles north of Regensburg). She married a
   Gascho.
3. Magdalena Jordy was born Sept. 29, 1845, and died Oct. 16, 1918. On March 9, 1873 at Grünthal she married Josef
   Unsicker.
4. Anna Jordy was born Feb. 16, 1849. She lived at Karlstein.
5. Jakob/Jacob Jordy was born Nov. 5, 1852. He embarked at Bremen on the maiden voyage of the steamship Ems,
   arriving at Castle Garden, N.Y. July 14, 1884. He may be the Jacob Jordy, born in Germany, who was naturalized
   at the Tazewell County Courthouse in Pekin March 23, 1896. Gary L. Yordy proposes that he is also shown on the
   1900 census of Cincinnati, Tazewell County as Jacob Yordy, a boarder in the home of Charles Bailey. He is
described as a 45-year-old farm laborer, born in Germany in September 1854, whose parents were born in Germany,
and who immigrated in 1884.
6. Barbara Jordy/Yordy was born Dec. 14, 1853, and died at Morton Sept. 20, 1894. Her headstone gives no birth date,
   but only her age at death, 42. She became the third wife of Christian Eigsti. As Gary L. Yordy discovered, 'Jacob
   Jordy' and 'Magdalena Shants' were named as the parents of Barbara Yordy in Book 1 of the Woodford County
   Marriage Registry. Her 1888 marriage ceremony took place in the Roanoke home of Peter Yordy, who was thought
to be her uncle. For more on this couple, see EIGSTI.

Pierre Jordi/Peter Jordy/Peter Yordy

A civil birth entry for Pierre Jordi/Peter Jordy/Peter Yordy was created at Windstein July 26, 1815 (though
his headstone gives the date June 12, 1815). He died in Woodford County July 2, 1897, and is buried in Roanoke
Mennonite Cemetery.

Peter accompanied Andrew Burcky and Joseph Heiser on the packet ship Charles Carroll from Le Havre to
New York, arriving Sept. 17, 1838. The two came from Söcking and Hanfeld – adjacent villages about 18 miles
south of Munich. On the passenger list, the name immediately after that of 'Joseph Heser' falls on a crease. The
National Archives and FHL reproduction microfilms appear to say 'Peter Jodte,' age 23.

A family story says that Peter worked on the Mississippi River before coming to Illinois. According to Harry
Weber in Centennial History of the Mennonites in Illinois, he arrived on Partridge Creek in 1839.

On Feb. 9, 1847 in Tazewell County Peter married to Maria Birki/Mary Birkey in the Dillon Creek meeting;
the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Bavaria April 8, 1816, a daughter of

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24 Grossprüfening became part of Prüfenig district. During World War II a Prüfenig factory produced the Messerschmidt
Bf-109 aircraft, and the entire area was heavily bombed from high altitude.

25 The Ems was launched Feb. 27, 1884. It was listed with the same company as his sister Barbara's immigration ship,
Norddeutscher Lloyd.
Christian Birki and his wife Mary. She arrived at New York on the ship *Baltimore* June 14, 1844, with her son from a previous relationship, Johann Horn (later known as John Birkey Yordy).26

Mary can be found as an 84-year-old widow on the 1900 census of Roanoke, living with children Peter, 44, and Barbara, 39. The census stated that she was born in Germany of French parents, and that she came to America in 1847. She died May 13, 1903, and is also buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

1. Johann Horn/John Birkey Yordy was born in Bavaria Oct. 23, 1839, and died at Milford, Nebraska. Dec. 31, 1906. On Jan. 5, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena ‘Martha’ King; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Magdalena was born at Salem, Marion County in December 1843 and died Feb. 11, 1927, a daughter of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz. In 1863 Peter Yordy purchased John's exemption from Civil War military service for $100. They moved to Seward County, Nebraska in 1885, to Colorado in 1889, to Kansas in 1896, and then returned to Seward County in 1898. *Gospel Herald*, January 1907: "After an illness of about eight months, Bro. John Yordy passed away at his home in Milford, Neb., Dec. 31, 1906; aged 68 y. 2 m. 17 d. Funeral services were held at the home and concluded at the Amish Church where he was laid to rest in the Fairview Cemetery on Thursday afternoon. Bro. Yordy was born in Germany, Oct. 23, 1839, and came to America with his parents who settled in Illinois when he was six years old. He united with the Amish Mennonite church in his early years, to which he remained faithful to his death. He was married to Magdalena King Jan. 5, 1863. To this union were born thirteen children, four of whom preceded him to the spirit world. He leaves a sorrowing wife and nine children, but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. His disease was ulcers and gall stones. He suffered greatly at times but bore it all patiently to the end." See KING for background on Magdalena’s later marriages to Jacob Sutter and John Plank.

The family is found on the 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County as farmer Peter Yatty, 35, Germany; Mary, 34, Germany; John, 12, Germany; Christian, 2, Illinois; and Mary, 1, Illinois. The proximity of neighbor Uriah Crosby suggests their first homestead was in the northern half of Morton.

Peter paid $1,400 for 154 acres of land Jan. 30, 1852. The land came in three parcels: two totaling 85 acres in south-central Groveland, and another 70 acres in north-central Elm Grove.27

The household of Peter and Mary can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as farmer Peter 'Yarty,' 54 [he was actually 45], born in France; Mary, 49 [she was actually 44], born in Bavaria; John, 21, born in Bavaria; Christian, 11, Illinois; Mary, 10, Illinois; Jacob, 7, Illinois; Elizabeth, 4, Illinois; Philip [Peter Jr.], 3, Illinois; and Joseph, 2, Illinois. Their neighbors (Joseph Heiser, Joseph Ropp, Samuel King, Peter and Christian Gerber) indicate that they probably lived on the north side of Allentown Road, across from Joseph Heiser. The property must have been sold before 1864; the plat map published in that year does not show a Yordy property.

On Feb. 10, 1865, Peter purchased 80 acres of land at Nebraska (later Flanagan), Livingston County. The farm was cultivated by John Birkey Yordy 1865-71, then occupied by daughter Mary and her husband Daniel Orendorff, while John moved to Lombardville, Stark County.

In 1867 the family moved onto a 200-acre farm on Panther Creek at Roanoke, Woodford County. It was located about 3.5 miles north of Christian's farm. The household is found on the 1870 census of Roanoke as farmer Peter 'Yottey,' 54 [he was actually 45], born in France; Mary, 53, Bavaria; Christian, 22, Bavaria [Illinois]; Mary, 20, Bavaria [Illinois]; Jacob, 17, Ohio; Elizabeth, 16, Ohio; Peter, 14, Ohio; Joseph, 12, Illinois; and Barbara, 7, Illinois. Peter joined the Roanoke Mennonite Church, but also attended services at the nearby Panther Creek Church of the Brethren.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them as 'Peter Yordie,' a 65-year-old farmer born in France, of parents born in France; and Mary, 64, born in Bavaria, of parents born in France. Children living with them include Elisabeth, 25; Peter, 24; Joseph, 23; and Barbara, 19. Mary can be found as an 84-year-old widow on the 1900 census of Roanoke, living with children Peter, 44, and Barbara, 39. On that form Mary (or someone in her stead) stated that she was born in Germany of French parents, and that she came to America in 1847.

In about 1883, Peter and Mary's Roanoke farm house was also occupied by their son Christian and his family. They temporarily moved to the home of their daughter Mary and her husband Daniel Orendorff at Flanagan, then returned to Roanoke the following year when a new, smaller house was built on the farm to accommodate them. They were shortly joined at Roanoke by their [presumed] niece, Barbara Jordy, and her son Christian H. Yordy, recently arrived from Bavaria.

Children of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey include:

26 According to Gary L. Yordy, the father of Johann Horn/John Birkey Yordy was a German army officer. "It is possible that John B. Yordy's relationship to Peter Yordy as a foster son would have remained a family secret, were it not for the fact that John's daughter, Fannie Yordy, decided to marry Peter Yordy's nephew, Joseph Yeackley."

27 Peter sold 25 acres of the land in Groveland to John Ackerman for $300 April 17, 1854.
1. Christian Yordy was born at Elm Grove July 29, 1848, died at Roanoke July 10, 1922, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. On Oct. 4, 1874 in Livingston County he married Salome 'Sally' Slagel, who was born near Pekin Sept. 6, 1855, died at Roanoke Feb. 21, 1938, and is also buried at Roanoke; she was a daughter of Christian Slagel and Salomé Sommer. 28 They can be found on the 1900 census of Roanoke living next door to his mother Mary. *Gospel Herald*, October 1922: "Christian Yordy, son of Peter and Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., July 29, 1848; died at his home near Roanoke, Ill., July 10, 1922, aged 73 y. 11 m. 11 d.  Oct. 4, 1874, he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Salomé Slagel of Livingston Co., Ill.  Ten children were born to them, of whom four died in infancy. He leaves his sorrowing companion, two sons, and four daughters (Amos, Joel, Salome Woodward, Leah Armstrong, Laura Bryant, and Lizzie). All were present at his death except Salome. He also leaves 18 grandchildren, two brothers, three sisters and many nieces and nephews. At the age of 19 he united with the A. M. Church and remained faithful to the end. In his younger years he was active in church work. Funeral services were held at the home by Bro. Peter Garber and at the Roanoke Church by Bros. C. S. Shertz and A. A. Schrock. Intermment in the cemetery nearby." *Gospel Herald*, March 1938: "Yordy. Salome, daughter of Christian and Solome (Sommer) Slagel, was born Sept. 6, 1855, near Pekin, Ill.; died at her home east of Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 21, 1938; aged 82 y. 5 m. 16 d. In her girlhood her parents moved to north of Chenoa, Ill. She united with the Mennonite Church in October, 1870, in which faith she remained until death. Oct. 4, 1874, she was married to Christian Yordy. To this union were born 10 children, four dying in infancy and Laura Bryant on June 1, 1929. Those living are Salome Barchey, Tiskilwa; Leah Armstrong, Secor; Joel of Heyworth; Amos of Roanoke; and Lizzie at home. There are 24 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, 1 brother (D. W. Slagel, Flanagan, Ill.), one sister (Lydia Smith, Goshen, Ind.), many nephews and nieces and friends to mourn her death. Funeral services were held at the home and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, conducted by John L. Harnish and Ezra B. Yordy. Text, *Job 14:14*. Interment in the adjoining cemetery."


3. Magdalene Yordy was born at Elm Grove in 1851, and died there in 1854.

4. Jacob K. Yordy was born at Elm Grove March 8, 1853, and died at Flanagan Nov. 29, 1930. On Feb. 3, 1878 in Livingston County he married Catherine 'Katie' King. She was born Oct. 19, 1858, and died Feb. 2, 1918. They are found on the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Nebraska, Livingston County. *Gospel Herald*, December 1930: "Yordy. – Jacob K., son of Peter and Mary Yordy, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., March 8, 1853; died at the home of his son Amsa near Flanagan, Ill., Nov. 29, 1930; aged 77 y. 8 m. 21 d. He spent his entire life in Tazewell, Woodford and Livingston counties. On Feb. 3, 1878, he was united in marriage to Kathyrn King of Livingston Co., Ill. To this union were born five sons and nine daughters. The surviving children are Edward, Noah, William, Raymond, Amsa, Mrs. S. A. Albrecht, Mrs. Simon Beller, Mrs. Albert Durre, Mrs. Elmer Augsburger, Mrs. Ray Slagell, Mrs. William Stalter, and Mrs. Arthur Guth. The children are all residents of this community with the exception of Mrs. Beller of Wesloco, Tex., and Raymond, of Iowa City, Ia. He also leaves 58 grandchildren and one sister (Barbara Yordy). Those of the family who have preceded him in death are his companion (who died Feb. 2, 1918), also two daughters and four grandchildren. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior in his youth and remained faithful until death. Funeral services were held Dec. 1 at the Waldo Church, conducted by the home ministers, D. W. Slagel and J. D. Hartzler. Burial in Waldo Cemetery." *Gospel Herald*, February 1918: "Yordy. – Catherine King was born Oct. 19, 1858; died suddenly at her late home at Eureka, Ill., Feb. 2, 1918; aged 59y. 2m. 14 d. At the age of 17 she united with the A. M. Church and remained faithful to the end. She was united in marriage with Jacob K. Yordy Feb. 3, 1878. To this union were born five sons and nine daughters. Two daughters and two grandsons preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her sudden departure a deeply bereaved husband, 7 daughters, 5 sons, 21 grandchildren, an aged mother, seven brothers, two sisters and many relatives and friends. Funeral services at the house of her son-in-law, S.A. Albrecht, near Flanagan, Ill., by D. W. Slagel and at the Waldo A.M. Church by C.F. Derstine. Text, *Man goeth to his long home* (Eccl.12:5). Burial in Waldo Cemetery. Sister Yordy was one of the committee that looked after the sewing circle ever since it has been in existence until they moved to Eureka about four months ago. May the bereaved ones look to Him who alone can comfort."

5. Elizabeth Yordy was born at Elm Grove Dec. 6, 1854, died at Cazenovia Jan. 28, 1928, and is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora. On Jan. 16, 1881 at Roanoke she married Christian Bachman. He was born at Cazenovia March 7, 1857, died at Cazenovia Sept. 19, 1934, and is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery, a son of Jacob Bachman and Jakobina 'Phoebe' Zook.

6. Peter Yordy [Jr.] was born at Elm Grove Feb. 29, 1856, and died in Woodford County June 4, 1909. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Peter Jr. and his younger sister Barbara had learning disabilities. In 1901 Peter Jr. became the ward of his brother-in-law Christian Bachman. Court documents described him as 'distracted.' *Gospel Herald*, June 1909: " Peter Yordy was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Feb. 29, 1856. He came to his death near his home in Woodford Co., Ill., by a stroke of lightning, June 4, 1909. He united with the A. M. Church in his youth. He was never married. He leaves three brothers and three sisters. Services were held at the house by Peter D. Schertz from 28 Salome 'Sally' Slagel was a granddaughter of Christian Schlegel (1792-circa 1863) of Belfort and Catharina Ernst (1794-before 1860). See SCHLEGEL and ERNST.
Schrock and H.R. Schertz. Text relatives and friends. Funeral services at the Roanoke Mennonite Church Feb 22, 1925, conducted by Brothers A.A. brother (Jacob, of Flanagan), two sisters (Barbara, of Eureka, and Mrs. Chris. Bachman of Cazenovia), many hours of his life on earth. His desire is fulfilled now, for he has gone where “there shall be no more death, neither longing for eternal rest. He was conscious to the last, although unable to speak, and showed great calmness the last and lived a stable consistent Christian life. Since Christmas he suffered much. Often during the last few months he part in worshiping God in song. Although never very strong physically, yet he had a strong faith in the living God Church as a faithful deacon since 1920. Singing always found a great place in his life, and he always took an active

Roanoke, fifteen years near Flanagan, twelve years near Fisher, and the remaining years in Woodford county. In his early manhood he united with the Mennonite Church and had a ringing Christian testimony to the end. He served the Church as a faithful deacon since 1920. Singing always found a great place in his life, and he always took an active part in worshiping God in song. Although never very strong physically, yet he had a strong faith in the living God and lived a stable consistent Christian life. Since Christmas he suffered much. Often during the last few months he longed for eternal rest. He was conscious to the last, although unable to speak, and showed great calmness the last hours of his life on earth. His desire is fulfilled now, for he has gone where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, not crying, neither shall there be any more pain." He leaves his wife, nine children, nine grandchildren, one brother (Jacob, of Flanagan), two sisters (Barbara, of Eureka, and Mrs. Chris. Bachman of Cazenovia), many relatives and friends. Funeral services at the Roanoke Mennonite Church Feb 22, 1925, conducted by Brothers A.A. Schrock and H.R. Schertz. Text John 11:25. Internment in cemetery nearby, "Gospel Herald, March 1953: "Yordy. – Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Saltzman) Roeschley, was born near Spring Bay, Ill., July 20, 1862; passed away Feb 3, 1953; aged 90 y. 6 m. 14 d. On Jan. 1, 1882, at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, she was united in marriage to Joseph Yordy, who preceded her in death in 1925. Surviving are three daughters (Ella, Anna, and Mrs. Josephine Schrock, Eureka, Ill.), five sons (Aaron, Peoria, Ill.; Ezra, Eureka, Ill.; Walter, Chicago, Ill.; Jonas, Eureka, Ill.; and Alvin, Denver, Colo.), 15 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren. One son (Lewis) also preceded her in death. In her youth she united with the Mennonite Church and for many years taught a German Sunday-school class. Funeral services were in charge of John L. Harnish and J. H. Hartzler, with burial in the church cemetery."

Barbara Yordy was born at Elm Grove Dec. 18, 1860, and died in Woodford County Sept. 20, 1943. She was mildly autistic, and was cared for by her brother Christian. She is also buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. "Metamora Herald, October 1943: "Barbara Yordy was born in Tazewell County, Illinois, December 18, 1860 and died about midnight September 20, 1943, at the age of 82 years, six months, three days, at the Mennonite Home at Eureka. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yordy. She was also the last member of a family of eight, all of whom preceded her in death a number of years ago. She leaves a number of nieces and nephews in different states to mourn her departure. Barbara Yordy entered the Old People's home August 17, 1922, being one of the first members to enter the Home. She is the last one of the early members to pass away. Her life was spent mostly at the Yordy home east of Roanoke, Illinois, with the exception of a few years at the Brethren Home at Girard, Illinois, just previous to entering the home at Eureka. She became a member of the Mennonite church in her early years. Services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church in charge of Rev. John Harnish at 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 23. Burial was in the Church cemetery."

Jaquée Jordi/Pena Yordy

Jaquée Jordi was born June 28, 1818. A civil birth entry was created at Windstein the following day, describing her parents as cultivator Jacques Jordy, 40, a resident of Jaegerthal, and his wife Catherine Schantz. Jaquée Jordi/Pena Yordy may have been the child born in 1818. However, her headstone calls her Phillipine Yordy, and says she was born at Munich June 24, 1819. She was also known as Pena/Jacobine Yordy. Her name seems to have evolved into 'Pena' or the more fashionable 'Jacobine.' (Her daughter Jacobine, 'Bina' would evolve into the even more fashionable American equivalent 'Phoebe').

With Johan George Yeackley [Jäckle], a Catholic, she sailed from Le Havre on the Governor Davis, arriving at New Orleans Jan. 5, 1842. The passenger list describes John Jeckle, 28, and Jacobina Jeckle, 24. This suggests that their travel documents were entered as a married couple. Jacobine delivered her first child 12 days later. They were married (presumably for the second time) in a civil court in Woodford County April 26, 1842. The ceremony was performed by Justice of the Peace Thornton Parker. Marriage documents list them as Geo. Yeckley' and 'Jacobina Yerkey.'

Their household can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer George 'Ackerly;' 35, Germany; Pena, 30, Germany; Catharine, 7, Illinois; Elizabeth, 5, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; and Pena, 3 months, Illinois. The Yeackley children were raised as Catholics. When George died Feb. 28, 1854, Peter Yordy (who we believe to be Pena's older brother) was appointed administrator of the estate and legal guardian of the children. Children of Phillippine Yordy and her first husband Johan George Yeackley include:
1. Catherine 'Kate' Yeackley was born at New Orleans Jan. 17, 1842, and died Dec. 16, 1883. She married Adam Hoffman. He was born in 1836 and died in 1897.
2. Henry Yeackley. Descendant Elaine Wampler has found a baptismal certificate for this hitherto unknown child.
3. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Yeackley was born March 7, 1845, and died June 30, 1931. She married Louis Winkel. He was born in 1834, and died after 1900. They appear on the 1870 census of Second Ward, Pekin as butcher Louis Winkel, 36, Saxony; Elizabeth, 24, Illinois; and Frederick, 4, Illinois.
4. Joseph Yeackley was born Feb. 15, 1848, and died at Milford, Nebraska Jan. 18, 1940. He can be found on the 1880 census of Pekin as farmer Joseph Yackley, 32. On Sept. 7, 1884 in Tazewell County he married Fannie Yordy. She was born April 5, 1863, and died at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 31, 1955, a daughter of John Birkey Yordy and Magdalena King. They can be found on the 1910 census of Precinct O, Seward County, Nebraska (now Milford, Grover/East Milford, West Mill, and Camden) as farmer Joseph Yeackley, 63, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; Fanny, 47, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Illinois; and six children.
5. Emma Yeackley was born in 1850, and died in 1851.
6. Jacobine 'Phoebe' Yeackley was born June 3, 1852, and died Dec. 14, 1933. She married Joseph C. Bishop. He was born in 1850, and died Sept. 20, 1896. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Bishop, 29, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria and Ohio; Phoebe, 27, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; Ella E., 6, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and William H., 1, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois. Jacobine and Joseph are buried in Craft Cemetery at Groveland.
7. Peter Yeackley was born in 1853, and died in 1854.

On July 12, 1854 in Tazewell County Phillipine remarried to Henry Raab. Henry bought the land that had been owned by George Yeackley for $8.50 per acre. When he died unexpectedly in early 1860, Phillipine was left with an unpaid mortgage. Peter Yordy purchased the property for the price of the mortgage ($620). He then sold the farm to August Knoll for $2,000, and purchased a home on the corner of Sixth and Ann Eliza Streets in Pekin from Knoll for $700.

The child of Phillipine Yordy and her second husband Henry Raab:

8. Henry Raab Jr. was born in 1855, died Dec. 10, 1933, and is buried in Craft Cemetery at Groveland as 'Henry Rapp, 1933.'

Phillipine married a third time to Christian Krug Aug. 14, 1862. He was born at Hanseldorf, Bavaria Aug. 1, 1825 (the location appears on his headstone), and died at Groveland Oct. 31, 1890. The 1870 census of Pekin describes their household as farmer Christian Krug, 44, Bavaria; Philippine, 40, Bavaria; Joseph Jeckel, 22, Illinois; Jacobine, 15, Illinois; Henry Krug, 13, Illinois; and Louis, 3, Illinois. They also appear on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Chr. Krug, 55, Albiren [Altbayern, the administrative district surrounding Munich]; Bena, 55, Albiren; Louis, 12, Illinois; and stepson Henry 'Rabb,' 21, born in Illinois to Prussian parents. Jacobine died at Groveland Dec. 16, 1883, and was buried in Craft Cemetery as 'Phillippine.' Christian Krug died at Groveland Oct. 31, 1890, and is buried beside her.

The child of Phillipine Yordy and her third husband Christian Krug:

9. Louis Krug was born at Pekin Aug. 30, 1868, and died at Groveland Nov. 13, 1943. On Oct. 5, 1893 at Pekin he married Anna J. Hagney. She was born in October 1877, and died March 5, 1902. On Nov. 24, 1904 at Pekin Louis remarried to Anna Maria Dully. She was born at Groveland March 13, 1870, and died there April 18, 1948. She was the widow of Carl B. Wubben, who she had married at Pekin March 3, 1890; he died Oct. 22, 1902. She was also a daughter of Michael Dully and Magdalena Wageman. Louis and his second wife are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

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29 August Knoll was a passenger on the Minnesota in 1949, on a voyage from Liverpool to New York. His group included Valentine Birky, Daniel Zehr Sr., George Rittgether, David Springer, Christian Eigsti and others. He was born in Bavaria circa 1819 (the passenger list says he was 30, and the 1870 census of Pekin says 1820), married Barbara Ehrlicher, and died at Tripp, South Dakota in 1908. His son August Louis Knoll was born June 9, 1853 in Tazewell County and died at Crete, Nebraska July 3, 1942.
In Canton Bern an Ösch is an ash tree, and the word occurs relatively frequently in place names. Surname variations include Oesch, Esch (found most often in France), Eash (found most often in Pennsylvania), Asche, and Ash. Two Oesch descendants became prominent in Tazewell and Woodford Counties. One came to America in 1837 and became an elder of the Partridge Creek meeting. The other immigrated with Bavarian Forty-Eighters and became a farmer at Elm Grove.

Christian Esch
Worth, Woodford County

Michel Ösch of Langenegg, Canton Bern married Anna Müller of Worb, Canton Bern. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Anna Ösch was baptized June 13, 1630.
2. Christ Ösch was baptized Sept. 25, 1631.
3. Michel Oesch was baptized Oct. 13, 1633.
4. Barbl Ösch was baptized Jan. 15, 1637.
5. Üli Ösch was baptized May 20, 1638.
6. Elsbeth Ösch was baptized Aug. 25, 1639. Her baptism entry identified her parents as natives of Langenegg and Worb.
7. Peter Ösch was baptized Sept. 6, 1640.
8. Elsbeth Ösch was baptized March 20, 1642.

Christ Ösch was baptized at Steffisburg Sept. 25, 1631. On March 21, 1656 at Steffisburg he married Elsbeth Müri. The entry called them Christen Ösch and Elsbeth Mürrü.

Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Christen Ösch was baptized March 22, 1657.
2. Anna Ösch was baptized April 22, 1660.
3. Michel Ösch was baptized March 30, 1662, and died as an infant.
4. Michel Ösch was baptized July 12, 1663.
5. Babi Ösch was baptized Oct. 7, 1667.
6. Elsbeth Ösch was baptized Oct. 11, 1668. The entry said her parents were living at Oberhofen.
7. Hans Ösch was baptized July 9, 1671.
8. Magdalena Ösch was baptized Nov. 16, 1673.
9. Cathrin Ösch was baptized April 15, 1677.

Christen Ösch was baptized at Steffisburg March 22, 1657. On Nov. 19, 1694 at Schwarzenegg he married Elsbeth Stü茨man. Their children’s baptism entries describe Christen as a Küler [barrel maker] at Thörberg. This may have been Schloss or castle Thörberg at Krauchthal, 27 miles north of Schwarzenegg by a roundabout route that first went into Steffisburg. At the time former monastery buildings were used as a hospital and prison. It is now a prison.

Children of Christian Ösch and Elsbeth Stü茨man include:

1. Michel Ösch was baptized at Steffisburg June 6, 1697. The entry described his parents as Christen Ösch of Schwartzneck Kilchori [congregation] and Elsbeth Stütz.
2. Christen Ösch/Christian Oesch was baptized at Mühllethurnen Nov. 19, 1699, and died before 1761. His baptism entry said his parents were from Riggisberg (adjacent to Mühllethurnen, 14 miles west of Schwarzenegg, and likely Elsbeth’s hometown). He went to the state-administered Steinisch estate between Königsbach and Langensteinbach, Baden-Durlach with his younger brother Hans, where he became elder of a congregation. He attended the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759 with Peter Rothaker, Hans Steiner, and Benedikt Eyer.
3. Anna Ösch was born at Steffisburg, but baptized at both Steffisburg and Schwarzenegg July 2, 1702. The Steffisburg entry said her father Christen was a resident of ‘Schwartzneck.’
4. Daniel Ösch was baptized at Schwarzenegg Oct. 7, 1704, and died before 1761.
5. Petrus Ösch was baptized at Schwarzenegg Oct. 16, 1707.

30 Ten Ösch couples were either married or had children baptized at Schwarzenegg between 1693 and 1722.
6. Elisabetha Ösch was baptized at Schwarzenegg May 25, 1710. A probate document in the State Archives of Canton Bern created in 1761 said that Elsbeth Oesch of Oberlangenegg testified that her brother Daniel and the children of her two deceased brothers Daniel and Christen “had left the country as Anabaptists many years ago…at present at Girschhausen.”31

7. Hans Oesch/Oesch was baptized at Schwarzenegg in January of 1715, and died after 1761. In 1742 he is found as co-leaseholder of the Steinisch estate, married to Maria Eyer, a daughter of Benedikt Eyer. In 1759 they were employed in a glassworks at Mattstall, Lower Alsace, 48 miles to the west.

Daniel Ösch was baptized at Schwarzenegg Oct. 7, 1704, and died before 1761.

Daniel married Barbara Leyenberger. He and his brother-in-law Andreas Leyenberger leased the Kirschbacherhof estate (between Hornbach and Contwig) in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken in 1742. Daniel and Barbara later farmed on the grounds of the castle estate [Ger. Schloss Gut Gutenbrunnen] in the Gutenbrunnen valley between Würschweiler and Bierbach, about five miles northwest of the city of Zweibrücken. The castle was constructed in 1723. It was owned by the royal family, and at one time housed a porcelain factory. Daniel died on the estate circa 1765. In 1793 the castle was largely destroyed, and the property around it was nationalized and auctioned off by French occupiers. 

Their children and grandchildren saw their surname spelled ‘Esh’ or ‘Esch’ in most French documentation. It is not clear whether this was their conscious decision, the result of their own illiteracy, or the whim of municipal clerks. It may also have been an attempt by well-meaning municipal clerks to help them assimilate by ‘Gallicizing’ their surname.

A son Josef Esch was born circa 1740, and died on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach near Zweibrücken June 30, 1813.

He married Magdalena Schertz, a daughter of Nikolaus/Nicolas Schertz and Barbara Birki of the copper mill at Hambach, Moselle. They lived at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace, and then in 1779 relocated onto a farm property attached to Château Gentsersberg [Ger. Gendersbergerhof] at Hanviller, Moselle. Magdalena died there. After 1788 Josef lived on the Dorst farm [Ger. Dorsterhof] at Walschbronn. Walschbronn is a border station across from Vinningen in the Pfalz. In the early 1800s it was in the most remote, wooded corner of Moselle.32

Children of Josef Esch and Magdalena Schertz include:

1. Barbara Esch was born in 1761, and died on the Horterhof estate at Heiligenmoschel in the Pfalz in 1839. She married Georg Unzicker of Wörth, Lower Alsace, who died on the Horterhof estate in 1849, a son of Joseph Unzicker and Maria Stauffer. They lived on the Château Gentsersberg property until 1804, when they purchased the Horterhof estate.

2. Josef Esch was born at Lorentzen circa 1771, and died on the Wahlerhof estate March 2, 1846. On July 26, 1798 at Walschbronn he married Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger (the entry called them Joseph Eche and Magdelaine Natzer). She was born circa 1774, and died on the Wahlerhof estate March 28, 1838, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Barbara Leyenberger.

3. Nikolaus/Nicolas Esch was born at Lorentzen Sept. 28, 1779, and died at Walschbronn in September 1867. On Nov. 10, 1801 at Walschbronn he married Katharina Hauter (the entry called them Nicholas Eche and Catherine Hauder). She was born on the Peltzmühle (later called the Blumenauermühle) at Brenschelbach, Pfalz-Zweibrücken July 22, 1786, and died at Walschbronn March 5, 1860, a daughter of Jakob Hauter and Magdalena Ulmann. They lived on the Dorst farm after 1788.

4. Magdalena/Madeleine Esch was born on the Château Gentsersberg property at Hanviller Jan. 7, 1784. On April 19, 1802 at Walschbronn she married Joseph Hauter. He was born April 7, 1782, and died at Walschbronn June 11, 1812, a son of Nicolas Hauter and Suzanne Oesch. On March 25, 1813 at Walschbronn she remarried to Johannes/Jean Nafziger. He was born at Niederbronn-lès-Bains (now in Lower Alsace) circa 1783, and died at Hanviller Dec. 23, 1859, a son of Valentin Nafziger and Anna Esch of Gentsersberg.

5. Christian Esch was born on the Château Gentsersberg property at Hanviller in 1788, and died on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn July 15, 1824.

Christian Esch was born on the Château Gentsersberg property at Hanviller, Moselle in 1788, and died on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn, Moselle July 15, 1824.

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31 The Gershäuserhof estate at Braunau, Waldeck was leased by Schlabachs. The presence of Oesches there reflects their association with Brennemans (Wohra is 16 miles to the southwest) and Schwartzentrubers (Waldeck is 13 miles to the north).

32 Nearby Eschviller [Ger. Eschweiler], now a farm and museum at Volmunster, has no connection to the Esch family. A complex of buildings grew around a grain mill and saw mill where, presumably, ash wood boards were manufactured. Christian Roggy (see ROGGY) worked at the Eschviller sawmill for the Creutzer family 1821-30.
On Sept. 13, 1813 at Waltembourg, Moselle he married Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger. She was born at Waltembourg in 1792, and died at Walschbronn Sept. 19, 1824, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Katharina/Catherine Sommer.

Their children orphaned in 1824 include:

1. Magdalena Esch was born Dec. 3, 1814, and died April 21, 1900. On Jan. 28, 1835 at Rolbing (five miles northwest of Walschbronn) she became the second wife of Jakob Kinzinger. He was born in the Blumenauermühle at Brenschelbach, Pfälz-Zweibrücken Nov. 2, 1805, and died at Bebelsheim, Saarland in 1873, a son of Peter Kinzinger and Magdalena Hauter. He first married in 1832 to Magdalena's cousin Barbara Oesch, a daughter of Joseph Oesch and Magdalena Nafziger of the Wahrlerhof estate.

2. Katharina Esch was born Sept. 19, 1816, and died Aug. 27, 1861. She married Johannes Schmitt.

3. Christian Esch was born on th Dorst farm at Walschbronn Aug. 26, 1819, and died at Worth, Woodford County May 25, 1888.

4. Josef/Joseph Esch was born June 10, 1822, and died on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt Dec. 25, 1893. In October 1846 at Trippstadt he married Elisabeth Güngrich. She was born on the Wilensteinhof estate Oct. 1, 1818, and died there Oct. 15, 1892, a daughter of Johannes Güngrich and Elisabeth Imhof.

Son Christian Esch (also known as Christian E. Esch) was born on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn, Moselle Aug. 26, 1819. He died at Worth, Woodford County May 25, 1888.

He was orphaned as a 5-year-old, and may have been raised by Nafzigers or Guengerichs at Bourscheid, Moselle.

He sailed from Le Havre on the Marengo, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 25, 1837. The Marengo was the same ship that had brought minister Christian Engel's son Joseph to New Orleans in 1836. He traveled with the family of minister Jean/John Nafziger and Anna Marie Gerber. The customs list includes these passengers from steerage: Jean Nafziger, 35; Anna [Gerber], 29; Pierre, 4; Catherine, 2; Catherine Murer, 57 (Catherine Maurer, widow of Christian Nafziger 1775-1829 and mother of Jean Nafziger); Madelaine Nafziger, 25; Catherine, 19; and Christian Esch, 18. (See NAFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON).

Family notes say that Christian's first stop in Woodford County was the farm of minister Christian Engel. Before purchasing his own farm at Worth, he lived on the Hanover (later Metamora) farm of Johannes Güngerich/Gingerich and Barbara Gerber.

On Aug. 30, 1846 in Woodford County he married Anne Gerber, also known as Anna Garber or Nancy Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman.33 She was born in the hamlet Gensbourg at Oberhaslach, Lower Alsace Aug. 10, 1827, and died at Worth May 17, 1898, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. She was a granddaughter of Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena/Madeléne Bechler, who had died of Yellow Fever on their way to Tazewell County in 1840 (see GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON for more on her grandparents).

For several winters Christian worked at a flour mill near Pekin, returning to his home on weekends. He cultivated his own crops in summer. His household appears on the 1850 census of Woodford County as farmer Christian Ash, 30, France; Ann, 24, France; and Peter, 2, Illinois.

Christian was ordained as a minister of the Partridge Creek meeting in 1852. The 1860 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Esch, 41, France; Ann, 36, France; Peter, 12, Illinois; and Joseph, 8, Illinois.

In 1867 Christian was ordained elder of the Partridge Creek meeting. His bound ledger of sermons from 1849-82 is now in the archives of Goshen College.

The 1870 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Ash, 44, France; Annie, 43, France; farm hand Peter, 25, France [Illinois]; farm hand Joseph, 19, France [Illinois]; and Meary, 9, Illinois. The 1880 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Esch, 62, Bavaria; Annie, 56, Bavaria; and Lena, 18, Illinois.

Christian Esch and Anne Gerber (as 'Anna') are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Their children born at Worth include:

1. Peter Esch was born Dec. 29, 1847, and died at Washington Dec. 31, 1912. On Feb. 6, 1872 in Woodford County he married Catherine Schertz. She was born at Peoria Oct. 29, 1848, and died at Metamora April 7, 1924. They are found on the 1910 census of Worth as farmer Peter Esch, 62, born in Illinois; Katina, 61, born in Illinois; and Benjamin, 22, born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1913: "Peter, son of Christian and Anna Esch, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 29, 1847. Thirty-two years ago he moved with his family to the home from which he passed.

33 The papers may have been drawn Aug. 20, a date given by the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index. Her name appears on the marriage license as Nancy Garber.
by two miles north of Washington, Ill. On Dec. 12, 1912, he was taken down with attack of la grippe and rheumatism which ended in his death on the last day of the year. At the time of his death he was sixty-five years and two days of age. He leaves to mourn his departure his wife, four children – Mrs. Peter Springer, Mrs. Henry Schertz, Solomon Esch, and Benjamin Esch – nine grandchildren, a brother, Joseph Esch, and a sister, Mrs. Peter Schertz. He was for many years a member of the Amish Mennonite Church at Metamora, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by the brethren, Geo. J. Lapp of India, and Valentine Strubhar of Washington. Text, Rev. 7:9-17." See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BISTROFF for Catherine's obituary.

2. Joseph Esch was born July 16, 1851, and died there Aug. 28, 1927. On March 3, 1874 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Bachman, who died Sept. 26, 1889. On Feb. 25, 1891 he remarried to Lizzie Stauffer. She died in October of that year. On Sept. 26, 1893 he married a third time to Hattie Schertz. Hattie Schertz was born July 11, 1855, and died Nov. 1, 1934; she and Joseph are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. Gospel Herald, September 1927. "Joseph, son of Christian and Anna Esch was born July 16, 1851 in the township where he resided through life. Last winter he passed through a severe sickness from which he never fully recovered, although he was able to be about until a few days before his death on Sunday, Aug. 28, 1927; aged 76 y., 1 m., 12 d. He accepted Christ as his Savior in early life and remained faithful to his Christian vows until the end. His church membership was with the Partridge Mennonite Church, near Metamora, Ill. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bachman on March 3, 1874. To this union six children were born; (Henry, Samuel, Christian, Martha, Joseph J., and Peter D.). On Dec. 29, 1889, his wife was called by the angel of death. He was again united in marriage Feb. 25, 1891, to Lizzie Stauffer of Tiskilwa, Ill. In October of the same year this second union was broken by the death angel. On September 26, 1893, he was married to Hattie Schertz. To this union two children were born Frieda and Raymond. Brother Esch was a successful farmer. He met with many discouragements and bitter experiences. All these he bore patiently, exemplifying a true Christian spirit. The ruggedness of his life journey developed in him worthy characteristics. He was always sympathetic towards others, especially toward those in need. He was a faithful husband and a devoted father. He leaves his devoted wife, four children. (Samuel, Joseph, Peter, and Mrs. Frieda Grove), one sister (Mrs. Peter Schertz), six children, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by one brother (Peter Esch), Dec. 1912, and by four of his children. Funeral services at the Calvary Mennonite Church conducted by Valentine Stubhar and Ezra B. Yordy."

3. Magdalena Esch was born Sept. 6, 1861, and died at Metamora July 16, 1946. On Jan. 20, 1881 in Woodford County she married Peter Schertz. He was born at Washington Jan. 16, 1857, and died April 3, 1932, a son of Christian Schertz and Katharina/Catherine Engel. Peter was ordained as a minister in 1888. Gospel Herald, August 1946: "Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Anna Esch, was born in Woodford County, Ill., Sept. 6, 1861; died at her home south of Metamora, Ill., July 16, 1946; aged 84 y. 10 m. 10 d. Early in life she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining true to the end. On Jan. 20, 1881, she was united in marriage to Peter Schertz, who preceded her in death on April 3, 1932. One daughter (Edna Lucile) also preceded her in death as an infant. Surviving are seven children (Manuel D. and Mrs. Edwin R. Schertz, both of Washington, Ill., Henry R., of Metamora; Mrs. Peter R. Schertz, Roanoke, Ill., William J. and Mrs. Walter Smith, Eureka, Ill., and Mrs. Walter Yoder, Goshen, Ind.), 24 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends. She was a quiet, unassuming, gentle woman, interested in the welfare of her family and the church. Funeral services were conducted by A. C. Good, assisted by Ezra Yordy and Ben Esch." They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BISTROFF for Peter's obituary.

Christian Oesch

Elm Grove

Abraham Oesch was descended from the family at Oberlangenegg, though his connection has not been identified. He was born circa 1730, and died before Aug. 14, 1836.

In 1755 he settled at Hagenuw, Lower Alsace (14 miles east of Ingwiller). He married Anna/Anne Koch, who died before him, a daughter of Ingwiller minister and elder Nikolaus Koch. Abraham became a minister on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller (in the 'Crooked Alsace' part of Lower Alsace), where his father-in-law was elder. Their children born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller include:

1. Christian Oesch was born circa 1755, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria March 29, 1834.
2. Magdalena Oesch/Madeleine Eash was born circa 1755, and died at Bourscheid, Moselle Jan. 18, 1807. In 1779 she married Christian Bächler/Bechler. He was born circa 1753, and died at Bourscheid Sept. 14, 1809. See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on this couple.
3. Barbara Oesch died at Gilchenbach, Bavaria Sept. 7, 1821. She married Johannes/Jean Hauter. He was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace Oct. 25, 1771, and died on the Bruchhof estate (now a village) near Homburg in the Saarland March 20, 1846, a son of Nicolaus Hauter and Suzanne Oesch [also found in a French variation as Nicolas Hauter and Suzanne Oesch]. They leased an estate at Asswiller and the prosperous horse-breeding farm Le Haras at Sarralbe, and bought the Königreicherhof estate at St. Wendel in what is now the Saarland. Barbara had eight children and died in 1821; the following year Johannes/Jean remarried to Magdalena Stalter, a daughter of Johannes.
Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. They had eight more children. Johannes/Jean and his brother Christian (married to Catherine Oesch) were perhaps the wealthiest individuals mentioned in this text. Their story is told in Guth’s *Amish Mennonites in Germany*.

4. Catherine Oesch married Christian Hauter. He was born in 1774, and died on the Neuhof estate at Herschweiler-Pettersheim in the Pfalz Jan. 5, 1841, a son of Nicolaus Hauter and Susanne Oesch.

5. Nicolas Oesch was born circa 1762, and died at Bourscheid Dec. 17, 1813. Circa 1789 he Madeleine Bächler. She was born circa 1709, and died at Bourscheid April 12, 1805, age 36, a daughter of Michel Bächler and Marie Mostimann. Their children include:
   a. Catherine Esch was born in 1789, and died at St. Méard, Mosaelle May. 1, 1866. On May 25, 1809 at Bourscheid she married André Springer. He was born at Sarrebourg Hof June 15, 1788, and died at St. Méard May 2, 1861, a son of Georges Springer and Madeleine Vercler.
   b. Anne Marie Esch was born circa 1792, and died at Bourscheid July 30, 1794, age two.
   c. Madeleine Esch was born at Bourscheid May 11, 1793, and died there May 27, 1814.
   d. Anne Esch was born at Bourscheid July 1, 1795, and died there July 26, 1822.
   e. Barbe Esch was born at Bourscheid Jan. 27, 1797, and died at Viviers le Gras, Vosges Dec. 23, 1875.
   f. Véronique Esch was born at Bourscheid April 28, 1800, and died there June 9, 1800.
   g. Nicolas Esch died at Bourscheid April 4, 1805, age 20 days.

6. Anna Oesch was born in 1763, and died on the farm property attached to Château Gendersberg [Ger. *Gendersbergerhof*] at Hanviller, Moselle Aug. 14, 1836. She married Valentin Nafziger. He was born at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace in 1757, and died at Epping, Moselle Sept. 25, 1857, a son of Johannes Nafziger and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Güngerich.

**Christian Oesch** was born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace circa 1755, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria March 29, 1834.

Christian married Catherine/Katharina Bürki. She was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in ‘Crooked Alsace’ in 1764.

Who was Catherine/Katharina Bürki? We can make a reasonable guess, though the information is lacking. She may have been a sister to Johannes Birky or Bircki (‘Little Red Birkys’), who was born circa 1748. His son Andreas/André/Andrew owned property at Söcking, which is now part of Hanfeld.

Several of their children may have been born at Saarbrückenheim. This community was 32 miles north of Lorentzen.34 It was occupied by French troops in 1793, and annexed by France in 1797.

In 1803 the couple and seven children relocated from Saarbrückenheim to Hanfeld near Lake Starnberg, Bavaria (Söcking, where Andrew Burkey lived, is now part of Hanfeld). The property where they lived has been identified as the ‘zum Streicher’ estate (this sounds remarkably similar to the Streicherhof at Uffing, 30 miles to the south).

Catherine/Katharina died at Hanfeld March 6, 1829. According to Rudolf Ingold and Hermann Guth, the Mennonite tenants at Hanfeld fell into a disagreement with local Catholic clerics, and were obliged to bury their dead in a meadow.35 When Catherine/Katharina Bürki died, one priest asked for a death fee. Christian and his son Andreas refused, and the priest complained to the local administration. He was told that he could take the matter to court, but no action was taken.

Their children include:

1. Jean/Johann Oesch was born on the Waderhof at Lorentzen in 1783. On May 7, 1809 he married Barbara Oesch. She was born at Erbes-Büdesheim in the Pfalz, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Jacobine Güngerich.
2. Magdalena/Madeleine Oesch was born at Saarbrückenheim in 1786, and died at Beigarten, Bavaria (six miles east of Hanfeld and Starnberg) Jan. 27, 1859. She married Christian Miller. He was born in 1774, and died in 1853.
3. Christian Oesch was born Oct. 15, 1789, and died on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria June 23, 1844. In 1819 he married Katharina Sutter, and became a laborer and farm manager on the Forsthof estate.
4. Andreas Oesch was born in 1791, and died at Hanfeld April 30, 1869.
5. Joseph Oesch was born in 1794, and died Nov. 30, 1866.
6. Barbara Oesch was born June 23, 1799, died at Morton Sept. 10, 1884, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery. On Oct. 31, 1819 at Hanfeld she married Johannes/John Sutter.
7. Marie Oesch was born at Saarbrückenheim Feb. 5, 1802, and died Jan. 30, 1870. On Sept. 6, 1820 she married Christian Ingold. He was born on the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingbach in Nassau-Weilburg April 22, 1794, and died at Klingenhof, Bavaria Oct. 10, 1870, a son of Joseph Ingold and

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34 In 1909 Saarbrückenheim merged with St. Johann and Malstatt-Burbach to become the city of Saarbrücken. It is now the capital of the German state of Saarland.

35 Their article The Oeschs of Hanfeld and Forsthof can be found in Mennonite Family History, July 1999.
Elizabeth Güngerich. After marriage they were tenants on the Oberhaunstadt castle estate (now a neighborhood of Ingolstadt).

8. Veronica/Véronique/Veronika Oesch was born at Polling, Bavaria in 1804, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria in 1829. She married Daniel Springer. He was born at Struth, Lower Alsace in 1801.

9. Anna Oesch was born in 1806, and died Dec. 8, 1869.

Minister **Andreas Oesch** was born in 1791, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria April 30, 1869. He married Catherine/Katharina Augspurger. She was born on the Canardière estate at Strasbourg Jan. 4, 1793, and died Oct. 15, 1850, a daughter of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and his first wife Anna Müller. See **AUGSPURGER** for more on her family.

Andreas became a 'minister of the book' in 1835 or 1836. He remained on the estate until his death. Their children born at Hanfeld include:

1. Katharina Oesch was born Aug. 7, 1814, and died at Walchstadt (five miles southeast of Starnberg and Hanfeld) Oct. 25, 1856. On May 14, 1837 she married Josef Zehr, a son of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker. He was born at Berg am Laim (now a district of Munich) near Munich May 18, 1810, and died after a logging accident at Beigarten April 30, 1871, the only member of his family who did not go to Butler County.

2. Andreas Oesch was born Sept. 19, 1816, and died at Hanfeld Jan. 18, 1817.

3. Barbara 'Babette' Oesch was born Jan. 24, 1818. She emigrated in 1848 with her younger brother Christian.

4. **Christian Oesch** was born Dec. 4, 1819.

5. Andreas Oesch was born Dec. 26, 1821. In 1849 he emigrated from Europe on the Minnesota with Christian Eigsti, Valentine Birky, George Rithaler, Daniel Zehr, David Springer, and others.


7. Maria Oesch was born Sept. 20, 1828.

8. Josef Oesch was born Aug. 2, 1830.

9. Elisabeth Oesch was born June 17, 1832.

10. Jakob Oesch was born May 24, 1835.

11. Jakobine Oesch was born May 24, 1835 and died Feb. 24, 1846.

12. Johann Oesch was born May 2, 1840, and died on the Bartelstock farm near Ingolstadt May 27, 1886. In 1863 he married Babette Ringenberg. Johann was a minister of the Ingolstadt congregation.

**Christian Oesch** was born at Hanfeld, Bavaria Dec. 4, 1819, though Dec. 19, 1818 appears in his obituary and on his headstone. Since Christian died at almost 90 years of age, 24 years after the death of his second wife, the incorrect dates are understandable.

Christian is mentioned in Friedrich Blendinger's profile of Munich-area emigrants *Die Auswanderung nach Nordamerika aus dem Regierungsbzirk Oberbayern in den Jahren 1846-1852*. It describes Christian Oesch as a farmhand who emigrated from Starnberg, Bavaria, bound for New York in 1848. He sailed with Babette [Barbara] Oesch; a serving maid who departed at the same time. This was presumably Christian's sister Barbara Oesch, who was born Jan. 24, 1818. They each carried 1,000 florins. The *Bavaria* sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Oct. 6, 1848; its passenger list names farmer Christian Osh, 26, Bavaria; and Barbara Osh, 27, Bavaria.37

On June 17, 1851 in Tazewell County Christian married Magdalena Zehr. It is likely that she was a daughter of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker, and was born at Berg am Laim, Bavaria March 12, 1816 (see ZEHR). Their children include:

1. Magdalena/Madelaine Oesch was born at Dillon Oct. 7, 1852, and died Dec. 31, 1939. On Oct. 5, 1873 she married Michael Maurer, who was born in Canton Argau Aug. 28, 1842, and died Jan. 12, 1928. They lived at Pekin. He had been a barber in St. Louis, and a farmer at Pekin. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

2. Christian Oesch was born at Pekin May 30, 1854, and died at Dillon Jan. 15, 1890. He is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. On the 1880 census of Dillon he is found as a 26-year-old laborer living in the household of his brother-in-law Christian Oberlander. On Feb. 2, 1882 at Pekin he married Katharina 'Katie' Kinsinger. She was born at Elm Grove Dec. 27, 1862, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 7, 1903, a daughter of Johannes/John Kinzing and Barbara Wagler. The *New York Times*, Oct. 5, 1886: "(Pekin, Ill.) – A disease resembling hog cholera has killed eight cattle out of a fine herd owned by Christian Oesch, in this county. When an animal is taken sick matter

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36 Dec. 4 has been confirmed by German genealogists Hermann Hage and Herbert Holly.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows an entry for farmer Christian Ish, 40, Germany; and S(blank), 38, male farmer, Germany. The entry was discontinued without explanation.

37 Passenger list ages were often transcribed from travel documents, which may have been obtained years in advance.
discharges from the nose, the head swells badly, and death ensues very quickly. The neighbors of Oesch will appeal to the Livestock Commission for aid." In 1901 Katharina remarried to Christian King.

3. John Oesch was born circa 1856, and is only found on the 1870 census.

Christian submitted a Declaration of Intent for Naturalization at Pekin Oct. 17, 1857. It described him as a 38-year-old from Germany, and stated that he arrived at New York Oct. 20, 1848.

Magdalena Zehr died before 1860. On May 8, 1860 in Woodford County, Christian remarried to Marie Abersol/Mary Aversoll. She was born at Xouaxange, Moselle Oct. 11, 1839, and died at Elm Grove April 29, 1884, a daughter of Pierre Abersol and Catherine Pelsy (see ABERSON for her connection to relatives in the area). She is buried in Railroad Cemetery as 'Maria, wife of Christian.' The headstone says she died April 29, 1884 at 44 years, 6 months, 18 days of age.

Obvious misreports are readily apparent on the census of 1860. Gary L. Yordy pointed out the coincidences in a census entry from Dillon in 1860 that may or may not show this family: farmer Christian Arsk, 35, Bavaria; Mary, 21, France; Madelaine, 8, Illinois; Christian, 7, Illinois; and Martin, 30, Hanover.

The family purchased their Elm Grove farm before 1864; it appears clearly labeled on the plat map published that year. They are listed on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer Christian Oesch, 43, Bavaria; Mary, 30, France; Madelaine, 18; Christian, 16; John, 14; Catharine, 11; Joseph, 7; Barbara, 3; and Mary, 1 (all children born in Illinois).

The final entry of the 1880 census of Elm Grove is marked with a phrase that looks like, "found on early Thursday." This entry is so full of errors that it is obvious the clerk did not visit the family. It describes them as farmer Christ Oesch, 56, born in Germany to German parents; Mary, 49, born in Germany to German parents; Christian, 19, 'working farm'; Joseph, 18; Mary, 16; Henry, 14; Lena, 12; Kate, 10; and Barbara, 8.

Christian last appears on a federal census in an error-ridden report for Elm Grove in 1900. The household of son-in-law Frederick Rowell and daughter Leah Oesch: Frederick Roll, 33, born in Iowa in June 1866 [1867]; Leah, 37 [29], born in Illinois in February 1873 [1871] to German parents; Frank, 7, born in Illinois in August 1892; Edward, 5, born in Illinois in July 1894; Elmer, 2 [3], born in Illinois in August 1896; Frederick, 1, born in Illinois in December 1898; and father-in-law Christian Oesch, 79, born in Germany in December 1820 [1819]. Christian's year of immigration is given as 1848.

Christian died at Elm Grove Oct. 12, 1908, and is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, November 1908: "Christian Oesch was born in Germany, Dec. 19, 1818; died Oct. 12, 1908; aged 90 y. 9 m. 24 d. He was married twice, first to Magdalena Zehr; to this union were born 3 children; then to Mary Ebersole; to this union were born 10 children. He leaves to mourn his departure, three daughters [Magdalena, Maria, and Leah], 1 brother, 36 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Andrew Schrock; text, Cor. 15: 21,22, and Samuel Gerber, text, Phil. 1:21."

Children of Christian Oesch and his second wife Mary Aversoll:

4. Catharine 'Katie' Oesch was born March 15, 1861, and died March 26, 1886; she is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont. On Feb. 24, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Christian Ludwig Oberlander. He was born in 1850, and died June 15, 1905. They are found on the 1880 census of Dillon as farmer Chris Oberlander, 30, from Württemberg; Catharine, 19, born in Illinois to parents from Berne and France; Ephraim, 2, born in Illinois; and laborer Christian Oesch, 26, born in Illinois to a father from Berne and a mother from France. After Catharine's death Christian remarried. On the 1900 census of Morton: Christian Oberlander, 50, factory worker born February 1850, immigrated in 1860 from Germany; wife Emilie, 45, born June 1854, born in Switzerland. immigrated in 1884; Theophile, 19, born December 1880 in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois; David, 11, born May 8, 1879 in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Switzerland. Emilie Oberlander is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery, June 9, 1854-Feb. 25, 1947, with her second husband Peter Habeger 1840-Sept. 4, 1917.

5. Joseph Oesch was born Oct. 21, 1863 (calculation from headstone) and died Feb. 18, 1886, at 22 years, 3 months, 27 days. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery.

6. Daniel Oesch was born Oct. 7, 1864 and died within a year.

7. Barbara Oesch was born Aug. 2, 1867, and died in 1907. On Oct. 5, 1886 in Tazewell County she married Fred Graf. He was born in 1858 and died in 1928.

8. Maria/Mary Oesch was born at Tremont July 16, 1869, and died at Foosland, Champaign County Dec. 21, 1928. On May 3, 1887 in Tazewell County she married Julius K. Unzicker. He was born at Morton July 1, 1864, and died March 21, 1961, a son of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Kehnel. Gospel Herald, January 1929: "Maria (Oesch) Unzicker, wife of Julius Unzicker and daughter of Christian and Mary Oesch, was born July 16, 1869, near Tremont, Ill.; died Dec. 28, 1928, at her home near Foosland, Ill.; aged 59 y. 5 m. 5 d. On May 21 [3], 1887, she was united in marriage to Julius Unzicker of near Pekin, Ill. This union was blessed with 5 sons, all living at and near her home. At the age of 17 years she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and united with the East Washington Mennonite..."
Church, and during her last sickness again renewed her covenant with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and united with the East Bend Mennonite Church near Fisher, Ill. She gave every evidence, and her own testimony that she was at peace with God and her fellowman, ready to depart to be with her Christ. She leaves a sorrowing husband, 5 sons, 9 grandchildren, 2 sisters besides many relatives and friends. Six brothers and 4 sisters have preceded her in death. Funeral services were held at the East Bend Church Dec. 24, with Bros. Joseph Heiser of Fisher, Ill., and Allen H. Miller of Pekin, Ill. in charge."

9. Leah Oesch was born Feb. 12, 1871, and died March 14, 1947. On Feb. 21, 1891 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Rowell. He was born in Iowa June 20, 1867 and died June 2, 1934. They are found on the 1910 census of Elm Grove as farmer Fred Rowell, 48, born in Illinois to parents from Iowa; Leah, 38, born in Illinois to German parents; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.

10. Bena Oesch was born July 16, 1873, and died April 19, 1901. On Sept. 19, 1893 in Tazewell County she married Henry Stamm. They are found on the 1900 census of Hopedale as farmer Henry Stamm, born in Illinois in September 1871 to German parents; Bena, born in Illinois in June 1874 to German parents; and four children born in Illinois. She is buried as 'Benia Oesch, wife of Henry' in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont. 39-year-old Henry is found on the 1910 census of Hopedale with a new wife Lydia, 25, and seven children.

11. Aaron Oesch was born Feb. 16, 1876, and died June 7, 1894. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery.
Ehresman: Ehrismann of the Bärbelsteinerhof

The oldest Swiss record of the surname Ehrismann comes from Schlossrued and Gontenschwil in the district of Kulm, in the area west of Lake Hallwilersee in Canton Aargau, where it is found in the early 1500s.

In 1844 Christian Ehresman settled on a farm at Montgomery, Woodford County. His doorstep was about 50 yards over the boundary line with Tazewell County. Though everyone knew of him, he is better known by his 15 children who grew to adulthood (four did not). They raised families and left hundreds of descendants throughout the area. Some Ehresman descendants may even be surprised to find a connection with Ayersman neighbors.

In addition, Christian had an older sister Barbara and a younger brother Daniel who settled in Tazewell County. A nephew Rudolph arrived later and also established a considerable family in Woodford County.

For all this, the Ehresman record lapsed until descendant Viola Zurlinden made an attempt to re-create it for a family reunion in 1968. Zurlinden's mimeographed handout is dotted with question marks and blank spaces, and tells us almost nothing about the family in Europe. Yet it was an invaluable aid.

*Der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann* was likely born before 1676. (In English *der alte* would be ‘senior,’ in the sense that he had a son of the same name; when translated literally as ‘the elder’ it may be confused with a church position).

In 1711 or shortly after he entered into a shared lease with Ulrich Nafziger, who may have been his brother-in-law. They farmed the grounds below the ruins of Berwartstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn in the Pfalz, about six miles north of the border with Alsace. These grounds were known as the Bärbelsteinerhof.

The foundations of Berwartstein Castle were carved into a sandstone hilltop in the 12th century. The rubble was then shaped into blocks to form the castle walls. Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa awarded it as a gift to the prince-bishop of Speyer in 1152. In the 1400s the castle and adjoining estate became the home of Hans von Trodt and his 'rober knights.' They feuded with the abbot of Wissembourg, about six miles away. Von Trodt was the model for Hans Trapp, a German folklore figure who roams through villages with the Christ Child on Christmas Day. Hans Trapp threatens children with a stick before they receive their presents. The castle was struck by lightning in 1591, causing damage that made it uninhabitable. This probably allowed it to avoid destruction during the Thirty Years War of 1618-48.

The Treaty of Westphalia that concluded the Thirty Years War held a number of provisions parceling out fiefs to noble families. In Article XXVII the Holy Roman Emperor assigned properties including Berwartstein Castle to the Baron Gerrard of Waldenburg, also known as ‘Schenck-heeren.’ Amish Mennonite leaseholders negotiated with a local administrator representing the Schenck family.

After 1712 Hans ‘Hans der alte’ Güngerich lived between Niedersteinbach and Lembach on the Alsace-Pfalz border, about eight miles from Berwartstein Castle. He leased grounds near 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 it belonged to Pfalz-Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs. Thus there was a direct line of influence from Jacob and Ulrich Amman, to Hans der alte, to those on the Bärbelsteinerhof.

In 1715 Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann and Ulrich Nafziger negotiated an early termination of their lease arrangement. However, even after leaving the Bärbelsteinerhof, both families continued to be associated with the location. Christian Feischert held the lease for the next three years until his death. Minister Christian Holi/Holly/Holli of Kürzenberg, Canton Bern picked it up in 1718. A list of the marriages he performed there was maintained with Catholic parish records at Niederschlettenbach (two miles below Erlenbach bei Dahn, and two miles above the border with Lower Alsace). It includes a marriage in 1728: "Nicholas Cünzli [Küntzi?], son of Ulrich Cünzli, Anabaptist, married Barbara Ehrismann, daughter of Joannis [Johannes] Ehrismann, Anabaptist." Christian Holi/Holly/Holli also created an entry for the marriage of his daughter Barbara to Ulrich Nafziger's son Johannes/Hans Nafziger in 1729. Johannes/Hans Nafziger acted as guarantor for Amish Mennonite leasers of the

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38 Coincidently, there was a Catholic Ehrismann family at Seebach, about six miles below Wissembourg.

39 In this account the noble Schenck family can be easily confused with the Bernese Schenk families. Genealogist Julius Billeter published one detailed genealogy of the Schenk family of Langnau, Canton Bern, and another on the Schenk family of Signau and Röthenbach, Canton Bern. Recall from NAFZIGER that Ulrich Nafziger's daughter Barbara married Jacob Schenk [Sr.]. They became co-leasors of the Dalberg estate at Essingen with Ulrich's oldest son Johannes/Hans Nafziger. Jacob Schenk [Jr.] married a daughter of Johannes/Hans Nafziger, Katharina Nafziger, who was also his cousin. He was later ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister. He lived on the Dalberg estate with his father-in-law Johannes/Hans Nafziger as late as 1788.
Bärbelsteinerhof as late as 1783.40 Further background information on the Bärbelsteinerhof will be given in HOCHSTETTLER.

On March 5, 1715, der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann and Ulrich Nafziger leased the Rodenhof at Annweiler, a property of the Cistercian Eusserthal Abbey 12 miles north of Erlenbach bei Dahn. It may seem odd for an Amish Mennonite to rent from a Catholic order, but church properties were actually administered from an 'administration of ecclesiastical estates' organized by the Elector of the Pfälz at Heidelberg. Nafziger negotiated with a local representative of this office. The agreement identified them both as Wiedertäufer [Anabaptists]. "Today...appears the aforementioned tenant Nicklas Jung to announce that he intends after agreement with the administrator to cede his lease, just renewed for nine years, against forfeit money to Ulrich Naffzier and Hans Jakob Erismann, both Anabaptists residing at B. This transfer has been agreed to by the administrator under the condition that if both of the Anabaptists should be expelled because of their religion before the expiration of the nine-year lease, the following tenants shall compensate the forfeit money as well as those things which they have ameliorated in buildings and/or cultivation. Signed at Eusserthal, the 5th of March, 1715."

Nafziger left Annweiler in 1728 to go to the Obergut at Essingen, another property of the Eusserthal Abbey 11 miles to the east.

A 1743 census of Palatine Mennonite heads of households lists 'Jacob Christmann' – der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann – among the dozen Mennoniten individuals in the category Oberamt Germersheim Pflege Eusserthal, properties of the Eusserthal Abbey. He was living on the Laubertal at Lauberwald, near Eusserthal. This was the last time he was mentioned on a census, either because he died or just gave up his lease before 1783.

The older son of der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann became a leaseholder on the Mechtersheimerhof farm below the city of Speyer. The site would now be described as part of a neighborhood in the village of Mechtersheim in the municipality of Römerberg. Mechtersheim is about four miles from the city of Speyer. The 'early settlers' who came there from Erlenbach bei Dahn are commemorated by a street aptly named Berwartsteinstrasse; a few of the original houses still exist.

The nearby city of Speyer has a unique place in Anabaptist history that was certainly known to all of the residents of Mechtersheim.

SPEYER

In 1521 the princes of the Holy Roman Empire held an assembly called the Diet of Worms. They summoned Martin Luther and listened to a partial apology for his writings. After leaving the diet Luther had to be abducted by a friendly prince and hidden in a castle for his own protection from the wrath of the Holy Roman Emperor.

However, in the next few years the German states began to feel threatened from both sides: the French on the west, and the Turks of the Ottoman Empire on the east. A more conciliatory diet met at Speyer in 1526. When many of the princes confessed more sympathy for Lutheranism than Catholicism, the Lutheran minority were labeled 'Protestants' (the origin of the term). The Catholic majority grudgingly conceded that they could be tolerant for the sake of political unity. However, many felt that they had endorsed heresy and harbored bitter feelings.

Catholic clergy expressed their frustration to Emperor Charles V. On Jan. 4, 1528 he published a mandate recommending a death sentence for the crime of Anabaptism, which was considered to be Protestantism carried to its extreme. The Elector of the Pfälz Louis V published his own mandate of condemnation March 5, 1528.

At a third diet at Speyer in 1529, both Catholics and Lutherans fell in line behind their emperor. Together they passed an ecclesiastical mandate that said, "...Every Anabaptist and rebaptized person of either sex should be put to death by fire or sword, or some other way." This resulted in the execution of 350 local residents. As a result many citizens of Speyer grew more sympathetic to the victims and their families.

Anabaptist farmers did not settle on the Mechtersheimerhof until shortly after the War of Palatine Succession (1688-97). A village that stood on the spot had been completely destroyed, and the land was owned by the Eusserthal Abbey. They were pleased to find any tenants who might reclaim the land for agriculture.

Land records preserved at the state archives at Karlsruhe name the leaseholders. In 1738 they were Johannes/Hans Höflfi, Jakob Kurtz, Johannes/Hans Nafziger, and Christian Stauffer. In 1743 Christian Bürki, Abraham Kurtz, Christian Nafziger, and Christian Schwaldner/Schwalter were added as co-leaseholders. In 1753 Höflfi is the sole leaseholder (found as 'Johannes Hoff') with a wife and four children. In 1759 he is still there, sharing the lease with Jakob Müller.

40 We notice an unusual convergence of surnames at Gossau, Canton Zurich prior to 1800: Egli, Ehrismann, Fischer, Künzli, and Maurer. Gossau is 4 miles west of Hinwil, in the district of Hinwil. This does not suggest early Zurich connections for the families on the Bärbelsteinerhof. However, it may imply that family members who remained in Switzerland took an interest in this location which is strongly identified with events in early Anabaptist history.
JOHANNES/HANS HÖFFLI (1738).

The spelling of this surname has a number of variations. He may be the Hans Hoff who was later a miller at Mörheim, a property about 14 miles southwest of Meichersheim. He was listed there as a tenant on a property owned by the Eusserthal Abbey. A document dated March 12, 1759 found with Mennonite census lists stated his intention to lease the Drehentalerhof at Otterberg (six miles above Kaiserslautern, 12 miles below Dörmoschel). This property belonged to the Cistercian abbey-church at Otterberg, which came under the Bishop of Speyer and was affiliated with the Eusserthal Abbey. "Oberamt Kaiserslautern: Johannes Höffle of Hochstetten [Hofstätten], born at Heddesheim on the Counts of Leiningen's territory, requests along with his married son the temporary tenancy of the Heydtweiler glassworks at Drehental for six years, and for a protection certificate." He was almost certainly 'Hans Hoff,' who represented the Hofstätten/Trippstadt congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. The 1759 census shows him as 'Johannes Höffli' on the Drehentalerhof with wife Magdalena, son Christian, and daughters Barbara and Magdalena; he is also found there in 1768 as 'Johann Höffli.' In 1773 he is found in two census reports: on the Drehentalerhof as 'Johannes Hoeftli,' with a wife, one son, and four daughters; and as the father in the home of son Christian Höffli at Eselsfurth (now a neighborhood on the northeast corner of Kaiserslautern). In a letter written in 1790 Johannes/Hans Nafziger noted that minister 'Hans Höfly' once lived on the Meichtersheimerhof.

JAKOB KURTZ (1738). See KING.

JOHANNES/HANS NAFZIGER (1738).

Johannes/Hans Nafziger was a son of Ulrich Nafziger and Maria Magdalena Güngerich. (In English der alte would be ‘senior,’ in the sense that he had a son of the same name; when translated literally as ‘the elder’ it may be confused with a church position.) He was likely born on the Bärbelsteinerhof circa 1713. He was ordained as a minister in 1731. A civil record of Anabaptists mentions 'Joann Noffzieger' on the Meichtersheimerhof in 1738, 1739, and 1740. They next lived at Räppur below Karlsruhe. In 1754 they lived briefly on the Katharinentaler Hof before leasing part of the Dalberg estate at Essingen from Baron Gottlob Amandus von Dalberg-Dalberg. Nafziger became the 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. See NAFZIGER for further background.

CHRISTIAN STAUFFER (1738).

Because Christian Stauffer had a name that was very common among Swiss émigrés, it is difficult to separate his information from others. It is likely that he was the person who married Katharina Schantz at Erlenbach bei Dahn Feb. 20, 1727, in a ceremony performed by minister Christian Holli/Holly. It is also likely that he was the Christian Stauffer who sailed from Rotterdam on the Phoenix with Abraham Kurtz and Christian Schowalter/Schowalter, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. He was naturalized with Christian Schowalter/Schowalter the same day at the Philadelphia courthouse. He died at Lebanon (now Annville), Lancaster County May 27, 1782.

CHRISTIAN BÜRKI (1743).

Christian was born circa 1720, a son of Johannes/Hans Bürki and Barbara Güngerich. He married one of the daughters of Johannes/Hans Nafziger and Barbara Holly. In 1768 'Christian Bürki' and der jüngere Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann appeared on a list of those who paid the six-guilder fee required from religious minorities for government protection. The 1773 census lists him as 'Christiian Bürcki', a subtenant on the Meichtersheimerhof with a wife, one minor son, two minor daughters, seven farmhands, and three maids. In 1787 they moved 22 miles to the southeast, across the Rhine River to the Stift Oedenheim estate (Stiffterhof or 'convent estate') at Tiefenbach in Baden-Durlach. (See BIRKY/BIRKEY).

ABRAHAM KURTZ (1743). See KING.

CHRISTIAN NAFZIGER (1743).

A younger brother of Johannes/Hans Nafziger. He was born circa 1717, and married Elisabeth Linder from Windstein. He and his brother Peter represented the Darmstadt congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. Several of his great-grandchildren are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. (See NAFZIGER).

CHRISTIAN SCHOWALTER/SCHOWALTER (1743).

Christian Schowalter's surname was derived from Schonwalder or 'beautiful forest.' His great-grandfather Johan Schonwalder was baptized at Strengelbach near Zofingen in what is now Canton Aargau June 25, 1620. His grandfather Jakob was born at Strengelbach June 18, 1648, and died at Schafbush near Wissembourg. Lower Alsace in April 1731. His father was either Jakob or Ulrich Schowalter. Christian was born at Hanachusheim in the Pfälz circa 1709.41 Hanachusheim is located about five miles east of Mannheim and the Rhine River, and about three miles north of the university town Heidelberg, which was then the capital of the Pfälz. Christian married Katharina Anna Lehman circa 1735. Land records preserved at the state archives at Karlsruhe name the leaseholders on the Mechtersheimerhof farm below the city of Speyer. In 1738 they were Johannes/Hans Höflle, Jakob Kurtz, Johannes/Hans Nafziger, and Christian Stauffer. In 1743 Christian Bürki, Abraham Kurtz, Christian Nafziger, and Christian Schowalter/Schowalter were added as co-leaseholders. Schowalter sailed from Rotterdam on the Phoenix.

41 Sources that say Christian was born at Schafbush near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace are simply guessing from the known location of some relatives. Hanachusheim is noted in his family Bible.
with his wife and children, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. A list from the Oath of Abjuration at the Philadelphia courthouse names him as ‘Christian Showalter.’ Other names on the list include Abraham Kurtz and Christian Stauffer. Showalter and Kurtz have been called ‘the first Amish church leaders in Lancaster County.’ Like so many similar claims, it is doubtful that this is true or would even be provable considering that at the time services were simple meetings in private homes. On Nov. 12, 1750 Christian purchased land on Conestoga Creek, Earl Township, Lancaster County. He remarried to Anna circa 1751. By 1771 they owned 274 acres at Earl Township. Christian kept up a Transatlantic correspondence with influential minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger that lasted from his arrival in 1749 until 1788. It is thought that they were the organizers providing information to would-be emigrants. Christian's will was written at Earl Township June 15, 1796, and proven March 16, 1799. His male children were noted as John and Jacob; Jacob was appointed executor of his estate. Some sources say he was buried in a family cemetery at Martindale, Earl Township; others that he was buried at Whitehall Township, Northampton County by his brother Jacob. His original home made from river stone is still standing in Earl Township. (See DELLENBACH for a footnote on his brother Jacob Mathias Schowalter).

**JAKOB MÜLLER** was a co-leaseholder with Johannes/Hans Höfli in 1759, but did not extend in 1768. He was born circa 1720. We had placed him as a son of Nikolaus Müller, who is found as a tenant at Mühlhofen as early as 1714. However, in *Both Sides of the Ocean* J. Virgil Miller places him as a son of Johannes Müller, a brother to Nikolaus. The Müller family at Mühlhofen came from Munsingen, Canton Bern. In 1753 Jakob appeared on a Mennonite census of Mörzheim (three miles north of Mühlhofen) with a wife (Elisabeth Schenk) and three sons ages 7, 4, and 2. A note to the report said, ‘Jakob Müller moved here eight years ago from the Pfalz-Zweibrücken village of Mühlhofen onto Velten Petermann's orphans' estate. He will be leaving soon, because the Petermann children wish to farm.' From Mörzheim Jakob traveled 16 miles northeast to Mechtsheim. In 1767 he became a co-leaseholder of the Münsterhof at Driesen (40 miles northwest of Mechtsheim) with Hans Kennel (a stepson of Niklaus Brenneman) and David Holly (a son of minister-leaseholder Christian Holli/Holly of the Bärbelsteinerhof, he married Susannah Fischer, who was a daughter of Benedict Fischer and niece to Ulrich Fischer). At Driesen Jakob remarried to Anna Brenneman and Anna Jordy. There were multiple marriage connections between families on the Münsterhof, Mechtsheimerhof, and Pfalzhof. (There is no known connection between this family and the Hochburg family in MILLER).

It has already been noted that *der alte* Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann had a daughter. Barbara Ehrismann married Nicholas Cünzli [Künzli] at Erlenbach bei Dahn in 1728. The ceremony was performed by minister-leaseholder Christian Holli/Holly, and the marriage was recorded in the parish register at Niederschlettenbach. Nicholas was described as a son of Anabaptist Ulrich Cünzli.

The older of his two sons was *der jüngere* [the younger] Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann. He may be found listed as ‘Hans Christmann,’ steward at Rodenhof, on the 1743 census of the of the Eusserthal land trusteeship [Ger. *Oberampt Germersheim Pflege Eusserthal*]. While his father had moved over to the Laubertal estate, he had assumed the Rodenhof lease and become head of household there. The census of 1753 again shows him on the Rodenhof at Amweiler as ‘Hans Christmann,’ with an annotation that he had a wife and five children, and had been in residence there since before 1744 (indicating that he was in a second nine-year lease, which would have accorded him greater privileges). A list in 1759 shows him only as a tenant of Eusserthal trusteeship property, presumably still the Rodenhof (since Höfli and Müller are mentioned specifically as Mechtsheimerhof tenants).

In 1768 'Johannes Ehrismann' and 'Christian Bürcki' are found as co-leaseholders on the Mechtersheimerhof. In the same year they appear on a list of those who paid the six-guilder fee required from religious minorities for government protection. On a census in 1773, the Mechtsheimerhof is described not as property of the Eusserthal Abbey but as *Kellerei Speyer*, a municipal property of the nearby city of Speyer. The household is described as subtenant and widower Johannes Ehrismann; two sons; one daughter; five farmhands; and three maids.

The nearby cathedral at Speyer was in a ruined state. French soldiers had burned out most of its furnishings in 1689. Restoration was begun in 1758 and mostly completed by 1778. Perhaps we can assume that the two sons of *der alte* Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann were given generous lease terms by the municipality. It was in its interest to bring new farmers into the area to provide foodstuffs for the many workmen who were drawn to Speyer.

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42 He is easy to confuse with another Jakob Müller who leased at nearby Hilsbach (also a property of the Eusserthal Abbey) in 1759 and is also found there in 1768.

43 Two of his daughters married the same man. Johannes/Hans Nafziger's brother Peter Nafziger (circa 1710-1803) had a first wife who died in 1858; he then remarried to Elisabeth Ehrismann (children in 1766 and 1769); and then to Barbara Ehrismann (a child in 1779). See NAUFZIGER.

44 The Romanesque cathedral at Speyer was constructed 1030-1061 A.D. Eight emperors and kings and four queens were buried under its center aisle. French soldiers damaged it a second time in 1794, but in 1846-53 it was restored again.
The tolerant bishop-prince of Speyer once sided with the Amish Mennonites on the Mechtersheimerhof over the interests of a wealthy landowner. The case revolved around the issue of rebaptism. See NAFZIGER for the details of Dalberg versus Nafziger.

In 1780 documents pertaining to this legal case listed the two sons of der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann living on the Mechtersheimerhof. It was stated that they were members of Nafziger's congregation at Essingen (11 miles west of Mechtersheim). Circa 1788 Johannes/Hans Nafziger wrote a letter to Christian Schowalter in Pennsylvania saying [Guth's translation, "Further also to report a little about your old home Mettersheimer Hoff, there are now mostly Reformed people living on it. Jacob Ehresman, our cousin, lived there on Herr Sander's farm for a while, recently though, he died, and his widow is now still on it but we don't know for how long, as reports are that the owners of the land want to make a town out of it."

The younger brother of der junge Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann was Christian Ehrismann (the older). It was traditional for a deacon or minister to be a married man, but his wife has not been identified. He was one of four deacons or ministers who represented the host congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779 (with Johannes/Hans Nafziger, Christian Nafziger, and Jakob Ullmann). Some time before 1787 he relocated about 30 miles west to the area of Dirmstein and Weisenheim am Berg. These villages are within Rheinhessen, a region made up of grain fields and vineyards that grow grapes to make white wines such as Riesling and Liebfraumilch.

In 1787 the Dutch Naamlyst shows ministers Christian Ehresman and Hans Schwarzentruber serving the congregations of Weisenheim am Berg, Eisenberg, and 'Minster' (the Münsterhof at Dreisen). He died before 1790.

It is easy to discern that parents and children from prosperous families tended to head up Amish Mennonite congregations. The position was only viable for those who could take time away from planting and harvesting. New ministers also tended to be the sons of ministers because they were literate — a rare commodity in their culture.

With only the evidence of surviving documents, we can tell something about the personalities of the early Ehrismanns. They chose to be in two unique locations: the first, the Bärbelsteinherhof, where literate individuals with strong religious convictions came together. The second, the Mechtersheimerhof, could be thought of as a staging ground for those who would minister not only in Europe but in America as well.

Christian Ehrismann (the older) certainly had a son Christian, and may have had a younger son Jakob.

- Jakob Ehrismann was born on the Mechtersheimerhof. He married Barbara Höffli. Their son Jakob Johannes Ehresman established a branch of the family at Neuhausen near Worms. See THE EHRESMAN BRANCH AT NEUHAUSEN.
  1. Christian Ehrismann (the younger) was likely born before 1746.

Christian Ehrismann (the younger) was likely born before 1746. He married Barbara Joder/Jotter. She was born in 1746, and died at Dörrmoschel Jan. 20, 1820, a daughter of minister Christian Joder/Jotter of Kleinkarlbach (between Dirmstein and Weisenheim am Berg).  

45 The bishop-prince of Speyer from 1770 to 1800 was Damian August Philipp Karl, count of Limburg-Vehlen-Stirum. His bishopric encompassed 28 square miles on both sides of the Rhine River. The left bank was taken from him by occupying French troops in 1792, and a French administration held jurisdiction until 1814. The right bank was occupied by imperial troops of Baden in 1792. It became a permanent part of Baden when national boundaries were redrawn at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The Congress gave Speyer to the Kingdom of Bavaria as compensation after Salzburg was given to the Austrian government.

46 The most famous native of Essingen was Johann Georg Nicolay, who became John George Nicolay in Illinois. He was born Feb. 26, 1832, and immigrated with his father in 1837 or 1838. He attended school at Cincinnati, then went to Pike County, Illinois. After editing a newspaper in Pittsfield he became assistant to the secretary of state of Illinois. In 1861 President Abraham Lincoln appointed him as his private secretary. He served throughout the Civil War, then took a post as ambassador to France. From 1872 to 1877 he was marshal of the Supreme Court. He published The Outbreak of Rebellion in 1881. From 1886 to 1900 he co-authored a series of biographical pieces on Lincoln; these were later published as 10 volumes. He died Sept. 26, 1901.

47 Those who could read generally kept no more than Bibles, hymnals, almanacs, bookkeeping sheets, and journals for farm notes and home remedies.

48 Christian Joder/Jotter was described in Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany as a son of Caspar Joder and Magdalena Gąngierich of Erbes-Büdesheim, thus a grandson of Caspar Joder and Verena Hoffin. He leased property on the Rosenthalerhof at Kerzenheim (six miles northwest of Weisenheim am Berg). There he became a minister and held services at adjacent Eisenberg. In 1767 he was serving as elder of the congregation at Weisenheim am Berg, the position later held by
Christian (the younger) and Barbara farmed at Dirmstein (seven miles northeast of Weisenheim am Berg). He died there circa 1789.

Before 1804 widow Barbara relocated to Dörrmoschel (30 miles west of Dirmstein) and remarried to Christian Egli. He was born circa 1748, and died at Dörrmoschel July 5, 1822, a son of Jacob Egli and his first wife Anna Kennel. At Dörrmoschel they resided on the Oberhof estate, then in House No. 35.

Children of Christian Ehrismann and Barbara Joder/Jotter, presumably all born at Dirmstein, include:

1. Barbara Ehresmann was born circa 1773, and died in House No. 1 at Dörrmoschel Feb. 25, 1846.
2. Johannes Ehresmann (#1) was born July 12, 1774, and died on the Gutes Obermönsheim at Wimsheim, Württemberg Nov. 17, 1838. In 1796 he married Veronika Egli/Veronica Egly.
3. Maria Elisabeth Ehresmann was born circa 1775, and died in 1846. On July 19, 1804 at Dörrmoschel she married Georg Güngerich. He was born in February 1769, a son of Georg Güngerich and Veronica Joder.
4. Christian Ehresmann was born circa 1779, and died at Dörrmoschel Feb. 16, 1837. In 1806 he married Elisabeth Egli.
5. Jakobina/Jacobine Ehresmann was born March 12, 1780, and died after 1822. On Jan. 10, 1807 at Obermönsheim she married Heinrich Egli, who succeeded his father as leaseholder on the Lärchenhof farm at Wimsheim. He was born May 10, 1786, and died on the Lärchenhof Sept. 20, 1841, a son of Jakob Egli and Magdalena Frei. According to the Wimsheim Familien Register, they had eight children on the Lärchenhof.
6. Magdalena Ehresmann was born circa 1782, and died in House No. 1 at Dörrmoschel Oct. 31, 1853. On Aug. 15, 1816 at Dörrmoschel she married Andreas Egli. He was born in 1779, and died at Obermönsheim Sept. 26, 1819, a son of Jakob Egli and his second wife Anna Magdalena Brenneman.
7. Jacob Ehresmann (as he signed his given name, rather than the German 'Jakob') was born circa 1786, and died in Woodford County after 1864. He married Veronica Eyer.
8. Anna Katharina Ehresmann was born circa 1788, and died in Butler County, Ohio Sept. 4, 1870. On Nov. 24, 1811 she became the second wife of Joseph Imhoff. See IMHOFF for background on this couple.

- In earlier versions of this text we wrote that a Johannes Ehresmann born circa 1789 may have belonged to this family, though we could not explain his redundant first name. Helmut Gingerich proposes that he was instead a son of Johannes Ehrismann and Marie Jungerich (see ERISMANN IN BUREAU COUNTY).

Johannes Ehresmann

Johannes Ehresmann was born was born July 12, 1774, and died on the Gutes Obermönsheim at Wimsheim, Württemberg Nov. 17, 1838.

On Aug. 10, 1796 he married Veronika Egli/Veronica Egly. She was born on the Obermönsheim estate at Wimsheim, Württemberg (50 miles southeast of the Mechtersheimerhof) in October 1776, and died there March 2, 1829, a daughter of Martin Egli and his second wife Elisabetha Kaufmann.

Wimsheim is in the Heckengäu, a region characterized by small farms tucked between rolling hills, with orchards and hedges as natural boundaries. In medieval times the village was protected by the barons Phull-Rüppurr, who lived in their castle Schloss Obermönsheim, adjacent to the Lärchenhof farm. The castle was constructed before 1340 A.D., and expanded in 1650. The property surrounding the castle was called the Gutes [estate] Obermönsheim. Although some of the grounds are still farmed, a portion has returned to forest, and another portion has become the home of the Stuttgarter Golf Club. The castle burned after artillery bombardment in 1918, but still appears on the city flag of Mönsheim.

After the Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806, Württemberg became a kingdom with Stuttgart as its capital. Stuttgart is about 20 miles southeast of Wimsheim. Although close to the capital, Wimsheim was also within walking distance of Württemberg's border with Baden (the nearby city of Pforzheim, seven miles to the west, was actually in Baden). In 1809 the village became part of the administrative district of Leonburg, Württemberg. The kingdom joined the Germanic Confederation in 1815.

Before a civil system of recordkeeping was established in Württemberg, village churches often recorded the life events of Wiedertäufer or Mennoniten on behalf of local administrators. Ehresmann births, deaths, and marriage entries are found in the Familienbuch Register kept at the Evangelische church at Wimsheim. The register also indicates that oldest daughter Barbara and oldest son Christian were not baptized until 15 years of age. In the
column 'Confirmation oder Einsie Communion,' Barbara 'wurde getauft Markt 1812' while Christian 'wurde getauft im Jahr 1814.' Presumably this demonstrated that legal obligations were met and the family was indeed Mennonit (as noted elsewhere on the page), and no notations were entered for later children.

Children of Johannes Ehresmann and Veronika Egli/Veronica Egly born at Wimsheim include:

1. Barbara Ehresmann was born Aug. 27, 1797, and died in Tazewell County Aug. 31, 1861. On July 20, 1820 she married Benjamin Reidiger. He was born circa 1799, and died at Wimsheim on or before Feb. 3, 1848, a son of Jakob Reütiher and Jacobea/Jakobina Güngerich. Barbara came to Central Illinois as a widow with children in 1849. For background on this couple see REDIGER.

2. Christian Ehresmann/Ehresman was born March 16, 1799, according to the Wimsheim Familien Register. However, when he died Aug. 11, 1874, his obituary said he was "aged 74 years, 4 months and 25 days." His headstone in Slabtown Cemetery also says, "Christian Ehresman died Aug. 11, 1874 aged 74 Y. 4 M. & 25 D." This erroneous calculation would yield a birth date of March 16, 1800.

3. Elizabeth Ehresmann was born June 6, 1802, and died Dec. 21, 1804.


5. Jakob Ehresmann was born May 20, 1806, and died on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach May 23, 1853. He married Katharina Eyre. She was born in 1800, and died at Muhlhausen May 1, 1860, a daughter of Daniel Eyre and Barbara Detweiler. Their son Rudolph Ehresman and his wife Veronika Reidiger/Veronica Rediger settled at Linn, Woodford County in 1869.

50 'Getauft' can also mean 'christened,' since baptism and christening were one event performed upon a newborn in the Catholic and Evangelische churches. But in this event it clearly refers to an adult baptism.

51 Headstone calculations were usually not literal but figurative; they assumed each month to be 30 days.

52 Königsbach is a village above Pforzheim and 17 miles northwest of Wimsheim. Nearby Anabaptist meeting places included the Johannistalerhof, Remchingen, and the Katharinentalhof estate. The Global Anabaptist Encyclopedia Online: "After the Thirty Years' War, Swiss Mennonites settled in Königsbach. On Aug. 24, 1661 these Mennonites requested that the margrave of Baden confirm their former 'privileges.' A congregation was organized; a church book has been preserved, giving information dated 1766, besides entries on births, weddings, and funerals for the period 1815-1869. Of frequent occurrence are the names Ehrismann, Kempf, Täuscher, Wagner, and Wolber; there are references to families by the name of Egli, Eyre, Funk, Katz, and Oesterle."

Fortunately, the village church maintained a special book for the marriage, birth, and death entries called Familien Register der Wiedertäufer auf dem Johannisthalerhof. It has been preserved by the Church of Latter Day Saints on FHL microfilm. The book indicates that Christian Ehresman's two younger brothers Jakob (married to Katharina Eyre) and Daniel (married to Catherine Wolber) farmed the Johannistalerhof estate. (The Johannisthalerhof has kept its name, but is now a golf course).

The entries also answer a longstanding Woodford County genealogy question: who was Linn farmer Rudolph Ehrisman? We now know that Rudolph was born Nov. 21, 1842, a son of Jakob Ehresmann and Katharina Eyre.

On No. 12, 1865 at Königsbach Rudolph married Veronika Reidiger/Veronica Rediger. Minister Christian Egly of Mönsheim performed the ceremony. The bride was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden Jan. 10, 1842 (the date given on her marriage entry; her obituary says Feb. 7), a daughter of Jacob Reidiger/Rediger and Magdalena Schrag.

Two more entries found at Königsbach document the death of a son and the birth of a daughter. Emil Ehrismann (born in another community) died Sept. 23, 1867. Eliza (later found as Elise) was born on the Johannisthalerhof estate Oct. 7, 1867; she married William Ropp in Tazewell County. In the July 2014 issued of Mennonite History Magazine, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine and Duane E. Egle identify three more children: a stillborn male who was delivered Sept. 2, 1865, before their marriage; Heinrich, who was born and died in July 1868, and a stillborn female delivered July 31, 1869.

According to the Baden Emigration Index, Rudolph Ehrisman of Königsbach applied to emigrate in 1869 with his wife and daughter. They sailed from Bremen on the Cimbria, arriving at New York Sept. 24, 1869. The passenger list describes them as Rudolf Erismann, 27; Veronika, 27; and Elise, 11 months. They farmed at Linn, Woodford County, where Rudolph died Nov. 19, 1895. Veronika/Veronica died at Hopedale Dec. 4, 1922, and is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Gospel Herald, December 1922: "Veronica (Rediger) Ehrisman was born in Baden, Germany, Feb. 7, 1842, and died Dec. 4, 1922, at the home of her daughter Mrs. Simon Litwiller near Hopedale, Ill., where she had made her home. She with her husband Rudolph Ehrisman, who preceded her in death in Nov. 19, 1895, came to America 54 years ago, locating in Woodford Co., Ill. To this union were born nine children - five sons and four daughters. Five sons and one daughter preceded her in death. She leaves three daughters, 19 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, four brothers, and two sisters. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained in that faith. Funeral services were held Dec. 6 near Hopedale, Ill., conducted by Samuel Gerber assisted by home ministers. Text, Heb. 4:9."

Eliza or Elise Ehrisman married William Ropp in Tazewell County Feb. 13, 1890. He was born Dec. 30, 1866, and died at Tremont April 18, 1935, a son of Joseph W. Ropp and Catherine 'Kate' Ropp Gerber (see ROPP). Elise died at Tremont March 8, 1939. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, March 1939: "Ropp - Elise, daughter of Rudolph and Veronica Rediger Ehrisman, was born Oct. 7, 1867, in Baden, Germany; died at her home near Tremont, Ill., March 8, 1939; aged 71 y. 5 m. 1 d. On Feb. 13, 1890, she was united in marriage with William Ropp, who preceded her in death almost four years ago. One daughter (Mrs. Etta Roth, Morton, Ill.) and one son (William, Jr., Tremont), survive her, together.
6. Johannes/John Ehresmann was born May 5, 1808, and died at Remchingen Jan. 6, 1835.
7. Heinrich Ehresmann was born Sept. 19, 1810, and died at Wimsheim May 1, 1816. The death entry identifies his father as a Wiedertäufer leaseholder at Obermönsheim.
8. Peter Ehresmann was born Feb. 14, 1812, and died at Mühlhausen Jan. 19, 1873. On Feb. 25, 1840 at Wimsheim he married Magdalena Müller. She was born at Monsheim in August 1809, and died at Mühlhausen Jan. 10, 1868, a daughter of Peter Müller and Barbara Krehbiel. Peter became leaseholder on the Gutes Obermönsheim.
10. Daniel Ehresmann/Ehresman was born June 29, 1818, and died in Illinois before 1870. On July 26, 1840 on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach he married Catherine Wolber. She was born there Jan. 13, 1820, a daughter of Christian Wolber and Catherine/Katharina Eyer. The details of the marriage were also recorded at Wimsheim. See the Appendix, WOLBER for background on her family. Daniel brought his family to America from Königsbach circa 1852-58. His household is shown on the 1860 census of Montgomery, on the census page before his older brother Christian: farmer Daniel Ayrsman, 42, Baden; Catherine [Wolber], 40, Baden; Elizabeth, 18, Baden; Christian, 15, Baden; Susan, 12, Baden; Magdalene, 12, Baden; Veronica, 10, Baden; Jacob H. [Jacobine], 8, Baden; and Barbara, 1, Illinois.

We speculate that father Daniel died before 1870, when the same family appears on the census of Deer Creek: farmer Christian Ehrisman [the oldest son], 25, Baden; Fany, 20, Baden; Phoeby, 18, Baden; Barbaray, 12, Illinois; Daniel, 7, Illinois; and Catherine/Ehrisman [the mother Catherine Wolber], 50, Baden, 'insane.'

The children of Daniel Ehresman and Catherine Wolber used the spelling 'Ehrisman' in adulthood. They include:

a. Elisabeth/Elisabeth Ehrisman was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Jan. 21, 1842, and died in McLean County June 13, 1903. On Nov. 9, 1862 she married Jonathan J. Lantz. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio Aug. 5, 1839, and died Dec. 23, 1918, a son of Jonathan Lantz and Anna Yoder. Jonathan became a farmer and lawyer at Smithfield, Nebraska. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

b. Katharina Ehrismann was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Nov. 21, 1843.

c. Christian Ehrismann (later known as Christian D. Ehrisman) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Dec. 19, 1844, and died at Manson, Iowa Aug. 21, 1920. In 1870 in Woodford County he married Catherine Yotty. She was born in Woodford County in February 1850, and died in Iowa in 1912, a daughter of Christian Yotty and Katharina/Catherine Stalter. They are found on censuses at Danvers in 1880 (see above), and Concord, Nebraska in 1910. Christian is found on the Manson census in 1920. They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery at Manson.

d. Jakobina Ehrismann was born on the Johannistalerhof estate May 9, 1846, and died there March 6, 1848.

e. Susanna/Susan Ehrismann (twin) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Feb. 3, 1848. She is found living with her twin sister Magdalena on the 1880 census of Dry Grove.

f. Magdalena Ehrismann (twin) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Feb. 3, 1848, and died in McLean County April 13, 1916. On Nov. 29, 1869 in Woodford County she married Joseph E. Gerber. He was born Sept. 28, 1844, and died in McLean County Aug. 14, 1897, a son of Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer. They are found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove as farmer Joseph Gerber, 35, born in Illinois to parents from France and Switzerland; Magdalene, 32, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia; four children born in Illinois; Susan Ayersman [Ehresman], 33, housekeeper born in Prussia to parents from Prussia [Magdalena's sister]; and farmhand Fred Burkey, 21, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

g. Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehrisman was born on the Johannistalerhof estate July 28, 1849, and died in McLean March 9, 1872. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.

with three grandchildren and two sisters (Mrs. Joseph Zimmerman, San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. Simon Litwiller, Minier, Ill.), and a host of relatives and friends. She accepted Christ in her youth uniting with the Mennonite Church of which she remained a faithful member until her end. She was always a kind mother, exercising a Christian spirit to all. Services were held from the home in charge of Bro. Jonas Litwiller, and from the Pleasant Grove Mennonite church in charge of the brethren, H. R. Schertz and Leland A. Bachman. Burial in church cemetery.
h. Jakobina/Jacobine 'Phoebe' Ehrisman was born on the Johannistalerhof estate July 13, 1851, and died in McLean County April 9, 1875. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.

i. Barbara Ehrisman was born in Illinois circa 1858-59.

j. Daniel Ehrisman was born in Illinois June 18, 1862, and died in McLean County March 10, 1942. On March 28, 1899 at Danvers he married Magdalena Augspurger; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born Oct. 3, 1864, and died Oct. 15, 1948, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Anna Mosiman. They are found on the 1930 census of Normal, McLean County as Daniel Ehrisman, 67, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Magdalena, 65, born in Illinois to a father born in the United States and a mother born in Ohio. They are buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.

**Christian Ehresman** probably left Wimsheim as a young, single farm laborer. The Ehrismann and Egli families on the Obermönsheimerhof and Lärchenhof already accounted for 25 children in his generation; the acreage would not have sustained many more.

Young males generally found employment in their immediate community, or in a community where their family may have lived earlier. They sought brides in well-to-do families, so that they could start married life with a dowry (often given in the form of land) and raise their family sharing the maternal family's assets. They also found matches in the families of new arrivals to their community (they had a general sense of the problems of intermarriage), or looked for brides at distant locations where the congregations had ties to their own.

Christian married three times, each time to a sister from the same family. They were daughters of Johannes/John Barnett and Katharina Gümperich. The Barnetts came from the Rhein-Neckar 'Kreis' or county of the District of Karlsruhe, Baden via Butler County, Ohio.53

First wife Magdalena Barnett had five children in Germany, and died there in 1834.

1. **Jacob 'Jake' Ehresman** was born July 30, 1825, and died at Drummer, Ford County March 12, 1899; he is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as 'Jacob Ayresman.'

2. Johann/John Ehresman was born May 26, 1828, and died at Gridley Dec. 13, 1891. On Nov. 16, 1858 he married Catherine 'Katie' Sommer. She was born at Montgomery in 1838, and died Jan. 26, 1913, a daughter of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz. The Sommers were neighbors to the Ehresmans at Montgomery. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo as farmer John Ehrisman, Baden; Catherine, 31, Illinois; Peter, 16, Illinois; Barbara, 8, Illinois; and Joseph, 4, Illinois. They are listed on the same page as John's cousins Joseph and John Rediger. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer John Ehrisman, 52, born in Baden to a father from Württemberg and a mother from Baden; Katherine, 43, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace; and five children born in Illinois. In 1875 John and Katie donated land that was used for a meeting house. On July 23, 1898, Katie and her children provided the land that was used for the Salem Defenseless Christian Church (later the Salem Evangelical Mennonite Church) at Gridley.

3. Elisabeth 'Lizzie' Ehresman was born Sept. 11, 1830, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 27, 1902. On April 21, 1850 she married Jakob/Jacob Zehr, who became minister and elder of the Mackinaw meeting. He was born at Mannried, Bavaria Sept. 17, 1825, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 22, 1898, a son of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

4. Christian Ehresman was born Oct. 18, 1832, and died Feb. 14, 1893. On Aug. 30, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Wagler; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. She was born in Alsace Jan. 13, 1831, and died at Pike, Livingston County Dec. 7, 1870, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli (found as Reschly and Roeschley). *Gospel Herald*, February 1871: "On the 7th of December, in Livingston county, Ill., Magdalena Erisman, daughter of Jacob Wagler, in the 42nd year of her age. She was buried on the 9th. Funeral sermons were preached by Chr. Schloegel and John P. Schmitt from *I Cor. 13*. The deceased leaves her aged parents, a deeply afflicted husband and seven children to mourn her sudden departure. She bore her affliction with patience and asked her friends to forgive her if she in any way wronged them, and committed her soul into the hands of her Creator saying, 'The Lord's will be done - I am prepared to die.' Dear reader, let us reflect upon these words. J.P. Schmitt." The 1880 census of Pike shows farm laborer Christian Ehresman, 47, in the household of August Bauman; he was born in Württemberg to parents from Württemberg. In about 1888 Christian remarried to Mary Oyer. She was born at Farmdale Feb. 27, 1859 (and thus was younger by 27 years), and died Feb. 22, 1890, a daughter of John Oyer and Anna Farney. This may be the marriage entry recorded in Livingston County Aug. 4, 1888 for 'Christian Ehrisman' and 'Marg Oyer.' Her headstone in West Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Beaver

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53 Very little is known about this couple. Johannes/John came to Butler County, Ohio, then ministered briefly to the Mackinaw meeting before his death in 1846. His daughters Magdalena, Anna, and Veronica Barnett successively married Christian Ehresman. Phoebe Barnett married Christian König/King (they settled in Dry Grove), and Elizabeth Barnett married his brother Michael König/King (they settled in Dry Grove and Montgomery). See KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG. The surname Barnett may have been derived from the Bernese 'Bernert'; it is also found as 'Barnhardt.'
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Crossing, Nebraska says, "Mary Ehresman, wife of Christian Ehresman, died Feb. 22, 1890 aged 31 years," while the Herald of Truth, March 1890 issue published this obituary: "On the 24th of February, near Milford, Seward county, Nebraska, of consumption, wife of Christian Erisman, aged 31 years, three months and nine days. She was a member of the Egli church. She was buried in John Stehley's grave yard. Services by Chris. Yeeckley and Joseph Rediger. Text 2 Tim. 1:7-10."

5. Jacobine 'Phoebe' Ehresman was born March 19, 1834, and died May 2, 1902 (headstone date). At Little Mackinaw in 1858 she married Christian Gutt/Good. He was born at Burgwalden, Bavaria Feb. 4, 1833, and died Sept. 26, 1889 (headstone date), a son of Christian Guth and Barbara Christner. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Gutt, 47, Bavaria; Phoebe, 46, born in Württemberg to parents from Württemberg; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Herald of Truth, May 1903: "On May 4, 1903, at her home near Milner [Minier], Ill., of diabetes, Jacobina Good, née Erisman, aged 69 Y., 1M., 15D. The last few weeks of her life she suffered greatly. She leaves seven children and 38 grandchildren to mourn her loss, but not as those who have no hope. She was loved by all who knew her and was a true pattern of Christianity. Her life companion preceded her to the spirit world fourteen years ago. Funeral services on the 6th at the A.M. meeting house, where a large concourse of friends assembled to pay a last tribute of respect. Services by Bish J.C. Berky, Pre. Dan Zehr in German, and Pre. Samuel Gerber in English."

Magdalena died shortly after giving birth to Jakobina. Her sister Anna Barnett may have married Christian within a few months. One of their first decisions of married life must have involved the question of emigration.

The mid-1800s saw a rush of emigrants departing Germany to go to North America. This was part of an overall trend, as the entire lower-middle class of farmers were being squeezed out of the economy and social structure.

Overpopulation was reaching a level where it was difficult for sons to find the generous lease terms on out-of-the-way estates that their parents and grandparents had found. It was also much less likely that they would find forest that could be cleared, swamps that could be drained, or spent land that could be reclaimed over a few years by fertilization.

However, they could use their savings to emigrate, then purchase uncultivated land in America for as little as $1.25 (the standard price for public land in Central Illinois in the 1830s). Land on the American prairies kept this price as late as the late 1850s, when the self-cleaning plow invented by John Deere made it practical to till through the sun-hardened crust.

Industrialization accelerated the waves of emigration. Once young men and women realized that others were leaving their family farms to go to the cities, it was easier to take the alternative step and emigrate. They often journeyed with extended families and formed new American congregations with others from their region.

The ship Troy sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York City Nov. 10, 1836. The Ehresmans are found on the passenger list in a group of travelers from Baden: Christian Ehresman, 36; Anna, 22; Jacob, 10; Johann, 7; Elisabeth, 4; Christina [Christian], 3; Jacobina, 2; and Daniel, 1. According to the Troy passenger list, Daniel died at sea Oct. 26, 1836.

The Troy passenger list also included Johann Bernett, 67, Christian's father-in-law; and Veronica [Veronica Barnett], 12, who would later become Christian's third wife. A portion of the list is given in KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG.

The Ehresman family initially settled in Ohio. It is thought that they lived in Butler County, but this could not be confirmed.

'Christian Herisman' is found on the 1840 census of McLean County (before the establishment of Woodford County). His household appears as one male 40-49 years of age; two males 10-14; two males under 5; one female 20-29; two females 5-9; and one female under 5.

Anna died in Ohio before March 1843. Her children include:

6. Daniel Ehresman was born in Germany in 1836. According to the Troy passenger list he died at sea Oct. 26, 1836.
7. Peter Ehresman was born in Ohio March 5, 1837 (his headstone says 1836), and died at El Paso, Woodford County Dec. 2, 1893. According to Zur Linden and other sources, Peter Ehresman was born in Ohio March 5, 1836. However, this conflicts with the Troy passenger list, which was not known to her. It is probable that he was born the following spring.

54 According to Zur Linden and other sources, Peter Ehresman was born in Ohio March 5, 1836. However, this conflicts with the Troy passenger list, which was not known to her. It is probable that he was born the following spring.
8. Fanny Ehresman was born in Ohio in 1838, and died in 1862 or 1863. On Feb. 7, 1860 in Woodford County, she married Johannes König, also known as John R. King. He was born in Baden Sept. 16, 1825, and died April 25, 1895, a son of Johannes König and Jakobea Rediger. They were found on the 1860 census of Dry Grove, McLean County. See KING for more on John and his second marriage to Maria/Mary Ringenberg.

9. Maria/Mary Ehresman was born in Ohio Nov. 30, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894. On March 5, 1861 in Woodford County she married John Guth. He was born at Washington May 10, 1840, and died there Oct. 8, 1896, a son of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. They appear on the 1880 census of Washington as John Guth, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Mary, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; and nine children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1894: "On the 8th of May 1874 near Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., sister Maria Ehresman, wife of John Good. Buried on the 10th in the Washington cemetery. Sister Maria was married on the 5th of March 1861. The union was blessed with 10 children. There are also 14 grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and wife and a faithful follower of Christ in our denomination. Funeral services by the writer and Pre. Koenig of the Deer Creek Cong. and Emanuel Hartman from Isa. 18 and 38:12, 13. A large concourse of friends followed her remains to the grave. Michael Kinsinger." John Guth remarried Oct. 15, 1895 to Catherine Schlegel, widow of John Gascho, but John is buried in Glendale Cemetery with Maria/Mary.

10. Anna 'Nancy' Ehresman was born in Illinois Feb. 22, 1841, and died at Hopedale April 11, 1909. On March 8, 1864 in Tazewell County she married Peter Litwiller; the ceremony was performed by minister Jacob Zehr. He was born at Milford, Butler County Sept. 9, 1839, and died at Hopedale June 28, 1900, a son of Joseph Litwiller and Barbé/Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Gospel Herald, May 1909: "Died near Hopedale, Ill., on April 11, 1909, Sister Anna Litwiller, maiden name Erismann, after an illness of about two months from dropsy; aged 68 y. She leaves to mourn her departure one son, two daughters and 12 grandchildren. Sister Litwiller was an exemplary Christian. She had many trials and sorrows in her life but remained patient and faithful to the end. We feel assured that all is well with her. Funeral April 14, conducted by Andrew Schrock and Sam Garber."

Third sister Veronica 'Fannie' Barnett was born in Baden July 20, 1824, and died at Goodfield, Woodford County Nov. 24, 1895. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index indicates that 'Christian Aresman' and 'Franey Barnett' were married in McLean County March 18, 1844. Zurlinden wrote, "The story is commonly told that when he [Christian] married his first wife, he was carrying his third wife in his arms."

According to Steve Estes in A Goodly Heritage: A History of the North Danvers Mennonite Church, the Ehresman family resettled in Illinois in 1844. They purchased a farm on the Woodford County side of Deer Creek. The household appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Christian Aysman, 50, Germany; Fany, 26, Germany; John, 22, Germany; Christian, 15, Germany; Phebe, 16, Germany; Peter, 13, Germany; Fany, 12, Ohio; Mary, 11, Illinois; Nancy, 8, Illinois; Madalene, 5, Illinois; Barbary, 4, Illinois; and Catharina, 2, Illinois.

According to the obituary of son Joseph, his childhood recollections included seeing lawyer Abraham Lincoln stopping at their home to water his horse. Lincoln was traveling between the 8th Circuit courts on his way from Bloomington to Metamora.

They can be found on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County living next door to Christian Oyer: Christian Ayresman, 60, farmer, Stuttgart; Frana, 35, Baden; Peter, 23, farm laborer, Ohio; Mary, 20, Ohio; Nancy, 17, Illinois (all remaining children born in Illinois); Magdalene, 16; Barbara, 13; Catherine, 11; Susan, 7; Joseph, 9; Lydia, 3; and Samuel, 4 months. The Ehresman family also appears on a federal list of excise tax collected in Division 6, District 8 in 1865. On Feb. 16 Christian Ehresman of Farnisville (Farnisville was at the center of Montgomery Township) paid five percent tax on $303.50 amounting to $15.15.

We initially overlooked the household on the 1870 census of Montgomery, until Terry Bowen brought it to our attention: farmer Christian Emson, 70, Baden; Fannie, 60, Baden; Catharine, 20, Baden; Barbara, 21, Baden; Susan, 16, Illinois; Liddy, 13, Illinois; Jacob, 7, Illinois; farm hand Samuel, 12, Illinois; farm hand Joseph, 19, Illinois; and farm hand Henry Shaw, 21, Illinois. The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows the 200-acre property of C. Ehreismann.

Christian died at Montgomery Aug. 11, 1874. Gospel Herald, September 1874: "Aug. 11th, in Woodford Co., Ill., of dropsy of the heart, Christian Erismann, aged 74 years, 4 months and 25 days. He leaves a bereaved wife and 15 children, who were all present before his death. Remarks suitable to the occasion were made by Joseph Stuckey, from 1 Peter 1:24. - Peace to his ashes." He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery.
Widow Veronica's household appears on the 1880 census of Montgomery as Fannie Ehresman, 53, born in July in Germany to German parents; Katie, 29, born in April in Illinois to parents from Germany; Samuel, 20, born in December in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Jacob, 18, born in Illinois in August to parents from Germany.

Veronica died at Goodfield Nov. 24, 1895, and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. Her headstone says she was the wife of C. Ehresmann. *Herald of Truth*, December 1895: "Veronica Ehresman was born on the 20th of July, 1824, in Baden, Germany. She came with her father to America in 1837, and was married to Christian Ehresman in 1843. This union was blessed with 9 children. Eight children and 24 grandchildren survive. Sister Ehresman died of heart disease on the 24th of November, 1895, at her home near Goodfield, Woodford Co., Ill. Although suffering of heart disease for some time her sudden death was unexpected by the family. Her remains were laid to rest on the 27th in Mt. Zion graveyard. Funeral services were conducted by Minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born Nov. 17, 1847, and died Nov. 25, 1910. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer Joseph B. Garber, 32, born in Illinois to parents from France; Susan, 25, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Gibson City Cemetery."

Veronica's children were all born in Illinois.

11. Benjamin Ehresman was born circa 1844, and lived only nine months. This would strongly suggest that Veronica was pregnant at the time of her marriage to Christian in McLean County. It may explain why her obituary moves the marriage date from 1844 back to 1843, and might further suggest motivation for the move from Ohio.

12. Magdalena Ehresman was born circa 1845, and died Feb. 25, 1925 (the *Illinois Statewide Death Index* says Lena Ehresman died in McLean County Aug. 7, 1924). On Feb. 20, 1866 at Danvers she married Christian Strubhar; minister Joseph Stuckey conducted the ceremony. Christian was born at Danvers June 13, 1844, and died April 19, 1919, a son of John Strubhar and Anna Schertz. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple.

13. Barbara Ehresman was born in 1846, and died in Woodford County in 1937. On Oct. 12, 1875 at Danvers she became the second wife of Danvers minister Christian Imhoff Jr.; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Christian was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 31, 1838, and died at Danvers May 31, 1881, a son of Christian Imhoff and Barb/Barbara Schertz. See IMHOFF for more on Christian including his first marriage to Mary Strubhar and his obituary.

14. Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman was born April 30, 1848, died at Olio Oct. 30, 1928, and is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. She is found living with her younger brother Samuel on the 1900 census of Montgomery and the 1910 census of Mackinaw. She spent the last five years of her life in the Eureka Home for the Aged.

15. Joseph Ehresman was born in April 9, 1851, died at Gibson City Feb. 18, 1943, and is buried in Gibson City Cemetery. On Sept. 7, 1876 in McLean County he married Anna Salzman. She was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1847, and died in McLean County Jan. 19, 1938, a daughter of Christian Salzman and Marie Imhoff. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Montgomery, next to that of his mother Veronica, as farmer Joseph Ehresman, 28, born in Illinois in April to German parents; Annie, 29, born in Ohio in June to German parents; and Charles O., 2, born in Illinois. They appear on the 1900 census of Anchor, McLean County as farmer Joseph Ehresman, 49, born in Illinois in April 1847 [1852] to German parents; Annie, 52, born in Ohio in June 1847 to a father from France and a mother from Germany; and a son Walter L. born in Illinois in July 1880. Married son Charles lived next door. *Gibson City Courier*, 1943: "Ehresman, Joseph - 91, died at 5:30 a.m. Monday, 2-18-1943 at Mrs. Belle Williams' nursing home in Gibson City where he had been ill for several months. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Lamb Funeral Home in Gibson City with the Rev. A.H. Flagge officiating. Burial will be in the Gibson City Cemetery. He was born 4-9-1851 near Goodfield, Ill., and he married Miss Anna Saltzman in 1876, who preceded him in death in 1938. He had lived around Gibson City for the last 35 years. He was a retired farmer. He sold his home 10 years ago and made his home with his sons in Gibson City. Surviving are two sons; Walter and Charles of Gibson City; two brothers, Jacob of Piper City and Sam of Washington; seven children and seven great grandchildren."

16. Susan or Susanna (the spelling found on her headstone) Ehresman was born May 9, 1855, and died in Tazewell County March 26, 1937. On Jan. 14, 1875 at Danvers she married Joseph B. Garber; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born Nov. 17, 1847, and died Nov. 25, 1910. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer Joseph B. Garber, 32, born in Illinois to parents from France; Susan, 25, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

17. Lydia Ehresman was born in 1857, and died at Washington Feb. 14, 1925. On March 21, 1878 in Woodford County she married William Mason Small. He was born at Deer Creek Oct. 22, 1854 (headstone date), and died at Washington Oct. 19, 1934, a son of John Small and Nancy Ramsey. On the 1870 census of Deer Creek he can be found as a 16-year-old in the household of John Small, 51, farmer from Kentucky, and Nancy, 43, from Ohio. Their household can be found on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as William Small, 46, born in November 1853; Lydia, 42, born in March 1856; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

18. Samuel Ehresman was born in December 1859, and died at Limestone, Peoria Sept. 25, 1943. In adulthood he dropped 4-6 years from his age on census reports. The 1900 census of Montgomery shows farmer Samuel Ehresman, born in Illinois in December 1864 to German parents; and sister Catherine, born in Illinois in April 1848 to German parents. His household is found on the 1910 census of Mackinaw as farmer Samuel Ehresman, 45, born in Illinois to German parents; Katie, 29, born in April in Illinois to parents from Germany; Samuel, 20, born in December in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Jacob, 18, born in Illinois in August to parents from Germany.
German parents; and sister Kate, 62, born in Illinois to German parents. According to Zurflinden, Samuel "married late in life and subsequently divorced." The 1920 census of Medina, Peoria shows Samuel Ehresman, 56, born in Illinois to German parents; Martha, 43, born in New York to English parents; and Lorene E., 9, born in Illinois. They are also found on the 1930 census of Peoria. After his divorce Samuel lived at Washington.

19. Jacob Ehresman was born Oct. 12, 1862 (though the 1880 census of Montgomery gives his birth month as August), and died at Piper City, Ford County Dec. 14, 1947. On Dec. 20, 1885 at Danvers he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Strubhar. She was born at Danvers May 6, 1867, and died at Piper City, Ford County Dec. 21, 1946, a daughter of Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich. Their household is found on the 1900 census of Brenton, Ford County as farmer Jacob Ehresman, born in Illinois in October of 1862 to parents from Germany and Switzerland; Elizabeth A., born in Illinois in May 1867 to parents from France; and six children born in Illinois. Jacob appears in the 1917 Ford County Business Directory as a commissioner of highways.

Oldest son Jacob 'Jake' Ehresman was born July 30, 1825, and died at Drummer March 12, 1899. He is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as 'Jacob Ayresman.'

Jacob is found as a 10-year-old on the 1836 passenger list. Yet his later life has been a minor mystery. There was no Ehresman family memory of his birth date, death date, or spouse when Viola Zurflinden collected information in 1968. She gave him a 'question mark' on first reference. On second reference she attributed two children, Steve and Will.

We can speculate that a family dispute led to his estrangement. Perhaps he grew weary of helping to support his father's large brood. Perhaps he was too progressive for the restrictions of an Amish Mennonite environment; this is suggested by the names he gave his children. And it must have been awkward to see his former playmate become his stepmother. She was only one year older.

Jacob consistently appeared on federal censuses as 'Jacob Ayersman' (some of his children later modified this spelling to 'Ayresman'). He married Juliana/Julia Ann Mack at Danvers Sept. 19, 1853. She was born in Indiana March 22, 1836, and died at the age of 91 at Gibson City, Ford County April 16, 1927.

They appear on the 1860 census of Mackinaw as farmer Jacob Ayersman, 34, Germany; Julia, 23, Indiana; Wm., 6, born in Illinois; Emma, 4, born in Illinois; and Stephen, 1, born in Illinois. They are shown on the 1870 census of Danvers on the same page as the Schoenbecks and Jacob Naffziger, brother of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger: teamster Jacob Ayersman, 45, Baden; Julia A., 34, Indiana; Wm. H., 15, Illinois; Emma E., 14, Illinois; Stephen A. D., 12, Illinois; Albert P., 10, Illinois; Alanson C., 8, Illinois; Thomas R., 6, Illinois; Jacob L., 4, Illinois; and Julia's brother Asa H. Mack, 45, born in Indiana. In 1880 they were living at Holland, Shelby County: farmer Jacob Ayersman, 54, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Julia A., 44, born in Indiana to parents from Ohio; Albert P., 19; Alarison [Alason] C., 16; Thomas R., 14; and Franklin E., 7, all children born in Illinois.

The children of Jacob Ehresman and Julia Ann Mack are found as 'Ayersmans' and 'Ayresmans.' Several worshipped with Methodist congregations. The misplaced branch of the Ehresman family includes:

1. William H. Ayersman was born circa 1854, and died at Gibson City Jan. 11, 1934. On March 4, 1880 he married Nancy J. Fawver. She was born in Ohio circa 1857, a daughter of Solomon Fawver and Sarah Smith. They appear on the 1910 census of Drummer as W. H. Ayresman, 56, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Indiana; Nancy, 54, born in Ohio to a father from Virginia and a mother from Ohio; and three children born in Illinois.

2. Emma E. Ayersman was born circa 1856.

3. Stephen A. D. Ayresman. Although he was known as 'Steve,' the full name appears on his headstone. It is likely he was named after Illinois presidential aspirant Stephen A. Douglas. He was born in 1859, died at Drummer April 1, 1935, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery. The 1880 census of Drummer shows him as a 21-year-old farm laborer, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Indiana. He lived in the household of Wesley Hammen. On Dec. 29, 1886 in McLean County he married Emma Fawver. She was born in Ohio in 1858, and died at Drummer Oct. 10, 1935, a daughter of Solomon Fawver and Sarah Smith. She is also buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as 'Emma F. Ayresman.' On the 1910 census of Drummer they have two children at home; in 1930 they appear as Steve Ayresman, 70, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Emma, 71, born in Ohio to parents from Virginia.

4. Albert P. Ayersman was born in April 1861, died at Coal City, Grundy County Sept. 9 or 13, 1937, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as 'Albert Ayresman.' On Dec. 12, 1886 at Gibson City, Ford County he married Kathryn P. 'Katie' Simon. She was born in Ohio in July 1862, and died at Coal City Feb. 13, 1935. They appear on the 1900 census of Braceville, Coal County, Grundy County as railroad switchman A.P. Ayrsman, born in Illinois in April 1861 to German parents; his unnamed wife, born in Ohio in July 1862 to Irish parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are shown on the 1920 census of Coal City as Albert Ayresman, 58, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Indiana; Katherine, 57, born in Ohio to a father from Indiana and a mother from Ireland; and four children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1930 census of Braceville.

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5. Alason C. Ayrsman (the spelling on his headstone) was born in 1864, died in 1909, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery. On Dec. 29, 1886 in McLean County he married Rossaline 'Rossy' Garrett. She was born circa 1856 at Kiddville, Kentucky, and died at Gibson City Oct. 15, 1924, a daughter of Lewis L. Garrett and Nancy M. Elkin.

6. Thomas R. Ayersman was born circa 1866. He may be the Thomas Ayesman who died at Evanston July 1, 1928. He appears on the 1920 census of Ogden, Champaign County as Thomas R. Ayersman, born in Illinois to German parents.

7. Franklin 'Frank' E. Ayersman was born circa 1873. He appears on the 1900 census of Drummer as a 27-year-old barber living with his mother. On July 1, 1900 at Gibson City he married Maude M. Rhodes. She was born in Illinois, a daughter of Newton Rhodes and Maggie Castile.

Christian Ehresmann

Dörrmoschel is a tiny village about 40 miles northwest of the Mechtersheimerhof, and 18 miles north of Kaiserslautern. Before the French Revolution Dörrmoschel and its adjacent sister village Teschenmoschel were properties of the von Hunolstein family. It was once considered part of Hesse-Darmstadt, but is now in the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz.

The village was occupied by French troops after the Battle of Kaiserslautern Nov. 28-30, 1793. Before the occupation, mennoniten had been barred from the nearby city of Kaiserslautern. Now even non-citizens were treated as equals. (French tolerance for Anabaptists had been heartily encouraged since the Directory of Robespierre, who saw it as a slap at Catholic interests). In 1798 the area was incorporated as canton Kaiserslautern, one of four cantons in the arrondissement du Mont Tonnere in the département du Mont Tonnere [Ger. Donnersberg]. The troops remained there until 1814, a period when the Mennoniten enjoyed unprecedented freedoms under the Code Napoléon. After 1814 the entire Pfalz became part of Bavaria.

The period of French occupation was also a period of relative prosperity. The area provided soldiers for the French army, and the local economy was boosted by employment on the construction of the Kaiserstrasse, a wide paved highway from Kaiserslautern to Frankfurt.55

Ehresmann entries are found in the Protestant Reformed register at Dörrmoschel as early as 1797.

Christian Ehresmann was born circa 1779, and died at Dörrmoschel Feb. 16, 1837. He married Elisabeth Egli. She was born circa 1779, and died at Dörrmoschel Jan. 25, 1833, a daughter of Jacob Egli and Magdalena Frei. They were the parents of two daughters who married Ehresman brothers from Neuhausen.

Children of Christian Ehresmann and Elisabeth Egli include:

1. Jacob Ehresmann was born Feb. 5, 1806, and died at Dörrmoschel March 31, 1876. On March 18, 1832 at Wilferdingen, Baden he married Jacobine Eyer. She was born at Wilferdingen Dec. 27, 1804, and died at Dörrmoschel April 14, 1887, a daughter of Daniel Eyer and Barbara Detweiler.56

2. Katharina Ehresmann was born Aug. 8, 1807. On Oct. 11, 1829 at Neuhausen she married Johann Jakob/Jacob Ehresman of Neuhausen. (More on this couple will follow with the NEUHAUSEN branch).

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55 Elector Maximilian IV Joseph became Maximilian I of Bavaria Dec. 26, 1805. His troops fought as allies of France until 1813. See BIRKY/BIRKEY.

56 A 'German school' taught the German language and traditions, but also taught English. Immigrant children typically attended for a few hours a day 2-3 days a week, supplementing public school.

In 1857 Jakob/Jacob Breneman (1827-1887) and his wife Jacobine/Jakobina Iutzi made a return trip to Europe. Jacob's father Daniel Breneman had taught a 'German school' in his Ohio home when he first arrived in America. When son Jacob and Jacobine/Jakobina returned from Europe, they brought with them a man who became a 'German school' teacher in Woodford County.

The Agnes departed from Bremen, and arrived at New York April 21, 1857. The future school teacher is found on the passenger list as farmer Christian Eresmann, 22, Hessen, destination Peru, Ill.

He is found on the 1860 census of Palestine, Woodford County as farmer Christian Ehrman, 25, Germany, in the household of farmer Tobias Cable, 31, Pennsylvania. He lost an arm before 1870. In 1870 and 1871 his classroom was located east of Roanoke on the farm of Peter Yordy. He became a member of the Hessian Amish congregation (later called the South Danvers Mennonite Church).

Gospel Witness, December 1905: "Bro. Christian Erisman was born Apr 27, 1835. Died on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5, 1905, at the Mennonite Old People's Home, Rittman, Ohio, aged 70 y., 7 m., 8 d. By profession Bro. Erisman had been a German school teacher, having formerly come from the old country. For some time he lived in Illinois and taught school. He made his temporary abode at the Home as early as Dec., 1902, but in June, 1904, he came here to stay the remainder of his life. He expressed a readiness and a desire to depart from this life. Funeral was held at the Home on Friday, Dec. 8, the brethren, D. C. Amstutz and C. Z. Yoder officiating. Text, Psalms 17:15. Burial in Crown Hill Cemetery." His headstone in Crown Hill Mennonite Cemetery also identifies him as 'Christian Erisman, died Dec. 5, 1905, aged 79 Y. 7 M. 8 D.'
3. Christian Ehresman was born Oct. 1, 1808, and died at Dörrmoschel June 5, 1810.
4. Magdalena Ehresmann was born Dec. 1, 1812. When she married, the Dörrmoschel civil administration provided a document certifying her birth there as 'Madelaine Ehrensman.' On Sept. 9, 1832 at Dörrmoschel she married Jakob Nafziger. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg Sept. 10, 1802, and after 1818 lived on the Obergladbachhof at Runkel (68 miles north of Neuhausen). Jakob Nafziger was the youngest son of Peter Nafziger and his first wife Katharina Nafziger (they married at Hochheim in 1771). Katharina Nafziger was a younger sister to Valentine Nafziger. Valentine Nafziger and Magdalena Spring were the parents the family in NAFZIGER. Magdalena Spring's mother's second husband was Jacob Stähli of Enkenbach. This chain of relationships suggests that the Nafziger/Nafziger of Hochheim and Fränkisch Crambach, Ehresmann of Dörrmoschel, Ehresman of Neuhausen, and Stähli of Enkenbach families were all represented in the Amish Mennonite congregation at Hochheim. At Dörrmoschel on Feb. 21, 1860 widow 'Magdalena Ehresmann Nafziger' obtained a document to emigrate to Rogersville, Ohio (now called Rogersville, Tuscarawas County, it is located just below the large Mennonite community at Sugar Creek). Her travel documents were approved by a representative of the Bavarian consulate onboard the James L. Bogart at Le Havre May 3, 1860, but we could not identify her date of arrival in America. She reunited with her younger brother Christian at Trenton, Butler County.
5. Elisabeth Ehresmann was born circa April 5, 1815. On Oct. 5, 1836 at Dörrmoschel she married Johann Karl Geib. He was born circa May 1812, a son of Adam Geib and Elisabeth Stephan.
6. Jacobine Ehresmann was born at Dörrmoschel March 5, 1819; the civil birth entry called her 'Jacobine Ehrensmann.' In 1854 at Dörrmoschel she married Christian Amman, 31, a son of Christian Amman and Charlotte Fink of Schuhhofen. The entry described her as a 34-year-old daughter of Christian Ehresmann and Elisabeth Egle, and a resident of Dörrmoschel.
7. Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresmann (twin) was born at Dörrmoschel Sept. 14, 1821, and died at Edna Mills, Indiana April 9, 1880. She married Johannes/John Ehresman of Neuhausen. (More on this couple will follow with the NEUHAUSEN branch).
8. Christian Ehresmann (twin) was born at Dörrmoschel Sept. 14, 1821, and died at Trenton, Butler County Sept. 27, 1867. Circa 1838 he emigrated to avoid military service. He was naturalized at the Hamilton Courthouse in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 9, 1843; his sponsors were 'John Yutze' and 'Christian Yutze' [Iutzi]. The 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County shows farmer Peter Hawley [Holly], 58; Catharine, 56; Catharine, 25; Eliza, 20; laborer Christian Ayresman, 28; and laborer John Unsicker, 35; all born in Germany. On June 14, 1852 he married Maria Iutzi. She was born at Felsberg, Hesse circa 1827, and died in Butler County in 1906, a daughter of Christian Iutzi and Maria Sommer. Christian Iutzi will be recalled from STAKER as the wealthiest passenger on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832 (daughter Maria appears as a 5-year-old on the passenger list). He scouted land in Illinois, but returned to Butler County to purchase 195 improved acres of Madison for $25 per acre. He then built a substantial home, calling it the 'Mittelhof' after the European home he had left behind. They settled at Trenton in Butler County. Trenton is a village bordered on north, east, and south by Madison, and on the west by St. Clair and Wayne; it was often counted in the Madison census. As their family grew, they decided to build a bigger house in 1867. Christian died during construction of the new house. The first house was torn down in the 1980s; the second house is still standing. Gospel Herald, November 1867: "On the 27th of September, near Trenton, Butler Co., Ohio, Christian Ehresman, aged 46 years and 14 days. Funeral sermon was preached by Jos. Augspurger from J Thess. 4:13-14, in the German language and by West from Acts 8:2 in English. J. A. S." The household is found on the 1870 census of Madison as Mrs. Christian Ehresman, 48; Hesse-Darmstadt; Otto, 16; Ohio; Jacobina, 14, Ohio; Bertha, 12, Ohio; Maria, 10, Ohio; Louisa, 4, Ohio; Maria's sister Elizabeth Iutzi, 44, Hesse-Darmstadt; and farm laborer Christian Iutzi, 63, Hesse-Darmstadt. In 1880 they appear at the same location as Mary Ehresman, 52, Hesse; Otto, 26, Ohio; Bertha, 22, Ohio; Maria, 20, Ohio; Louisa, 14, Ohio; Elizabeth Iutzi, 54, Hesse; and Jos. Saltzman, 18, Ohio. Children of the NEUHAUSEN branch include:

a. Otto Iutzi Ehresman was born on the Iutzi farm Feb. 4, 1854, and died in 1933. He was only 13 at the time of his father's death, but farmed the acreage behind the Trenton house with the help of his Mennonite neighbors. On Jan. 20, 1885 in Butler County he married Mary Ann Deusch, a daughter of Henry P. Deusch and Ella Ball. Mary Ann was born Feb. 9, 1855, and died Nov. 26, 1938; she is buried in Miltonville Cemetery. They farmed at Gratis in adjacent Preble County for five years, then returned to Butler County, where Otto become manager of his wealthy father-in-law's five-acre foundry

57 A Cornelia passenger list for a New York arrival July 5, 1860 may be a 'near miss.' It names Mayores Ehresman, 45, designated as a male. Elsewhere on the same list is Elisabeth Egelie, 22.
58 The surnames Deusch and Teuscher are both found in Canton Bern. Henry P. Deusch was born in 1829, and died in 1903. He was a native of Wessingen, Baden. His parents Michael Deusch and Christiana Scheurer brought their four children to New York in 1832. Memories of the Miami Valley says they spent a year there, and another in Lancaster County, before resettling in Butler County in 1834, while A History and Biographical Cyclopedia of Butler County says they spent four years in Lancaster County, and arrived in Butler County in 1836. Henry recruited Company G, 83rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served as a captain for eight months during the Civil War. He went from being a butcher to owning a malthouse and two distilleries, then purchased a foundry to produce farm equipment. It was destroyed by fire in 1910, but was rebuilt and remained active until 1990.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

at Hamilton. Otto also operated the O.I. Ehresman General Store at 130 East State Street in Trenton for 13 years, while he lived at 119 North First Street. After their deaths, both Henry P. Deuscher and Otto Iutzi Ehresman were held up as 'rags to riches' stories because of their modest beginnings and strong work ethics. Deuscher's house and Ehresman's farm are on the National Register of Historic Places.

b. Jakobina 'Bina' Ehresman was born Aug. 16, 1855, and died in 1941; she is buried in Mound Cemetery at Monroe as 'Bina Ehresman.' On May 30, 1878 at Monroe she married William Bender Jotter. He was born in Butler County Aug. 8, 1847, and died in 1924, a son of Peter Jotter and Marie Bender. He and his parents are also buried in Mound Cemetery. Bina and William can be found on the 1880 census of Monroe as wagon maker William B. Jotter, 32, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from Hesse; Jacobina, 24, born in Ohio to a father from Württemberg and a mother from Hesse; and Ernst, 1, born in Ohio. Their farmstead in the northeast corner of Section 17, Monroe still exists.

c. Bertha Ehresman was born in 1857, and died in 1947. She lived at 103 North Second Street, Trenton with her sister Amelia. They worked together as designer-seamstresses.

d. Maria/Marie Ehresman was born March 6, 1860, and died Aug. 6, 1947. She married William Hebel. He was born Aug. 16, 1862, and died Dec. 5, 1944. They appear on the 1900 census of Hyde Park, Chicago as railroad clerk William Hebel, born in Ohio in August 1861 to parents from Germany and Ohio; Marie, born in Ohio in March 1862 to parents from Germany; and two children born in Illinois.

e. Emelie/Amelia Ehresman was born in 1863, and died in 1937.

f. Louisa/Louise Ehresman was born in 1865, and died in 1883.

Jacob Ehresmann

Jacob Ehresmann was born circa 1786, and died in Woodford County after 1864. He married Veronika Eyer. They initially resided at Dörmoschel.

As a widower Jacob brought his children to America. They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Oneida, and arrived at New York Sept. 20, 1841.59 The passenger list shows Jacob Ehresman [the letter 'n' in Ehresman is mounted by a line, indicating doubling], 55 or 56; Johannes, 22; Jacob, 21; Magd., 19; Jacobina, 16; Catharina, 52 [Jacob's sister Anna Katharina Ehresmann, the widow of Joseph Imhof]; and Johannes, 17 [her illegitimate son, who would be known in America as John Gingerich; see IMHOFF].

Jacob was living in Butler County, Ohio on Dec. 3, 1843. A European letter he received from his nephew Jacob, son of his older brother Christian, survives.

Jacob may be found on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County as Jacob Ayresman, 63, farmer, Germany; Jacob, 28, Germany (with $6,000 worth of property); Phebe, 32, Germany; and John Poach, 5, Ohio.

According to Helmut Gingerich, children of Jacob Ehresmann and Veronika Eyer include:

1. Magdalena Ehresmann was born at Dörmoschel in 1816, and died there in 1818.
2. Barbara Ehresmann was born in 1818; and died in 1819.
3. Johannes Ehresmann was born at Dörmoschel circa 1819.
4. Jacob Ehresmann/Ehresman was born at Sippersfeld April 19, 1822.
5. Magdalena Ehresmann was born at Sippersfeld April 9, 1824. She may have married Christian Engel in Woodford County Nov. 7, 1861, and died in 1879. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY for backgound on this couple.
6. Jacobine Ehresmann/Phoebe Ehresman was born at Sippersfeld Dec. 11, 1825, and died at Deer Creek July 14, 1907

Son Jacob Ehresmann/Ehresman was born at Sippersfeld April 19, 1822, and died at Deer Creek Sept. 9, 1899.

Circa 1850 he married Elizabeth Staker, who was also living at Fairfield. She was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Dec. 15, 1831, and died at Deer Creek April 3, 1900, a daughter of Jean Stecker/John Staker and Barbe/Barbara Schertz.

They moved to Illinois in 1857. They appear on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as Jacob Ayresman, 38, from Bavaria; Elizabeth, 28, born in Pennsylvania; Anna E., 4, born in Ohio; Phoebe, 2, born in Illinois; Jacob Ayresman, 69, born in Bavaria [Jacob's father]; Phoebe A., 34, domestic; [Jacob's sister]; and farm hand John Pouch.

The household appears on the 1870 census of Deer Creek as Jacob Ehrisman, 40, farmer from Bavaria; Elizabeth, 30, born in Pennsylvania; Eliza, 14, born in Ohio; Phoeby, 12; Magdalena, 11; Catherine, 7; Mary, 5; and Barbaray, 3. (Deer Creek straddles the boundary of Woodford County and Tazewell County).

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59 The packet ship Oneida was constructed in New York and launched in early 1841. The September 1841 arrival was the return from her second voyage to Le Havre. The Oneida sank in the English Channel Dec. 19, 1849.
The 1880 census of Deer Creek lists Jacob 'Ayrseman,' 59, farmer from Bavaria; Elizabeth, 48, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Lorraine; Phoebe, 22; Lena, 19; Catherine, 17; Mary, 14; and Barbara, 12. The 1900 census of Deer Creek, Tazewell County holds a household consisting of the five daughters and an aunt. It shows Lenna Ehresman, 49, born in Illinois in January 1851 [Lena was actually born in 1861]; sister Pheobe, 42, born in Illinois in February [actually January] 1858; sister Kate, 36, born in Illinois in June [actually February] 1863; sister Mary, 34, born in Illinois in August 1865; sister Barbara, 32, born in Illinois in April 1868 [all born to a father from Germany and a mother from Pennsylvania]; and aunt Pheobe Ehresman, 74, born in Germany to German parents in January 1926 [actually Dec. 11, 1825], immigrated in 1839 [actually 1841].

Jacob and Elizabeth are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. Jacob's sister Pheobe Ehresman is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County, where her headstone says she was, 'Phoebe Ehresman, May 10, 1825-July 14, 1907, Our Aunt.'

Children of Jacob Ehresman and Elizabeth Staker include:

1. Anna Elizabeth Ehresman was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Feb. 3, 1856, and died at Elmwood, Peoria County May 13, 1933. On Oct. 30, 1870 in Tazewell County she married Eri Huxtable. He was born Jan. 9, 1854, and died at Elmwood Nov. 18, 1931, a son of George Huxtable and Anna. They are found on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Eri Huxtable, 46, born in Illinois in January 1954 to parents from 'Egland' and Germany; Anna E., 44, born in Ohio in February 1856 to parents from Germany and Pennsylvania; and two children born in Illinois.

2. Phoebe Ehresman was born at Fremont, Illinois Jan. 11, 1861, and died at Deer Creek Sept. 13, 1928. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

3. Magdalena 'Lena' Ehresman was born in Woodford County Jan. 11, 1861, and died at Normal, McLean County Aug. 7, 1924. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery as 'Lena Ehresman.'

4. Catherine 'Kate' Ehresman was born at Deer Creek Feb. 20, 1863, and died Normal Sept. 16, 1942. She was a school teacher at Normal. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek as 'Katherine Ehresman.'

5. Mary E. Ehresman was born at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 23, 1865, and died at Normal March 21, 1929. Her death entry described her mother as Elizabeth Sticker, born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Mary is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

6. Barbara Ehresman was born April 19, 1868, and died Sept. 11, 1924. She is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

The Ehresman Branch at Neuhausen

While not particularly relevant to Central Illinois, knowledge of this family was useful to sort out the Amish Mennonite Ehrismann/Ehresmann branches in America. Jakob Johannes Ehresmann was born circa 1782, a son of Jakob Ehresman and Barbara Höffli. Circa 1804 he married Barbara Fischer. She was a daughter of Jakob Fischer and Anna Maria Oesch of Hochheim.

When one of their sons married, his supporting documentation said he was from Neuhausen, the village next to Hochheim. Both villages are now neighborhoods in the city of Worms, and within walking distance of Dirmstein (touching the southwest corner of the city).

Before 1806 the area was part of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt, a state of the Holy Roman Empire. It was occupied by French troops in 1792 and again in 1801 until the end of the Napoleonic wars. On July 12, 1816 the Treaty of Vienna made it part of Canton Pfeddersheim in the region of Rheinhessen in the Grand Duchy of Hesse. In 1898 Neuhausen and Hochheim were incorporated into Worms; since then their administrative independence has been restored. In 1947 the area became part of a new German state, the Rheinisch-Pfalz.

The three children of Jakob Johannes Ehresmann and Barbara Fischer include:

1. Johann Jakob Ehresman was born at Neuhausen April 7, 1806, and died at Ross, Clinton County, Indiana Aug. 7, 1894.

2. Maria Magdalena Ehresman is thought to have been born at Pfiffligheim (adjacent to Neuhausen) circa 1809, and died at Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana Dec. 1, 1879.

3. Johannes/John Ehresman was born April 12, 1812, and died at Ross, Clinton County, Indiana Dec. 5 or 15, 1903

60 The death entry of heir daughter Barbara Francis Ehrisman stated that she was born at Viralis, Woodford County April 19, 1868; died at Deer Creek Sept. 11, 1923; and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. Her parents were described as Jacob Ehresman, born in Baden, Germany; and Elizabeth Stacker, born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

61 The Grand Duchy of Hesse lasted from 1806 to 1918.
Johann Jakob Ehresman

The first brother Johann Jakob Ehresman was born April 7, 1806, and died at Ross, Clinton County, Indiana Aug. 7, 1894. In October 1829 at Dörrmoschel he married Katharina Ehresmann. She was born Aug. 8, 1807, and died at Ross Feb. 28, 1868, a daughter of Christian Ehresmann and Elisabeth Egli.

In April 1838 at Neuhausen the family completed an application requesting emigration. They applied again in January 1840. The civil entry includes Jacob E. Ehresman, linen weaver, 32 and 33; Catharina Ehresmann, 32 in 1840; Jacobina, 7 and 8; Christian, 5 and 6; and Catharine, 3 and 4.

The brig Traub sailed from Rotterdam, and arrived at Boston Aug. 10, 1840. The passenger list includes Jacob E. Ehresman, 33, weaver, Dukedom Hesse; Catherine Ehresman, 30; Jacob [Jakobina] Ehresman, 8; and C. Ehresman, 6.

'Johann Jacob Ehresmann' filed a Letter of Intent to be Naturalized at the Hamilton Courthouse in Butler County, Ohio in the September 1844 term.

They appear on the 1850 census of Ross as farmer Jacob Ayreson, 45, Germany; Catherine, 42, Germany; Christopher, 18, Germany; Catherine, 16, Germany; Mary, 10, Ohio; and Fanny, 5, Ohio. They are found on the 1860 census of Ross as farmer Jacob Ehresman, 43, Germany; Catherine, 52, Germany; Mary, 19; Fanny, 15; and Nicholas [Corwin]. The 1870 census shows them as farmer J. Ayersman, 64, Darmstadt; Fannie, 24, Ohio; and farmhand Nick Corwin, 15, New York. At some point Jacob joined the Defenseless Mennonite Church (Egly Amish).

The 1880 census of Ross shows widower and retired farmer Jacob Ehresman, 74, born in Germany to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; and daughter Fanny Ehresman, 35, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse. Jacob and Katharina are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills.

Children of Johann Jakob/Jacob Ehresman and Katharina Ehresmann include:

1. Jakobina Ehresman was born Sept. 19, 1830, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 12, 1900. On June 10, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Pierre/Peter Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Oct. 15, 1818, and died June 14, 1890, a son of Joseph Oyer and Catherine Schrag (Catherine died when Peter was five years old, and Joseph remarried to Magdalena Litwiller; they immigrated in 1830 and resettled at Farmdale, Tazewell County in 1838. Peter and Jakobina appear on the 1860 census of Ross with four children; then on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Pike, Livingston County.

2. Christian Ehresman (also found as Christopher) was born Oct. 15, 1832, and died in Tippecanoe County, Indiana Feb. 1, 1908. On Dec. 10, 1857 at Perry, Tippecanoe County he married Marie/Mary Salzman. She was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 15, 1840, and died at Woodburn, Indiana Oct. 10, 1923, a daughter of Christian Salzman and Marie Imhof. They are found on the 1880 census of Perry as farmer Christian Ehresman, 47, born in Hesse-Darmstadt; and eight children born in Indiana. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills.

3. Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman was born at Neuhausen Nov. 16, 1834 (according to her family Bible), and died in Carroll County, Indiana May 21, 1903. On Feb. 10, 1858 at Trenton, Butler County she married Johannes Gingerich, who was known in America as 'John Gingrich.' See IMHOFF for background on this couple.

4. Mary Ehresman was born in Butler County, Ohio Nov. 21, 1840, and died at Edna Mills Dec. 20, 1891. On Nov. 8, 1863 in Clinton County she married Joseph Neyhouser/Neuhauser/Newhouser. He was born at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace June 8, 1836, and died at Edna Mills Nov. 22, 1881, a son of Pierre/Peter Neyhouser/Neuhauser and his first wife Elisabeth Geric. The 1870 census of Ross shows them as farmer Jos. Neuhouse, 33, France; Mary, 27, Ohio; and four children born in Indiana. They are buried in Edna Mills Cemetery, on land that they had donated Sept. 20, 1876.

5. Fanny Ehresman was born in Butler County, Ohio March 6, 1845, and died at Meadows, McLean County (the location of a Mennonite retirement home) April 29, 1942. She is buried in Wald Cemetery at Flanagan. On May 19, 1903 in Adams County, Indiana she became the second wife of John Schoenbeck (also found as 'Schenbeck'). He was born Jan. 22, 1837, and died Feb. 19, 1916, a son of Johannes/John Schönbeck and Katharina Oesch. His first wife had been Barbara Huser; she was born in Adams County, Indiana Nov. 1, 1846, they were married Jan. 24, 1865, and she died March 24, 1899, a daughter of Philip Huser and Verena Moser.

Maria Magdalena Ehresman

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62 His headstone in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills says, "Jacob Ehresman died Aug. 7, 1894, aged 88 yrs. & 4 ms."

Many of the references to Ross Township are given here as they were found. Ross Township was established in the northwest corner of Clinton County, Indiana in 1830; Rosseville was incorporated as a town within that township in 1870. For practical purposes the two are identical.
Maria Magdalena Ehresman is thought to have been born at Pfiffligheim (now absorbed into Worms, it was adjacent to Neuhausen) circa 1809.

In July 1834 she married Heinrich Stahli. He was born at Enkenbach near Kaiserslautern (28 miles west of Neuhausen) in February 1810, a son of Heinrich Stähli.

What might have brought someone from Enkenbach to the area of Neuhausen? As noted in NAFZIGER, Heinrich's uncle Jakob Stähli of Enkenbach (a younger brother to the older Heinrich) was a step-grandfather to Nafziger children at Hochheim. These included the young Peter Nafziger, who later became the minister called 'Apostle Peter.' Peter lived on Klostergasse ('monastery lane') at Hochheim from 1798, when he was 11 years old, until his emigration in 1826. His family farmed with the Fischers on the Liebenauerhof, a leased farm belonging to the Kloster [monastery] Liebenau. This was the family of Christian Fischer, who was a son of Benedict Fischer and a nephew of Ulrich Fischer of the Mechtlersheimerhof.

At the time of their marriage Maria Magdalena was about two months pregnant by another man. She delivered a son Johannes Jan. 16, 1835. Family tradition holds that she was widowed by a man named Johnson, but he has not been identified.

One of Heinrich Stähli 's brothers had emigrated in 1830. Heinrich and Maria made the same decision soon after marrying. Their traveling group left Kaiserslautern in August 1835 to begin the journey to North America. They sailed from Le Havre on the ship France, arriving at New York Oct. 27, 1835. The passenger list names Christian Egele [Egli], 32; Catharina [maiden name Catherine Stahli, Heinrich's sister], 25; Barbara, 4; Henry Staehele [Heinrich Stähli], 25; Magdalena, 26; John, 6 months; Jacob Staele [Heinrich's brother], 26; Christian, 15; and Barbara Staehele, 57 [their widowed mother].

It was indicated that the Eglis came from France, and the Stähli family from Bavaria (often this only meant that the most recent travel documents were obtained in those places).

They spent the first winter in Stark County, Ohio. In the spring they continued to Milton, Wayne County, Ohio, where Henry found work as a weaver. The 1840 census shows head of household 'Henry Staley' with a wife, two male children 5 or under (John and Christian), and two female children 5 or under (Barbara and Mary 'Polly').

In Ohio Heinrich became 'Henry Stahly.' Maria's first son (John' on the passenger list) took the name 'John Johnson.'

In 1846 Henry and Maria resettled in Elkhart County, Indiana, where Henry became a farmer. The 1850 census of Union shows them as farmer Henry Staley,38, Germany; Martha [Magdalena], 35, Germany; John, 15, Ohio [Germany]; Barbaray, 14, Ohio; Polly [Mary], 12, Ohio; Christian, 10, Ohio; Martha [Magdalena], 8, Ohio; Henry, 5, Ohio; and Peter, 4, Indiana. They lived next door to Henry's brothers Jacob and Christian. On the 1860 census of Union they appear as farmer Henry Staley, 50, Germany; Madalena, 50, Hesse-Darmstadt; farm laborer Christian, 20, Ohio; Madalena, 18, Ohio; Henry, 15, Ohio; Peter, 13, Indiana; Simon, 13, Indiana; and Daniel, 4, Indiana. They still lived next door to brother 'Christian Staley.'

On Dec. 6, 1874 a train from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran through Union on newly-laid tracks. On Dec. 12, Henry and two other farmers combined their land to plat a town around the site where a platform called Locke Station would be constructed. The surveyed area had only seven homes. When railroad officials objected to the name Locke, someone suggested the Indian name Napanee. This was later used for the post office, a second 'p' was added, and the town received its present name. Locke is now the next town to the north.

Until this time Amish Mennonites in the area had met in homes every second Sunday. They finally moved into an expanded schoolhouse in 1878.

Maria Magdalena Ehresman Stahly died at Nappanee Dec. 1, 1879. Herald of Truth, January 1880: "Dec. 1st, near Nappanee, Elkhart Co., Ind., Sister Magdalena Stahly, wife of Henry Stahly, at the age of 70 years. She was a

63 Christian Egli was born at Dörmoschel March 24, 1803 (according to some sources that calculate from his obituary count), but no birth entry is found there. He died at Marion, Indiana July 3, 1879. Gospel Herald, August 1789: "July 3rd, at the residence of Jonas Stineman in Miami Co., Ind., of injuries received from a fall from the cars, at Marion, Ind., on the 26th of June, Christian Egly, aged 76 months and 9 days. He was buried in the burying ground on the farm of Benjamin Hersheberger, on the 4th of July. Services by Daniel C. Miller. He was a member of the Amish Church, and was on his way to visit his grand-daughter. Peace to his ashes." Catherine Stahli/Stahly was born at Enkenbach Nov. 10, 1808, and died at Clinton Township July 5, 1893. Herald of Truth, August 1893: "On the 5th of July, 1893, in Clinton Twp., Elkhart Co., Ind., of the infirmities of old age, Catharine Egli, aged 94 years, 7 months and 25 days. She united with the Amish Mennonite denomination in her youth and remained faithful to the end. Services in German by P.Y. Lehman, from Rev. 14:13, and in English by D.J. Johns, from Rev. 20:12-15." Their family can be found on the 1850 and 1870 censuses of Clinton Township, Elkhart County (under 'Christian Eagle' and 'Christian Egeley').

64 The household of John Johnson can be found on the 1880 census of Dry Point, Shelby County, Illinois: farmer John Johnson, 45, Ohio; Matilda, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Virginia; and six children born in Illinois.
November 1921: "Henry H. Stahly, aged 76 y. 5 m. 20 d., passed away at his home east of Nappanee, Ind., on Friday
married Mary Wickey. She died in 1872. On Oct. 25, 1874 he remarried to Barbara Weber. On June 20, 1868 she married Andrew Bliele. He was born in December 1846. After her death Burkholder in German, from Job. 14: 14.
Buried at the Brick church on the 16th. Funeral services by Jas. H. McGowen in English and David Amish Mennonite denomination, and while we pay the last tribute to him we realize that his seat will be vacant in church and at home. The surviving members are one brother, five sons, one daughter, 36 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Buried at the Brick church on the 16th. Funeral services by D. Hochstetler, J.M. Christophel, Jonas Troyer and D. Brenneman, from John 5:24-28, Luke 2:29."

Children of Henry Stahly and Maria Magdalena Ehresman include:

1. Barbara Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County, Ohio Jan. 28, 1836, and died after a horse riding accident at Union (the same location became Nappanee) Feb. 13, 1869. Circa 1855 she married minister John Ringenberg. He was born in February 1827, and at Locke June 27, 1871. After her death, their six children were raised by her siblings. Herald of Truth, July 1871: "On the 27th of June, near Locke, Ind., of rheumatism and dropsy, Pre. John Ringenberg, aged 44 years and 4 months. The deceased was a minister of the gospel in the Omish Mennonite Church, of a meek and quiet spirit, and sought to promote the interest of the kingdom of Christ by his christian walk and conversation, as well as by the discharge of his ministerial duties. May our loss be his eternal gain. His wife died over two years since. Thus are left six orphan children. May the God of the fatherless bless, and protect them through the wilderness of this world. Funeral services by D. Hochstetler, J.M. Christophel, Jonas Troyer and D. Brenneman, from John 5:24-28, Luke 2:29."

2. Mary 'Polly' Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County Feb. 1, 1838, and died at Nappanee June 8, 1925. On May 24, 1857 in Elkhart County she married Tobias Yoder. He was born in Holmes County, Ohio June 29, 1832, and died in Elkhart County Jan. 20, 1892, a son of Elias Yoder and Rachel Troyer. They can be found on the 1880 census of Jefferson, Kosciusko County (just below Elkhart County) as farmer Tobias Yoder, 48, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada; Mary, 43, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; and five nieces and nephews born in Indiana. She remarried to Christian Lantz. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio Oct. 1, 1834, and died in Howard County, Indiana Nov. 6, 1919, a son of Stephen Lantz and Anna Kauffman. He was buried in the Schrock Cemetery at Plevna, Indiana. His first two wives were Barbara Eash and Anna Schrock. Gospel Herald, June 1925: "Polly Lantz, daughter of Henry and Magdalena Stahley, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 1, 1838; died at her home near Nappanee, Ind., June 8, 1925; aged 87 y 4 m. 7 d. In April, 1857, she was married to Tobias Yoder, with whom she lived until 1892, when this union was severed by the death of her husband. In November, 1897 [his obituary says October 1891], she was united in marriage to Christian Lantz of Howard Co., Ind., and this union was again severed by the death of her husband on Nov. 4, 1919. During her second marriage she returned to her husband in Howard Co., but after his death she returned to her home near Nappanee, Ind., where she remained until her death. Sister Lantz had no children of her own, but she was foster mother of six, all of whom she took to raise. They were May Ellen Reed, Mrs. Ed Pinninger, Henry Ringenberg, Mrs. Levi Schrock, Ezra Bleile, and Mrs. S. G. Moyer. She also leaves two brothers (Simon Stahley and Daniel Stahley). She united with the Mennonite Church when a young woman and remained faithful until death. Funeral was held June 10 at the North Mennonite Church in Nappanee, conducted by Ezra Mullet and Silas Yoder. Burial at the Union Cemetery near Nappanee."

3. Christian Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County April 9, 1840, and died at Nappanee Nov. 24, 1921. On Dec. 27, 1864 at Goshen, Indiana he married Mary Souder. She was born in Fulton County, Ohio Jan. 14, 1845, and died at Nappanee April 12, 1926. They are buried at Union Center Cemetery at Nappanee. Gospel Herald, December 1921: "Christian H. Stahly was born in Wayne Co., O., Apr. 9, 1840; died in Nappanee, Ind., Nov. 24, 1921; aged 81 y. 7 m. 15 d. He united with the A. M. Church in 1863, was baptized by Bishop Jonas Troyer at the Clinton Church near Goshen, Ind., and has since lived a faithful and consistent Christian life, always longing and praying for peace to reign supreme. He was united in marriage to Mary Souder of Archbold, O., Dec. 27, 1864. To this union were born 11 children. Funeral services were held Nov. 27 at Nappanee West Market Street Church by Everet Pippin (devotional), J. H. McGowen (Text, Rev. 14:13), and (closing) Daniel Wysocki."

4. Magdalena 'Martha' Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County Aug. 28, 1843, and died at Nappanee Aug. 5, 1876. On June 20, 1869 in Elkhart County she married Andrew Biele. He was born in December 1846. After her death her child was raised by her siblings. Biele later remarried and lived at Jefferson, Iowa.

5. Henry H. Stahly was born in Milton, Wayne County May 1, 1845, and died at Nappanee Oct. 21, 1921. In 1866 he married Mary Wickey. She died in 1872. On Oct. 25, 1874 he remarried to Barbara Weber. Gospel Herald, November 1921: "Henry H. Stahly, aged 76 y. 5 m. 20 d., passed away at his home east of Nappanee, Ind., on Friday
noon, Oct. 21, from a sudden attack of heart disease. He was apparently enjoying usual good health and his sudden demise is a severe shock to his family and the entire community. Bro. Stahly was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, May 1, 1845. His parents moved to Elkhart Co., Ind., when he was but one year old and has resided here all his life. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Mary Wickey. Three children were born to this union (Emanuel, Lavina Slaybaugh, and Malinda Wysong). This union was severed by the death of Sister Stahly in 1872. Bro. Stahly was again united in marriage to Barbara Weber on Oct. 25, 1874. To this union four children were born (Charles, Vernon, Mabel, who preceded him in death, and another daughter who died in infancy)... Two daughters, two brothers, and two sisters preceded him in death. Bro. Stahly was a faithful member of the W. Market St. Mennonite Church. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from the W. Market St. Church, conducted by E. S. Mullett and Silas Yoder.

Interment in the Union Center Cemetery."

6. Peter H. Stahly was born at Union Nov. 24, 1847, and died at Nappanee (the same location renamed) Nov. 26, 1915. On Nov. 12, 1872 he married Catherine Yoder. She was born at Smithville, Wayne County Aug. 29, 1846, and died in Elkhart County June 16, 1877, a daughter of Joseph Yoder and Mariah Farmvald [Vordemwald]. On Nov. 3, 1878 he remarried to Veronica 'Fannie' Yoder, a sister to his first wife. She was born Feb. 5, 1849, and died at Nappanee. They are buried in Union Center Cemetery. Gospel Herald, December 1915: "Peter H. Stahly was born Nov. 24, 1847; died Nov. 26, 1915; aged 68 y. 2 d. Born and reared on his father's farm on what is now the Northeast quarter of Nappanee, Ind. ... He united with the A. M. Church while a young man and continued as an active and consistent member until death. He will be remembered by many as an efficient visiting brother for a number of years... Nov. 12, 1872, he married Kathryn Yoder of Wayne Co., Ohio. To this union were born two children, Franklin and Ida May, wife of Geo. Hartman. This wife and both children preceded him to the spirit world. Nov. 3, 1878, he married Fannie Yoder, sister to his first wife. To this union were born four children... He located on his farm one mile north of town in the year 1876 and lived there until six years ago when he retired from active farm work and moved to his present home. Funeral was held Nov. 29 at the Nappanee West Church where Bro. J. E. Hartzler preached from Job 14:14 to a large and attentive audience."

7. Simon H. Stahly was born at Union Sept. 13, 1850, and died at Nappanee (the same location renamed) Sept. 18, 1937. In 1873 he married Jane Pearman. She was born Jan. 19, 1850, and died Jan. 1, 1880. On Feb. 27, 1881 he remarried to Elizabeth Miller. She was born in Holmes County, Ohio, Jan. 29, 1851, and died at Nappanee Aug. 17, 1946, a daughter of Eli S. Miller and Mary Kaufman. They are buried in Union Center Cemetery. Simon is found on the 1880 census of Locke as farmer Simon Stahley, 29, born in Indiana to parents from Bavaria, in the household of Jacob Mann, 29, who worked in a saw mill. Gospel Herald, November 1937: "Simon, son of Henry Stahly, was born in Nappanee, Ind., Sept. 13, 1850; died Sept. 18, 1937; aged 87 y. 5 d. The Stahly family originally came from Germany, and settled as pioneers in Nappanee. The northeastern part of Nappanee was the old Stahly farm, and the house where Simon was born is still standing in a remodeled condition. In 1873 he was married to Jane Pearman. To this union were born 2 children (Dan I. Stahly of Nappanee and Mrs. Simon Albrecht of Sycamore, Ill.). His companion passed away at the birth of the last-named child in 1879. On Feb. 27, 1881, he was married to Elizabeth Miller, who with the 2 children, 6 grandchildren, and many relatives remain to mourn the loss of a kind husband, father, and friend. He was the last surviving member of a family of nine children. In early life he united with the Mennonite Church and remained faithful to the cause until the Lord called him home. Funeral services were held Sept. 20 at the North Main St. Mennonite Church in Nappanee, conducted by Homer F. North. Burial in the Union Center Cemetery."

8. Daniel H. Stahly was born at Union March 26, 1856, and died at Nappanee (the same location renamed) April 30, 1931. He married Sarah Schmucker. They are found on the 1880 census of Locke as farmer Daniel Stahley, 23, born in Indiana to parents from Bavaria; Sara, 23, born in Indiana to parents from Indiana and Ohio; retired farmer Henry Stahley, 69, born in Bavaria to parents from Bavaria; and Noah Ringenberg, 12, born in Indiana to parents from Bavaria and Indiana.

Johannes/John Ehresman

Johannes/John Ehresman was born April 12, 1812, and died at Ross Dec. 5 or 15, 1903. He married Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresmann of Dörmmoschel, who was a younger sister to Jakob/Jacob's wife. She was born Sept. 14, 1821, and died at Edna Mills, Indiana April 9, 1880. They had their first child in Ohio in November 1840.

‘John Aresman’ signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840. It described him as a 28-year-old native of Darmstadt. They appear on the 1850 census of Ross as farmer John Ayresman, 38, Germany; Fanny, 29, Germany; Christopher, 10, Ohio; John, 8, Ohio; Jacob, 6, Ohio; and Augustus, 3, Ohio. They are found on the 1860 census of Ross as farmer John Ehresman, 49, Germany; Fanny, 39, Germany; Christian, 18, Ohio; Jacob, 16, Ohio; Augustus, 13, Ohio; Catharine, 7, Indiana; and Henry, one month, Indiana. In 1870: farmer Jno. Ayersman, 58, Darmstadt;

65 Fanny's headstone at Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery identifies her as the "frau von Johannes Ehresman" who died "9 Apr 1880 58y 6m 25d."
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Fannie, 48; Catherine, 17; and Henry, 9. In 1880 widower John Ehresman is at Ross in the house next to his brother as an 86-year-old father-in-law [he was 68] in the household of farmer Christian Garver [Gerber], 31, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; Catherine, 27, born in Indiana to parents from Hesse, and Jesse, 1, born in Indiana.

John Ehresman appears on the 1900 census of Ross as an 88-year-old German retired farmer in the household of Christian Gerber and his second wife Josephine Zimmerman. His birth date is given as April 1812. No year of immigration is stated.

Johannes/John Ehresman and Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresmann are buried in Peters Mennonite Cemetery in Ross Township. They had eight children; three died before 1913.

1. Christian E. Ehresman was born in Ohio Nov. 21, 1840, and died Aug. 29, 1911. He married Mary Imhoff. She was born at Madison, Butler County Jan. 27, 1845, and died at Edna Mills Nov. 21, 1922, a daughter of minister Peter Imhof/Imhoff and Catherine Augspurger. The 1870 census of Madison shows farmer Christian Ehersman, 29, Ohio; Mary, 25, Ohio; Catharine, 2, Ohio; Peter, 1, Ohio; and farm laborer Augustus Ehersman, 21, Ohio [his younger brother]. The two also appear as next door neighbors on the 1880 census of Lemon, Butler County: Chris. Ehresman, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary, 34, born in Ohio to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Ohio; Catherine, 12, Ohio; Emma, 9, Ohio; and Fanny, 3, Ohio. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills.

2. John Ehresman was born in Ohio circa 1842.

3. Jacob B. Ehresman was born in Ohio April 27, 1844, and died at San Dimas, California June 9, 1927. On Aug. 27, 1864 in Clinton County he married Elizabeth Blickenstaff. She was born in Indiana Sept. 5, 1844, and died at San Dimas May 17, 1813, a daughter of Joseph Blickenstaff and Hannah Ulrey. The 1880 census of Ross shows his household as farmer Jacob B. Ehresman, 35, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; Elizabeth, 35, born in Indiana to parents from Ohio; and five children born in Indiana. In 1901 they relocated to Lordsburg (now LaVerne) and San Dimas, California, where they worshipped at the Church of the Brethren at Lordsburg and owned San Dimas Livery. They are buried in Laverne Cemetery.

4. Augustus Ehresman was born in Ohio 1847, and died in 1929. He married Catherine 'Katie' Imhoff, who was born at Madison, Butler County in 1851, and died in 1928, a daughter of minister Peter Imhof/Imhoff and Catherine Augspurger. They farmed at 6331 Sycamore Road, Trenton and at Lemon, Butler County. The 1880 census of Lemon shows them next door to Christian/Christopher Ehresman and Mary Imhoff: August Ehresman, 32, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse; Catherine, 29, born in Ohio to a father from Hesse and a mother from Ohio; Theo, 6, Ohio; and Simon, 3, Ohio. They retired to a home at 107 North Second Street, Trenton. That address was only a few doors from the address of his cousins Bertha and Emelie, and only a street removed from cousin Otto (more on them a little later).

5. Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman was born at Ross Aug. 4, 1853, and died Jan. 26, 1892. On Feb. 18, 1873 in Clinton County she married minister-farmer Christian Gerber. He was born in Butler County, Ohio April 21, 1847, and died at Edna Mills March 10, 1931, a son of Christian Gerber and Ann Roth. Christian grew up at Elm Grove. He became a minister in the Defenseless Mennonite Church, and was 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.” On July 23, 1893 in Tippecanoe County he remarried to Josephine Zimmerman. She was born in Germany in September 1853, and died at Edna Mills March 9, 1931, a daughter of John Zimmerman and May Slegel. The 1900 census of Ross shows Christian Gerber, born in Ohio in April 1847; Josephine, born in Germany in September 1853; and two children born in Indiana. Susan Yost Clawson found the circumstances of their coincidental deaths: their obituaries say that within 13 hours she died of "an attack of heart trouble," and he died of pneumonia. They are buried in Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery.

6. Henry Ehresman was born at Ross in 1860, and died in Butler County, Ohio Sept. 28, 1878.

Bureau and McLean Counties

As noted earlier, the genealogy of the Ehresman family of Montgomery, Woodford County was largely neglected over the years. It was difficult to track the later lives of Christian's many children, where the spelling of their surname took so many forms.

In some instances we found their information entangled with two nearby families from Waldeck and Hesse that had Amish Mennonite backgrounds. Our research on these families was limited. Mennoniten records for Waldeck and Hesse are scarce.

There is an obvious connection (via the Stähli family) between the family in Bureau County and the family at Neuhausen.

66 Other near-neighbors at Lemon included minister Peter Schrock, 70, and his second wife Magdalena Rediger, 50; and Christian A. Augspurger, 43, his wife Catherine Schertz, 40, and his mother-in-law Catherine Schertz, 76.
In *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Hermann Guth briefly mentions Christian Ehrismann. In 1744 Christian co-leased an estate at Ludwigseck, Wittgenstein with Amish Mennonite minister David Eckhardt. He remained there from 1745 to 1753.

Guth links Christian with a probable son who lived at the hamlet Gershäusen in Hesse. It was located below Braunau, Hesse; it is now part of that community. They are situated in the valley of the Eder river [Ger. *Edertal*], which now surrounds the Edersee reservoir.67

**Johannes Ehrismann** died at Gershäusen Jan. 6, 1810.68 He had been the leaseholder [Ger. *Conduktor*] on the Gershäusen Hof. His widow died there in 1814. Other families at Gershäusen in this time frame included Schwarzentuber, Jüngerich [Güngerich], Schlabach, and Kempf.

Johannes and his wife were the probable parents of Johannes Ehrismann. According to Helmut Gingerich, he was born circa 1783.

He married Marie Jüngerich. She was a daughter of Peter Jüngerich and Katharina Schwarzentuber, who became co-leaseholders of the Gershäusen Hof after 1810.

Johannes and Marie lived at the Gershäusen Mühle [mill]. Johannes's father-in-law Peter Jüngerich and Peter Schlabach both filed for bankruptcy on the Gershäusen Hof in 1821. This may have played a part in the Ehrismanns' move to Schrecksbach at about this time.

Schrecksbach is 22 miles southeast of Gershäusen. The river Schwalm runs alongside the tiny village, and Johannes may have continued to work as a miller there.

Johannes Ehrismann and Marie Jüngerich may have been the parents of Peter Ehrismann. He was born Jan. 21, 1804.

Peter married Magdalena Stähly. She was born on the Obertraisa estate at Fränkisch Crumbach, Hesse Sept. 7, 1806. She was a daughter of Jakob Stähly (born at Enkenbach, the same person who was involved with the Naffziger family of Hochheim) and his second wife Elisabeth Brenneman. She was also a cousin to Heinrich Stähly-Henry Stahlly, who married Maria Magdalena Ehresman of the Neuhausen family.

**STÄHLI/STÄHLY/STAHLY**

The earliest mention we found of the surname 'Stühli' was at Hilterfingen on Lake Thun in Bern, where several families lived in the early 1500s. Kasper Stühli and Anabaptist Magdalena Schedeberger sold their farm at Sigriswil (three miles down shore from Hilterfingen) in 1713. By 1718 they were farming at Trippstadt, below Kaiserslautern in the Pfalz. In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, J. Virgil Miller draws a direct line of descent from Kasper and Magdalena to the Stähli family at Enkenbach.

Magdalena's father Jakob Stähly [Stähli] was born at Enkenbach in the Pfalz July 25, 1752, and died on the Obertraisa estate at Fränkisch-Crumbach July 26, 1822. He first married Elisabeth, the widow of Johannes Spring. This made him step-grandfather to the children described in NAFZIGER. He later remarried to the much younger Elisabeth Brenneman. She was born Dec. 9, 1776, and died on the Albacherhof May 3, 1851, a daughter of Nikolaus Brenneman and his second wife Magdalena Unzicker. They may have assumed the lease at Obertraisa, where they had five children 1805-15.

Magdalena's older sister Barbara was born in 1805, and died in 1898. She married Johann Christian Nafziger. He was born at Uberau, Hesse in 1803, and died at Danvers March 8, 1893, a son of Peter Nafziger and Jakobina Fischer (a daughter of Christian Fischer of the Liebenauerhof at Hochheim). They sailed from Le Havre on the *Empire*, arriving at New York Nov. 19, 1853. The passenger list shows them as Christian Nafziger, 50, Barbara, 48, and eight children traveling from Hesse to New York. The 1880 census has them as Christian Naufziger, 76, Hesse-Darmstadt; and Barbara, 74, Hesse-Darmstadt. **Herald of Truth**, April 1893: "On the 8th of March, 1893, near Danvers, Ill., Christian Nafziger, 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."
Magdalena's younger brother Peter was born circa 1812. He married Catherine Gingerich. She was born Feb. 12, 1813, and died in December 1892, a daughter of John P. Gingerich (as he was known in Iowa) and Fredricka Schlabach.

Peter and Magdalena sailed from Bremen on the Janet Ridston and arrived at New York June 24, 1852.69 The passenger lists describes them as Peter Erisman, 48; Magdalena, 46; Catrin [Katharina], 17; Jacob, 16; Elisabeth, 14; Anna, 14 [we cannot account for her after this voyage]; Frederick [Fredricka], 12 [mistakenly indicated to be a male]; Elen [Helen], 9; Christiana, 7 [mistakenly indicated to be a female]; Wm. Erisman, 5; and Maria, 3.

Magdalena's younger brother and his family sailed with them: Peter Stahl, 38; Cath., 37; Elisabeth, 10; Mglin, 7; and Wm., 5.

Both families settled in Bureau County. Peter Ehrismann and Magdalena Stähly lived at Bureau. Bureau Township was also known as 'Bureau Junction,' because it had a railroad switching yard. From this point forward Peter's surname is usually found as 'Erismann' but occasionally 'Erisman'.

Their household appears on the 1860 census of Bureau as farmer Peter Erisman, 56, Germany; Helena [Hessian immigrants saw this as a short form of Magdalena], 54, Germany; Jacob, 24, Germany; Frederica, 20, Germany; Christian, 16, Germany; and William, 13, Germany. Peter Erismann of 'Bureau Princeton' appears on an excise tax list in 1865, owing $5 on income of $825. The 1870 census of Bureau shows Peter, 54, and Hellen, 61, living in the household of son and farmer Wm. Erisman, 23, Germany. Others in the household include Fredrica Naffziger, 39, Germany [daughter Fredricka]; Ellen Erisman, age illegible, Germany [daughter Helen]; C., 25 [Christian Nafziger, Frederick's husband?]; Marie Naffziger, 5, Illinois; Bertha, 3, Illinois; and Edmund or Edward, 1, Illinois.

The household of Magdalena's younger brother can be found on the 1860 census of Dover, Bureau County: farmer Peter Staley, 48, Darmstadt; Catharine, 48, Darmstadt; Helena, 15, Darmstadt; and William, 13, Darmstadt.

Peter Ehrismann died before 1880. As a widow, Magdalena is found on the 1880 census of Bureau: Magdalena Erismann, 73, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to German parents; Kate, 45, born in Germany to German parents; William, 33, born in Kurhessen to a father from Kurhessen and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary, 31, born in Kurhessen to a father from Kurhessen and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; and farm laborer Thomas Grubb, 20, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania. Their next door neighbors included John Schwarzentraub, 59, born in Hesse-Darmstadt and his family; J.E. Schwarzentraub, 26, and his wife Emma; John Naffziger, 54, and his family; Nicholas P. Roggy, 30, and his family; and Joseph Engle [Engel], 75, and his wife Kate.70

The children of Peter and Magdalena were all born in Germany. The third child, Elisabeth/Elise/Eliza, is known to have been born at Schrecksbach, Hesse. Several census reports gave their birth place as the state of Kurhessen, which would be consistent with Schrecksbach. They include:

1. Katharina 'Kate' appears on the Janet Ridston passenger list and the 1880 census of Bureau as someone born circa 1835. She was living at Princeton in 1911, when she was mentioned in Fredricka's will as a sister.
2. Jacob Erismann was born March 31, 1836. On June 23, 1869 in Tazewell County he married Anne/Anna Jantzi. She was born at Macheren, Moselle June 25, 1844, and died at Hickman, Nebraska Dec. 28, 1928, a daughter of Michel Jantzi and his second wife Catherine Nafziger. In 1867 Jacob was listed as a qualified voter in Brownsville District, Nemaha County, Nebraska. In 1900 and 1911 he was living at Hickman.
3. Elisabeth/Elise/Eliza Erismann was born at Schrecksbach January or June 23, 1838, and died before 1911. On June 5, 1858 in McLean County she married Joseph Brenneman. He was born at Turtle Creek, Ohio May 7, 1833, and died July 9, 1914, a son of Daniel Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi. They can be found on the 1860 census of Boynton living next door to his parents: Jos. Brenneman, 26, Ohio; Eliza, 22, Germany; and Adelia, 1, Illinois. They sold their farm in Tazewell County in 1883, and then farmed at Lincoln, Nebraska; Hubbell, Nebraska; and finally Republic County, Kansas.
4. Anna Erisman appears as a 14-year-old (like her sister Elisabeth) on the Janet Ridston passenger list.

69 The same voyage brought Daniel Schwarzentraub, who later lived at Morton (see SCHWARZENTRAUB). Another name on the list is Daniel Gingerich, age 20. This may be the individual who appears on the 1880 census of El Paso, Woodford County as saloon keeper Dan Gingerich, 48, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt.
70 This was the Johannes/John Schwarzentraub born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1820, who lived at Turtle Creek, Ohio for many years. He is mentioned in SCHWARZENTRAUB. Joseph Engel and his wife Catherine 'Kate' Roggy can be found in ENGEL; Nicholas P. Roggy was Catherine's nephew. John Naffziger, 54, was Johannes Nafziger, who was born on the Illbacherhof estate at Reinheim March 25, 1826, and died in 1899, a son of Valentin Naafziger and Elisabeth Imhof. He immigrated in 1849. John's wife Eliza, 53, was Elise Bender. She was born on the Schmitthof in Hesse-Darmstadt Sept. 26, 1826, came to America on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832, and died Nov. 9, 1908, a daughter of Johannes Bender and Marie Brenneman (see BRENNEMAN).
4. Fredricka/Fredericka Erismann was born circa 1840, and died at Princeton, Bureau County in March 1911. On Feb. 7, 1864 in McLean County she married Christian Naffziger. Her household is found on the 1880 census of Princeton as Fredricka Naffziger, 40, born in Prussia to Prussian parents; and daughter Minnie, 15, born in Illinois to Prussian parents. Her will said that all three of her children had died before 1911. At the time of her death she owned land in Livingston and McLeans Counties as well as her home at Princeton.

5. Helen Erismann was born circa 1843. She married August Nafziger, who was born circa 1838. The 1880 census of 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. They appear on the 1910 census of Albion, Republic County, Kansas as August Nafziger, 73, Germany; Helen, 67, Germany; and three grown children born in Illinois. August reported that he had come to America in 1855, and Helen in 1852. Fredricka's 1911 will said that her sister Helen was living at Narka, Republic County, Kansas.

6. Christian August Erismann was born Aug. 16, 1844, and died before 1911. In 1877 he was listed in The Voters and Taxpayers of Bureau County, Illinois as the renter of 240 acres in Section 10, Princeton. He married Helen Shettler [Schöttler]. They are found on the 1880 census of Saltillo, Lancaster County, Nebraska as C.A. Erismann, 35, Germany; Helen, 21, Illinois; and Wm. Stailey, 32, boarder-farmer from Germany. C.A. Erismann appears in the 1890 Nebraska State Gazetteer business directory as a farmer-resident of Hickman (six miles below Saltillo).

7. Wilhelm/William Erismann was born circa 1847. In 1877 he was listed as a co-renter with his brother Christian August in The Voters and Taxpayers of Bureau County, Illinois.

8. Marie/Mary Erismann was born circa 1849.

We assume that the Erismans in McLean County were related to the Erismanns in Bureau County.

**Johannes Ehresmann** was born in Europe circa 1789. As a widower, he sailed from Bremen on the brig *Venus*, and arrived at New York Oct. 31, 1838. The passenger list has entries for Joh. Ehresmann, 48, and Christian Ehresmann, 18. They were described as farmers from Hesse. Their destination was stated to be Hamilton. This may have been either of two locations: the county seat of Butler County, Ohio, or the county below it, where Cincinnati is located.

Johannes Ehresmann died at Overpeck in Butler County May 6, 1851. According to Neil Ann Stuckey Levine *Transplanted German Farmer*, the diary of Christian Iutzi has an entry for May 7: "Laid our friend John Ehresmann to rest." He is buried as Johannes Erismann in Hickory Flat Cemetery at Overpeck. The age on the headstone is obscured, but appears to be 62 years.

His son **Christian Ehresmann/Erisman** has been described as someone born at Edertal, Waldeck Nov. 14, 1819. The Edertal is the valley that now surrounds the eastern end of the Edersee reservoir; encompassing Braunau. This is the basis for our assumption that he and his father were in some way related to the Gershäusern Ehresmann family whose descendants lived in Bureau County.

On Oct. 21, 1855 at Danvers, McLean County he married Barbara Donner. She was born in Butler County, Ohio March 13, 1833, and died June 3, 1912. She was a daughter of Peter Donner and Barbara Naffziger (sister to minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger). Peter Donner and Barbara Naffziger may be recalled from Part One as passengers on the *Nimrod*. That ship sailed from Amsterdam to New York in 1826. Their party was coordinated by second cousin Christian Nafziger, who brought them to settle at Wilmot, Ontario.

Christian died at Allin, McLean County March 14, 1870. The 1870 census of Allin shows his widow Barbary Ayersman, 35, Illinois; Rinehart, 14, at school, Illinois; John, 13, at school, Illinois; Henry, 11, Illinois; Elizabeth, 6, Illinois; Kate, 4, Illinois; Christian, 2, Illinois; and Barbary Donner [Barbara Naffziger Donner], 67, "lives at Ayersmans." (In 1867 Mosquito Grove became Allin. Stanford was a railroad stop at Allin. One would now say that Stanford is a town within Allin Township, on the west side of McLean County bordering Tazewell County).

On Aug. 30, 1872 at Stanford Barbara remarried to Jacob Erismann. He was born at Wetzlar, Hesse (10 miles west of Giessen, 50 miles below Edertal) May 26, 1828, and died Sept. 14, 1898. He may have been the 'Jacob Erismann' who appears on the 1852 *Janet Ridston* passenger list near the family of Barbara's brother-in-law Peter Ehrismann and his wife Magdalena Stähly. There his age, 29, was obviously altered with a superimposed number to become 24. He had traveled with Barbara, 29, and Wm., 9.

Their blended household appears on the 1880 census of Allin as farmer Jacob Erismann, 52, born in Germany; Barbra, 43, born in Ohio to German parents; stepson Henry, 19, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Germany; daughter Elizabeth, 16, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Germany; daughter Catharine, 14, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Germany; and son Christian, 12, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Germany.

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 Erismann are all buried in Brooks Grove Cemetery at Stanford.
Children of Christian Ehrismann/Erisman and Barbara Donner born at Stanford include:

1. Rhinehart Erisman was born in January 1857, and died at Delhi, Indiana Dec. 5, 1921. He appears on the 1880 census of Allin as Rineheart Erisman, a 22-year-old laborer on the farm of Christian Leitfritz. On Dec. 28, 1892 at Dawson, Nebraska he married Marcella May Bennett. She was born at Delhi, Iowa Oct. 3, 1874, and died there Dec. 7, 1921. Rhinehart was one of the initial organizers of Delhi Lodge No. 94, Modern Brotherhood of America (Odd Fellows), established at Delhi Oct. 13, 1897.


3. Henry Erisman was born July 6, 1860, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Jan. 24, 1948. He was living with his mother on the 1900 census of Allin, which states that he was born in Illinois in July 1860. His household appears on the 1930 census of Bloomington as Henry Erisman, 69, born in Illinois, described as a janitor in a bakery; and his wife Ida Mae, 60, born in Illinois to parents from Virginia and Indiana.

4. Barbara Erisman was born in 1863, and died at Stanford the same year. She is buried in Brooks Grove Cemetery at Stanford.


6. Katharina 'Katie' Erisman was born Nov. 22, 1865, and died at Gothenburg, Nebraska Jan. 28, 1934. On Jan. 27, 1887 at Stanford she married Daniel Gingerich. He was born at Danvers Dec. 27, 1862, and died at Gothenburg April 26, 1922. He was a son of Maria Katharina Güngerich/Mary Gingerich and an unidentified father. After Daniel's mother married Jacob Nafziger at Danvers in 1868, Daniel became his stepson but kept the surname Gingerich. Daniel ran a harness shop at Gothenburg after 1890.

7. Christian Erisman was born Dec. 19, 1867, and died at Stanford Oct. 16, 1898. He is buried in Brooks Grove Cemetery.
Hochstettler: Hostetler of Winterkraut

Peter Hochstettler was a member of the Dillon Creek meeting until he left Pleasant Grove to become a minister and elder of the Egly Amish Church. The Egly Amish Church became the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland, and later the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland. Historically, he bridged the immigrant generations and the generation that has just passed away (our great-aunt Ethel Marie Staker, born in 1913, recalled Peter as the retired elder of her church and her Sunday school teacher).

Hostetler/Hochstettler 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 an orchard near a house is called a Hostatt, pronounced ‘hostet.’ Hostet is also the German word for ‘hosts.’ As in many of the other families in this genealogy, the surname took on other forms when it was removed from its original location and its original meaning was no longer known. The form Hochstettler appears later, and describes someone who comes from a high place.

Jacob Hostetler/Hostettler was born at Winterkraut. This hamlet is 20 miles south of the city of Bern. It was within the community boundaries of Guggisberg until 1860; it is now within the community boundaries of Rüschegg.

In the 1600s the nearest Protestant Reformed church to Winterkraut was at Wahleren, a village less than four miles to the west. From the church at Wahleren one could walk four miles north to find a hamlet called Hostetten within the community boundaries of Ueberstorf. Four miles to the south there is also a hamlet called Hostetten within the community boundaries of Guggisberg. These hamlets originated around the 14th century as farms called Hostet.

Only three Hostetler/Hostettler families had Jacobs baptized at Wahleren between 1640 and 1680:

- Jacob Hostetler was baptized at Wahleren Feb. 7, 1669. His parents were Ulrich Hostettler and Anna Beyeler. They also had Hans, baptized Aug. 31, 1651; Ulrich, baptized May 25, 1654; Elis, baptized in March of 1662; Christ, baptized April 23, 1665; and Michel, baptized Feb. 11, 1672.
- Jacob Hostetler was baptized at Wahleren May 15, 1670. His parents were Hans/Hannys Hostettler and Barbli/Barbara Marti, and witnesses included Peter Hostettler and Elsbeth Hostettler. They also had Hans baptized Feb. 20, 1653; Anna, baptized Oct. 8, 1662; Barbara, baptized May 22, 1667; and Bendicht, baptized Dec. 23, 1674.
- Jacob Hostetler was baptized at Wahleren Oct. 15, 1671. His parents were Christ Hostettler and Maria Roli, and witnesses included Christ Hostettler and Hannys Hostettler. They also had Ulrich, baptized in 1659.

Censuses of Anabaptist heads-of-households and unattached adults at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines show Jacob, but also show other Hostetler/Hostettlers as well:

- 1697 Jaqui Hochstettler, Christen Hochstettler, and Hans Hochstettler fils [junior]
- 1703 Jacob Hostettler, Christen Hostettler, and Hans Hostettler
- 1704 Jacob Hostettler, Christen Hostettler, and Hans Hostettler
- 1708 Jacob Hochstettler, Christen Hochstettler, Hans Hochstettler père et fils [father and son], and Peter Hochstettler

THE FAMILY FROM NYDEGG, WAHLERN

Other documents describe Christ/Christen/Christian (married to Marguerite Gerber) and Hans (married to Elsbeth Farni/Elisabeth Farney) of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines as brothers, with a father named Hans.

If we assume that the sons were baptized at Wahleren, the parents could only have been Hans or Hannys Hochettler and Anna Marti. They were married at Guggisberg Oct. 15, 1658. Their son Hans was baptized at Wahleren July 20, 1662, and son Christ was baptized at Wahleren Jan. 10, 1669.

In 1713 the brothers were were living in the hamlet sur Cité at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines; their father was living at Fertrupt.

...
According to J. Virgil Miller in *Both Sides of the Ocean*, they are thought to have come from Nydegg. This hamlet was within Wahlern, four miles northwest of Winterkraut. It would now be described as a road in Schwarzenburg.

Financial documents indicated that ‘Christe’ and his father sold possessions July 23, 1712. Their names also appear on a document involving transport created March 6, 1713. Nine days later the name Hans Hochstedler le jeun [the younger] appeared on a similar document.

In 1715 ‘Hans Hochstettler’ was living at Clairegoutte, 87 miles southwest of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and 20 miles west of Belfort (now in the department of Haute-Saône). ‘Christ Hochstettler’ was living at adjacent Étobon. They were both living at Clairegoutte in 1723.

Hans or Hannys Hostettler and Anna Marti had other children baptized at Wahlern: Babi in 1660; Christina Oct. 7, 1666; Diehli March 12, 1671; Margreth Sept. 20, 1674; and Bendicht Oct. 9, 1677. Father Hans or Hannys may have remarried to Elisabeth Scheler; they had sons named Peter baptized at Wahlern Feb. 23, 1679 and Nov. 7, 1680. Both entries call the father Hannys Hostettler. The child born in 1680 may account for the Peter on the 1708 Anabaptist census of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

On July 3, 1707 Jacob rented property at La Petite Lièpvre (two miles southwest of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, now within its community boundaries). In 1709 he was living in the hamlet Echery, between Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and La Petite Lièpvre.

According to a census found by Erwin Hochstättler, in 1711 he purchased a shelter for 900 livres next to Jacob Amman in the lower hamlet La Petite Lièpvre. In 1712 a property inventory report said he owned a house, eight cows, four calves, three goats, and a pig. It also showed his next-door neighbors as Amy Jacquy [Jacob Amman] living in the home of his nephew Hans Volff [Hans Wolff]. Financial records indicate that he sold his house in October of 1712.

A document involving transport created Oct. 25, 1713 names Jaqui Amen [Jacob Amman], Samuel Cotte [Condi], Jean [Hans] König, and Jacqui Hochstedler.

In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, author J. Virgil Miller wrote that Jacob was living at La Cense du Prey du Raue in 1714. If so, he had not traveled far. From La Petite Lièpvre he had only to go north to Echery, then southeast on a path that would have taken him to Prey du Raue in the small valley Rauenthal. This would have put him over a mountain, but only a few miles removed from his last home. The valley is even within the present boundaries of the municipality of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

Despite the expulsion orders, a handful of Amish Mennonite families were permitted to remain at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. A letter of recommendation [Fr. certificat de attestation] was signed by a representative of Christian III and the mayor of Echery Nov. 8, 1715 for 'honest Niclaus Blank' [Fr. original honneste Nicola Blanc; this was a son of minister and elder Niclaus/Nigi Blank], his brothers Michel and Pierre, their brother-in-law Henry Hyser [Heinrich Hüser], brothers Christe and Anthony Kropf, David Chertzer [Schörtz and later Schertz], and Michel Mourer [Maurer], 'all of the Anabaptist religion.' They were obligated to leave the kingdom [Fr. Ils sont obligé de se retirer hors du Royaume]. It attested to the quality of their 'conduct, life, and manners' over 'many years they have lived in this vicinity.' All of those listed except Peter Blank are found on a list of Anabaptists created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732.

It is thought that Jacob returned to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1718. On June 6, 1719 a letter was written to Christian III asserting that those who had remained after 1713 had been unaware that they were supposed to pay a protection tax [Ger. Schutzgeld]. They asked that six years of requested fees be reduced to three years, since some of the present residents had been away at least part of the time. It was signed by minister and elder Niclaus/Nigi Blank and others including Jacob. By then the number of families had more than doubled as older sons married.

A court document from Thun, Canton Bern dated March 6, 1720 described ‘Jacob Hofstetter’ as a Taüfer Lehrer – an Anabaptist teacher. It stated that he was born at Winterkraut near Guggisberg, and had been living at Maria-Kirch [Markirch or Ste. Marie-aux-Mines]. He had returned to Canton Bern, where he was arrested. He told authorities that he was trying to help Anabaptist women attempting to leave the canton. After paying the cost of his detention, and promising not to return, he was released from prison. On Sept. 11, 1720 a number of women and children from the Lake Thun area were permitted to depart, presumably heading toward Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

Some sources have taken the expression Taüfer Lehrer a step farther and assumed Jacob was a minister. The expression may only have meant that on the trip to Canton Bern he proselytized Anabaptism, which was expressly prohibited by law.

Amish Mennonites were traditionally reluctant to swear to any oath that might have later ramifications – such as demonstrating that they had exercised the rights of a citizen, and thus obligating them to be eligible for military conscription. In this instance Jacob would not have been released without signing a legal document called a Hafturfehde or Urfehde. This was the promise of a released prisoner not to re-enter the land from which he had been expelled, and not to seek revenge on its inhabitants, under penalty of death.
A notarial record from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines states that ‘Jacqui Hochstedler’ had been a resident of La Petite Lièvre, and had borrowed 600 livres on March 12, 1713. This was the same week the Hostetter/Hostettlers from Nydegg had made arrangements to depart. On Feb. 10, 1720 Jacob repaid 600 livres to either minister and elder Niclaus/Nigi Blank (born in 1646) or his son of the same name (born in 1681).

This is the last evidence of Jacob’s life, and it has been assumed that he died shortly afterward – though there is no particular reason to believe this. In 1721 he would have been approximately 51 years of age. He was gone from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines by 1723, but may still have been living ‘just over the mountain.’

All Hostetter/Hostettlers were gone from the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines before a 1732 census.

Jacob’s wife could not be identified with certainty. There are two reasonable suspects:

1. Jacob had a son Peter. A Peter Hostettler was baptized at Währern Feb. 7, 1697. That baptism entry names the parents as Jacob Hostettler and Christina Küntzi. No further mention of this couple is found at Währern; and this was the year that Jacob first appears on a Ste. Marie-aux-Mines census. Another son Jacob went to America. When he arrived, the name immediately following his on the passenger list was ‘Abraham Kunzigh’ [Künzti], who was 24 years of age.
2. A church entry for the marriage of Jacob Hostettler and Verena Zand was created at Währern Feb. 7, 1697; approximately 19 years later one of the children born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines was named Verena.

Children of Jacob Hostettler/Hostettler and either Christina or Verena include:

1. Peter Hostettler. As noted, he may have been baptized at Währern Feb. 7, 1697. In 1730 a ‘Pierre Hochstette’ migrated from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to Breisach am Rhein, Baden. A list of the possessions he transported was found in a tax report calling him ‘Pierre Hochstette.’ The Rue de Ste. Marie-aux-Mines leads in the general direction of the Rhine River and Breisach am Rhein on the opposite shore. Along the 35-mile route lay a number of locations later identified with Amish Mennonite families including Ribeauvillé [Ger. Rappoltsweiler], Osheim, Bennwihr [Ger. Bennweier], Sigolsheim, Colmar, Andolsheim, Volgelsheim, and Kunheim.
2. Elisabeth Hostettler was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1706. She married Michael/Michel Blank. He was baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687, and died near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 24, 1755, a son of minister and elder Niclaus/Nigi Blank and Barbara Im Hoof. He came to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines before 1697.
3. Jacob Hostettler was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (one family source says Echery) circa 1712, and died at Bernville, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in February of 1776.
4. Johannes Hostettler/Hochstättler/Hochstettler was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1710 or 1714, and died before 1769.
5. Verena Hostettler was born circa 1716 (in a period when her parents were living away from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines), and died single, at the age of 25, at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 20, 1741, after an illness of 14 weeks. Her death entry identifies her as ‘Vrena Hochstettlerin,’ and mentions that she had been living with brother-in-law Michel Blank. She was buried at Furtrupp [Ger. Forbach] near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

Jacob Hostettler

The details in the following information should be taken with a grain of salt. Jacob Hostettler resources disagree on almost every biographical point. Only the general story of the Pennsylvania settler is consistent.

Jacob Hostettler was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1712, and died at Bernville, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in February 1776.

In 1738 Jacob, his wife, and their children emigrated from Europe on the Charming Nancy. The Charming Nancy had been registered by the Stedman family in 1736. The voyage was captained by the ship’s co-owner Charles Stedman. He had a contract with Amsterdam port authorities. Each year no competitor could load passengers for North America until the Stedmans had loaded 2,000 on their ships. This arrangement existed until 1755.

73 When The Descendants of Jacob Hochstetter, the Immigrant of 1736 was published by descendant Harvey Hochstetter in 1912, he incorrectly believed that the Amish Mennonite Jacob had arrived at Philadelphia on the Harle Sept. 1, 1736. A number of false assumptions sprang from this. There was also confusion over land warrants and ages.

The Jacob Hochstetter/Hochstadter/Hofstedter who arrived on the Harle was not Amish Mennonite. He was born July 25, 1701, and died in Lancaster County circa 1750. He married and was accompanied on the Harle by Maria Eva Trautmann. They appear on the Harle passenger list as ‘Jocob Hochstetter, 32’ and ‘M Eva Hochstetterin, 28.’ Another Harle passenger was ‘Johannes Lorents, 32,’ the cause of a misassumption that our Jacob’s wife was a Lorentz. ‘Jacob Hoofstetter’ warranted 200 acres at ‘Middle Muddy Creek’ June 15, 1738. The Harle couple later belonged to the Muddy Creek Church, a Lutheran and Reformed congregation at Cocalico Township, Lancaster County.
Jacob was following the example of Amish Mennonites who had sailed on the ship a year earlier. A group had departed from Rotterdam, but stopped at London before continuing and arriving at Philadelphia Oct. 8, 1737. Among them were Jacob Beiler [Beýeler] and Jacob Mast, who are thought to have come from the area of Wahlern; and Christian Burki, who would be a neighbor to Jacob.74

The 1738 voyage was captained by the ship’s co-owner Charles Stedman. The Stedman family had a contract with Amsterdam port authorities. Each year until 1755 no competitor could load passengers for North America until they had loaded 2,000.

The Charming Nancy sailed from Rotterdam via the tax station at Cowes and arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 9, 1738. The passenger list shows only males over 16 years of age, describing ‘Jacob Hostedler, 26.’ Lists were created at the city hall that day for the customary loyalty oaths and oaths of abjuration required of colonial immigrants under English law. They described him as ‘Jacob Howstetter’ and ‘Jacob Hochstadler’; both lists indicate he signed with an ‘x’.

The name listed immediately following Jacob’s was ‘Abraham Kunzigh’ [Kûntzi], who was 24 years of age. He appears on the secondary documents as Hunter Zincie and Abraham Kuntzy; both lists say he signed with an ‘x’.

On Oct. 25, 1739 ‘Jacob Hoosheeteler’ obtained a warrant for 100 acres in ‘Tulpehocken Twp. on the North Kill’ (later in Upper Bern, now about two miles northwest of Shartlesville near Reading, Berks County). At the time the land was in Lancaster County, and the warrant was registered as Number 214 on page 90 of their register. It was on the extreme western edge of the American frontier. Recall from KING that not until Aug. 22, 1749 did William Penn's sons Thomas and Richard Penn pay combined tribes 500 pounds for additional land north of Blue Mountain. An additional 25 acres at ‘Bern Township on the Northkill’ was warranted by ‘Jacob Hostedler’ May 8, 1747; then, an additional 50 acres in West Penn Township was warranted Jan. 30, 1755 (entries after April 14, 1752 are found in the Berks County register).75

The French and Indian War began out of a series of small escalations in 1754. Generally speaking, there were initially more than two million British colonists in North America; they opposed only 60,000 French colonists and their Native American allies. But the situation became much more complicated as many Native American nations allied with the English. The fighting eventually reached from Virginia to Newfoundland.

The first battle was considered to have been the Battle of Jumonville Glen in Fayette County, Pennsylvania May 28, 1754. It concerned the right to settle near what is now Pittsburgh. The victor was Lieutenant Colonel George Washington of the Virginia militia, though he was forced to surrender a short time later.

Grown children John and Barbara had married and lived nearby when Jacob’s home was surrounded by 10 Delaware Indians and three French scouts Sept. 19, 1757. Son Jacob answered a knock at the door, and was shot in the leg before slamming it shut.

The family waited out the attack overnight in the root cellar, though guns and ammunition were on hand. But in the early morning the cabin was set afire. Jacob’s wife and two of their children were killed and scalped. Father Jacob and two of his sons were taken prisoner. Son John witnessed events from a distance.

Jacob escaped in the spring. A letter from Colonel Henry Bouquet to General John Forbes dated March 29, 1758: “I had a German peasant brought here who was taken prisoner last year, and taken to Venango, etc.” 76 I am

74 Recall from BIRKY/BIRKEY: The various arrival lists have Christian Burki as Christian Burkie married to Catrina, Christian Bureki, and Christian Bürcki; it appears Anglicized as ‘Berkey’ in Pennsylvania sources. Some sources say he was born at Saales (9 miles south of La Broque) circa 1715; J. Virgil Miller placed his birth circa 1708. He married Catherine Seiler. Catherine Seiler is thought to have been born Hedwig Seiler, a daughter of Joseph Seiler, at Obermehlingen in the Pfälz Jan. 22, 1712. ‘Saylor’ is also found in Pennsylvania sources.

75 The first warrant was turned in and the land was ‘patented’ after it was paid off in full by Frederick Degler Feb. 26, 1790. By that time it had been surveyed and shown to be 171 acres. The second warrant was turned in and the land was ‘patented’ after it was paid off in full by John Degler March 26, 1821. It had been surveyed and shown to be 82 acres. The third warrant was patented by Frederick Degler Feb. 26, 1791. It had been surveyed and shown to be 112 acres. Frederick Degler was born at Wittenburg, Mecklenburg (48 miles east of Hamburg) circa 1729, and died at Tulpehocken Township in 1808; John Degler was a son. Frederick was a Lutheran who likely purchased the land warrants from Jacob’s heirs.

76 Venango is found in the northwest corner of the state, 28 miles south of Erie. It is on the west side of French Creek in Crawford County. During the French and Indian War there was a French stockade fort there. Carlisle Barracks was established
enclosing his deposition. The man is very stupid, and speaks only rude German. I did not think it necessary to send him to you. He is almost dead of hunger, having lived on grass for several days.” A letter from James Burd to William Denny at Camp Carlisle dated the following day explains Jacob’s reappearance: “About five minutes before I march’d from Augusta, I observed a white man floating down the west branch on a piece of bark. I sent and took him up, he proved to be a Dutchman that was taken prisoner last Fall nigh to Reading and had made his escape from an Indian town above Vanango. I brought him with me to this place and Col. Bouquet took his deposition and sent it to the General to which I beg leave to refer your Honour.”

Jacob had walked and floated roughly 270 miles to make his escape. From Carlisle he would have traveled another 80 miles to return to his home in Berks County.

By 1760 the French and Indian War in North America was winding down. On Aug. 13, 1762 Jacob petitioned the Pennsylvania colonial governor to request the release of his sons. His letter was signed with an ‘x.’ On Feb. 10, 1763 the kingdoms of Great Britain, France, and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris formally ending the war. Son Joseph came home on his own in 1763 or 1764. Son Christian returned in the summer of 1765.

Depending on who was telling the story of the ‘Hochstetler Massacre,’ it became either a note of admonition or one of inspiration to those who practiced nonresistance. Jacob’s descendants are documented in two immense volumes called Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler and The Descendants of Barbara Hochstedler and Christian Stutzman.

Children of Jacob Hostetler and his unidentified wife include:

1. John Hochstetler was born circa 1730, and died April 11, 1805. He married Catherine Hertzler. She was born in 1731, and died in 1800, a daughter of minister Jacob Hertzler and his second wife Catherine Roggy. They moved to Summit Mills, Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1784. After her death John remarried to Anna Christner, the widow of Ulrich/Uli Schrock. She was born in Canton Bern in 1745, and died April 7, 1824, a daughter of Christian Christner and Barbara Burchhardt. John, Catherine, and Anna are buried in the Old Joel Hershberger Farm Cemetery at Elk Lick, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

2. Barbara Hochstedler was born circa 1732, and died at Shartlesville, Berks County in 1787. In December 1753 she married Christian Stutzman. He was born in Berks County in 1732, and died at Shartlesville Nov. 17, 1770, a son of Johann Jakob Stutzman and Magdalena Steck.

3. Jacob Hochstetler was born circa 1734, and died in the ‘Hochstetler Massacre’ of 1757.

4. An unidentified daughter died with older brother Jacob in 1757.

5. Joseph Hochstetler was born in the Northkill settlement (now Upper Bern, Berks County) in August of 1742, and died at Mifflinville, Columbia County Aug. 24, 1812. Circa 1767 he married Anna Blank at Upper Bern. She was born circa 1744, and died at Mifflinville in 1812, a daughter of physician Hans Blank and Magdalena. They settled in Heidelberg. In 1806 they relocated to Mifflinville, where they are buried in Mifflinville Cemetery.

6. Christian Hochstetler was born in the Northkill settlement Feb. 13, 1746, and died near Dayton, Ohio April 2, 1814. He is buried in Union Cemetery at Somerset, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. In 1769 he married orphan Barbara Rupp. She was born circa 1746, and died at Dayton, Ohio in 1814. She is buried near her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Christian Leatherman in an unmarked grave at Crowbridge Cemetery at Hillsdale, Indiana. Christian and Barbara settled in Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1784, where Christian became a Dunker minister. They later lived near Dayton, Ohio.

**Johannes Hostetler/Hochstättler/Hochstettler**

**Johannes Hostetler/Hochstättler/Hochstettler** was born in 1710 or 1714, and died before 1769.

He married Anna Wagler from Muesbach near Ribeauvillé, who was born circa 1710. One of their children was born in the Markirch Valley (the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and Ribeauville) circa 1738.

In 1746 they were living on the slopes of Climont [Ger. Weinberg], a peak above the Val de Villé [Ger. Weilerthal] eight miles north of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

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) This was necessary because Anabaptists were permitted burial in their cemeteries. Maria Anna Hochstettler was born at Climont in 1746, and died as a six-month-old. An entry created for Catholic burial records at Villé Jan. 15, 1747 stated that an Anabaptist child had died at Weinberg [Climont]: "...Mortua est Maria annis Hochstettler et Anna Waglere in 1757 as an outpost manned by British troops. The following year General John Forbes used it as a staging area for an attack on French Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh). In 1794 General George Washington used it to stage troops that put down the Whiskey Rebellion. During the Civil War the barracks were set afire by the cavalry of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart on his way to Gettysburg. The Carlisle Indian Industrial School attended by future Olympian Jim Thorpe was located there. It is now the home of the U.S. Army War College.
Annabaptistarum in Weinberg filia et infans..." It was witnessed by "...Christiani Eber [Ebele?] anabaptists in Weinberg et Jacobo Lorscher [Jacob Lörscher] Anabaptista ibidem..."

No later records in this area are found for this couple. They may have resettled near Asswiller. Asswiller is located about 60 miles north of Villé. The area was purchased by religious benefactor Sebastien de Fouquierolles in 1703, and had served as a tolerant haven for Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran, Protestant Reformed, and Anabaptist refugees.

It is also possible that they resided on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen (40 miles north of Climont). The lease there was held by Anna Wagler's nephew Johannes/Jeann Wagler and Anna Bürki. (For more on the family of Johannes/Jean Wagler and Anna Bürki and their descendants in Illinois, see BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE CROOKED ALSACE CHAIN). Daughter Elisabeth Hochstettler and her husband Christian Kempf had a child there in 1766 (see below).

Children of Johannes Hostettler/Hochstättler/Hochstettler and Anna Wagler include:

1. Johannes/Jean Hochstettler was born before 1737. He married Christina Wittmer. In the 1780s he served as a minister and worked in Katzenwangen Mill [Ger. Katzenwangenbrückmühle] at Bennwihr, then relocated to Ostheim, Upper Alsace (Bennwir and Ostheim are only three miles below Muesbach, the birth place of Anna Wagler). It is possible that his mentor was minister Jean/ Johannes Roggy. Roggy represented the Strasbourg congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759. His sons Christian Roggy (who married Sarah Detweiler) and Johannes Roggy (who married a daughter of Johannes/Jeann and Christina) were operators of Katzenwangen Mill. Children of Johannes/Jean Hochstettler and Christina Wittmer include:
   
a. Johannes/Jean Hochstettler was born circa 1760, and died at Ostheim March 19, 1789. He married Elisabeth Lidwiller. She was born at Schupfholz, Baden circa 1763, and died at Ostheim (32 miles west of Schupfholz) Dec. 18, 1815, a daughter of Christian Leutweiler and Elisabeth Wagner. 77 His Latin death entry called him 'Joannes Hochstettler annabaptista'; witnesses were Melchior Rees (1721-1802) and his son Johannes (1761-1795), found as 'Reiss.'78 She was living on the Schoppenweier estate at Ostheim when she remarried to Conrad Schweitzer there April 10, 1793. He was born at Bad Bergzabern (near Mühlhofen) in the Pfalz Aug. 2, 1767, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace May 24, 1827, a son of Conrad Schweitzer and Madeleine Eyer. Conrad and Elisabetha's German-language civil marriage entry described Elisabetha's father as Christian Leutweiler of Schupfholz (spelling both the surname and location accurately) and her mother as Elisabeth Wagner [Wagner] born in Müßbach [Mussbach, Baden]. The bride signed her name 'Elisabeth Wagner,' and there was no mention of her first marriage. (To say that her parents were married or that she had been married might have required documentation from Baden). Like first husband Jean Hoehstetter's death entry, Elizabeth's second marriage entry was witnessed by Johannes Reiss. A son, Conrad Schweitzer [Jr.], married his cousin Elisabeth Zehr at Arracourt Dec. 27, 1827. She was a daughter of Christian Zehr and Catherine Litwiller.

b. Barbara Hochstettler was born circa 1760, and died at Bennwihr Nov. 9, 1796. Her civil death entry said she was 36 years of age. It was witnessed by miller Peter Ulrich of the Katzenwangen Mill, 36.

c. Christian/Chrétien Hochstettler was born at Katzenwangen Mill in 1763, and died at Pfaffenheim Mill at Ostheim Oct. 11, 1841. He married Barbe Rogi. She was born at Pfaffenheim, a daughter of Christian Rogi and Sara Detweiler. Christian and Barbe were farming near Katzenwangen Mill in 1788. Christian lived with a son at Eckbolshem in 1809. Their children include:
   
   1) Jean Hochstettler was born at Bennwihr March 8, 1788 (the entry was signed by his father).
   2) Christian Hochstettler's birth was recorded at Bennwihr July 29, 1790.
   3) Marie Madeleine Hochstettler was born at Ostheim Sept. 18, 1794.
   4) Barbe Hochstettler was born at Ostheim Jan. 23, 1796. On Jan. 18, 1820 at Ostheim she married Jean Roggy. He was born on the Waderhof between Lorentzen and Diemeringen, Moselle April 7, 1797 and died at Pfaffenheim Mill April 3, 1861, a son of Valentin Roggy and Barbara Schertz. See ROGGY, ROGI OF OSTHEIM for speculation that Barbe and Jean were second cousins.
   5) Johannes Hochstettler was born at Ostheim July 16, 1799. His parents were described as miller Chrétien Hochstettler, 36, and Barbara Rogy, 30.

77 There were earlier connections between the Hochburg congregation and the village of Ostheim. Benedict 'Benz' Stucki/Stueky (circa 1716-1793) was mentioned in ROPP as a minister who represented the Colmar congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759 with Hans Rupp/Jeann Ropp, the father of Andreas Ropp. Benedict and his wife Anna Maria Neuhauser lived on the the Schoppenwir estate at Ostheim. Their daughter Barbara Stucki married Johannes Zimmerman of Emmendingen; after the marriage the couple farmed at Ostheim. Their daughter Elisabetha Stucki married Christian Köngh of Nimburg, Baden (see KING). The surnames Hochstettler and Dettweiler could also be found at both locations.

78 The Rees had originally lived at Pforzheim, Baden before moving to Ostheim.
d. Anna Maria Hochstettler was born circa 1765, and died in Katzenwangen Mill at Bennwihr Oct. 17, 1794. She married operator Jean Rogi/Johannes Roggy of Katzenwangen Mill. He was born circa 1762 (documents vary considerably), a son of Christian Chrétien Rogi and his first wife Sara Detweiler. Her civil death entry gave her age as 29, named her parents, and was witnessed by her husband miller Johannes Rogi, 30. On April 13, 1795 at Osheim Jean remarried to Anne Marie Dettweiler. She was born circa 1769. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Jean Rogi of Katzmanns Brück, 30, a resident of Bennwihr. He was a son of cultivator Chrétien Rogi, 60, residing at Strasbourg, and the deceased Sare Dettweiler. The bride was described as Anne Marie Dettweiler, 26, the widow of Jean Riss and a resident of Osheim. She was a daughter of the deceased Joseph Dettweiler and Anne Sommer, who had lived in Pay d' Autriche dit Beissau [we suspect this was not Austria but the area of Baden called Breisgau, centered around Freiburg im Breisgau, which may have been occupied by Austrian troops at the time]. One witness was miller Chrétien Hochstettler, 32, brother-in-law to the groom. Jean was described as a cultivator at Strasbourg on the 1806 death entry of his stepmother.

e. Maria Barbara Hochstettler married Peter Ulrich, and died at Bennwihr before 1797. On Jan. 9, 1797 at Osheim Peter Ulrich of Katzenwangenbruck, 30+ years old (the entry is illegible), remarried to Madelaine Gering [the index calls her Gerig], 21. She was a daughter of Bendich Gering and Catherina Langenberg. One witness was plowman Johannes Roggy, 35, a resident of Osheim [operator Johannes Rogi/Roggy of Katzenwangen Mill].

2. Chrétien/Christian Hochstettler 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. His civil death entry created at Gumbrechtshoffen described him as cultivator Chrétien Hoffstetter the, age 73 years and six months, husband of Madelaine Naffziger. It was witnessed by his son-in-law Chrétien Naffziger, 44, and neighbor Peter Jaggi, 48. His birthplace was described as "Markirch thal dit Wingart." This may have described a Wingart farm at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in the Markirch valley, or simply be a garbled interpretation of Weinberg, the German name for Le Climont peak. He married Barbara/Barbe Nafziger in 1766. Very little is known about her, but it is possible that she was the sister of his second wife. When she died on the Lauterbacherhof, Christian remarried to Madelaine/Madeleine Nafziger, who was born in 1738. She was a daughter of Christian Nafziger, the leaseholder of the nearby Steinbacherhof farm at Durstel. This made Christian Hochstettler the brother-in-law of minister Christian Engel (Christian Engel's first wife had been Katharina/Catherine Nafziger, a sister to Madelaine/Madeleine). Christian Hochstettler held leases on the Ingelshof and the Lauterbacherhof at various times. His children include:

a. Christian Hochstettler was born on the Ingelshof Dec. 15, 1775 to Barbe Nafziger. He first married Katharina Habecker, who died on the Herfingerhof near Dreisen Feb. 12, 1812. On May 17, 1814 at Nehwiller-près-Woerth he remarried to Barbara Unzicker. Witnesses on their civil marriage entry include Christian's brother-in-law farmer Chrétien Naffziger, 48, of Gumbrechtshoffen; farmer Chrétien Habecker, 25, of the Katzenthal estate at Lembach; and laborer George Hölly, 49, of Nehwiller-près-Woerth. Barbara was born at Nehwiller-près-Woerth June 17, 1787, a daughter of Nehwiller-près-Woerth mayor Joseph Unzicker and Barbara Holly (the entry calls him 'Chrétien Hochstaedter'). After marriage they resettled at Stepperg, Bavaria. 

b. Jakob Hochstettler was born at Stepperg Aug. 2, 1814.

c. Katharina Hochstettler married Christian Nafziger. He was born at Steineltz circa 1767, a son of miller Johannes Nafziger and his second wife Madeleine Schantz of the Katzenthal estate at Lembach. His family moved onto the Katzenthal estate when he was two years old. Christian and Katharina lived on the Lauterbacherhof (birth entries are found at nearby Gumbrechtshoffen-Oberbronn); at Gros-Réderching, Moselle; and after 1814 at Biburg, Bavaria (a suburb west of Augsburg). 

d. Madeleine Hochstettler was born in 1778. She married Johannes/Jean Ringenberg at Bébing, Moselle Feb. 9, 1796, and at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace Feb. 14, 1796. He was born circa 1770, a son of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel of the farm La Forge below Imling, Moselle. For background on this couple see RINGENBERGER, THE BAVARIAN PETER RINGENBERGER.

3. Isaak/Isaac Hochstettler was born at Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace circa Jan. 21, 1740, according to his civil death entry; however, this birth place is questionable and civil entries for his children's births suggest that he was born circa 1744. He died on the Neuhof estate near Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace Oct. 29, 1817.

4. Anna Hochstettler was born at Le Climont circa 1744. She may have lived with her brother Isaac while he leased the Bärbelsteinerhof near Niederschlettenbach (six miles north of the border between the Pfalz and Lower Alsace). In 1769 she applied to the Catholic clergy at nearby Gossersweiler for permission to marry Joseph Stettleman. After marriage they resettled at Stepperg, Bavaria. One witness was miller Christian Hochstettler, 32, brother-in-law to the groom. Jean was described as a cultivator at Strasbourg on the 1806 death entry of his stepmother.

79 In 1795 Maria Leopoldine of Austria-Est became the second wife of the Bavarian Elector Karl Theodor. She was 18, he was 70. In 1799 he suffered a stroke and died. In 1801 she purchased the Stepperg Castle near Neuberg an der Donau and a brewery at adjacent Rennertshofen. Christian Hochstettler and his brother-in-law Johannes/Jean Ringenberg became tenant farmers on the grounds of the estate.
born at Weinberg, a daughter of Johannis Hochstättler and Anna Wagler; and that she was baptized as a 13-year-old at Asswiller in 1757.

5. Elisabeth Hochstettler was born at Le Climent circa 1745, and died at Neuenkirch-lès-Sarreguemines, Moselle March 6, 1800. According to J. Virgil Miller in *Both Sides of the Ocean*, the parish book of Königsbach, Baden-Durlach holds an entry for the birth 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. A census of the Offerding estate at Gros-Réderching, Moselle taken in 1780 shows Christian Kempf; 52; Elisabeth Hochstetter, 44; Christian Kempf, 24; and other children. Christian Kempf died at Willerwald, Moselle (near Sarralbe) Jan. 28, 1811.

6. Maria Anna Hochstettler was born at Le Climent in 1746, and died as a six-month-old.

- Barbara/Barbe Hochstettler, born circa 1748, may belong here. She was the wife of minister Hans Rupp, also known as 'Jean Ropp.' They were the parents of Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Illinois family. Hans was living in the flour mill Mattenmühle at Sigolsheim about 15 miles southeast of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines when he died Nov. 26, 1788.

Johannes/Jeann Hochstettler, who would have been Barbara/Barbe's oldest brother, performed Hans's burial service at Bennwihr. Barbe is not mentioned on his death entry, and a family history suggests that she had already died, describing their children as 'orphaned' by the death of the father. See ROPP for more on this couple.

Isaak/Isaac Hochstettler was born at Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace circa Jan. 21, 1740, according to his civil death entry; however, this birth place is questionable and civil records during his lifetime suggest that he was born circa 1744. He died on the Neuhof estate near Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace Oct. 29, 1817.

Circa 1764 Isaac moved onto the Lauterbacherhof farm at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace. The Lauterbacherhof dates from the 15th century; it was originally within the town limits of Gundershoffen. *Ruisseau Lauterbach* is a creek running through the area. The area is 60 miles north of Le Climent peak and near to the border with the Pfalz. The Protestant de Dietrich family not only owned the Lauterbacherhof, but owned a foundry at Reichshoffen until the French Revolution of 1789. The farm probably provided wood for the foundry before it was completely cleared for cultivation.

Isaac married either three or four times. The woman thought to be his first wife, Maria Siegel, is only known through the death record of son Jakob Hochstettler (circa 1765-1857) created at Dreisen. The entry names Isaak Hochstettler and Maria Siegel as Jakob's parents. Some genealogists looking for an Anabaptist Siegel family have presumed that she was a daughter of Ulrich Siegel and Anna Lehmanna of Elschbacherhof, Saar. If they were married in 1765, she may have died in childbirth or left their congregation, because Isaac married again in 1766.

At this point the Bärbelsteinerhof communal farm at Berwartstein castle (mentioned in EHRESMAN) becomes relevant again. Isaac would become leaseholder through a series of fortuitous events.

In 1743 Hans/Jean Ringenberg of the castle estate Ketzing (near Gondrexange in what is now Moselle) married Magdalena Holly, a daughter of leaseholder-minister Christian Holli/Holly. Christian died in 1748, followed by his daughter the following year. This left Ringenberg as sole leaseholder.

Ringenberg remarried to Anna Rupp. When he died circa 1763, she continued on the estate with Tobias Kiefer as her co-leaseholder. Kiefer had been a co-leaseholder of the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, Lower Alsace, with his brother Jacob Kiefer and Christian Nafziger (a son of Christen Naffzger/Christian Nafziger and Madlena Hilterbrand). Perhaps he introduced widow Isaac Hochstettler to widow Anna; Isaac and Anna married in 1766. Anna is thought to have had three children from her first marriage, though they could not be identified.

In 1770 Isaac was ordained as a minister serving the Wissembourg-Froensbourg congregation with members on both sides of the poorly defined Alsace-Pfalz border. In 1772 he signed a full 12-year lease on the Bärbelsteinerhof, with minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger of Essingen as guarantor.

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80 In present day the Lauterbacherhof is called the Millemann Farm. It is easy to confuse with the Lutterbacherhof, the home of Birkys whose descendants came to Tazewell County. The Lutterbacherhof is located at Voellerdingen, and many entries (with a number of spelling variations) appear in Diemeringen records.

For more on the de Dietrich family, see YORDY.

81 As noted, in the 1750s the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, adjacent to Asswiller, was leased by Tobias Kiefer, his brother Jacob Kiefer, and Christian Nafziger. Tobias would become co-leaseholder of the Bärbelsteinerhof with Anna Rupp, the widow of the prior leaseholder, who remarried to Isaac Hochstettler in 1766. In this time frame the couple Peter Hochstetter and Maria Minnau lived on the Steinbacherhof estate. Protestant records at Durstel show entries for their children: Maria Elisabeth (born July 7, 1749; died May 6, 1750); Anna Ottilia (born Feb. 28, 1751); Maria Margaretha (born March 7, 1754); and Johann Peter (born July 21, 1756). Was this a 'soundalike' coincidence? Did Protestant working for Anabaptists invite their Anabaptist relatives to join them? Or did Johannes Hochstettler find work near his home for Protestant relatives?

82 A letter survives where minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger mentions the Wissembourg congregation. Most authors have chosen to call it the Froensbourg congregation.
Working the stone and root-strewn farmland of the Bärbelsteinerhof must have been discouraging, because Isaac made at least one request to shorten the term of his lease. During this time he continued to travel to and from the Lauterbachhof to visit relatives.

Isaac represented the Wissembourg-Froensbourg congregation at the Essingen assembly of ministers in 1779 with minister Michel/Michael Schantz of Katzenthal/Lembach and minister Christian Joder of Salzwog. In 1783 he finished out the lease on the Bärbelsteinerhof and returned to the Lauterbachhof. (In present day Berwartstein Castle has become a popular tourist attraction - it is the only castle in the region that has been rebuilt and is inhabited - and the Bärbelsteinerhof has reverted to forest).

Anna Rupp died in 1784, and Isaac remarried to Katharina/Catherine Schantz. She was born circa 1766, approximately 25 years after her husband.

A Kanagy and Hoover translation of Johannes/Hans Nafziger's circa 1788 letter says, "In the Weissenburg [Wissembourg] congregation Isaac Hochstetter of Lauterbach is ordained as a full minister of the book and Christen Eösch at the Flecksteinerhof is also confirmed as a deacon."

Descendants of Jacob Hochstetter tells the story of Isaac's declining fortunes, tied to the disastrous devaluation of the French assignat. Contributor Peter Hochstetter of Groveland was unaware that his great-grandfather may have had a first wife Maria Siegel when he provided the information for the book.

"The first wife of Isaac Hochstetter, maiden name Rupp, was from Canton Bern, and at one time had notice of an inheritance there, but Isaac would not claim it, as at that time he thought he had money enough. He was able to have bought the land on which he lived, but as the family in Switzerland had been driven from their lands, he thought it safer to have his possessions in money. Later the government took his money, giving him paper in exchange which afterwards proved worthless. In his poverty he wished to secure the money from Switzerland which was offered through his first wife, but that [sum] had [already] been given to her heirs. He gave his older children good sums of money to start in life, but the younger ones had to share his poverty...This note and practically all that is given of the family is furnished by Peter Hochstetter, Groveland or Pekin, Ill."83

Katharina/Catherine Schantz died at Reichshoffen Jan. 29, 1799, seven months after giving birth to her last child.84

Isaac remarried to Anna Holly at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace July 18, 1799. She was a daughter of minister Jacob/Jakob Holly and his second wife Maria Kurtz of Mühlhofen, and the widow of minister Christian Güngerich of Steinseltz (a great-grandson of minister Hans 'Hans der alte' Güngerich).

The marriage would have been mutually beneficial. Isaac gained a mother for his children. Anna may have gained legal rights not accorded to single women in 1799, allowing her to retain the lease or title on her home. (For an Anabaptist, the état civil entry was a legal requirement tied to inheritance and citizenship issues; they were occasionally arranged months or even years after couples were married within the church).85

On June 19, 1808 Isaac was one of 22 ministers from nine congregations meeting on the Bildhäuserhof at Rosheim, Lower Alsace to discuss a plea for exemption from military service. The delegates sent representatives Christian Engel and Christian Güngerich to Paris to request Amish Mennonite service in the transportation corps.86

In 1809 Isaac relocated to live with his son Peter on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach. This location is nine miles southeast of Wissembourg, in the northwest corner of Alsace near the borders with the Pfalz and Württemberg, four miles west of the Rhine River. The 250-acre farm had belonged to the noble Riessenbach family until it was confiscated by French troops in the French Revolution of 1789.

Isaac represented the Wissembourg-Froensbourg congregation when the assembly of ministers reconvened at Rosheim June 1, 1811. Fifteen ministers from six departments signed a petition and chose another set of delegates...
to Paris, once again including Christian Engel. Their efforts were fruitless; over the next few years French soldiers assigned to engineering and artillery transport were required to bear arms.

Isaac died on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach Oct. 29, 1817. His civil death entry created at Niederlauterbach called him Isack Hochstaettler, said that he was born there (unlikely), and gave his age as 77 years, 2 months, and 8 days. The witnesses could not name his parents.

The three Ringenerber children that Anna Rupp brought to her second marriage have not been identified. The eight Güngerich children that Anna Holly brought to her second marriage are listed in Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*.

**Isaac's children include:**

1. Jakob Hochstetler may have been born on the Lauterbacherhof circa 1765 to Maria Siegel. In 1792 he married Barbara Holly on the Münsterhof at Dreisen in the Pfälz, and took up permanent residence there. Barbara was born at Mühlhofen in 1776, and died April 4, 1841, a daughter of David Holly and Magdalena Nafziger (David Holly was one of the three – with Hans Kennel and Christian Güngerich – who first leased the Münsterhof at Dreisen in 1767; Anna Holly was a daughter of minister Christian Güngerich and Catharina König. They lived as 'Augsburger'at Wellenburg near Augsburg, Bavaria.

2. Anna Hochstetler was born circa 1767 to Anna Rupp. In 1787 at Niederflörsheim in the Pfälz (eight miles west of Worms) she married Christian Holly. He was born circa 1760, and died at Niederflörsheim March 8, 1814, a son of David Holly and Anna Hochstetler of the Münsterhof at Dreisen. Christian Holly and Anna Hochstetler had a son Peter Holly who was on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832, and traveled to Butler County, Ohio that year.

3. Peter Hochstetler was born circa 1768 to Anna Rupp, and died at Meringerau near Augsburg, Bavaria Dec. 12, 1822.

4. Elisabeth Hochstetler was born circa 1785 to Catherine Schantz. On Jan. 27, 1809 at Reichshoffen she married Nicolas Augspurger. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Nicolas Augsburger, 34, widower of Madeleine Goldschmitt, who had died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 25, 1806. The bride was described as Elisabetha Hochstetler, 24, a daughter of Isaac Hochstetler, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Schantz. Elisabeth signed her name 'Elisabetha Hochstätter,' while her father signed 'Isaac Hochstetter.' Nicolas Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 6 or 10, 1768, and died there Oct. 8, 1809, a son of David Holly and Anna Hochstetler of the Münsterhof at Dreisen. Christian Holly and Anna Hochstetler had a son Peter Holly who was on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832, and traveled to Butler County, Ohio that year.

5. Catharine Hochstetler was born circa 1788 to Catherine Schantz. Her civil death entry created at Reichshoffen Aug. 25, 1803 described her as a 15-year-old daughter of Isaac Hochstetler, 60, and Catharina Shantzin of the Lauterbacherhof.

6. Barbara Hochstetler was born circa 1791 to Catherine Schantz. On Sept. 20, 1809 at Niederlauterbach she married Christian Habecker. For more on this couple see HABECKER.

7. Johannes Hochstetler was born Sept. 21, 1793 to Catherine Schantz. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler says he later "died in old age at Augsburg, Bavaria leaving a son and four daughters."
8. Magdalena Hochstettler was born Feb. 9, 1796 to Catherine Schantz. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Isaac Hochstettler, 52, plowman; and Catarina Schantz, 30. Witnesses included Christian Hochstettler (Isaac’s older brother signed his name ‘Cristian Hostettler’), 58; and Christian Naefziger, 30. On July 15, 1813 at Niederlauterbach Magdalena married Jean Fritz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Fritz, born at Gutenhausen, Rosheim, Lower Alsace June 24, 1793, a son of cultivator Joseph Fritz and Anne Schanz, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Madeleine Hochstaettler, born at Reichshoffen Feb. 9, 1796, a daughter of cultivator Isaac Hochstettler who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Schantz. The entry was witnessed by Pierre Hochstettler, 45, uncle of the bride. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler says that Johan Fritz was born at Hüttenhausen near Ingolstadt.

9. Georg Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen June 30, 1798 to Catherine Schantz. His civil birth entry described his parents as Isaac Hochstettler, 50 [he was closer to 58]; and Catharina Schantz, 32. Georg died single in Bavaria. Peter Hochstettler was born circa 1768 to Anna Rupp, and died at Meringerau near Augsburg, Bavaria Dec. 12, 1822.

The history of his family has become snarled in confusion. Three contributors: 1) Difficulty converting the dates of the Republican Calendar used in Alsace civil entries between 1792 and 1806. In most cases the individuals who came to America could not give an accurate Gregorian calendar date for their own births. 2) Failure to distinguish two similar-sounding locations. Hochstettlers lived on the farm Lauterbacherhof at Reichshoffen from 1764 to 1809, then on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach (28 miles to the east) from 1809 to 1817. And, 3) From 1817 until their emigration from Europe they lived at Meringerau, Bavaria. A number of genealogists have identified the location only by its modern name, Siebenbrunn.

On Aug. 18, 1795 at Nehwiller, Lower Alsace Peter married Magdalena Unzicker. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Peter Hofstatter, 27, son of plowman Isaac Hochstettler of the Lauterbacherhof; and the bride as Magdalena Ünzickerin, 18, a daughter of Joseph Unzicker and Barbara Hollin. Witnesses included Peter Ühlmann and Georg Hollÿ. Magdalena was born at Reichshoffen March 9, 1778, and died in 1839, a daughter of Nehwiller-près-Woerth mayor Joseph Unzicker and Barbara Holly.

In 1809 Peter and Magdalena left Reichshoffen with father Isaac to live on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach. It is probable that Peter made this move to the extreme northeast corner of Lower Alsace to avoid military conscription.

Peter and Magdalena made at least one trip to visit Peter's older brother, minister Jakob Hochstettler. In 1816 they attended the wedding of Magdalena's brother Johannes Unzicker and Barbara Eyer, the widow of Josef Wagler, on the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Pfalz. Peter served as a witness for the civil marriage entry created at adjacent Göllheim. He was described as brother-in-law of the groom Peter Hochstättler, 45, living at Neuhof, Kreis [district of] Wissembourg.

Father Isaac died in 1817. Later that year Peter and Magdalena moved 166 miles to the north, leaving behind the stagnating economy of Lower Alsace. They resettled at Meringerau, Bavaria, an open area below the city of Augsburg. ‘Meringer Au’ was a meadow surrounding the village of Meringer. The village was later torn down to protect the water supply of the nearby city. In 1910 the entire area was incorporated into the city of Augsburg and divided into two parts: Haunstetten, a populated strip, and Siebenbrunn, a strip of open fields (also called ‘Siebenbrunnenfeld,’ or ‘seven spring field’). It is now the city district of Haunstetten-Siebenbrunn.

Peter died at Meringerau Dec. 12, 1822. Children of Peter Hochstettler and Magdalena Unzicker include:

1. Catharina Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Dec. 24, 1796. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Peter Hochstettler and Magdalena Unzicker, 20, auf dem Lauterbacher Hof. Catharina died as an infant.
2. Joseph Hochstettler was born at Reichshofen Feb. 5, 1798. Joseph died at Pekin April 29, 1854, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.
3. Barbara Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen March 4, 1800. Her civil birth entry identified her parents as Peter Hochstettler, 22; and Magdeleine Unzicker, 20; it was signed by father Peter Hochstettler and maternal grandfather Joseph Unzicker. Barbara married Joseph Schantz, and died at Regensburg, Bavaria.
4. Elizabetha/Elise Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Jan. 12, 1802. The entry was witnessed by father Peter Hochstettler; paternal grandfather Isaac Hochstettler, 57; and maternal grandfather Joseph Unzicker, 43. She died on the Stillerhof estate at Wessobrunn, Bavaria in 1854. In 1822 she married Andreas/André Schantz. He was born circa 1800, and died at Triftlfing Feb. 20, 1859, a son of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki.

88 Neuhof’s homes and farm buildings were torn down in 1932.
89 Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler was likely the original source of the errant birth date Dec. 3, 1798.
5. Catharina Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Dec. 14, 1803, and died at Dechbetten (now part of Regensburg) in 1826. Her civil birth entry identified her parents as Peter Hochstettler and Magdaline Imsinger [Unzicker] auf dem Lauterbacher Hof. It was witnessed by father Peter Hochstettler and paternal grandfather Isaac Hochstettler, 60. She married Joseph Schantz. He was born at Schönhof, Germany March 9, 1798, and died in 1872, a son of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki. They lived on the Hölzlhof at Regenstauf (above Regensburg, Bavaria) and at Grossprüfening (now a neighborhood on the west side of Regensburg) until her death at Dechbetten (north of Regensburg) in 1826. Schantz later remarried to Marie Unzicker and Magdalena Unzicker.

6. Jacob/Jacques Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen June 11, 1806. His civil birth entry named his parents as Pierre Hochstettler and Madeleine Unzicker of la cense dite Lauterbacher Hof; witnesses included father Peter Hochstettler and paternal grand-uncle Chrétien Hochstettler, 68, described as a cultivator at Lauterbach. He died at Meringerau in January 1826 following a wagon accident.

7. Magdalena Hochstettler was born May 9, 1809, and died at Sarching (east of Regensburg) in January 1860. She married Christian Nafziger. He was born on the Lauterbacherhof in January 1796, and died at Burgwalden (southwest of Augsburg) Jan. 15, 1850, a son of Christian Nafziger and Katharina Hochstettler (Katharina's parents were Christian Hochstettler and Barbara/Barbe Nafziger; thus Magdalena and Christian had a shared great-grandfather and were second cousins).

8. Marie/Maria Hochstettler was born on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach Aug. 20, 1810. She married Peter/Pierre Schantz. He was born at Rimling, Moselle Sept. 16, 1811, a son of Christian Schantz and his second wife Anna Imhof.

9. Anne/Anna Hochstettler was born on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach May 28, 1812, and died at Thierlstein (34 miles northeast of Regensburg) Sept. 1, 1880. In 1844 she married Jakob Güngerich. He was born at Wellenburg (southwest of Augsburg) in 1812, and died at Thierlstein July 24, 1879, a son of Jakob Güngerich and Magdalena König. According to Guth they are buried at Untertraubenbach (adjacent to Thierlstein).

10. Peter Hochstettler was born July 20, 1814, and died at Wolfring June 12, 1884. On Feb. 8, 1842 at Hardt (below Neuberg an der Donau, west of Ingolstadt) he married Maria Hage. She was born at Josephenburg (below Ingolstadt) Dec. 8, 1817, and died Jan. 5, 1897, a daughter of Josef Hage and Maria Ackermann of Kaisheim (15 miles west of Neuberg an der Donau) and Josephenburg.

11. Jacqueline Hochstettler was born on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach Jan. 11, 1818. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Pierre Hochstaettler, Anabaptiste, 47; and Madeleine Unzicker. Her father signed 'Peter Hochstättler.'

12. Susanna Hochstettler was born at Meringerau March 22, 1822, and died at Burgweinting (southeast of Regensburg) May 31, 1908. According to Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler she married a Griesser.

Joseph Hochstettler was born Dec. 3, 1798 (perhaps on the Lauterbacherhof, though no civil entry is found there). He died at Pekin (likely in the part that had become Elm Grove) April 29, 1854, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Circa 1823 at Meringerau Joseph married Jakobina 'Phoebe' Gingerich. She was born circa June 15, 1803 (her marker at Landes Mennonite Cemetery gives her date of death and her age as 52 years, 5 months, 22 days), and died in Tazewell County Dec. 7, 1856. She was a daughter of Jakob Güngerich and Magdalena König of Wellenburg, Bavaria.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Peter Marcy, and arrived at New York Aug. 11, 1849. The passenger list shows a 'Hochstettler' family: Joseph, 51; Jacobin, 45; Jacob, 19; Magdalen, 17; Peter, 15; Joseph, 13; Jacobine, 9; and Christian, 7.90

According to Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929, they settled at Dillon Creek before the year ended. The 1850 census of Pekin shows Joseph Hostalter, 53; Jacobine, 46; Magdaline, 18; Jacobine, 11; farmer Jacob, 30; farmer Peter, 16; Joseph, 14; and Christian, 9; all from Germany. They are found on the same page as the households of brothers Andrew, Peter, and Jacob Ropp, indicating that they were living along Allentown Road in what had only recently become Elm Grove (although it was technically established in December 1849, it took a while for the new name to come into common use; and at the time Allentown Road was still known as the Old State Road or Old Stage Road).

Descendants of Jacob Hochstettler: "About the year 1850, Mrs. Susan Zook of near Bloomington, Illinois, heard of a Hochstettler family living near Groveland, Illinois. As she was a granddaughter of Joseph Hochstettler, the captive, she concluded to learn whether the new family was akin to her. So she paid a visit to the family of Joseph Hochstettler, and learned that the family had but recently come from Germany and of course were not any kin-folk, as she had expected to find.

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90 Farther down the page were Jacobine Gingerich, 21, and Elisabeth Jordi, 45.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

But in the course of conversation she told the story of the Indian attack on the farm of her great-grandfather, and of her grandfather being made captive by the Indians. This narrative instantly captured the attention of Joseph Hochstetler, who inquired closely as to the number of the family killed and the number made prisoners.

Then he told of having seen in his boyhood, in the home of his mother and father, a carefully cherished letter written from America, telling of the attack of the Indians upon the family of his grandfather's uncle. The names and number in the family of our ancestor at the time of the massacre corresponded to the recollection of Joseph Hochstetler, as he recalled the letter in the possession of his mother, from his grandfather, Isaac Hochstetler.

These two immediately recognized the relationship between them. The Indian massacre established very clearly the relationship between our family and that of Isaac Hochstetler.

The conversation above noted was communicated in several letters by Peter Hochstetttler, Pekin, Illinois, a son of Joseph Hochstetler."

( Did Peter Hochstetttler know that a sister of Isaac Hochstetttler, Barbara Hochstetttler, was the mother of Andreas Ropp? Apparently not. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetttler added, "He says also that Isaac had one brother at least and possibly other brothers and sisters.")

The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows the Hochstetttlers on the same page as Joseph Ropp, Peter Gerber, and Joseph Heiser, indicating they still lived along Allentown Road.

Their children include:

1. Jacob Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Jan. 3, 1825, and died at Elm Grove March 8, 1884. On April 12, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Ropp; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. She was born Oct. 27, 1837, and died Sept. 16, 1881, a daughter of Andrew Ropp and Jacobine Vercrler. The 1860 census of Elm Grove describes him as 'Jacob Hostetttler,' a 30-year-old Bavarian farmer. His household included Elizabeth, 22; Jacobine, 2; and Daniel, seven months. They are buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

2. Magdalena 'Mary' Hochstetttler (twin) was born at Meringerau Feb. 7, 1829, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 28, 1888. On December 10, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Birkey; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Jacob was born May 4, 1826, and died at Garden City July 4, 1883, a son of Christian Birki ('the 'Big Birkeys').

3. Jakobina Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Feb. 7, 1829, and died there in 1830.

4. Peter Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Feb. 2, 1834.

5. Jakobina 'Phoebe' Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Nov. 7, 1835 (one source gives July 21, 1838), and died at Trenton April 30, 1896. On March 15, 1858 at Pekin she married John Birkey. He was born at Gern near Munich Jan. 1, 1835, and died at Peoria March 28, 1925, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker.

6. Joseph Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Feb. 3, 1836, and died at Washington July 4, 1896. On July 6, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Unzicker; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Aug. 28, 1839, and died Aug. 10, 1920, a daughter of Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krebbiel. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer Joseph Hochstetttler, 44, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; Elizabeth, 40, born in Illinois to parents from Nassau; with eight children born in Illinois. They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

7. Mary Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Feb. 28, 1837, and died before 1842.

8. Christian Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau March 8 or June 16 (passport application), 1840, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Jan. 2, 1896. He can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 19-year-old 'Christian Hostetttler,' a Bavarian laborer in the household of 50-year-old farmer 'Andrew Birgy.' He applied for a passport at Pekin April 24, 1865. The documentation stated that he was a naturalized citizen who had lived in Tazewell County for 16 years, having turned 24 on June 16, witnessed by Joseph Ropp. He was described as 5 foot-8 tall; brown hair; brown eyes; fair complexion; roman nose; and medium mouth. He married Mary Unzicker at Pekin Feb. 9, 1868. She was born Nov. 26, 1844, and died Feb. 24, 1940, a daughter of Jacob Unzicker and Maria Krebbiel. The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows them living next door to the Unzickers as Christian Hochstetttler, 27, Bavaria; Mary, 25, Illinois, and Louise, 1, Illinois.

9. Mary Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau May 29, 1842, and died there in November 1844.

10. George Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau Jan. 7, 1844, and died there Jan. 28, 1844.

Peter Hochstetttler was born at Meringerau near Augsburg, Bavaria Feb. 2, 1834.

On March 14, 1858, Peter married Barbara Birky of the 'Little Red Birksys,' who had also come to America in 1849. Barbara was born at Gern near Munich Jan. 9, 1840, one of 13 children of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker.

Their household can be found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Pete Hastetttler, 36, Bavaria; Barbara, 30, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 11, Illinois; Lydia, 9, Illinois; Catharin, 7, Illinois; and farm laborer Frederick Delabaugh, 19, Switzerland. The 1880 census of Morton shows them as Peter Hochstetttler, 46; Barbara, 40; and seven children born in Illinois.
In 1883 Peter attended the first annual conference of what became the Defenseless Mennonite (later Evangelical Mennonite) Church with Joseph Rediger. The conference was organized and led by minister Henry Egly.

About this time Peter and Barbara purchased a farm in Groveland, which can be located on the 1890 plat map approximately one mile north of the town center. The 1910 census of Groveland lists Peter's occupations as farmer and preacher. Peter was 76, and Barbara 70; their children living with them included Lydia, 49; Susanna, 36; and Mary A., 28. Son Joseph, 39, lived nearby. They last appear on the 1920 census of Groveland, when Peter was 85, and Barbara 79. Their children living with them include Elizabeth, 58; Susan, 46; Amos, 41; and Mary, 38.

Peter died at Groveland Jan. 20, 1924, and Barbara died July 28, 1924. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

Their children born at Morton include:

1. Elizabeth Hochstettler was born Feb. 17, 1859, and died July 4, 1931. On Aug. 2, 1896 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Stucky. He was born Aug. 20, 1865, and died at Groveland March 7, 1958, a son of Magdalena Peterschmidt from a marriage before her second to Peter Zehr. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. See ZIMMERMAN for background on Catherine Goldschmitt's family.
2. Lydia Hochstettler was born Jan. 11, 1861, and died March 6, 1948. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
3. Katharine 'Katie' Hochstettler was born March 28, 1863, and died March 4, 1942. On March 18, 1894 in Tazewell County she married Samuel P. Wagler. He was born March 15, 1871, and died March 19, 1951. They are found on the 1900 census of Groveland as Samuel P. Wagler, 29, born in Illinois in March 1871 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; and Kate, 37, born in Illinois in March 1863 to German parents. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
4. John William Hochstettler was born Oct. 27, 1866, and died May 9, 1869.
5. Joseph B. Hochstettler was born March 31, 1871, and died April 25, 1955. In 1902 he married Emma Springer. She was born March 20, 1876, and died May 27, 1910. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
6. Susan/Susanna Hochstettler was born April 22, 1873, and died April 30, 1962. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
7. Edward F. Hochstettler was born June 7, 1876, and died March 6, 1900. He is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
8. Amos Hochstettler was born Dec. 28, 1878, and died June 25, 1962. He is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
9. Mary Ann Hochstettler was born June 20, 1881, and died Dec. 22, 1949. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
Schwarzentraub: Schwartzentrüber of Schangnau

A Schwarz Trub is a black brook or stream. Schwarz Trub farm located at Trub, Canton Bern is the source of all variations of this surname. In *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Hermann Guth states that the correct spelling would be 'Schwarzentrüber,' denoting someone from Schwarz Trub. After a number of generations of separation from Switzerland, some descendants perceived the name as Schwarz Traub, or 'black grapes.'

The *Heimat* points of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname are Trub, Diessbach, and Oberthal in Canton Bern.

We searched Protestant Reformed marriage records from Trub, and found six marriages between 1630 and 1671:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 29, 1634</td>
<td>Hans Schwartzentrüber and Barbara Wütherich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11, 1642</td>
<td>Abraham Schwartzentrüber and Catharina Treingeÿerin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 5, 1643</td>
<td>Ulli Schwartzentrüber and Barbara Äeschliman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 1656</td>
<td>Margret Schwartzentrüber and Hans Egli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8, 1662</td>
<td>Hans Schwartzentrüber and Anna Röthesperger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 13, 1671</td>
<td>Hans Schwartzentrüber and Chrystyna Fischer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yet no Schwartzentrüber marriages took place there again in the century. This may be an indication of the general sympathies of the families. The year 1671 coincided with a general period of increased persecution of Anabaptists in Canton Bern.


Sept. 8, 1670 The committee recommends heavy fines for sheltering or offering meals to Anabaptists. The possessions of those who are exiled will go to the Protestant Reformed Church. A mandatory oath of allegiance will be required for all adults Jan. 7, 1671; those who decline should leave the country within eight days.

Aug. 24, 1671 Bailiffs are instructed to take prominent citizens as hostages in Steffisburg and Signau parishes, locations suspected of harboring Anabaptists.

We suspect but cannot prove that the Central Illinois family line descends from **Vincentz Schwartzentrüber**. On Nov. 14, 1634 at Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental, adjacent to Trub) he married Madlena/Leni Danner. They already had a son Peter, baptized at Langnau Sept. 4, 1634.

Either Vincentz or his son Peter, or a later son of Vincentz, could have been the father of **Hans Schwartzentrüber**. Hans was born no later than 1662.

Recall from YODER that Schangnau is a remote village 15 miles east of Steffisburg, Canton Bern. In the 16th and 17th centuries its inaccessibility (one road in) and proximity to the Bern-Luzerne boundary (two miles) would make authorities suspect that it was a haven for unrepentant Anabaptists. But it is not necessary to imagine someone migrating from Trub or Langnau to Schangnau for refuge. Schangnau is only 11 miles below them.

We found relevant early baptism entries in the Protestant Reformed Church at Schangnau. However, this church was not established until 1682.

Because the Schangnau entries appear sequentially, we suspect but cannot prove that the baptism entries represent three sets of children for one Hans Schwartzentrüber and three mothers. Only the third mother had a marriage ceremony that we could identify from records at Schangnau. This does not mean that Hans was not married to the first two – they may have come from nearby villages. Typically a marriage ceremony took place in the home or home church of the bride, and the marriage was entered in the church there.91

Children of Hans Schwartzentrüber and Catharina/Cathry Schlüchter/Schluëchter include:

1. Catharina Schwartzentrüber was baptized Nov. 16, 1682.
2. Maria Schwartzentrüber was baptized Aug. 3, 1687.
3. **Vincentz Schwartzentrüber** was baptized Sept. 8, 1692.
4. Ulli Schwartzentrüber was baptized Jan. 15, 1699.

91 In the same time frame that these births were taking place, there were two other Schwartzentrübiers at Schangnau. On April 19, 1683 at Schangnau Elsbeth Schwartzentrüber married Samuel Augspurger, whose surname is found as Aügspürg in Schangnau records. An entry for daughter Elsbeth was created Jan. 3, 1684. Another entry March 26, 1704 listed four of their daughters born in the parish of Signau between 1688 and 1696. There was also a son Steffen born to Christian Räber and Christina Schwartzentrüber July 9, 1702; one witness was Samuel Aügspürg.
Hans Schwarzenträuber and Salome Wolff had one daughter. Salome must have died in childbirth, because a minister’s note on the child’s baptism entry said that she had been buried. The daughter was given her name.

5. Salome Schwartzenträuber was baptized July 24, 1703. On May 3, 1725 at Schangnau Salome married Peter Bieri, a son of Hans Bieri and Barbara Schlüchter/Schlucker.

On June 13, 1709 at Schangnau Hans remarried to Catharina Zybäck. Their children include:

7. Hans Schwartzenträuber was baptized Dec. 10, 1711. He was likely the Johannes Schartzentrüber who lived at Weisenheim am Berg (southeast of Kaiserslautern in the Pfalz) as early as 1734, then at nearby Herxheim. He attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen with a son in 1759. EHRESMAN notes that many of the ministers who met at Essingen had received earlier training on the Bärbelsteinerhof. Thus it seems likely that there was a family connection between Hans in the Pfalz and Vincentz and Christian from the Pfalz and Waldeck. The descendants of Hans can be found in Chapter 30 of Hermann Guth’s *Amish Mennonites in Germany*.
8. Nicolaus Schwartzenträuber was baptized Jan. 25, 1714.
9. Christian Schwartzenträuber was baptized June 14, 1716, and died on the Selbach estate at Netze in the Principality of Waldeck Jan. 4, 1764. An entry in the Schangnau baptism register names his parents, but does not name him. It begins ‘Ein Ehelicher Sohn werden aber nahmen…’ [A legitimate son was baptized but taken…] and becomes illegible, apparently describing a location.
10. Elsbeth Schwartzenträuber was baptized May 9, 1720. On June 25, 1741 at Schangnau she married Hans Oberli of Lutzelfuhl.

**Vincentz Schwartzenträuber** was baptized at Schangnau, Canton Bern Sept. 8, 1692, a son of Hans Schwarzenträuber and his first wife Catharina/Cathry Schlüchter/Schlucker.

In 1719 he married Anna Zimmerman. The ceremony likely took place on the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of Berwarstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn (see EHRESMAN for background on this location). The event was registered in a Reformed Church register at nearby Niederschlettenbach by Amish Mennonite minister-leaseholder Christian Holli/Holly. Vincentz was spelled ‘Vinzenz’ on Holli/Holly’s entry.

Vincentz and Anna had at least one child (and possibly three) born in the Grafschaft Falkenstein (see STAKER for background on this Austrian enclave surrounded by the Pfalz) before migrating to the Principality of Waldeck.

In the meantime his younger brother Christian had also migrated north. He appears on a census of Mennonites at Schmalenberg (below Kaiserslautern, 30 miles northwest of Erlenbach bei Dahn and 35 miles south of Falkenstein). His name appears with others who had paid a religious protection fee [Ger. Schutzgeld]. He would have been 22 years of age.

A royal marriage on Aug. 19, 1741 opened the way for Amish Mennonites to resettle in the Principality of Waldeck. By that time Vincentz was reunited with his brother Christian, and they saw it as an opportunity to work fertile farmland.

**THE PRINCIPALITY OF WALDECK**

Christiane Henriette, Palatine Countess of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken, married Prince Karl August of Waldeck and Pyrmont. She was born at Ribeauvillé in Alsace Nov. 16, 1725. Her father, Christian III, was the Wittlesbach count who had helped Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to find new homes in 1712-13.

The House of Waldeck was connected through multiple marriages to the Dutch House of Orange. Prince Karl August served as commander of all Dutch forces in the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48). One of the odd consequences of this relationship was that many newborn daughters of Amish Mennonite tenants in Waldeck were given Christian names that had originated in the House of Orange, e.g. Frederica, Augusta, Helena, Wilhelmina, Henriette, and Caroline.

Much of the prince's income came from the troops he provided to fight Dutch battles. This arrangement drained the labor force needed to work the land. The farsighted new princess invited Amish Mennonite families to follow her and settle on estates near Arolsen on generous terms. Her patronship continued until her death Feb. 11, 1816.\(^2\)

\(^2\) 1816 must have been a year of high anxiety for the Amish Mennonites in the Principality of Waldeck. The death of their initial patron coincided with the return of two companies of troops from the Napoleonic Wars, as well as the onset of the 'Little Ice Age' cold weather phenomenon across Europe.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

In 1741 Vincentz Schwartzentrüber and his brother Christian became co-leaseholders of the Selbach estate, a dairy farm at Netze in Waldeck. (Netze is on the northeast side of the town of community of Waldeck, above the Edersee reservoir; Selbach is now a village between Netze and Freienhagen). According to Guth, their lease described them as "two Swiss people from Kaiserslautern."

Younger brother Christian died on the Selbach estate Jan. 4, 1764. Vincentz and Anna then turned over the lease to their oldest son Christian, who partnered with Jacob Schönbeck. Vincentz and Anna moved 14 miles west to Schaaken, at the west end of the Edersee valley (now found on maps as Kloster Ruine Schaaken).

Children of Vincentz Schwartzentrüber and Anna Zimmerman include:

1. Christian Schwartzentruber was born in 1719, likely on the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of Berwarstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn, and died at Netze in 1773.
2. Johannes Schwartzentruber was born in the Grafschaft Falkenstein circa 1727. He went with his parents to Schaaken in 1764, and took over the lease upon the death of his father.
3. Jakob Schwartzentruber may have been born in the Grafschaft Falkenstein. He leased the Süden [south] estate near the town of Waldeck 1767-1789. He married Barbara Jutzi.
4. Verena Schwartzentruber may have been born in the Grafschaft Falkenstein, and died at Helsen (now a neighborhood of Arolsen, 17 miles north of the town of Waldeck) July 30, 1786. She married minister Christian Güngerich. They farmed at Helsen, where he died Sept. 6, 1783. Christian represented the Waldeck congregation at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1779. See GÜNGERICH for background on his family.

Christian Schwartzentruber was born in 1719, likely on the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of Berwarstein Castle at Erlenbach bei Dahn. His wife could not be identified. He died at Netze in 1773. His children include:

1. Peter Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztraub was born circa 1740-50.
2. Jakob Schwarzentruber was born circa 1740-50. He was leaseholder of a dairy at Berich, Waldeck in 1774. Berich was one of the communities that was flooded when the Edersee dam was completed in 1914 (see EHIRSMAN, EHRISMANNS OF BUREAU COUNTY). He is found as a leaseholder at Höringhausen, Waldeck in 1795.

Peter Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztraub was born circa 1740-50. He married Barbara Schönbeck. Circa 1775-1787 they relocated to lease the Freienfelserhof, a portion of the grounds of ruined Castle Freienfels (between Weinbach and Weilburg in Nassau-Weilburg). At this point it is helpful to recall some text from UNZICKER: "Nassau-Weilburg (south of Waldeck) was a princely domain... In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited the Amish Mennonite-leased Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Pfalz (he had a home at Kircheimbolanden, and actually died on the Münsterhof in 1778). He was so impressed by the progressive methods used there that he commissioned farm manager David Holly to find families willing to come to Nassau-Weilburg. His proposal offered generous 12-year leases on princely estates, on the condition that the leasors cultivate underdeveloped acreage and share their knowledge with neighboring landowners. Four family heads accepted the arrangement: Peter Unzicker of Wörth, Johannes Nafziger of Alsace, Peter Schantz of Alsace, and 'Peter Schwartztraub.' Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Hermann Guth, Holly received a 200 gulden reward from the chancellor."

The Hesse State Archives holds a document that mentions the arrangement in Nassau-Weilburg. The leaseholder on the Freienfelserhof is 'Peter Schwartztraub.'

When Peter left the lease arrangement, he gave his next address as the Sonnenberg estate at Wiesbaden. He never resided there, and could be found on a farm at Freienhagen (just above the communities of Waldeck and Netze, and the Edersee reservoir) after 1787. In his old age he lived on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg, 140 miles southeast of the town of Waldeck, where he died.

The Bubenrod estate was located in the Landgraviate of Hesse-Damstadt. It was leased in 1793 by Peter’s nephew Christian Schwartzentruber/Schwartztraub (1770-1855), a son of Jakob. Peter and Barbara had at least two sons. Older son Peter married Wilhelmine Ösch and remained at Freienhagen. Younger son Johannes Schwartzentruber/John Schwarzentraub became the father of a family that lived on the Bubenrod estate and emigrated four years after his death.

Shettler family notes say he was born June 6, 1774. If so, the location was likely the Selbach estate at Netze in Waldeck.

Johannes married Magdalena Schwarzentruber. Family notes say that she was born Aug. 27, 1796, and died in Illinois Jan. 28, 1854. She came from Buchenberg, at the west end of the Edersee valley. It is likely that she was descended from the younger brother of Vincentz Schwartzentrüber, Christian.
1816 must have been a year of high anxiety for the Amish Mennonites in the Principality of Waldeck. The death of their initial patron Christiane Henriette, Palatine Countess of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken coincided with the return of two companies of troops from the Napoleonic Wars, as well as the onset of the 'Little Ice Age' cold weather phenomenon across Europe.

Johannes died Feb. 2, 1832. An emigration file in the Hesse State Archives labeled 'Johannes Schwarzentruber' states that in April 1836 his widow and six children applied for permission to go to America (the oldest son who accompanied them was already 19 and would have had his own file, with or without an exemption from military training). Their home is noted as 'Hof Strubbach bei Königsberg' – Strupbach farm at Königsberg.

Widow Magdalena and her children boarded the *Isabella* at Bremen, and arrived at New York Sept. 7, 1836. The *Isabella*’s passenger list names them: Mag. Schwarzentrauba, 40; Hessia; Christ, 19, laborer; Jacob, 17; Johannes, 15; Marie, 13; Magdalena, 9; Joseph, 6; and Jacobine, 11.

In 1850 son Christian's household at Turtle Creek appears as farmer Christian Schwarzentroup, 32; Magdelin, 53 [mother]; laborer Conrad Supt, 30; Meary Kinrish, 45; and farmer [and younger brother] Joseph Swascentroup, 20. Son Jacob's household appears as farmer Jacob Swatzentroup, 31; John, 29; Helen, 23 [Jacob's wife]; laborer John Banten, 42; and laborer Charles Wolb, 25.

Johannes and Magdalena's children were all born in Hesse-Darmstadt according to their own census reports. Some are found at Königsberg. They include:

1. Christian Schwarzentraub was born Nov. 27, 1817, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Nov. 25, 1888. On the 1870 census of Morton he appears as a 53-year-old farmer in the household of his brother Jacob. On Nov. 10, 1878 at the age of 61 Christian married widow Helene Gingerich. She was born circa April 22, 1833, and died Feb. 5, 1891; her headstone does not give a birth date, but the age 57 years, 9 months, 15 days. In 1880 they were living at Washington, where they appeared on the federal census as farmer Christ Swartzentraub, 62, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to a father from Prussia and a mother from Hesse; Helen, 46, born in Hesse to Hessian parents; and stepson Christian Unsicker, 22, born in Hesse to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Hesse. Helene's Christlicher Bundesbote obituary, Feb. 26, 1891: "On February 5 at Washington, Tazewell County, Helena Schwartzentraub, born Gingrich, at the age of 57 years, 9 months, 13 days. Her funeral took place on the 8th in Hirstein's cemetery. Remarks were delivered by bishop M. Kiesinger [Kinsinger], David Augspurger, Peter Schantz, and S. Schmitt. The deceased sister was born in Alterau Province in Hesse. In the year 1855 she married Daniel Unsicker of Rhinehesse. But in the first year of the marriage he died. In the year 1878 Helena followed her son Christian to America, and she remarried to Christian Schwarzentraub of Tazewell County on November 10, 1878. This marriage was only of a brief duration, since his husband went into eternity first on Nov. 25, 1888. They leave one son and two grandchildren. Their most ardent desire was expressed in *Philippians* 1.23: "I have desire to separate and be with Christ." They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

2. Jakob/Jacob Schwarzentraub was born in 1819, died in 1887, and is also buried in Hirstein Cemetery. His first wife was Catharine Nafziger, who was born Nov. 6, 1824, and died Jan. 22, 1861. He remarried to Caroline Engel. She was an illegitimate child born to Jacobine Engel (the widow of André Schertz) at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace March 17, 1838, and died at Morton June 18, 1922 (see the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on her family's immigration). Both wives are buried near Jakob/Jacob in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. On the 1870 census of Morton his household appears as farmer Jacob Shuencentraub, 51, Hesse-Darmstadt; Carolin, 31, France; John, 11, Illinois; Theodore, 5, Illinois; farm laborer John Melfers, 25, Hanover; farm laborer Daniel Aushburger, 28, France; and farmer Christian Schuenentraub, 53, Hesse-Darmstadt. On the 1880 census of Morton they appear next door to Jacob Kennel: farmer Jacob Schwarzentraub, 61, Hesse-Cassel; Caroline, 41, Lorraine; John, 21; Theodore, 14; and Eamil, 8; all children born in Illinois.

3. Johannes/John Schwarzentraub, who lived with older brother Jacob at Turtle Creek, was born on the Bubenroed estate at Königsberg Dec. 27, 1820. On Feb. 3, 1853 in Bureau County he married Barbe/Barbara Kiefer. She was born at Amélecourt, Moselle Nov. 11, 1826, a daughter of Joseph Kiefer and Barbe Guingerich (in her second marriage; see the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on their family). From a sketch of their son Joseph K. Schwarzentraub in *Past and Present of Bureau County, Illinois* (1906): "The father was born in Germany, December 27, 1820, and the mother's birth occurred in France in 1828. She was brought to the United States by her parents when but two years of age and Mr. Schwarzentraub crossed the Atlantic to the new world when a youth of fifteen years, when he became a resident of Concord township, Bureau county, Illinois." A biography of one of their sons says John relocated from Ohio to Illinois at the age of 31 (1852). Their household appears on the 1860 census of Concord, Bureau County as farmer John Schwartzentzb, 39, Germany; Barbara, 33, France; John E., 6, Illinois;

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93 Hof Strupbach (east of the village of Königsberg) and Bubenroed (south) are still active farms.
94 Christian Unsicker was born Sept. 6, 1857, and died April 18, 1914. He married Marie Lammle, who was born June 3, 1876, and died Oct. 17, 1944, a daughter of Adam Lammle. They appear on the 1910 census of Deer Creek as Christ Unsicker, 52, Germany (year of immigration 1877); Mary, 49; and 7 children born in Illinois. Christian and Marie are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Julius A., 3, Illinois; and Mary C., 2, Illinois. In 1870 they appear at Bureau, Bureau County as farmer John Schwartzentraub, 47, Germany; Barbara, 43, France; John E., 16; Julius A., 14; Mary C., 11; Joseph, 9; Phebe, 7; all children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1880 census of Bureau. Barbara Kiefer appears on the 1900 census of Bureau as the 73-year-old mother in the household of son Joseph Schwartzentraub, who was born in 1861. The census gives her birth date as November 1826 and says she immigrated in 1828.

4. Maria/Mary Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg Feb. 8, 1823, and died at Buda, Bureau County Jan. 10, 1879. On May 7, 1843 in Butler County she married Friederich/Frederick Schöttler/Schoettler. He was born at Sichelbach (west of Kassel) Aug. 22, 1814, and died at Buda July 30, 1879, a son of Christian Schöttler and his second wife Elisabeth Sommer. Voters and Taxpayer of Bureau County, 1877, describes Frederick as someone who had immigrated in 1835, came to Bureau County in 1844, now owned 307 acres, and served as school director.

5. Magdalena 'Helena' Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg May 21, 1827 (birth entry, though her headstone says May 31), and died Jan. 26, 1899. She became the wife of second cousin Daniel Schwarzentraub (more on him follows). They are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

6. Jacobie Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg April 28, 1825. She may have been the person who appeared on the Isabella passenger list as 19-year-old Jacobine, though she would have been only 11 in 1836.

7. Joseph Schwarzentraub, who lived with older brother Christian at Turtle Creek, was born circa 1830, and died in Woodford County May 26, 1876 (his headstone says he was 46 years old). On Dec. 29, 1856 in Woodford County he married Barbara Vercler/Verkler.95 She was born on Kickapoo Creek at Peoria Jan. 17, 1834, and died Aug. 5, 1910,a daughter of Joseph Vercler and Jacobine Engel. Their household is found on the 1860 census of Metamora as farm renter Joseph Swarzentraub, 30, Bavaria; Barbary, 27, Illinois; and Louisa, 2, Illinois. They are found on the 1870 census of Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County as 'Joseph Schwarzentrou' and Barbara. They are buried in the North Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Forrest, Livingston County.

Daniel Schwarztraub

We looked through church records on FHL microfilm to sort out the Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub tangle on the Bubenrod estate and Hof Strupbach at Königsberg. We could generalize and say that the families in the Principality of Waldeck retained the spelling Schwartzentruber, while the families in Hesse-Darmstadt became Schwartztraubs and Schwarzentraubs. But the records kept at Königsberg are erratic and deceptive. Often the same person can be found as a Schwartztraub, Schwartztruber, Schwarzentraub, or what appears to be Schwarzendruber (when the 't' is not crossed). A closer look reveals that many signatures match the handwriting of the text above, indicating that they were written by the clerk for someone who was probably illiterate. Thus many of the spelling variations were unintentional and inconsistent.

We found four heads-of-family there:

■ Christian was leaseholder. His father was Jakob, a brother of Peter of Freinhagen. Christian was born on the Selbach estate at Netze Dec. 25, 1770. Before 1793 he married Katharina Esch of Bad Wildungen (now adjacent to the Edersee reservoir). They leased the Bubenrod estate in 1793. Katharina died there May 28, 1808. On Jan. 7, 1810 at Königsberg Christian remarried to Anna Bachmann. In 1819 Christian and Anna made the final payment to assume possession of the estate. It remains in the family. Christian died at Königsberg Jan. 23, 1855. In his book Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth reprinted part of a eulogy delivered by the Protestant minister at Königsberg. It mentioned that Christian's two wives had delivered 19 children. Only a handful of the children have been identified. Some died young, others apparently went off to live with relatives at locations such as the Albacherhof estate.

■ Joseph was a son of Christian and his first wife Katharina Esch. He married Magdalena Schlabach.

■ Daniel Schwarztraub was a son of Jakob and brother to Christian. He married Katharina Bachmann.

■ Johannes was a son of Peter, and cousin to Christian and Daniel. He was the father whose family emigrated in 1836, after his death in 1832.

Daniel Schwarztraub was a brother to Bubenrod estate leaseholder Christian, and a cousin to Johannes. On Sept. or Dec. 25, 1811 at Königsberg he married Katharina Bachmann Their entry states that Daniel was a Mennonit on Bubenrod estate. Katharina came from the Rinkweilerhof estate at Hornbach, six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken.

95 The marriage record held at Eureka lists them as 'Barbara Verkler' and 'Joseph Swartzentraub.'
Their son **Daniel Schwarzentraub** was born at Leihgestern, Hesse July 29, 1820. Leihgestern is located four miles below Giessen, and 18 miles southeast of Königsberg. 96

At age 31 Daniel sailed from Bremen on the *Janet Ridson*, arriving at New York June 24, 1852. This was the same voyage that brought Peter Erismann and his wife Magdalena Stähly (they settled in Bureau County; see EHRESMAN, ERISMANNS OF BUREAU COUNTY), as well as Magdalena's younger brother Peter Stähly. (Peter Erismann and Magdalena Stähly were later next door neighbors to Johannes/John Schwarzentraub from the Turtle Creek family and his wife Barbara Kiefer).

Shortly after arrival Daniel married his second cousin Magdalena 'Helena' Schwarzentraub.


Magdalena 'Helena' died Jan. 26, 1899. She is buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

In 1900 Daniel was living at Morton with his oldest son. That household appears as farmer Joe Schwarzentraub, 45, born in Illinois in February 1855 to German parents; Johanna, wife, 29, born February 1871 in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; Albert, 1, born in April 1899 to parents from Illinois; boarder Daniel Schwarzentraub, 79, born in Germany in July 1820 to German parents (married 45 years); and Lizzie Kennel, housekeeper, 26, born in Illinois in June 1873 to parents from Germany and Ohio.

Daniel died at Morton April 12, 1906. He was buried in Buckeye Cemetery.

96 Giessen was the location of the Schauferts estate leased by Daniel Brenneman (1814-1870). He was a son of Jakob Unzicker and Elisabeth Jordy, and a brother to Peter Unzicker (the Morton resident described in UNZICKER) and Elise Unzicker (she married Joseph Brenneman of Wohra and lived at Granville, Putnam County). Brennemans also farmed on the Albacherhof estate between Albach and Lich, 7 miles southeast of the city.
Smith: Schmitt of Linstroff

Two Christian Smiths figure in the history of the part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County. Christian Smith of Worth (1802-1876) was the father of minister John Smith and the grandfather of historian C. Henry Smith. Christian Smith (1810-1855) was a highly respected farmer in the location that was known as Slabtown, and is now Congerville in Montgomery Township. He died in a cholera epidemic that also took his wife, two children, his brother-in-law, and their minister.

The two Christians grew up as Schmitts in Moselle. They were cousins, sharing a paternal grandfather, Johann/Jean Schmitt.

Johann/Jean Schmitt was born circa 1733. He became a miller on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now part of Grostenquin), and died there Sept. 27, 1793.

Johann/Jean's death entry names his widow as Barbe Hirschy. She was 58 years old, thus born circa 1735. However, the 1801 death entry of son Christian (found as Christianne) identifies his mother as Marie Hirschme. And the 1803 marriage entry of son Joseph named his mother as Anne Hirschme. What we know about the Hirschi family suggests Johann/Jean's wife was a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Marie Kupperschmit. However, this may also represent two daughters married in succession. Or, their daughter Marie François Hirschme, who was born and baptized at Grostenquin March 17, 1725. See the Appendix, HIRSCHY/HIRSCEY for background on this family.

Though he may have had a large family, only four of the offspring of Johann/Jean Schmitt could be identified:

1. Christian Schmitt was born at Linstroff circa 1766-69. He appeared as a witness on his father's death entry. It described him as Christian Schmitt, a 24-year-old miller's assistant on Hingsange farm. Another witness was cultivator Joseph Hirschme, 38, described as a brother-in-law of Johann/Jean. Christian's death entry created at Zimming, Moselle June 20, 1801 called him 'Christianne Schmitte,' and described him as a 33-year-old Anabaptist day laborer born from 'Hingzange.' He married Barbe Guingerich. See THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING AND WORTH for the story of their son Christian.

2. Johannes/Hans/Jean Schmitt was born at Linstroff in 1774 (1850 census), 1772 (1860 census), or May 16, 1770 (headstone date), and died in Campbell County, Kentucky Nov. 17, 1866. In 1794 he was drafted to perform literary military service, and worked on fortifications near Metz. On Nov. 10, 1811 at Bertambois, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Anne Sommer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Anabaptist farmhand Jean Schmitte, age 36 years four months, son of Anabaptist miller Jean Schmitte living at Hingsange, Linstroff, and Marie Hirchy. The bride was described as Anabaptist Anne Somer [Sommer], 22, daughter of cultivator Joseph Sommer of Gindremont [Guindremont, Meurthe-et-Moselle] and Anabaptist Barbe Karbre [Gerber], living at Bertrambois. Anne was born in 1786, and died in Campbell County Jan. 4, 1871, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Elisabeth Barbe Gerber. They lived at Gelucourt and Niderhoff. They appear on the 1850 census of 2nd District, Campbell County, Kentucky a page before families named Musselman [Mosiman] and Shirts [see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF SARRALBE]: John Smith, 76, France; Anna, 60, France; Mary, 26, France; and Peter, 20, France. In 1860 their household is shown as John Smith, 88, France; Ann, 73, France; Ann, 44, France; Mary, 39, France; John, 17, Illinois; and Alice, 13, Illinois. They are buried in the Schertz Family Cemetery at Campbell County as 'John Smith' and 'Anna Smith.' "Gospel Herald," February 1871: "On the 4th of January in Campbell County, Kentucky, of infirmities of old age, Anna Smidt (maiden name Summers), in her 84th year. She was buried on the 6th in the family grave-yard, by the side of her husband. Funeral remarks by Pre. Joseph Augspurger of Butler County, Ohio, from 2 Cor. 5:1,2."

3. Joseph Schmitt was born at Wittring (22 miles east of Linstroff) April 26, 1777, according to his marriage entry. On May 5, 1803 at Linstroff he married Freni/Véronique Gerber. See THE SMITHS OF BISPING for the story of their son Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith.

4. Marie Schmitt was born at Linstroff in 1782. On Nov. 27, 1811 at Gelucourt, Moselle she married Pierre Schertz, becoming his third wife (see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF SARRALBE for background on this couple who came to Campbell County, Kentucky).

Smith of Zimming

Worth

Christian Schmitt/Smith was born Jan. 21, 1802 at Zimming, a tiny village about seven miles west of St. Avold, Moselle. He was a son of Christian Schmitt and Barbe Guingerich. 97 Because he was born after the death of

97 Christian Schmitt/Schmitt of Worth may have had a sister, though a birth entry could not be found in records created at Zimming or Bispeng. Marie Schmitt (later Mary Smith) was born circa 1800, and died at Worth in May of 1871 according to
his father (June 20, 1801), who had worked as a miller at Zimming, his birth entry identified him as 'Christian Schmitt, posthumous.' It was witnessed by farmhand Joseph Schmit (presumably his uncle who was married to Freni/Véronique Gerber) and miller André Moser.

He was considered one of the early settlers of the Black Partridge Creek area of what was then Tazewell County; it is now in Woodford County. The Past and Present of Woodford County (1878): "Christian Smith came to the United States in 1829, and, after spending four years in Pennsylvania, came to Worth, where he settled permanently in 1833, and was one of the prosperous farmers of the times."

On May 27, 1838 in Tazewell County Christian married Catherine Béchler (Bächler); the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Engel. Catherine was born at St. Jean Kourtzerode, Moselle April 8, 1805, and died at Eureka, Woodford County in 1860, a daughter of Jacob Béchler and Anne Gerber.

Catherine 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.


Their household appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Christian Smith, 50, Germany; Catharine, 43, Illinois; Madaline, 11, Illinois; Catharine, 10, Illinois; Anne, 7, Illinois; John, 6, Illinois; Maria, 5, Illinois; Bena, 1, Illinois; and Madaline Béshler, 40, Illinois.98

The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows farmer Christian Smith, 60, Bavaria; Catharine, 60, France; Anne, 18, Illinois; John, 16 Illinois; Maria, 13, Illinois; and Bena, 11, Illinois.

Christian died at Metamora in 1876, and is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. His headstone reads, "Christian Smith, born 1800, died 1876, aged 76 years."

Their children born at Partridge or Worth include:

1. Magdalena Smith was born May 21 (Past and Present) or 24 (obituary), 1839, and died March 22, 1902. On Feb. 19, 1860 at Metamora she married Christian Camp. He was born at Spring Bay Oct. 29, 1836, and died Jan. 13, 1914, a son of Joseph Camp [Kempf] and Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel. For more on this couple see CAMP. 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."

2. Catherine Smith was born June 13, 1840, and died May 10, 1885. On Feb. 2, 1859 in Woodford County she married Joseph Leman. He was born at Rhodes, Moselle June 3, 1835, and died July 21, 1926, a son of Joseph Lehman and Catherine Pelsy. See LEMAN for more on this couple.

3. Anna Smith was born Dec. 4, 1841, and died July 25, 1900. On June 24, 1863 (June 22, 1862 county records) in Woodford County she married John Sommer. He was born Aug. 6, 1835, and died at Normal, McLean County Aug. 2, 1912, a son of George Sommer and Anna Gasser. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Gospel Herald, August 1912: "Lingerer in an unconscious state for five days following a stroke of apoplexy, John Sommer died at the home of his daughter, Lizzie Sommer, in Metamora, Ill., Aug. 2, 1912; aged. 76 y. 11 m. 27 d. He has been in failing health since three years ago, when he suffered a paralytic stroke at the home of his son John, in Oklahoma. He was brought back to Illinois a few months afterwards, and has since then made his home with his daughter Lizzie. He was born in France Aug. 6, 1835, and two years later came with his father's family to Partridge Twp., where he grew to manhood and was married to Anna Smith, June 24, 1863. Thirteen children were born to this union, nine living, of whom all but one were at the father's bedside during his last days of illness. His wife preceded him in death, July 25, 1900. He united with the Dunkard Church at Stuttgart, Ark., 14 years ago and remained a faithful member to the end. The surviving children are George L., Joseph D., Bena, Lizzie, Lena, wife of John Wagner, John J., Chris W., Anna, wife of Sam Studer, and Peter B. Five brothers and one sister also survive; also 23 grandchildren. Funeral services Aug. 4 at the Union Church, Metamora, Ill., conducted by E. Eschliman and Andrew Schrock. The services were attended by a large throng of relatives and friends of the family. After the services the remains were taken to the Hickory Point Cemetery west of Metamora for burial."

4. John Smith was born Nov. 27, 1843, and died at Metamora July 6, 1906.

5. Mary Smith was born March 30, 1845, and died at Eureka May 25, 1927. On Feb. 20, 1867 (Jan. 20, 1867 Woodford County records) she married John Imhoff. He was born in Butler County, Ohio Aug. 10, 1837, and died at Low
John Smith was born at Partridge or Worth Nov. 27, 1843. He was ordained as a minister at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Christian Ropp in 1887, and later as elder. He served the Western Conference six times as secretary and three times as moderator.

6. Jacobine 'Bena' Smith was born July 22, 1849, and died at Washington Sept. 9, 1925. On Jan. 16, 1870 in Woodford County she married Peter Sommer. He was born at Metamora April 11, 1843, and died at Washington June 5, 1922, a son of George Sommer and Anna Gasser. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Rev. Peter Sommer' and 'Bena Sommer.' Gospel Herald, June 1922: "Peter Sommer was born near Metamora, Ill., April 11, 1843, where he grew up to young manhood. His father emigrated from Strasberg, France, in a sail-boat, requiring three months to cross the ocean, and located west of Metamora, where the whole family was reared. He was one of nine children; two brothers and two sisters preceding him. Three brothers (Joseph, Jacob, George) and one sister (Anna) survive him. His father also found time to minister to the spiritual wants in the community in which he lived, being one of the first settlers to locate in that district. There were no school privileges then as we have them now, so he received only a limited amount of training in the public schools. On Jan. 16, 1870 he was married to Bena Smith, to which union were born nine children; namely, George, John, Chris, Joseph, Peter, Jacob, Anna, Benjamin, and Emanuel, all of whom survive. The death of the father causes the first break in the family circle. He also leaves thirty-two grandchildren, four having preceded him in death. While yet a young man he united with the Mennonite Church, and in 1888 was ordained to the ministry, in which capacity he served as long as his health permitted. He retired from the farm five years ago, moving to Washington, Ill., where he lived until his death. Until four years ago he knew not what sickness was, but since then he has been gradually failing, and passed quietly away June 5, aged 79 y. 1 m. 24 d. Funeral services were conducted at the residence by A. L. Buzzard and at the Evangelical church by J. E. Hartzler (text, Job. 14:1-14), June 8. A large gathering had the privilege of listening to a message full of proof that a man shall live even though the physical body does die. P. D. Summer." Gospel Herald, October 1925: "Bena (Smith) Summer was born near Metamora, Ill., July 22, 1849, where she grew to womanhood. She affiliated herself with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful member until her death, which occurred Sept. 9, 1925; aged 76 y. 1 m. 17 d. On January 16, 1870, she was united in marriage to Peter Summer, who predeceased her three years ago. To this union were born eight sons and one daughter, all living, and all present at the funeral but one. She leaves 37 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Four grandchildren preceded her in death. She was the youngest of six children, four of whom preceded her in death. (One of these was Bishop John Smith.) Mrs. Mary Imhoff is the only one surviving her. Funeral services were conducted by A. A. Schrook at the home and A. H. Leaman and A. L. Buzzard at the Union Church. Interment in the adjoining cemetery. Text, Job. 14:1-3. A. L. B."
services were conducted at the house by Bro. A. H. Leaman, of the Chicago Mission, from *James 4:14*, and at the church by Bro. S. Gerig, of Wayland, Iowa, in German, and Bro. Samuel Garber, of Groveland, Ill., in English, both taking for their text *II Tim. 4:7,8*. Bro. Smith was in good health as ever, apparently. On Friday, July 6th, he drove to Roanoke, and while there had a severe pain on his chest, and when he got home he made mention of it to his family and seemed to pay no more attention to it. He ate his supper as usual, and during the evening he made several appointments with different brethren, to be filled on the following day, and was in the best of spirits during the evening. At about 9 o'clock he retired for the night and at 9:40 that grim reaper, Death, called and took him and we have the assurance that he has entered a nobler work than he could ever have attained to in this life. Just a moment before he passed away he told his wife that he believed that pain was coming back again, and with that he passed away..."

John's son Joseph D. Smith became superintendent of the Home for the Aged at Eureka, and his son C. Henry Smith became an outstanding historian of American Mennonites.

**Schmitt of Bisping**

*Congerville*

**Joseph Schmitt** was born at Wittring April 26, 1777, according to his marriage entry. 99

On May 5, 1803 at Linstroff he married Freni/Véronique Gerber. She was born in the hamlet Kreutzwald at Saverne, Lower Alsace Feb. 28, 1781, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich. Her parents were farming on the Roderhof at Insviller, Moselle (12 miles southeast of Grostenquin).

Joseph and Véronique lived at Bisping (six miles south of Insviller) and Vannecourt (13 miles west of Bisping), both in Moselle:100 Joseph was a cabinet maker.

The Schmitts had a connection with the Farny family of Bisping: Barbe Farny was the second wife of Freni/Véronique Gerber's older brother Peter/Pierre Gerber. Barbe Farny was an older half-sister to Christian and Peter/Pierre Farny, 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln.' (Freni/Véronique Gerber also had an older sister Elisabeth 'Lisbeth' Gerber who married Pierre Farny of the Bistroff family).

Background on the village of Bisping can be found in FARNY. An excerpt from that history:

> The most significant event in the early lives of Peter/Pierre and Christian Farny 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.

We identified five of the children of Joseph Schmitt and Freni/Véronique Gerber. It is possible that there were other births at other locations:

1. **Joseph Schmitt** was born at Vannecourt Oct. 30, 1806. His household is found on the 1850 census of Madison, Butler County, Ohio: Joseph Smith, 38, Germany; Jacobina, 35, Germany; Ann, 10; Catharine, 8; Joseph, 7; Magdalena, 5; Nicholas, 2; and Mary, 8 months; all children born in Ohio. Thus Joseph was in Ohio by 1840. Circa 1856 they resettled in Fulton County, Ohio. On the 1860 census of German, Fulton County: Jos. Smith, 56, Germany; Jacobine, 45, Germany; Ann, 19; Catherine, 18; Joseph, 16; Magdalena, 15; Nicholas, 12; Christian, 6; Emaline, 3; all children born in Ohio.101 On the 1870 census of German, Fulton County: Joseph Smith, 60, France; Phoebe, 55, France; Joseph, 26; Nicholas, 22; Christian, 16; Emma, 13; Magdalena, 19; all children born in Ohio. They lived next door to pioneer Christian Rupp, 79, and a few houses from Christian Lauber, 40, and his wife Catherine, 38. Joseph Smith is mentioned once in *A Standard History of Fulton County, Ohio*. On May 12, 1875 he sold land south of Archbold to the town for use as a cemetery. The price was $37.60. *Gospel Herald*, November 1877: “Aug. 14th, in Fulton Co., Ohio, of a lingering disease, Joseph Smith, aged 68 years and 8 months.

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99 Some older sources erroneously state that the father Christian Smith was actually Christian Peter Schmidt, a son of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber. However, the information we gathered shows distinct Smith and Peter Schmidt families that were connected by later marriages. (The first Peter Schmidt to come to Central Illinois was widow Anna, who came from Butler County, Ohio to marry her second husband Joseph Oyer at Farmdale, now part of East Peoria, in 1851).

100 Bisping and Angviller-les-Bisping combined to become Belles-Forêts in 1973.

101 Archbold and Clinton are within German Township, which is within Fulton County in the northwest corner of the state.
Barbara was born in France circa 1819, and died Aug. 26, 1893. Her husband John Gerber/Garber was also born.

102 Christian P. Stuckey (1857-1929) was a minister who lived at Archbold, Fulton County. Christ Freyinberger (1841-1910) lived nearby at Pettisville.

103 A biographical sketch of John Detweiler in Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County (1889) describes his first wife Elizabeth Gerber as "a native of Lorraine." It also described her father John Garber/Gerber as having "...died in this township some years ago."
March 1, 1938. She was a daughter of Peter Miller and Elizabeth Wolber; they brought her to America in 1868. John and Elizabeth had one child, Ida Amelia.

b. Barbara Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville May 4, 1850, and died Nov. 5, 1916. Circa 1869 she married Peter Sharp. He was born at Brown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania May 6, 1846, and died in McLean County Dec. 29, 1923, a son of John Zook Sharp and Leah Yoder. They can be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Peter Sharp, 33, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 28, born in Illinois to German parents; Eli, 10, Illinois; and Benjamin, 6, Illinois. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

c. Joseph Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville circa 1858. He is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery living on the family farm with his widowed mother. Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County described him as 'living at home' in 1889. He is found on the 1900 census of Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois, listed among the residents of the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane.104

d. John Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville circa 1859. He could not be identified after the 1870 census, though the Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County described him as 'living at home' in 1889.

We could not identify a Katharina/Catherine (thought to have married a Farny) in Bisping birth entries.

Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith was born at Bisping May 31, 1810. Portrait and Biographical Album of Tazewell and Mason Counties (1894) says that Christian immigrated in 1831. He worked two years in Lancaster County. Circa 1833 at Wayne, Butler County, Ohio he married Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. She was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle April 10, 1811, and died at what is now Congerville Aug. 4, 1855, a daughter of Joseph Schrag and his second wife Marie Neuhauser.

Christian was a carpenter and farm laborer. He and Magdalena moved from Butler County to what is now Congerville, Woodford County in 1838. The 1850 census of Woodford County shows the household of farmer Christian Smith, 40, France; Malind, 38, France; Mary, 17, Ohio; Barbaray, 15, Ohio; Peter, 13, Ohio; Nancy, 10, Illinois; Malinda, 9, Illinois; Joseph, 7, Illinois; Christian, 5, Illinois; and John, 2, Illinois. They are listed on the same page as brothers Christian and Jacob Zehr, on the page after brothers Christian and Peter Farny (the 'Amishmen who hired Lincoln').

From the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, April 1930: "...Then came next the worst and most extensive of all the local cholera outbreaks, that of July and August, 1855. The total number of deaths of this period will never be known, and can only be approximated. So far, I have the names of seventy-two persons who died of cholera here in Bloomington, at Waynesville, at Clarksville, at Stout's Grove, at Congerville, at Twin Grove, and in the vicinity of Shirley, all during this outbreak."

Father Christian died Aug. 2, and mother Magdalena followed Aug. 4. Magdalena's brother Andrew Schrock, and neighbors John Lantz and Jonas Kauffman died the following day.

Minister Daniel Zehr was called to attend to the family. Zehr delivered the graveside eulogy at a funeral Aug. 10, spent the evening at home, and died the following morning. Daughter Barbara Smith died Aug. 14 or 17, and son John Smith died Aug. 19. The victims were hastily buried in Slabtown Cemetery.105

The Weekly Pantagraph's list of the dead from 'Asiatic Cholera' noted "Christian Schmidt, near Congerville," then "Mrs. Christian Schmidt, near Congerville," then, "A young daughter and a young son of Christian Schmidt, near Congerville." (An explanation of the nature of cholera and its effect on immigration and the frontier is given in STAKER).

The surviving children were raised by relatives and neighbors.
Children of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock include:

1. Mary Smith was born in Butler County circa 1833 (her headstone says 1835), and died at Harper, Kansas in 1896. On Dec. 7, 1858 in Peoria County she married Frederick Fellrath. He was born circa 1836, and died at Harper Nov. 21, 1894. They are found on the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as harness maker F. Felroth, 43, born in Alsace; Mary, 44, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace; Lewis H., 16, born in Illinois; and Ida, 9, born in Illinois. Mary and Frederick are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper.

2. Barbara Smith was born in Butler County circa 1835, and died at what is now Congerville of cholera Aug. 14 or 17, 1855.

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104 The former site of the hospital is now the Prairie Land Heritage Museum.
105 Repeating a note from SOMMER: Many of the dead in Slabtown Centetory were buried under wooden markers that no longer survive. Cattle were allowed to graze on the grounds. Only 16 or so headstones can still be read. These include the graves of Christian Ehresman, Peter Farny/Farny, Johannes Klopfenstein, minister Daniel Zehr, and Peter Zehr. Daniel Zehr's headstone gives the date of his death from cholera as Aug. 11, 1855.
3. Peter Smith was born in Butler County June 20, 1837, and died in Livingston County Nov. 17, 1875. On Feb. 3, 1861 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Neuhauser; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in Butler County Feb. 21, 1840, and died in Livingston County March 24, 1881, a daughter of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt. The 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows Barbara Smith, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Baden and a mother from France. Her brother John W. and his family lived with them. Their family Bible is in the collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana. Peter and Barbara are buried at Flanagan. Gospel Herald, April 1876: "Nov. 17th, 1875, in Livingston Co., Ill., Bro. Peter Schmitt, aged 38 years, 4 months and 27 days. He was sick eleven weeks, and he bore his suffering with Christian patience, manifesting to those visiting him a good example. He gave his family and friends a good admonition before his departure. Services by Joseph Gasho, Chr. Schlagle, and Jn. P. Schmitt."

4. Anna ‘Nancy’ Smith was born at what is now Congerville circa 1840, and died in 1861. On May 2, 1858 in Tazewell County she married John Garber of Elm Grove. He was born in Ohio in 1836, a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe. 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.

5. Magdalena 'Malinda' Smith was born at what is now Congerville May 11, 1841, and died at Harper, Kansas April 14, 1916. On Oct. 21, 1860 in Tazewell County she married Peter Neuhauser [Jr.]; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born in Butler County July 8, 1838, and died Aug. 26, 1864, a son of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt. On Oct. 11, 1866 at Bloomington, McLean County she remarried to Valentine Maninger. He was born at Dittwar, Baden Sept. 26, 1835, and died at Harper July 4, 1913. He was naturalized in McLean County Oct. 30, 1868, after stating that he had been honorably discharged from the volunteer army, and had been a resident 12 years. They are shown on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Valentine Maninger, 45, born in Baden to parents form Baden; Magdalena, 39, born in Illinois to French parents; six children born in Illinois; and Jacob Smith, 21, a Swiss farm laborer. Their next door neighbor was Barbara Smith, 40, born in Ohio to parents from Baden and France, with five children born in Illinois; she was presumably Peter's younger sister, the widowed Barbara Neuhauser. The third consecutive household was that of their younger brother John A. Neuhauser. Magdalena and Valentine are buried in the Apostolic Cemetery at Harper. The Harper Sentinel, April 20, 1916: "Mrs. Maninger Passes Away. Mrs. Magdalena Maninger passed away Friday, April 14th at her home in Harper after a long illness. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock form the Apostolic German church, after short services had been held from the residence. Rev. Kurtz of Burlington, Ok., officiated. The remains were laid to rest in the Apostolic cemetery by the side of her husband who died two years ago. Magdalene Smith was born in Carlock, Ill., May 11th, 1841. Her parents came from France in 1831. She was married to Peter Neuhauser in 1860. To that union three children were born, all with the husband having preceded her in death. She was married to Valentine Maninger in 1866. To this union seven sons and one daughter were born. They are John, Frank, Gus, Joe (deceased), William, Ed, Fred, and Mrs. Emma Barth. Mrs. Maninger came to Kansas with her family in the early eighties and had since made this state her home. She had united with the Apostolic church in girlhood and had lived true to the faith ever since. Her life was one of usefulness and the long line of children and grandchildren she leaves are living witnesses of the character of the woman who has passed to her reward. Friends and relatives from a distance who attended the funeral were: Mrs. Fred Hoffman, Mr. Mary Deil, Rev. Kurtz, Dan Dotterer, Mrs. Barbara Smith, Mrs. Noah Domnick, Misses Mary Zehr, Mary Allenback, Mary Kurtz and Lena Riggenbaugh, of Burlington, Ok., J.P. Farney, Sam Farney and wife of Kiowa; John Schrock and wife, J. Shrock, Sam Schrock and Lena Scrock of Hazelton; John Oyer, Hesston; Mrs. Lena King, Hutchinson and John Raedel and wife of Wichita."

6. Joseph Smith was born at what is now Congerville May 23, 1843, and died at Harper, Kansas Jan. 3, 1889. On Dec. 18, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Roth; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in Butler County April 25, 1847, and died at Harper Sept. 1, 1920, a daughter of minister Nicholas Roth and Katharina/Catherine Habecker. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Joseph Smith, 37, born in Illinois to German parents; Barbara, 32, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace and Bavaria; and seven children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Barbara's aunt Frena Roth Stecker/Staker (now 1000 W. Jefferson Avenue), and their family lived with them. Their family Bible is in the collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana. Peter and Barbara are buried at Flanagan. Gospel Herald, April 1876: "Nov. 17th, 1875, in Livingston Co., Ill., Bro. Peter Schmitt, aged 38 years, 4 months and 27 days. He was sick eleven weeks, and he bore his suffering with Christian patience, manifesting to those visiting him a good example. He gave his family and friends a good admonition before his departure. Services by Joseph Gasho, Chr. Schlagle, and Jn. P. Schmitt."

7. Christian Smith [Jr.] was born at what is now Congerville Jan. 18, 1846.

8. John Smith was born at what is now Congerville circa 1848, and died there of cholera Aug. 19, 1855.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

During Christian's 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 Christian mustered out Aug. 5, 1865. He was transported by steamboat to Cairo, Illinois, and by rail to Chicago, where he was paid and discharged.

According to History of Tazewell County, Christian accepted adult baptism in 1867.

On Feb. 13, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Jacobine/Jacobena 'Bena' Suisse/Schweitzer; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born June 12, 1847, a daughter of Jean Suisse/John Schweitzer and Marie Engel.

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. Christian farmed her father's Section Two property with her brother Peter Suisse/Schweitzer.

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.

Petersmith: Peter of Gontenschwil

Gontenschwil is a municipality in the district of Kulm, in the area west of Lake Hallwilersee in Canton Aargau (see LITWILLER for background on the region and canton). This community was also associated with Ehrismann.

Records of the Protestant Reformed Church [Ger. Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche] at Gontenschwil have been preserved in manuscript form by the Church of Latter Day Saints. In the near future we hope to view them on a visit to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City.

The forebearers of this family were Rüdi Peter and Verena Äschbacher. They were married at Gontenschwil March 13, 1711. They emigrated shortly after the birth of their second child.

Historian Robert Baecher found that after emigrating they lived at Denzlingen, Baden in 1715 (see ZIMMERMAN for background on this location); 39 miles to the north on the Spitalhof estate at Offenburg, Baden (adjacent to and below Kehl) in 1725; 36 miles to the southwest at Baldenheim, Lower Alsace (1745-1747), and then 13 miles to the southwest at Fortschwihr, Upper Alsace (adjacent to Muntzenheim) (1748-1752).

The signature Rudolf Peter schmiden, found on leases in 1725 and 1745, was the father’s name with his profession (blacksmith). In German this became Peterschmidt or Petter Schmid, in French Peterschmitt, in English Petersmith. Variations in the spellings on documents and entries should not be given too much weight; municipal clerks generally wrote the name as they heard it from an illiterate individual, and respected their own regional customs.

Children of Rüdi Peter and Verena Äschbacher include:

1. Jacob Peterschmitt was baptized at Gontenschwil March 13, 1711, and died after 1769.
2. Sébastien/Bastian Peterschmitt was baptized at Gontenschwil Sept. 16, 1714, and died at Horbourg-Wihr, Upper Alsace (on the east side of Colmar) circa 1752. He married Anna Augspurger/Augsburger. Before 1744 they came from Bollwiller to occupy the lower mill at the bottom of the valley of Jungholtz at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine.
   a. Jacob Peterschmitt was born at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine, Upper Alsace (below Colmar) circa 1744. His wife has not been identified. According to historian Robert Baecher in 1766 Christian Schertz and Barbara Blanck paid 2,800 livres to move into one of the mills in the lower valley. They effected repairs, then the following year left in favor of Jacob. A lease document signed Feb. 19, 1767 described Jacob as an Anabaptist resident of Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace [adjacent below Bollwiller], who paid 3,000 livres.
   ■ Barbara Peterschmitt/Barbe Peter Schmid may belong here. She was born circa 1766 or earlier. In 1784 or earlier she married Simon Neuhauser [senior], who was born in 1758. In 1792 they were living on St. Jakob farm in the city of Basel. See NEUHAUSER for background on this couple.
   b. Sébastien Peterschmitt [junior] was born at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine circa 1748, and died there June 17, 1826. In 1778 he was single and still living with his parents in the lower mill. On June 16 he leased part of the upper valley for 4,300 pounds, with guarantors Jacob Schellenberg (a future brother-in-law) and Jean/Hans Schlatter (a future father-in-law). The transaction included flour, oil, and hemp mills, a cowshed, small outbuildings, and two hectares of meadow along the Thur River. A short while later he married Barbe Schlatter. She was born circa 1758, and died at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine Dec. 7, 1823, a
daughter of guarantor Jean/Hans Schlatter and Anne Linder. The run-down mills prospered. And when the French Revolution swept through the next year, it was all nationalized and awarded to Sébastian [junior]. Despite legal challenges by the past owner, nobleman Balthazar de Schauenbourg, the new ownership endured. On June 7, 1799 the two parties reached a full settlement. Sébastian Peterschmitt [junior] also served as a minister for the Colmar congregation. His civil death entry described him as 78-year-old shopkeeper Sébastien Peter Schmitt. Two sons were witnesses, found as cultivator Francois Joseph Peter Schmitt, 38, and miller Jean Peter Schmitt, 32. They both signed Petter Schmit. Sébastian [junior] and Barbe left four boys and three girls born in the upper mill. The majority of Peterschmitts in Upper Alsace today appear to be descendants of this family. One of the sons, Sébastian (born 1780) may have fathered as many as 24 children by two wives. Another, Peter (born 1785) is thought to have fathered 16 children. A third son, François Joseph (born in 1790) may have fathered 17 children. The fourth son Chrétien was born circa 1779 and died at Ungersheim, Upper Alsace Sept. 19, 1806, the husband of Barbe Roth. When Chrétien and Barbe’s five year old son Niclaas Schmitt died at Ungersheim March 30, 1807, witnesses on the civil entry were stepfather Joseph Rope and Conrad Goldschmitt, a miller’s assistant employed by Rope.

Jacob Peterschmitt was baptized at Gontenschwil March 13, 1711, and died after 1769.
He married Catharina Riss/Reiss/Röss. She was born at Triberg in the Black Forest [Ger. im Schwarzwald] of Baden, and died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Feb. 2, 1764, a daughter of Jacob Riss/Reiss/Röss and Barbara Schneider.

Their children are thought to include:

1. Verena Peterschmitt died after 1784. She married Joseph Hochstettler of Urbeis; he died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Jan. 2, 1766.
2. Anna Peterschmitt died before 1783. She married Peter Rothacker. In 1759 he represented the Baden-Durlach congregation [Ger. Durlacher Gemeinde] in the assembly of ministers at Essingen with Christen Oesch, Benedikt Fischer, and Hans Steiner. Later they farmed on the grounds of Rüppurr Castle (now in Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg). According to Emig, Anna wrote in her will that she had two sisters living with their families as sharecroppers at St. Jakob, Basel. Johannes/Hans Freüenberger was a minister and elder of meetings in his home on St. Jakob farm, also called the orphanage farm [Ger. Waisenhausgut]. See FREYENBERGER for background on this location. The will also mentions a half-brother Jacob Riss who was a farmer and miller at the gunpowder mill at Volgelsheim, Upper Alsace.
3. Catharina Peterschmitt married Johannes Huntzinger. He was born circa 1755. Their son Johannes Huntzinger was born at Basel Dec. 15, 1783.
4. Johannes/Jean Petter Schmid was born circa 1743, and died at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace May 26, 1784.

Johannes/Jean Petter Schmid was born circa 1743, and died at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace May 26, 1784.
He married Verena/Frena Wagner. She was born circa 1743, and died at Ruederbach (26 miles south of Bollwiller) Oct. 22, 1812. Her civil death entry described her as Frena Wagner, 69, the widow of Jean Schmitt; it was witnessed by Jacque Pierre Schmitt, 46, a resident of Ruederbach, and signed Smitt. Children of Johannes/Jean Petter Schmid and Verena/Frena Wagner include:

1. Jacob Petter Schmid/Jacque Pierre Schmitt was born circa 1766, and died at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace Nov. 28, 1831.\[106\]
2. Anna Maria/Anne Pierre Schmid was born at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace Oct. 10, 1770. On June 17, 1793 at Richwil she married Michael Schwarz. Their barely-legible civil marriage entry described the groom as plowman Michael Swartz, 46; and the bride as Anna Maria Smit, 22, a daughter of Jacob Petter Smit [this should have been her deceased father Johannes/Jean, whose son Jacob attended in his place] and Verena Wagner. Farther down the page we make out the names of Jean Schlatter and Joseph Joder. On the reverse page the bride’s name is given as Anna Maria Schmitt. Signatures look like Jacob Petter Schmid, Joseph Joder, Christen Slater [Schlatter?], Michel Swartz, and the bride Anna signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate. On April 29, 1796 their daughter Elizabeth Schwarz was born at Muntenheim. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator Michael Schwarz and Anne Pierre Schmid. Witnesses were described as weaver Jacques Pierre Schmid, 31 (almost certainly

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\[106\] His age was given as 22 (marked over as 42) when he signed as a witness on the birth entry of Johannes Roth at Feldbach, Upper Alsace in the Republican calendar year 9 (either 1800 or 1801). His signature appears to say 'Jacob Peter Schmidt alt Zuig' - Jacob Peter Schmid senior, witness.
brother Jacob), and day laborer Jacques Roth, 33. The entry bore the signatures of father Michel Schwarz, Jacob Roth, and 'Jacob Petter Schmid alt Zuig' [senior, witness].

3. Barbara/Barbe Peterschmitt was born circa 1775. She married Jacob Schneider.

4. Johannes Peterschmitt was born circa 1778, according to Emig.

5. Elisabeth Peterschmitt was born at Bollwiller circa 1782. On Dec. 31, 1808 at Schweighouse-Thann, Upper Alsace she married Joseph Stucky. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as day laborer Joseph Stuki, 27, a resident of Schweighausen. He was a son of the deceased Chrétien Stuki, who had died at Liestel, Bâle [Leistal, Basel] March 19, 1786, and Anne Marie Schwarri, a day laborer at Schweighausen. The bride was described as Elisabeth Schmit, 26. She was born at Bollwiller, a daughter of the deceased Jean Pierre Schmid, who had died at Bollwiller May 26, 1784, and Véroné Wagner, a day laborer at Ruederbach. Elisabeth was a servant at Aspach.

**Jacob Petter Schmid/Jacque Pierre Schmitt** was born circa 1766, and died at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace (three miles above Ruederbach) Nov. 28, 1831.

He married Barbara Lauber. According to the research of Neil Anne Stuckey Levine, Barbara was born circa 1771, a daughter of Christian Lauber and Katharina Schwartz. Jacob was a weaver and laborer.

He and Barbara initially lived at Muntzenheim, Upper Alsace (six miles east of Colmar) 1790-97. Two (Jean and Jacob) and perhaps three (the oldest Christian) of their children were born there. The birth of their oldest son Christian took place before the 1792 establishment of the *état civil* system of administrative record keeping (his age can only be estimated from a baptism entry likely created at age 15).

After 1798 the family relocated approximately 48 miles to the south to live near the Swiss border. Three mentions are found in records at Feldbach in 1801 (the birth and death of daughter Katharina/Catharina, and Jacob as a witness to another birth). Later records are found at nearby Ruederbach. Between Ruederbach on the north and Feldbach on the south was the Birkenhof farm, where Amish Mennonites assembled for religious meetings after the French Revolution. Jacob/Jacques Rich (1789-1879) and Joseph Rich (1822-1894) who settled at Morton were the son and grandson of minister Peter Rich, who was elder at Birkenhof farm 1790-1820. The owner was Christian Hirschi; he was married to Marie Anne Ropp, a cousin of Andreas Ropp. The community was also only three miles from Barthel Hutte farm at Largitzen, where the family of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann lived before emigrating in 1826.

In 1820 a son was married at Bendorf, a tiny village eight miles south of Ruederbach and only three miles north of the Swiss border. The marriage entry described parents of the groom Jacob and Barbara as residents there.

The final location where family records were found was Hirsingue (adjacent to Ruederbach on the north side). Hirsingue was the home of the Amish Mennonite Ulrich family. Central Illinois figures with connections to Hirsingue include:

- Peter Ulrich (1811-1904) was born at Hirsingue. He married Anna Oyer and Barbara Zimmerman, and died at Eureka.
- Joseph Litwiller (1799-1884) married Barbe/Barbara Ulrich at Hirsingue Sept. 19, 1829. He settled in Dillon with his second wife, Magdalena 'Malinda' Sommer.
- Jacob Berse (1803-1877) married Catherine Ulrich at Hirsingue April 7, 1831. He used Peter Ulrich's passport to emigrate from Europe. Jacob and Catherine settled at Elm Grove, where Jacob was known as Christian Wagler.
- Peter Jacob Berse (1831-1903) was born at Hirsingue. He married Catherine Rediger and settled at Elm Grove as Peter Wagler.

Jacob Petter Schmid died at Hirsingue Nov. 28, 1831. His civil death entry described him as 65-year-old Anabaptist cultivator Jacques Peter Schmitt, husband of Barbe Lauber, 60. It was witnessed by sons Jean Peterschmitt, 37, and Jacques Peterschmitt, 35, Anabaptist cultivators and residents of Hirsingue. Signatures looked like Jacob Petter Schmid and Petter Schmid.

Fortunately historical relics survive. The Oyer family possesses a notebook detailing his business transactions and medical remedies. He described small purchases, payments, and labor tasks such as hauling. It also holds a copy of an *Amish Discipline* formulated at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. The notebook has been

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107 Levine's excellent article *European Folk Remedies*, from the *Notebook of Jacob Peterschmidt (1766-1831)* can be found in the January 2008 issue of *Mennonite Family History*.

108 Before the French Revolution the Anabaptists in the area had attended services at remote Neuneich. It was a farm in the foothills of the Jura Mountains between Ligsdorf (14 miles south of Altkirch) and the Swiss border (two miles below Ligsdofo).

109 An *Amish Discipline* is a statement of basic beliefs and practices pertaining to religion. In some instances they distinguish Amish Mennonites from Mennonites or others.
translated twice, and has been studied by Neil Ann Stucky Levine. It is now held by the Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills.110

In the early 1830s 'American fever' induced many French families to consider emigration. A wave of departures was inspired by the threat of military conscription to support the French occupation of Algeria (see STAKER for more on this significant factor affecting French emigration).

In the spring following Jacob's death his widow Barbara Lauber began her family's journey to America by purchasing passage in steerage on the ship Havre. Alvan Stewart, who had been a passenger on the Havre as it made the transit from Le Havre [or Havre de Grace] to New York the previous summer, wrote about the ship in his diary: "July 23, 1831 – Yet in sight of Havre de Grace, its chalk hills and two light houses, wind adverse. But I am content because I am going towards America if it is but five miles a day. We have a fine captain; fine ship. The Havre is a vessel of 500 tons, highly finished. Capt. De Peyster is an experienced navigator. The cabin has it share of intelligence; many gentlemen who have spent years abroad in cultivating their minds and manners. The steerage is also filled with passengers of an humbler cast."111

The obituary of Barbara's daughter Anna says that "...In 1832 she [Anna] came with her mother [Barbara], three brothers, and three sisters to America." The Havre sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 23, 1832.

When the Havre passenger list was created at New York, these family members and others were clearly identified as steerage passengers. Only Johannes/Jean is missing:

- Barbe P. Schmidt, 60, farmer, France
- Chestine, 40 [female; Christine]
- Jacob, 35
- Christian --- [age illegible]
- Anna Schwatty, 26
- Elizabeth, 23
- Anne Marie, 17
- Barbe, 17
- Anna, 10
- Jacque, 8
- Barbe, 4
- Catharine, 4

The widowed mother Barbara Lauber
Her daughter-in-law Christina Schwarz, wife of Johannes/Jean
Barbara's son Jacob
Barbara's son Christian, should have been about 41
Was this the wife of Christian, accompanied by her siblings?

Barbara Lauber's grandson, a son of Johannes/Jean and Christina Schwarz
Her granddaughter, a daughter of Johannes/Jean and Christina Schwarz
Her granddaughter, a daughter of Johannes/Jean and Christina Schwarz

Anna's obituary: "...They settled in Lancaster Co., Pa., at Samuel Lantz's. From the church at this place this poor family received many favors. Three years afterwards the family moved to Butler Co., Ohio..." The only Samuel Lantz who appears as a property owner on the 1830 census of Lancaster County was a minister living at Leacock.112 Leacock is seven miles northeast of the community of Lancaster. The birth place of their youngest child, born in 1833, has been passed down as Mill Creek. This may have been the Mill Creek Valley in West Leacock or Leacock. Mill Creek is a tributary of the Conestoga River. From 1835 to 1837 the Peter Schmidts migrated to Butler County. Barbara Lauber is thought to have died there.

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110 A German-language devotional/prayerbook called Manuele de Praeparatione ad Morten published at Basel in 1744 and inscribed "Dieses Buch Gehoert Mir, Jacob Petter Schmid" is held in the Peter Smith (1837-1875) collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana.

111 For more on Captain Frederick A. De Peyster, see the KENNEL account of the 1830 De Rham voyage.

The most famous Havre passenger was French abolitionist Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), who made the passage immediately before Stewart's. He departed Le Havre April 2, 1831, arriving at Newport, Rhode Island May 9, and New York May 11. Ostensibly viewing prisons on behalf of the French government, he made a nine-month tour of the country that included a meeting with President Andrew Jackson. He returned to France on the Havre, departing from New York Feb. 20. In 1835 he published De la Démocratie en Amerique [Democracy in America]. His observations were much more honest than those found in American newspapers of the time: "The first who attracts the eye, the first in enlightenment, in power and in happiness, is the white man, the European, man par excellence; below him appear the Negro and the Indian. These two unfortunate races have neither birth, nor face, nor language, nor mores in common; only their misfortunes look alike. Both occupy an equally inferior position in the country that they inhabit; both experience the effects of tyranny; and if their miseries are different, they can accuse the same author for them."

112 Samuel Lantz (1781-1852) was a grandson of immigrant Samuel König/King and Anna Yoder (see KING), and a son of Samuel Lantz and Elizabeth King (thus a stepson to Elizabeth's second husband Christian Stoltzfus). He married Magdalena Fischer. In 1837 Lantz and several of his adult children located approximately 100 miles to the northwest and established an Amish Mennonite congregation near Lewisburg in the Buffalo Valley of Union County, Pennsylvania.
Children of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber include:

1. Christian Peter Schmidt was born circa 1790, likely at Muntzenheim. A Neunenich record shows that 'Christian Schmidt,' a son of 'Jakob Schmid' and Barbara Lauber, was baptized on Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach June 21, 1804. He was shown on the Havre passenger list in 1832, but his age was obliterated by stains.

2. Johannes/John Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith was born at Muntzenheim Dec. 6, 1794 (despite American censuses that appear to indicate a birth circa 1798-99). The entry describes his parents as 'Jacques Schmidt,' weaver, and Barbe Lauber. One witness was Michel Schwarz, 40, who was likely Jacob's brother-in-law Michel Schwarz. On Jan. 22, 1820 at Bendorf he married Christine Schwarz. She was born at Dürenrentzen (adjacent to Muntzenheim), a daughter of Michel Schwarz and Catherine Frey. The marriage entry described the groom as a 25-year-old native of Muntzenheim, and the bride as a 29-year-old native of Dürenrentzen. Each signed with an ‘x,' indicating they were illiterate; father of the groom Jacob signed his full name as a witness. Although Christine and three of their children are shown on the Havre passenger list, Johannes/John is not. In America he changed his name to John P. Smith. It is probable that their household is shown on the 1840 census of Milford, Butler County Ohio. Under the name 'John P. Smith,' a tally shows two males 15-19 years of age (sons John and Jacob); one female 5-9 (daughter Fannie); two females 10-14 (Barbara and Catherine); and one female 50-60 (Christine). Only the head of household is missing. 'John Peter Schmitt' submitted a Declaration of Intent to obtain naturalization in Butler County in September 1840. The entry gave his age as 46, and noted sons John Peter, 19; and Jacob Peter, 17. The household appears on the 1850 census of St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio as laborer Peter Smith, 52, Germany; Christina, 60, Germany; Fanny, 18, Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth, 6 months, Ohio. They also appear in the household of a son on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa: John Smith, 40, France; Catherine, 28, Canada; Elizabeth, 7; Fanny, 4; Catherine, 8 months; John P. Smith, 61, gentleman, France; and Christina, 69, France. One source says Johannes/John is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Waldo, Livingston County. Their children include:

a. Johannes Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith was born at Bendorf Oct. 11, 1820 (the entry created Oct. 12 calls him 'Jean Pierre Schmit'), and died at Waldo, Livingston County Jan. 11, 1904. He was naturalized in Butler County in 1844. On Oct. 17, 1847 in Butler County he married Catherine Birkelbach/Burgelbaugh/Birkelbaw. She was born 'in the English Colony' of Canada Aug. 20, 1830, and died at Waldo Aug. 14, 1905. He was shown on the Havre passenger list in 1832, but his age was obliterated by stains.

2. Johannes/John Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith was born at Muntzenheim Dec. 6, 1794 (despite American censuses that appear to indicate a birth circa 1798-99). The entry describes his parents as 'Jacques Schmidt,' weaver, and Barbe Lauber. One witness was Michel Schwarz, 40, who was likely Jacob's brother-in-law Michel Schwarz. On Jan. 22, 1820 at Bendorf he married Christine Schwarz. She was born at Dürenrentzen (adjacent to Muntzenheim), a daughter of Michel Schwarz and Catherine Frey. The marriage entry described the groom as a 25-year-old native of Muntzenheim, and the bride as a 29-year-old native of Dürenrentzen. Each signed with an ‘x,' indicating they were illiterate; father of the groom Jacob signed his full name as a witness. Although Christine and three of their children are shown on the Havre passenger list, Johannes/John is not. In America he changed his name to John P. Smith. It is probable that their household is shown on the 1840 census of Milford, Butler County Ohio. Under the name 'John P. Smith,' a tally shows two males 15-19 years of age (sons John and Jacob); one female 5-9 (daughter Fannie); two females 10-14 (Barbara and Catherine); and one female 50-60 (Christine). Only the head of household is missing. 'John Peter Schmitt' submitted a Declaration of Intent to obtain naturalization in Butler County in September 1840. The entry gave his age as 46, and noted sons John Peter, 19; and Jacob Peter, 17. The household appears on the 1850 census of St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio as laborer Peter Smith, 52, Germany; Christina, 60, Germany; Fanny, 18, Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth, 6 months, Ohio. They also appear in the household of a son on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa: John Smith, 40, France; Catherine, 28, Canada; Elizabeth, 7; Fanny, 4; Catherine, 8 months; John P. Smith, 61, gentleman, France; and Christina, 69, France. One source says Johannes/John is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Waldo, Livingston County. Their children include:

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113 Repeating a footnote from MILLER: Christian Birkelbach was born circa 1798. He married Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. She was born in Hesse-Darmstadt Oct. 11, 1804, and died at Dry Grove May 5, 1892. Christian died circa 1838, leaving her with four children. On Aug. 20, 1843 at Trenton, Butler County she remarried to Johannes von Gunde (1791-1860) of La Broque, Salm, known in America as John Gundy (see ROTH for his European origin). His first wife Anna König had died in childbirth circa 1831. His children from the first marriage were Barbara, Anna, and John; a fourth child Joseph died before the second marriage. Her children were Catherine (1830), Elizabeth (1833), Mary (1835), and Christian (1838). They had three more children together: Fannie (1844), Jacob (1847), and Jacobina 'Pheobe' (1850). The family appears on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa as John Gundy, 68, Germany; Mary, 52, Hesse-Darmstadt; Fanny, 15, Ohio; Jacob, 13, Ohio; and Pheobe, 9, Ohio.
Jacques Peter Schmidt/Jacob P. Schmidt was born at Bendorf Aug. 9, 1823, and died at Montgomery, Hickory County, Missouri Oct. 7 or Nov. 10, 1873. He is buried as Jacob P. Smith in Gerber Cemetery at Elkton, Hickory County, Missouri, where his headstone gives an accurate birth date but the date of death Nov. 10, 1873 (conflicting with his obituary). He was naturalized in Butler County in 1844. On Feb. 5, 1848 in Butler County he married widow Verena/ Frances Ramseyer. The entry names Jacob P. Schmidt and Frances Rumpfire. She was born in Neuchâtel in 1818, a daughter of Verena/Fanny Liechti and her second husband Johannes Ramseyer (Verena/Fanny was first married to minister Johannes/Hans Schlamegger, see RAMSEYER). Verena/ Frances had married Michael Oswald in Butler County Dec. 13, 1836 (the entry names Michael Oswald and Frances Ramsey). Oswald was born Aug. 14, 1808, and died in Butler County Aug. 2, 1846; he is buried in Schluniger Cemetery at Colerain, Hamilton County, Ohio. He had immigrated to America on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832; the passenger list shows Michael Oswald, 25; Johann Oswald, 24; and Wilhelm Oswald, 20 (see the Appendix). A Michael Oswald household is found on the 1840 census of Sycamore, Hamilton County. Speculation on Michael’s family can be found in KENNEL. The household of Jacob and Verena/Frances appears on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio as Jacob P. Smith, 27, Pennsylvania [France]; Frances, 32, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 12, Ohio; Daniel, 6, Ohio; Ann, 11 [should have been 11 months], Ohio; Mary Schaub, 42, Germany; May, 7, Ohio; and farm laborer Christopher Grange, 20, Germany. The 1860 census of Hanover, Butler County shows Jacob P. Smith or Jacob L. Smith, 36, Germany; Frances, 42, Germany; Barbara, 22, Ohio; Danl., 14, Ohio; Anne A. Smith, 10, Ohio; Jo. P. Smith, 8, Ohio; M. A. Smith, 5, Ohio; and Samuel Otto, 32, Germany. Verena died in Butler County in or before 1865, and in 1865 in Butler County Jacob remarried to Barbara Yoder. She was born in Alsace-Lorraine (possibly at Huningue) Sept. 4, 1845, and died May 11, 1939, a daughter of Nicolas Joder and Barbe Wurgler. They resettled in Missouri in 1870. The 1870 census of Montgomery, Hickory County, Missouri has farmer Jacob P. Smith, 47, France; Barbara, 25, France; Joseph, 18, Ohio; Amanda, 15, Ohio; Mary, 8, Ohio; Amelia, 2, Ohio; Lydia, 7 months, Missouri; and farm laborer Daniel, 26, Ohio. The familiar surnames Isch [Oesch], Yoder, Naßfinger [Nafziger], and Coffman [Kauffman] can be found on the same census page. Herald of Truth, December 1873: “Oct. 7th, in Hickory Co., Mo., very suddenly, Jacob P. Schmidt, aged 50 years, 1 month, and 28 days. On the funeral occasion remarks were made by Peter Lehman.”114 On Feb. 14, 1876 in Hickory County Barbara remarried to Adam Hostetler. He was born at Menno, Pennsylvania March 6, 1823, and died Nov. 4, 1910, a son of John Hostetler and Veronica Kurtz. Barbara and Adam are buried in Clearfork Cemetery, Garden City, Missouri. Gospel Herald, June 1939: “Barbara, daughter of Barbara and Nicholas Yoder was born in Alsace Lorraine, France, Sept. 4, 1845; died at the home of her daughter (Mrs. W. J. Oesch) May 11, 1939; aged 93 y. 9 m. 7 d. She was the last of a family of 13 children. She was always considered first with Mrs. Oesch and her family. She was a quiet, home-loving woman, never complaining of her sufferings, always thinking of her family. She spent her childhood in the land of her nativity. At the age of 18 she with a brother and sister came to the United States, making her home in Butler Co., Ohio. In 1865 she was united in marriage to J. P. Smith. To this union four children were born (Mrs. Mary King and Mrs. Lydia Shaw, who preceded her in death; Mrs. Emma King, Rock Island, Ill.; J. P. Smith, Garden City, Mo.). In 1870 the family moved to Hickory Co., Mo., where in 1874 her husband passed away. Several years later she was married to Adam Hostetler, who preceded her in death Nov. 4, 1910, at Index, Mo. To this union five children were born (Mrs. Lizzie Miller, Deep Water, Mo.; Mrs. Lena Shindler, Garden City, Mo.; W. S. Hostetler, Redlands; Calif.; Mrs. Ellen Oesch, East Lynne, Mo.; W. A. Hostetler, Weaubleau, Mo.). She was converted at an early age, joined the Mennonite Church, and remained a faithful member until death. On account of failing health she has been unable to attend services for several years. Besides the above mentioned children she is survived by 31 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the S. J. Oesch home and the Sycamore Grove Church by I. G. Hartzler, assisted by D. W. Britton. Text, Job 5:26,27. Interment in the Clearfork Cemetery.”

c. Barbe Peter Schmidt/Barbara Smith was born in Upper Alsace April 29, 1826, and died at Normal, McLean County June 11, 1916. On Aug. 20, 1851 in Butler County she married André/Andrew Salzman. He was born at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 10, 1829, and died in McLean County April 20, 1891, a son of André/Andrew Salzman and Anna Hodler. See SALZMAN for more on this couple including her obituary.

d. Catherine Peter Schmidt/Smith was born in Upper Alsace May 8, 1828, and died in Johnson County, Iowa Oct. 24, 1898. On Jan. 16, 1848 in Butler County, Ohio she married John von Gunde. He was born in Baden Jan. 4, 1827, and died in Johnson County Nov. 16, 1906. It is likely that this was the John who was born to Christian Brinkelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber (Marie/Mary remarried to
Johannes von Gunde/John Gundy; see the earlier footnote). Their family is found on the 1870 census of Trenton, Henry County, Iowa as John B. Gunten, 43, Darmstadt; Catharina, 43, Darmstadt; Barbara, 21, Ohio; Fannie, 20, Ohio [she married her second cousin John W. Neuhauser]; John, 17, Ohio; Christian, 16, Ohio; Jacob, 12, Iowa; Joseph, 10, Iowa; and Catharina, 5, Iowa. *Herald of Truth*, December 1898: "On Oct. 24, 1898, at 2 A. M., near Amish, Johnson Co., Iowa, Sister Catherine, wife of Pre. John Von Gunden, at the age of 70 years, 5 months and 16 days. Her disease was heart and stomach trouble. Interment took place on the 26th at the church burying ground, on which occasion J. F. Schwarzwendruber and C. J. Miller conducted the funeral services in the presence of a large gathering. Sister Von Gunden was born in Upper Alsace, France. Her maiden name was Peter-Schmitt. In 1832 her father emigrated to America with his family, where he first settled near Millcreek in Lancaster Co., Pa. In 1835 they went to Butler Co., Ohio, where the deceased grew up and was taken into the Amish Mennonite Church through baptism. She remained a faithful member up to her death. During the last few years she suffered a great deal with stomach and heart trouble but she bore her great pains with Christian patience and longed for her death. She leaves a deeply stricken husband, to whom she was a great support, not only in temporal things, but also in his ministerial office. Of eleven children there are six still living, who mourn her departure. Four of them stood by her bedside to see how their dear mother had gained the victory. Her aged brother, John P. Schmitt, and her widowed sister, Barbara Salzman, were also present. She also leaves twenty-seven grandchildren to mourn her death, but we do not mourn like those who have no hope. Her whole life, as far as known to the writer, was an example of Christian virtue, to approve good and censure evil, and no one will regret, even now yet, following her instructions. She read a great deal in the *Holy Scriptures*, as well as in the *Herald of Truth* and other Christian literature, but she was not easily moved by empty doctrines and deceptions of the people and had a dislike for those who followed every innovation. Some time ago she showed me a large collection of choice poems and other literature, which for years she had been cutting out of periodicals and pasting into a book kept specially for that purpose. I should consider this collection a rich treasure, for it reflects her innermost heart, and I could advise her children, as well as others "Go, thou, and do likewise," for herein lies a blessing which far excels all worldly pleasures on which the eye likes to feast. Deceased was married to John Von Gunden on the 16th of January, 1848. The latter was born on the 4th of January, 1827, in the palace-yard in the kingdom of Bavaria. J. D. G." *Herald of Truth*, December 1906: "John Von Gunden was born in Baden, German, Jan. 4, 1827; died near Amish, Iowa, Nov. 16, 1906; aged 79 Y., 10 M., 12 D. He emigrated with his parents to America in 1834, first living in Pennsylvania and later took up their residence in Fulton Co., Ohio. In early life he identified himself with the Amish Mennonite church. When a young man he went to Butler Co., Ohio, and there was united in marriage to Catharine P. Schmitt, Jan. 16, 1848. A few years later he, with his wife and then small family, moved to Lee Co., Iowa, where they lived a short time; thence they removed to Henry Co., Iowa, where they resided in the vicinity of Trenton for thirty-six years. In 1888 they moved to Kalona, Iowa. Interment took place in the Lower Deer Creek church cemetery. A very large concourse of relatives and friends attended to pay their last tribute of respect. Of his children there are yet six living and were all present except Katie of Milford, Neb. He also leaves 29 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to mourn his death; but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. Peace to his ashes." c. A son was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace March 13, 1830, and died the same day. The entry labels the child 'Schmit N.N.,' and describes the parents as cultivator 'Jean Pierre Schmit,' 35, a native of 'Montzheim,' and 'Cristine Schwarts,' 38. f. Anne Peter Schmitt was born at Hirsingue April 7, 1831. The entry describes her parents as 'Jean Petter Schmitt, Anabaptiste,' 36, and Christine Schwarz. Anne died at sea on the *Havre* in 1832. g. Veronica 'Fannie' Schmidt/Smith (headstone 'Fannie Schmitt') was born at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 10, 1833, and died at Normal, McLean County Jan. 21, 1914 (headstone dates). On March 13, 1852 in Butler County she married Jacob Rediger. According to an *Evangelische* church register from Ichenheim, Baden, 'Jakob Reiderig' was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim Sept. 17, 1833, to single parent Magdalena Reiderig. He died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 25, 1910 (headstone dates). See REDIGER for background on this couple.

3. Jacob Peter Schmidt was born at Muntzenheim Jan. 11, 1797. His civil birth entry called him Jacques Pierre, and described his parents as Jacques Pierre Schmid, 30, and Barbe Lauberin. Witnesses included day laborer Jacques Roth, 30, and cultivator Michel Schwarz, 42. A Neuneich record shows that he was baptized on Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach Nov. 27, 1812. Levine writes that he was a witness at the marriage of his cousin Christian Ulrich at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace in 1820. He signed his father's death entry at Hirsingue in 1831. He is also found as a 35-year-old on the *Havre* passenger list.

115 Some sources say Jacob Rediger was born Sept. 11, 1832, and died Sept. 26, 1910. His Lantz Cemetery headstone is clearly legible.
4. Katharina/Catharina Peter Schmidt was born at Feldbach (midway between Bendorf and Hirsingue) March 7, 1801, and died there May 5, 1802. Her civil birth entry described her as 'Catharine Peter Schmit,' and her parents as 'Jacob Peter Schmid' and 'Barbara Laǔberin.' Johannes Roth senior [alt] was a witness.

5. Barbara Peter Schmidt was born circa 1803, and died age four at Ruederbach Oct. 4, 1807.

6. Elizabeth Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Dec. 6, 1805. The margin note on her birth entry called her 'Elisabeth Schmitt,' while the text called her 'Elisabette.' Either Elizabeth or her younger sister Barbara did not make the trip to America in 1832 (only four sisters traveled).

7. Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach July 22, 1807, and died Feb. 2, 1884. On Jan. 23, 1835 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania she married her third cousin Peter Neuhauser. He was born 'in Upper Alsace near Basel' Feb. 20, 1796, and died at Morton July 23, 1889, a son of Simon Neuhauser and Barbe Peter Schmid. See NEUHAUSER for more on this couple who came to Tazewell County.

8. Joseph Pierre Schmid was born at Ruederbach Nov. 20, 1809 (the civil entry was created Nov. 28), and died there April 20, 1810.

9. Barbara Peter Schmidt/Barbara P. Smith was born at Ruederbach Jan. 8, 1811 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Barbara Peterschmitt'), and died in Butler County in 1860. In 1837 in Butler County she married Johannes/John Kinsinger. He was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig, Pfalz-Zweibrucken, and died at Tremont in October 1900. On March 10, 1861 in Tazewell County he remarried to Barbara Wagler; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp.

10. Anne/Anna Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach June 25, 1814 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Anne Petter Schmitt'), and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 11, 1892. In 1840 in Butler County she married Joseph Roth. He died in 1850. Levine suggests that he appears on the 1840 census of Butler County as 'Joseph Rhodes,' and that he may have been a son of Johannes/Hans/Jean Roth and Freni/Véronique Mosimann (if so, he was born on Risholz farm at Hattigny Feb. 11, 1811). They had two children:
   a. Fannie Roth was born in Butler County April 14, 1846, and died Dec. 23, 1919.
   b. An unidentified son died before 1926.
Anna remarried to Joseph Oyer at Farmdale Sept. 7, 1851. He was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Jan. 29, 1814, and died at Farmdale Aug. 16, 1866, a son of Joseph Oyer and Catherine Schrag. For her obituary and a list of her children with Joseph Oyer see OYER.
Neuhauser: Neuhaus of Rüderswil and Lützelflüh

In German, ‘new house’ is neues Haus. The meaning of the surname Neuhauser is exactly as it sounds, a description of a resident of a new house. The Protestant Reformed Church issued a mandate on April 11, 1644 that urged the capture of Anabaptists heretics. It specifically mentioned Üli Neuhus, Üli Zaügg, and Christian Stauffer. Neuhus was believed to be from the town of Thun.

On Nov. 2, 1693 Jacob Amman composed a long letter to the supporters of Hans Reist. Rebutting a charge of arrogance, he asserted that he had never excommunicated someone because of their appearance. However, he continued, "... "If there would be someone who wants to be conformed to the world with shaved beard, with long hair, and haughty clothing and does not acknowledge that it is wrong, he should in all fairness be punished. For God has no pleasure in the proud." The letter was signed by a handful of supportive ministers including Hans Neuhauser.

Jacob 'Neushaus' is found on a census list of Anabaptists living at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1703. Christian Nauhauser was among the Amish Mennonite exiles who resettled at Deventer in the Netherlands in 1711.

There are five Swiss Heimatorte or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with this surname. Oberhofen (once the home of Jacob Amman) is located on the eastern shore of Lake Thun, with adjacent Goldiwil on its inland side. The adjacent communities Lützelflüh, Rüderswil, and Heimiswil run south-to-north 12 miles northeast of the city of Bern.

According to the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, "The names and places of persons executed in Bern 1529-1571 point predominantly to the Emmental [a district made up of rolling hills east of the city of Bern], especially to Sumiswald, Lützelflüh, Rüderswil, Rüegsau, Signau, Hash, Röthenbach, Schüpbach, and Tannental."

The oldest known indicator of Lützelflüh’s existence is a mention of ‘Lucelfluo’ from 1225. It defies translation. Rüderswil was mentioned in 1139 as Rüderswile – oars hamlet. The Emme River runs through both communities, and Rüderswil’s village center is located on a terrace above the west bank.

In 1690 Lützelflüh’s Protestant Reformed minister Georg Thor mann was commissioned to write a critique of Anabaptism. Probierstein Oder Schriftenmässige…Gewissenhaffte Prüfung dess Täufertums was published in 1693. Framed as an objective description of Anabaptist practices, the 700-page book nevertheless seemed to hold up the "quiet, peaceful people with a clear conscience" as examples for his own parishioners to follow.

Despite the early appearance of this surname in the quill handwriting of church records, by the early 1800s it was standardized to the spelling ‘Neuhaus’ in Lützelflüh. In the subsequent text we typed what we saw on the written page.

Neuhauser of La Broque

We could not identify an 18th-century link between the Neuhauser family at La Broque and a brother and sister who came to Tazewell County, though one may exist. This information was gathered in the process of ‘ruling out suspects.’

Hans Nüohuss was baptized at Ruderswil Oct. 15, 1597. The Protestant Reformed Church Täufrodel entry named his parents as Peter Nüohuss and Margreth Moser.

On Oct. 5, 1621 at Rüderswil ‘Hanns Nuhsess’ married Barbli Schonholzer. She was baptized at Lützelflüh Jan. 30, 1603, a daughter of Hanns Schonholzer (according to the baptism entry, where the mother Christini Koler was not named).

They relocated (or simply changed churches) from Rüderswil to adjacent Lützelflüh between 1628 and 1634. Their children include:

1. Geörg Nuheshüs was baptized at Rüderswil Sept. 8, 1622.
2. Hans Nuheshüs was baptized at Rüderswil Oct. 3, 1624.
3. Mathias Nuheshüs was baptized at Rüderswil March 12, 1625.
4. Christen Nuheshüs was baptized at Rüderswil Nov. 30, 1627.
5. Margreth Nuheshüs was baptized at Rüderswil April 4, 1628.
6. Barbara Nuneshüs was baptized at Lützelflüh Aug. 31, 1634. The entry named her parents as Hanns Nueshüss and Barbara Schonholtzer.
7. Hanser Nueshüss was baptized at Lützelflüh Oct. 9, 1636.
8. Peter Nueshüss was baptized at Lützelflüh March 3, 1639.
Peter Nuheshüss was baptized at Lützelflüh March 3, 1639.
On July 13, 1660 his Lützelflüh marriage to Magdalena/Madlen/Madle Hertig was entered in church records at Rüderswil. The entry described the couple as Petter Neũeshauss ab den [illegible]elsberg and Madleni Hertig ab Niderbach [now Niederbach, a mile west of Rüderswil’s village center]. She was baptized at Rüderswil Oct. 27, 1644 as Magdalena Hertig, a daughter of Hans Hertig im Niderbach and Verena Neũenschwander.
Their children baptized at Lützelflüh include:

1. Hans Neũeheshauss was baptized Jan. 22, 1664. The entry named his parents as Petter Neũeheshauss and Madleni Hertig.
2. Petter Neũeheshaus was baptized Nov. 5, 1665.
3. Cathÿn Neũehesaus was baptized Nov. 24, 1667.
4. Georg Neũehaus was baptized Jan. 23, 1670. His parents were named as Peter Neũehaus and Madlen Hertig. He married Cathrina Ellenberger.
5. Madlen Naũeshus was baptized March 24, 1672.
6. Úlrich Naushaŭs was baptized Feb. 7, 1675.
7. Christen Nũehaus was baptized Oct. 9, 1681.

Petter Neũeheshau was baptized at Lützelflüh Nov. 5, 1665. Circa 1693 he married Anna Moser. The event is not found in Rüderswil or Trachselwald records, and may have taken place at Lützelflüh, where marriage records are missing for the period 1688-1703.
Their children baptized at Lützelflüh include:

1. Úlrich Neuehshaŭs was baptized at Lützelflüh Aug. 16, 1694.
2. Margreth Neuehshaŭs/Marguerite Neuhaüser was baptized at Lützelflüh March 25, 1698.
3. Peter Naũhaus/Pierre Neuhauser was baptized at Lützelflüh Feb. 8, 1705, and died at Schirmeck May 2, 17897.
4. Christen Naũhaus was baptized at Rüderswil Aug. 20, 1708, according to a Lützelflüh entry.
5. Hans Naũhaus was baptized at Lützelflüh Feb. 18, 1714. The entry describes his parents as Peter Naũhaus and Anna Mooser zu Trachselwald. One witness was Georg Naũhaus.

Peter Naũhaus/Pierre Neuhauser was baptized at Lützelflüh Feb. 8, 1705, and died at Schirmeck May 2, 1797.
On Oct. 12, 1731 at Trachselwald he married Verena Brand. The entry said Peter Neũenesshauser was von Signau (eight miles south of Lützelflüh and Trachselwald, five miles south of Rüderswil), and Verena Brand was im Kramershaus. Verena was born at Trachselwald July 3, 1707, a daughter of Daniel Brand zu Krammersheÿss (a farm at Trachselwald that is now Kramershaus) and Anna Bieri zu Oberrotenbühl (a farm at Trachselwald).
Shortly after their marriage the couple went to live at Schwarzenegg. They remained there until at least 1739. Children born there in 1733, 1736, and 1739 were baptized at Trachselwald. Trachselwald is 23 miles north of Schwarzenegg, suggesting that Verena chose to deliver the infants in the home of her parents. They may have had other children who were baptized at Schwarzenegg, but the Protestant Reformed Church there kept illegible records from 1735 to August of 1738. They lived on Krummholz farm (now the name of a street) at Trachselwald from 1741 until at least 1746.
After 1765 Peter/Pierre remarried to Freini Heinegger/Heiniger. They went to live with his oldest son Han/Jean in the hamlet Salm in the village La Broque, in what was once the Principality of Salm but is now Lower Alsace.
A civil entry created at La Broque March 22, 1797 said that Freini Heinikre had died there. She was a 50-year-old Swiss resident of Salm [a hamlet within the village of La Broque], the wife of Pierre Neuhauser. She had died in the home of cultivator Jacob Kreipieller [Krayenbühl]. Witness Jacob signed with an ’x,’ indicating he was illiterate.
The very next entry says that her widowed husband Pierre Neuhauser died at Salm May 2, 1797. It described him as cultivator Pierre Neuhauser, 93, a cultivator born in Switzerland. He also died in the home of Jacob Kraipiller [Krayenbühl]. It was witnessed by grandson Christian Neuhauser, Oulrich Fongond [Von Gunden], and Christian Karbre [Gerber].
If the death entry ages are correct, Freini Heinikre was 42 years younger than her husband, and six years younger than his son Hans/Jean. She may have been living at Salm in a 'caretaker' marriage arrangement.
Many of the children of Peter Naũhaus/Pierre Neuhauser and his first wife Verena Brand were recorded in a Trachselwald baptism register for out-of-town families [Ger. Ausburger Taufrodel]:

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1. Nicolas Christian Neuhauser was born circa 1732. He became a cultivator at La Broque, where he died Feb. 11, 1782. He married Véronique Fongond. She was born circa 1737, and died at La Broque Jan. 22, 1814, a daughter of Ulrich Fongond and Barbe Mayer.

2. Anna Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald Dec. 4, 1733. The entry described her father as Peter Naühaüs zu Schwarzenegg von Lützelflühi. She married Jean Bacher/Pacher.

3. Verena Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald April 8, 1736. The entry described her father as Peter Naühaüs zu Schwarzenegg.

4. Maria Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald Feb. 6, 1739. The entry described her father as Peter Naühaüs von Lützelflühi im Krümholtz. On the same page are entries for the baptisms of Peter, a son of Christen Naühaüs and Maria Aseibacher, and Verena, a daughter of Ulli Naühaüs and Elisbeth Scharer.

5. Hans Naühaüs/Jean Neuhauser was baptized at Trachselwald Feb. 19, 1741. The father was described as Peter Naühaüs von Lützelflühi im Krümholtz.

6. Peter Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald Nov. 24, 1743. His father was described as Peter Naühaüs von Lützelflühi im Krümholtz.

7. Barbara Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald Nov. 19, 1745. Her father was described as Peter Naühaüs von Lützelflühi im Krümholtz. One witness was Hans Naühaüs of Lützelflühi.

8. Elisabeth Naühaüs was baptized at Trachselwald Sept. 23, 1746. Her father was described as Peter Naühaüs zu Krümholtz von Lützelflühi [a resident of Krumholtz whose Heimat is Lützelflühi].

9. Samuel Neuhaüser was baptized at Lützelflühi Dec. 12, 1749. One witness was Hans Neuhaüser.

10. Christian Neuhaüser was baptized at Lützelflühi Nov. 2, 1753.

Hans Naühaüs/Jean Neuhauser was baptized at Trachselwald Feb. 19, 1741, and died in the hamlet of Salm at La Broque before Dec. 10, 1793 (according to the marriage entry of his son Joseph). See ROPP for background on this location.

Circa 1761 he married widow Suzanne Zender [Zehnder], who was 10 years his senior. Suzanne was born at La Broque circa 1731, and died there June 28, 1811. Her first husband had been Pierre Gerber/Kerbre, who died Jan. 16, 1758.

Her civil death entry described her as Suzanne Zentery, 80, widow of the deceased Pierre Kerbre [Gerber], daughter of Benoit Zentery and Magdelaine Stequery. Witness Christian Neuhauser, 50, was described as her son. He signed 'Christian Nihaŭser.'

On Oct. 11, 1768 Jean Neuhauser and Amish Mennonite minister Jacob Kämpferschmidt were named in the renewal of a property lease. A document in the archives of La Broque says that on Dec. 2, 1715 Benedic Schlaster [Benedikt Schlatter] had leased two barn houses, stables, and fields at La Broque from the Principality of Salm. He paid 400 Francs Barrois (a coin minted in the Duchy of Lorraine) per year. In 1768 the properties were occupied by heirs of Oly Ayman [Ulrich Eiman/Eymann]. The lease fees had been paid up to date by Jean Neyhouzer and Jacob Kopferschmitte, representing father-in-law Jacob Ayman and Oly [Ulrich] Ayman. (Minister/elder Jacob Kämpferschmidt 1723-1813 was married to Suzanne Eiman/Eymann 1724-1810, a daughter of Jacob Eiman/Eymann).

Children of Hans Naühaüs/Jean Neuhauser and Suzanne Zender born at La Broque include:

1. Christian Neuhauser was born circa 1761, and died at Bambois de Plaine May 2, 1843. Circa 1783 he married Madeleine Rügsegger. She was born in the hamlet of Salm at La Broque circa 1753, and died there Dec. 16, 1798. Her civil death entry, calling her Magdelaine Rettzeck, named her parents as Jean Reitzeck and Anne Elie; it was witnessed by husband Christian Neuhauser and his brother Jean. Circa 1799 Christian remarried to Madeleine Bächler/Pacher/Pecheur (the ceremony may have taken place at Bourg-Bruche, where marriage records are missing for that year). She was born at Le Hang, Bourg-Bruche Oct. 17, 1780, and died at Bambois de Plaine June 1, 1842, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Bacher/Pacher/Pecheur and Rosine Schir [Schürch] or Ceric [Görig/Cherique] of Bourg-Bruche. Christian served as a witness to numerous events at La Broque, often co-signing with brother-in-law Jacob Ayman and Oly [Ulrich] Ayman. (Minister/elder Jacob Kämpferschmidt 1723-1813 was married to Suzanne Eiman/Eymann 1724-1810, a daughter of Jacob Eiman/Eymann).

2. Elisabeth Neuhauser was born in the hamlet of Salm circa 1762, and died at La Broque March 14, 1804. She married Ulrich Fongond (he signed his own name Ulrich Von Gonden). He was born in the hamlet Salm Nov. 15, 1750, and died there Dec. 29, 1818, a son of Ulrich Fongond and Barbe Mayer. Her civil death entry described her as a 42-year-old cultivator, the wife of Ulrich Fongond, and the daughter of the deceased Jean Neuhauser and Suzanne...
Zondery, who had been cultivators at Salm. It was witnessed by brother Christian Neuhauser, 46, and husband Ulrich Fongond, 58, both cultivators. Her husband's signature looked like 'Ullerie Von Gonden'. Ulrich remarried to Barbe Eymann/Eiman at La Broque Sept. 27, 1808. She was an aunt to Elisabeth Eymann/Eiman, the wife of Andreas Ropp; Andreas and Elisabeth were the parents of the family that came to Central Illinois; see ROPP. She was the widow of Michel Ropp [also known as Jean Michel Ropp], who had died at La Broque Oct. 10, 1802 [he actually died at Le Saulcy], and a daughter of Ulrich Eymann/Eiman and Barbe Mosimann. The ceremony was witnessed by Christian Neuhauser (described as a brother-in-law of the groom), Jacob Küpferschmidt, Christian Karbe/Gerber, and André Bacher. Barbe died at La Broque Dec. 23, 1808. On Oct. 11, 1810 Ulrich married a third time to Barbe Ulrich. Their civil marriage entry described her as Barbe Ulric, born at Turquestein June 6, 1768; the widow of Jacques Krepellier [Krayenbühl], who had died at Saales Feb. 15, 1808; and a daughter of Pierre Ulrich who died at Alcherique Sept. 4, 1808, and Marie Vogler who died at Flachporique [?] Feb. 5, 1799. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Christian Neuhauser, 48, brother-in-law of the groom; and Joseph Fongond, 33, cousin of the groom.

3. Jean Neuhauser was born circa 1765, and died at Monthras, Meuse Aug. 10, 1826. Before 1792 he married Marie Augspurger/Augsbourger. She was born at Gemaingoutte (adjacent to Wisembach, on the west side of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) circa 1761, and died at Monthras Oct. 26, 1829, a daughter of Nicolas Augspurger/Augsbourger and Barbe Von Gunden/Fongond. They farmed in the hamlet of Salm at La Broque; in the hamlet St. Pierre at Raon-sur-Plaine, Vosges; then at Monthras. Monthras is the site of le Château de Monthras, a castle constructed 1598-1611 by Claude II de Verrières, a dignitary in the court of the Duke of Lorraine. The castle was damaged by warfare, and abandoned altogether 1643-71. At the time the Neuhausers lived there it was being restored by descendants. Civil entries describe Jean as a farmer on the grounds there. His civil death entry described him as Jean Neiouser, 63, the husband of Marie Hausbour. It was witnessed by his son Jean, 24. Her death entry described her as Marie Ausbourg, 68, the mother of witnesses Nicolas Néouzer, 26, and Jean Néouzer, 34. Their sons were employed as servants in the castle.

4. Jacob Neuhauser was born circa 1770.

5. Joseph Neuhauser was born circa 1772. On Dec. 10, 1793 at La Broque he married Anne Augspurger/Augsbourger. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Nahouser, 21, born at Salm, La Broque, a son of the deceased cultivator Jean Nahauesser and Suzanne Snderine, who had been residents of Salm. The bride was described as Anne Auchpanderine, 22, born at Gemaingoutte, a resident of the farm La Cude at Gemaingoutte, a daughter of the cultivator Nicolas Auchpanderine [Augsburger/Augsbourger] and Barbe Fongond [Von Gunden/Fongond], who resided on La Cude. Witnesses included Jacob Beller of Salm, Christian Bandesept [he signed 'Banzet'], Baltazard Fongond of Schirmeck, and Joseph Gerst of Plaine, all described as friends of the groom.

6. Pierre Neuhauser was born Nov. 8, 1782, and died at La Broque March 15, 1822. On March 10, 1799 in the hamlet Salm at La Broque he married Anne Mosimann. She was born at Les Quelles, La Broque April 15, 1783, and died there March 6, 1854, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Mosimann and Barbe Roby [Rübi]. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 17-year-old cultivator at Salm, a son of the deceased Jean Neuhauser and Susanne Sendrine. The bride was described as a 16-year-old cultivator at Aux Guevelles. It was witnessed by inn keeper Balthazard Fongond, 40, and the bride's father Jacob Mosiman, 58. Pierre's civil death entry described him as a 45-year-old cultivator at Aux Guevelles, the husband of Anne Mosimanne, and a son of the deceased Jean Neuhauser and Susanne Sendry, who had been cultivators at Salm. It was witnessed by his brother Christian Neuhauser, who was described as a 60-year-old cultivator at Aux Guevelles. Anne remarried to André Bacher at Bourg-Brochu Nov. 2, 1827; one witness was Christian Neuhauser, 66. Two of the sons of Pierre and Anne came to America. The Caroline sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 31, 1853. The passenger list shows Jacob Neyhauser, 44; Pierre Neyhauser, 50; Joseph, 16; Madeleine, 13; and Barbe, 7. This was widower Pierre Neuhauser (he was born at Les Quelles, La Broque Dec. 2, 1802, and died in Adams County, Indiana Sept. 19, 1862); and his younger brother Jacques/Jacob Neuhauser (he was born at La Broque July 17, 1808, and died in Adams County Sept. 12, 1891).
Neuhauser of Gosselming

Cultivator Jacob/Jacques Neuhauser was born circa 1681.\(^{119}\)

He may have been a son of the Neuhausers found at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines after the Amish division of 1693. A census of Anabaptist heads-of-household there in 1697 has Christ Neuouette [Neuhauser]. Jacob Neuhus is there in 1703.

Circa 1720 he married Barbara Jenni/Geny.

La Broque, Schirmeck, and Barembach are adjacent communities striding the Bruche River of Lower Alsace, 25 miles (by road) north of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Some sources place this marriage and the baptisms of their three known children at Barembach. We could find no specific evidence for this.

Their children include:

1. Jean Neuhauser was born circa 1720-25, and died at Barembach April 27, 1759. On May 24, 1746 at Schirmeck he married Marguerite Krug/Krouque.

2. Nicolas Neuhauser was born circa 1736, and died at Gosselming, Moselle March 1, 1798.

3. Christian Neuhauser was born circa 1738. Circa 1763 at Singling (now part of Gros-Rédécherching) he married Barbara Zimmerman. She was born there circa 1742. Their children born at Singling include one who settled at Wilmot, Ontario:
   a. Barbara Neuhauser was born circa 1765, and died at Hombourg-Haut Aug. 17, 1833. Circa 1790 she married Michel Jantzi. He was born circa 1763, and died at Macheren, Moselle July 25, 1833, a son of Michel Jantzi and Barbe Guerber. See JANTZI for background on this couple.
   b. Véronique Marie Neuhauser was born in 1767, and died at Rhodos, Moselle June 17, 1816.
   c. Christian Neuhauser was born Nov. 10, 1767, and died at Imling Aug. 17, 1809. On April 6, 1794 at Gondrexange, Moselle he married Magdalene/Madeleine Zwalter. She was born at Gondrexange Dec. 1, 1772, and died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814, a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser. See ZWALTER OF GONDREXANGE in the Appendix for background on her family.
   d. Anne Neuhauser was born at Singling April 15, 1772. On Nov. 1, 1796 at Bistroff she married Joseph Farny. He was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now in Grostenquin) Nov. 12, 1766, a son of Christian Farni/Farny and Anne Hirschi (see FARNY for background on his family).
   e. Suzanne/Susanna Neuhauser was born circa 1777, and died at Wilmot Dec. 16, 1849. Circa 1803 she married Christian Blank. He was born circa 1780, and died at Imling Dec. 28, 1809, a son of Michel Blank/Black and Anne Jaüsi. On Oct. 29, 1812 at Imling she remarried to Christophe/Christian Abresol (later found as Ebersol and Ebersoll), who was born at Rhodos March 1, 1788, and died at Wilmot, Ontario March 25, 1861, a son of Jean Abresol and Babe Zwalter. See PLANK for background on both marriages.

Nicolas Neuhauser was born circa 1736, and died as a cultivator on Alsing farm at Gosselming, Moselle March 1, 1798. He married Catherine Marie Rügsegger [Heimat Diessbach]

Nicolas’s death entry names his widow as Catherine Marie Lithzieker. She was also born circa 1736, and died at Gosselming only 17 days after him, on March 18, 1798, age 62. Her civil death entry called her ‘Marie Regsecker.’

Their children include:

1. Marie Neuhauser was born circa 1772, and died after April 8, 1826. On Aug. 10, 1798 at Gosselming she married widower Joseph Schrag). He was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle in 1772, and died at Rhodes April 4, 1830, a son of Caspar Schrag and his first wife Barbe Rouvenacht. His first wife had been Marie Engel. See SCHRAG for background on this couple.

2. Hans/Jean Neuhauser was born Aug. 5, 1775.

Hans/Jean Neuhauser was born on Alsing farm at Gosselming Aug. 5, 1775, and died on Misselhof farm at Bébing, Moselle July 24, 1836, age 60.

On Dec. 10, 1798 at Longville-lès-St. Avold, Moselle he married Anne Marie Kennel. She was born at Macheren (six miles east of Longville-lès-St. Avold) or Diffembach-lès-Hellimer (18 miles southeast of Longville-lès-St. Avold) Feb. 15, 1770, and died on Misselhof farm Feb. 1, 1843, a daughter of Jean Kennel and Anne Madeleine Schertz.

Children of Hans/Jean Neuhauser and Anne Marie Kennel include:

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\(^{119}\) One source says he was baptized at Schaffhausen (now in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland) Oct. 9, 1681. Other sources say he was born at Steffisburg, but no entry is found there.
1. Jean/John Neuhauser was born at Gosselming, Moselle Jan. 10, 1800, and died at Gridley, Livingston County Dec. 28, 1875. On March 11, 1821 at Marimont-les-Benestroff, Moselle he married Madeleine Salzman. She was born at Denting, Moselle April 11, 1800, and died at Lafauche, Haut-Marne April 27, 1853, a daughter of Joseph Salzman and Barbe Lidviller/Litwiller. The Splendid sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 7, 1855. The passenger list shows Jean Neuhauser, 54, France; Nanette [Anna], 14, and Barbe, 10. ‘John Newhouser, 70, France’ is found in the household of Jacob King, 35, on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County. Herald of Truth, April 1876: “Dec. 28th, in Livingston Co., Ill., of the infirmities of age and inflammation of the bladder, Bro. John Newhauser, in his 76th year. Buried in the presence of many relatives and friends on the 30th, when appropriate remarks were made by J.P. Schmitt.” He is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

2. Joseph Neuhauser was born at Gosselming Jan. 6, 1802, and died at Bébing May 5, 1842.

3. Pierre Neuhauser was born at Gosselming Aug. 18, 1803, and died at Bébing July 12, 1830.

4. Barbe Neuhauser was born at Gosselming Jan. 10, 1805, and died at Bébing Aug. 16, 1830.

5. Christian Neuhauser was born at Gosselming April 21, 1807 (the 10-year index of civil entries erroneously describes him as daughter Christiane). On Dec. 19, 1839 at Lorquin he married Catherine Schertz. She was born at Gondrexange June 24, 1817, a daughter of André Schertz and Elisabeth Salzman.

6. André Neuhauser/Andrew Newhouser was born at Bébing March 10, 1809. It is thought that he came to Tazewell County in 1853. Presumably he was motivated to emigrate from Europe by military conscription for the buildup that led to the outbreak of the Crimean War the following year (see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF REHERREY for background). Despite the age discrepancy, it is likely that André was the ‘laborer Andre Niheiser, 35, France’ found in the household of Emanuel Garber on the 1860 census of Elm Grove. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows him as Andy Newhauser, a 66-year-old ‘teamster at mill’ [presumably Moses Ropp’s saw mill], born in Lorraine to parents from Lorraine, a boarder in the household of John Eimer. He is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery as ‘Andrew Newhauser, 1809-1900.’

7. Anneli/Heneley (as found on her civil birth entry)/Anna Neuhauser was born on Misselhof farm at Bébing Jan. 14, 1811, and died at Sarrebourg, Moselle June 22, 1877. On Sept. 9, 1852 at Hermelange, Moselle she married Christien Suisse. He was born at Bising Feb. 26, 1819, a son of Christian/Christophe Suisse and Marie Fany.

8. Féte (per civil birth entry)/Valetin/Valentine Neuhauser was born on Misselhof farm at Bebing, Moselle March 12, 1814, and died at Gridley June 12, 1899.

Féte (per civil birth entry)/Valetin/Valentine Neuhauser was born on Misselhof farm at Bebing, Moselle March 12, 1814, and died at Gridley June 12, 1899.

On Oct. 19, 1839 at Petitmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Barbe Schertz. She was born at Petitmont Oct. 2, 1819, and died at Gridley May 14, 1886, a daughter of André Schertz and Elisabeth Salzman. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as a laborer in the Hazard mill at Lorquin.

Barbe brought to the marriage an illegitimate daughter also named Barbe Schertz, who was born at Lorquin Dec. 8, 1838. The civil birth entry was witnessed by the midwife and did not identify the father.

The Lemuel Dyer departed Le Havre, and arrived at New Orleans April 27, 1854. The passenger list shows Valentin Neuhauser, 39, France; Barbara, 32; Valentin, 13; André, 12; and Emile, 11. Later in the passenger list is Barbara Neuhauser, 15, France.

‘Valentine Neuhauser, 40, France’ is found in the household of Peter Wirick [Weyrich] on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County. ‘Valenten Neuhauser, France’ applied for naturalization at Peoria Oct. 16, 1860; his statement was witnessed by Daniel Gingerich and Joseph Ulrich.

On April 22, 1864 he purchased 80 acres of federal land in Section 26 of Waldo; he bought an adjoining 80 acres in 1871. The 1870 census of Waldo shows farmer Val Newhouser, 55, France; Barbara, 50, France; and Malinda, 9, Illinois. The 1880 census of Waldo has minister Valentine Neuhauser, France; Barbbra, 60, France; and granddaughter Anna Forney, 19, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois and France.

Herald of Truth, July 1886: "On the 14th of May, in Livingston Co., Ill., of cancer of the breast, Barbara, wife of deacon Valentine Neuhauser, aged 66 years. On Sunday the 16th her remains were laid in the grave. Many friends from far and near were present to pay their last tribute of respect for the departed sister. Funeral services were held by Daniel Steiner, Andrew Ropp, Christian Ropp and John P. Schmidt. About three years ago an operation was performed upon Sister Neuhauser and since that time she had continual and severe pain; yet all her sufferings were borne in all patience and Christian fortitude. She often prayed her heavenly Father that if it were his will, to release her from these sufferings, yet she calmly resigned herself to his will. She gave good evidence that she had been with Christ. She lived in matrimony 47 years, during which time joy intermingled with sorrow, yet the Lord always opened a way for them. Their last place of abode in Europe was in Saxburg, France, where she was born. From that place they moved to America. The departed sister leaves a sorrowing husband, one son, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren to mourn their loss, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church."
Herald of Truth, August 1899: "On June 12, 1899, at 11:45 P. M., in Livingston Co. Ill., of decrepitude, Deacon Valentine Neuhauser, at the advanced age of 85 yr., 2 m., and 29 d. Bro. Neuhauser was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France, on the 14th day of March, 1814. In 1838 he married Barbara Schertz. To this union five children were born, of whom four preceded him to the spirit world. This family was blessed with thirteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. Our deceased deacon's precious days were full of trouble and labor, and he went through many a sad experience before his time came and death relieved him of his troubles. His remains were laid to rest on the 15th, and a large number of relatives and friends from near and far showed him their last respect of love and gratitude. Funeral services were conducted by Daniel Orendorf, from Phil. 1:21-23, and by the writer, from 2 Cor. 5:1-10, after which Joseph Rediger made a few earnest remarks. John P. Schmitt."

They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

Barbe Schertz, born at Lorquin Dec. 8, 1838 as the illegitimate daughter of Barbe Schertz, married in Woodford County Feb. 12, 1860. The entry names Peter Forney and Barbary Newhouser. This was Peter Farny/Farney. He was born at Wilmot, Ontario June 3 or 8, 1835, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas July 9, 1903, a son of Peter/Pierre Farny and Anne Kempf. 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. Barbe died in Woodford County April 3, 1871. On Dec. 17, 1874 in Livingston County he remarried to Barbara Rediger. Children of Felte/Valentin/Valentine Neuhauser and Barbe Schertz include:

1. Valentin/Valentine Neuhauser was born at Lorquin, Moselle April 2, 1841, and died at Gridley July 14, 1922. On Oct. 19, 1867 in Woodford County he married Anna Ropp. She was born at Montgomery Township June 23, 1845, and died at Waldo Aug. 25, 1903, a daughter of Christian Ropp and Magdalena Schertz. On June 11, 1907 Valentine remarried to widow Elizabeth Saltsmann. She was born in New Orleans Sept. 21, 1849, and died at Gridley Feb. 17, 1920. She was the widow of Joseph Zehr, who died in 1882.
2. André Neuhauser was born at Lorquin June 7, 1843, and died Jan. 13, 1868.
3. Emile Neuhauser was born at Lorquin Dec. 30, 1849, and died before 1860.
4. Magdalena Neuhauser was born Oct. 16, 1861, and died Dec. 13, 1873.

Neuhauser of Basel

The city of Basel is located on both sides of the Rhine River in northwestern Switzerland. It borders Upper Alsace, France and Baden, Germany.

This portion of text looks at the descendants of two Basel residents – Pierre and Simon – who were likely brothers. We assume this relationship because each had a son who was living at Ste. Suzanne, Doubs (on the west side of Montbéliard) in 1826-28, and they witnessed each other’s documents. In addition we assume a sister – Catherine – because of multiple coincidences surrounding a wedding in 1829. We also tentatively propose a second sister – Barbara – because of her family associations.

Pierre Neuhauser [senior] was born circa 1746.
Barbara Neuhauser was likely born before 1752.
Simon Neuhauser [senior] was born circa 1758. His descendants included Elm Grove settlers.
Catherine Neuhauser was born circa 1760.

PIERRE NEUHAUSER [SENIOR]

Pierre Neuhauser [senior] was born circa 1746, and died at Feldbach, Upper Alsace March 26, 1808. He married Anne Marie Frey. She was born circa 1738, and died at Dannemarie, Upper Alsace May 15, 1804, a daughter of day laborer Jacob Frey and Madeleine Rupp (actually found on Anne Marie’s civil death entry as Madeleine Rupperen or Rupperer).

A census of Anabaptists in 1783 said that day laborer Peter Neuhauser lived with a wife and three children on the Arxhof [arch farm] in the Waldenburg district [Ger. Waldenburgeramt]. This was located at Niederdorf, 19 miles southeast of the city center of Basel.120

120 As early as the 1000s the Reinachs were lords and property holders in the Aargau region. Their authority fluctuated over the next few centuries, but their wealth remained. It cannot be coincidental that three communities linked to the Peterschmitt and/or Neuhauser family were also linked to the Reinachs: the village Reinach adjacent on the west side of Arlesheim, below the city of Basel in what is now Canton Basel-Landschaft; the village Reinach in the district of Kulm, Canton

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Peter’s employer was Jacob Schmuckli, a leaseholder with a wife and four children. Schmuckli was six years into a 12-year lease. This may have been the minister named Hans Jacob Schmückli mentioned in Horst Gerlach’s *My Kingdom is not of this World: 300 Years of the Amish, 1683-1983*.

In 1777, the year the lease started, Hans Jacob had been chosen as elder of the meeting in the village of Binningen in Arlesheim district, on the west side of St. Jakob farm. Concurrently Johannes/Hans Freyenberger of Oberhofen was a minister and elder of meetings in his home on St. Jakob farm, also called the orphanage farm [Ger. *Waisenhausgut*]. For background on this location see FREYENBERGER in the Appendix. This Binningen congregation was also called the Basel-Binningen meeting. Neuhausers would be found in a churchbook kept continuously from 1777 to 1880.

Perhaps we can assume that Pierre and Anne Marie took their family from the Arxhof to Feldbach, Upper Alsace in response to the French Revolution and the end of the farm lease in 1789. Anne Marie Frey’s civil death entry said she was 66, named her parents, and said she was born at Briseau (?). It was signed by her husband cultivator ‘Pierre Neuhausler’ as ‘Neuhauser.’ Both were described as residents of Dannemarie.

Pierre’s civil death entry described him as a 62-year-old widower and resident of Feldbach. It was witnessed by his son Pierre; he signed Peter Neuhäuser.

Children of Pierre Neuhauser [senior] and Anne Marie Frey include:

1. Barbara Neuhauser was born circa 1771, and died at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace (six miles northwest of Basel) Feb. 2, 1836. She married Nicolas Schott [senior].

2. Jean Schott was born circa 1799. He was a 36-year-old resident of Blotzheim in 1836.

3. Nicolas Schott [junior] was born circa 1800, and died at Thiancourt, Territoire de Belfort Aug. 25, 1860. On Jan. 3, 1831 at Exincourt he married Catherine Frey. She was born circa 1807, and died at Thiancourt Aug. 23, 1861, a daughter of Joseph Frey and Catherine Meyer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Nicolas Schott, 41, born at Klachi or Klercli *en Suisse*. (We could not identify this location, except for the possibility that this was Réclère, 14 miles southeast of Exincourt and now in Canton Jura on the French border). His parents were Nicolas Schott, 69, and Elisabeth [Barbara] Neuhausser, 59, residents of Exincourt who were present and consenting. The bride was dressmaker Catherine Fraye, 24, a resident of Bief in canton St. Hapolite (this administrative district no longer exists, but Bief is on the west side of what is now the village St. Hyppolite) near Exincourt. Her parents were cultivator Joseph Fraye, and Catherine Meyer, 51, residents of Bief who were present and consenting. Witnesses included her brothers cultivator Jacques Freye, 32, a resident of Voujeaucourt (six miles southwest of Exincourt); and cultivator Joseph Fraye, 25, a resident of St. Hapolite. Nicolas’s civil death entry was witnessed by cultivator Nicolas Schott, 25. Catherine was described as a cultivator at Thiancourt.

Aargau, adjacent on the southeast corner of Gontenschwil (less than three miles between village centers); and the village Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace.

The most powerful Reinach was Johan Konrad von Reinach-Hirtzbach (1657-1737). He became the first absolutist prince-bishop of Basel in 1705.

Recall from a footnote to LITWILLER that, “Baron Charles de Reinach (1785-1871) employed Liechitis and Joders from Morvillars on Granzelen, the castle estate of the Château de Hirtzbach. He served in the French military and fought in a number of battles during the Napoleonic wars. After a serious injury at Moscow he was made a chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He rejoined Napoleon for his Hundred Days return form Elba. In 1827 he was elected to the national assembly, and served until 1848. The château is now a national historic site.

121 Its first meetinghouse was constructed in 1847 at 141 Holeestrasse in Binningen. Its records are now at the Swiss Association for Anabaptist History at Bienenberg near Liestal.
2. **Peter/Pierre Neuhauser** [junior] was born circa 1780, and died at Altkirch Nov. 28, 1847.

3. Johannes/Jean Neuhauser was born circa 1781. In 1819 he married Anne Barbe Schmid (called Elizabeth on some later entries), who was born circa 1795. A pre-wedding announcement posted in the communal house at Feldbach March 22, 1819 described the would-be groom as Jean Neuhauser, a son of the deceased Pierre Neuhauser; and Barbara Schmitt, a daughter of Pierre Schmitt and Catharin Schvarin. It was signed Johannes Neuhauser; Barbara signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate. The marriage did not take place at Feldbach or was simply not recorded there; in fact no marriages were recorded in 1819. In 1826-28 they were living at Ste. Suzanne, Doubs with Johannes/Jean’s cousin Simon. Johannes/Jean died at Montbéliard Dec. 31, 1865. A civil death entry there described cultivator Jean Neuhauser, 85 (thus born circa 1780), parents unknown. He had been married to cultivator Anne Barbe Schmid, 70. Witnesses included cultivators Christ Müller, 43, and Joseph Joder, 52.

   a. Jean Neuhauser was born at Tagsdorf, Upper Alsace July 12, 1820, and died at Ste. Suzanne Aug. 8, 1826. His civil birth entry described him as Jean Neuhauser. His parents were anabaptiste et vassale Jean Neuhauser, 38, and Barbe Schmitt. His father signed Johannes Neuhauser. His civil death entry described his father as Jean Neuhauser, 42. It was witnessed by uncle and farm equipment operator Simon Niauser, 34.

   b. Elizabeth Neuhauser was born at Ste. Suzanne (spelled Susanne at that time), Doubs Nov. 12, 1827, and died there Jan. 31, 1833. Her civil birth entry described her parents as farm equipment operator Jean Niauser, 43, and Elizabeth Chemith, residents of Ste. Susanne. It was witnessed by (as their signatures appeared) Johannes Neuhausser and Simon Neuhausser. Simon was described as a 35-year-old farm equipment operator who was also a resident of Ste. Suzanne. Her civil death entry described her parents as farm equipment operator Jean Klauser, 50, and Elizabeth Schmid, 45. Her father signed Johannes Neuhausser.

**Peter/Pierre Neuhauser** [junior] was born circa 1780, and died at Altkirch (on the northeast corner of Hirtzbach) Nov. 28, 1847.

On April 25, 1805 at Dannemarie, Upper Alsace Peter/Pierre married Anne Marie Roth. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Pierre Neuheusler, 24, a resident of Dannemarie. He was a son of cultivator Pierre Neuheusler, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Marie Frey, who had died at Dannemarie May 15, 1804. The bride was described as Anne Marie Roth, 28, born at Basle en helvetic. She was a resident of Bois de la Chapt, Granvillars [Bois Lachat, a forest west and north of Grandvillars, Territoire de Belfort noted in ERNST]. Her parents were the deceased Jacques Roth, who had died March 19, 1791, and the deceased Marie Salihemberger [Schallenberger?], who had died April 10, 1800. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Neuheusler, 22. Signatures looked like Peter Neuthauser [the groom], Johannes Neuthauser [his brother], and Poater Neuthauser [his father]; the bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.

Anne Marie Roth was born circa 1777, and died at Feldbach May 26, 1811, shortly after the birth of a son. Pierre signed her civil death entry Peter Neuthauser.

On Oct. 30, 1809 day laborer Elisabeth Schott, 40, died at Feldbach. Her civil death entry was witnessed by farmer Pierre Neuhauser and the mayor.

Children of Peter/Pierre Neuhauser and his first wife Anne Marie Roth born at Feldbach include:

1. Anne Marie Neuhauser was born Feb. 16, 1806. On May 20, 1834 at Allenjoie, Doubs she married Jean Schmuckly. He was born at Allenjoie Dec. 26, 1791, and died at Arlesheim near Basel Dec. 8, 1845, a son of Michel Schmuckli and Barbe Gering. He was the widower of Barbe Schantz, who died at Arlesheim in 1833.

2. Pierre Neuhauser was born Feb. 26, 1809, and died at Altkirch May 23, 1837. His civil birth entry described his father as a 28-year-old cultivator.

3. Johannes/Jean Neuhauser was born May 17, 1811. On Sept. 19, 1839 at Richwiller, Upper Alsace he married widower Magdalena Moser. Their civil marriage entry described the groom’s parents as day laborer Neuhauser, a resident of Altkirch, and the deceased Anne Marie Roth. Signatures included Johannes Neuthauser and Peter Neuthauser. Magdalena was born at Illzach (29 miles northeast of Hirtzbach) Dec. 14, 1812, and died at Mulhouse (below Illzach) Sept. 10, 1868, a daughter of Madeleine Moser. Her first husband was Nicolas Hildi [Hilti/Hilty].

Pierre remarried at Feldbach Dec. 18, 1812. His civil marriage entry described the groom as Pierre Neuhauser, 32, the widower of Anne Marie Roth (though the 10-year index of civil entries erroneously listed the bride as Anne Marie Roth). The bride was described as Anne Marie Stoky, 30, born at Liestall, Canton de Basle [Liestal, now in
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Canton Basel-Landschaft, 10 miles southeast of the city of Basel], a daughter of the deceased Christen Stoky and Anne Marie Schwary. Her mother was a resident of Carspach who was present at the ceremony. Pierre’s civil death entry created at Altkirch Nov. 28, 1847 described him as day laborer Pierre Neuhauser, 67, the husband of Marie Neuhauser. It was witnessed by his neighbor Jean Eicher, 67; Pierre had died in Jean’s home on Rue de la Porte au Chevaux.

A child of Peter/Pierre Neuhauser [junior] and his second wife Anne Marie Stoky was:

4. Catharin/Catherine Neuhauser was born at Feldbach April 6, 1815.

BARBARA NEUHAUSER

Was Barbara Neuhauser a sibling?

She was likely born before 1752.

She married Michel Gerig. He was a son of Jean Gerig and Barbe Sommer. Michel died at Danjoutin (below Belfort in the Territoire de Belfort) Nov. 4, 1780, and was buried in the Burgerwald at Montbéliard.

One of their children was Marie Gerig, born circa 1773. On July 26, 1794 at Montbéliard she married Hans Meyer. He was born in 1773, and died in 1834, a son of Hans Meyer and Catherine Liechti. Hans’s sister was Catherine Meyer (1779-1858) who married Joseph Frey (1760-1836). Joseph Frey and Catherine Meyer were the parents of two children who married into the extended Neuhauser family (one to a Schott, one to a Gerig).

SIMON NEUHAUSER [SENIOR]

Simon Neuhauser [senior] was born circa 1758, and died on the Schweighof dairy farm at Courtavon, Upper Alsace, on the border with Switzerland Dec. 29, 1814.

Simon married Barbe Peter Schmid. The ceremony may have taken place as early as 1784, the birth year of a son. Perhaps Simon met Barbe while visiting his older brother in the area of Feldbach and nearby Hirtzbach. Hirtzbach was noted in PETERSMITH as a home to Peter Schmidts.

Barbe was frequently found as Barbe Schmitt. However, the marriage entry of their oldest son identified her as Barbe Petre Schemit. In 1792 they were living on St. Jakob farm in the city of Basel. The farm was less than four miles north of Arlesheim. In 1793 the cathedral at Arlesheim was abandoned by Catholic clergy and seized by French troops. Though it was pillaged, it was saved from destruction when it was purchased by private citizens. After 1815 it was sold back to Catholic clergy, but they lacked funds for its upkeep. This dampened the local economy for several decades.

Simon [senior]’s civil death entry described him as annabaptiste Simon Neihusser, the 56-year-old husband of Barbe Schmid.

Children of Simon Neuhauser [senior] and Barbe Peter Schmid include:

1. Simon Neuhauser [junior] was born on St. Jakob farm Feb. 9, 1792, and died at Clairegoutte, Haute-Saône May 16, 1870. On May 11, 1815 at Réchésy, Territoire de Belfort (six miles northwest of Courtavon) he married Catherine Hummell [Ummel/Hummel]. She was born circa 1787, and died at Hirtzbach in 1820, a daughter of Christ Hummel [Ummel] and Barbe Stocky [Stück]. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Simon Neihousser, 23. He was born on St. Jakob farm in the city of Basel Feb. 9, 1792. His parents were described as the deceased Simon Neighausser, who had died at Courtavon Dec. 19, 1814, and Barbe Petre Schemit, who consented to the marriage. He was a resident of More, Canton Ferrette [Moernach, four miles northeast of Courtavon?]. The bride was Catherine Hommelle, 28. She was the widow of Jean Roth, who had died at Réchésy April 13, 1814. Her...
parents were Christe Hummelle and Barbe Stockey, residents of Montingan [Montignez on the southwest corner of Réchésy?]. The groom signed Simon Nauhauser. Their children include:

a. Magdelaine Neuhauser was born at Réchésy May 20, 1818, and died at Ste. Suzanne Sept. 4, 1826. Her civil birth entry described her parents as farmer Simon Neuhauser of la Norappe [a farm on the east side of the village], 25, and Catherine Umel. The father’s signature looked like Simon Neuhauste. Her civil death entry described her father as Simon Niauser, 34; it was witnessed by uncle Jean Niauser, 34.

b. Joseph Neuhauser was born at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace Aug. 17, 1820, and died on the road to Pfaffst Sept. 17, 1820. His civil birth entry described his parents as Simon Neuhauser, 27, a native of St. Jacques, Canton Bern, Switzerland ‘living in our community for three weeks’ and Catherine Ummel. Witnesses included Joseph Jotter, 68, and Jacques Jotter, 39, farmers employed by Monsieur [Baron] Reinach. Signatures looked like Simon Neuhauste and Jacob Joder. The mention of ‘three weeks’ suggests that the couple had come nine miles from Réchésy in anticipation of the event. At Hirtzbach, they would have been in the company of Simon’s relatives the Peter Schmidts and other members of the Birkenhof congregation. The details on entries are incomplete, but seem to tell the story: A short while after Joseph’s birth his mother died (between the creation of the birth entry and four weeks later). It is not clear whether or not Simon was absent at the birth (perhaps returning to work the harvest at Réchésy), or whether he departed after Catherine’s death, leaving the newborn to be tended by relatives. Despite a legal requirement, Catherine’s death was not reported for an état civil entry. Perhaps no entry was recorded at Hirtzbach, because no one was left behind to pay a small administrative fee. The newborn Joseph was transported toward Pfaffst (15 miles north), where Catherine had a sister living (Catherine’s mother Barbe Stocky/Stücki had died there June 24, 1819). But the baby died at the age of four weeks in a public garden en route on the Rue de Mulhausen. A civil death entry for Joseph was created at Pfaffst, witnessed by farmer Daniel Früitzer, 43, the husband of Vérene Ummel. It specifically noted the absence of the father without explanation.

Between 1820 and 1823 Simon remarried to Magdalena/Madeleine Heitzmann. She was born at Neuborg, Austria July 22, 1796, and died as a resident of Magny-Jobert, Haute-Saône Feb. 5, 1858 (30 miles west of Réchésy), though her civil death was recorded at Champagney (seven miles northeast of Magny-Jobert). It described her as Marie-Madeleine Haitsmann, the wife of Simon Neuhauser, 62, and a daughter of deceased cultivators Haitsmann and Catherine Roy, who had been residents of Neubourg. It was witnessed by their son Joseph Simon Neuhauser, 29, who signed Simon Neuhauser. In 1826-28 they were living at Ste. Suzanne, Doubs with Simon’s cousin Johannes/Jean. Simon died at Clairegoutte (two miles northeast of Magny-Jobert) May 16, 1870. His civil death entry described him as Simon Neuhauser, approximately 80, an elderly miller and resident of Clairegoutte, the widower of the deceased Madeleine Heitzmann.

c. Marie Neuhauser was born at Dung, Doubs circa 1823, and died at Lomont, Haute-Saône (three miles southeast of Magny-Jobert) Jan. 17, 1886 (the 10-year civil index calls her Marie Naillousse). On July 14, 1840 at Magny-Jobert she married Nicolas Stocki. He was born at Buix in the district of Porrentruy, Canton Jura Jan. 1, 1814, and died at Lyoffians, Haute-Saône July 7, 1887, a son of cultivator Jacques Stocki, 26, and Frenelic/Freni/Véronique Kaufmann. Their civil marriage entry described the bride as minor Marie Neuhauser, 17, a daughter of Simon Neuhauser, 48, and Madeleine Haumann [Magdalena Heitzmann], 44, present and consenting. The groom was a resident of Montbéliard, and the bride was a resident of Magny-Jobert. One witness was cultivator Pierre Stocki, 28, of Montbéliard. Signatures look like Simon Neuhauser, Magdalena Heitzmann, and Jacob Stücki.

d. Joseph Simon Neuhauser was born at Ste. Suzanne, Doubs (on the east side of Dung) April 2, 1826, and died at Étobon, Haute-Saône July 15, 1852. His civil birth entry described his parents as farm equipment operator Simon Niauser, 34, a resident of Ste. Suzanne, and Elizabeth Azim [Magdelena Heitzmann]. One witness was farm equipment operator Jean Niausère, 42 (his signature looked like Johannes Neuhauste). He married Catherine Guemann. She was born at Étobon June 3, 1826, and died at Archbold, Fulton County, Ohio Sept. 3, 1884, a daughter of Christ Guemann and Marie Gerg. His civil death entry described him as miller Joseph Neiuser, 26, a resident of Étobon who was born at St. Suzanne, Doubs, a son of Simon Neiuser and Madeleine Hietsmanne. Catherine was pregnant at the time of his death, and gave birth to a daughter Annette at Étobon Sept. 15, 1842. On April 4, 1856 at Étobon Catherine remarried to André/Andrew Vonier. He was born at Schruns, Austria Oct. 13, 1822, and died at Archbold Dec. 13, 1912. They arrived at New York on the SS Kong Sverre April 8, 1874. Catherine is buried as ‘Katie, wife of Andrew Vonier’ in Eckley Cemetery in Fulton County. In 1884 in Fulton County André/Andrew remarried to Bertha Bruthern. They are buried in Rupp Cemetery at Archbold.

e. Simon Neuhauser was born at Ste. Suzanne July 22, 1828, and died at Essert, Territoire de Belfort April 25, 1893. One witness on his civil birth entry was farm equipment operator Jean Niauser, 44. When 27-

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123 The department of Haute-Saône was carved out of the administrative region of Franche-Comté in the early 1790s. It is situated between Vosges on the north, the Territoire de Belfort on the east, and Doubs on the south. It has historically been an impoverished area; in 1784 half its population still consisted of serfs. Laws against this practice were not enforced for another five years, with the French Revolution.
year-old miller Simon Niauser married Elizabeth Schade at La Côte, Haute-Saône June 5, 1855, his parents were described as Simon Niauser, 63 (his signature looked like Neuhauser), and Elizabeth Hizeman (her signature looked like Heitzmann), 57, present and consenting.

2. Jacob Neuhauser [twin] died at Ober Tegernau in the district of Lörrach, Baden Nov. 3, 1804, and was buried Nov. 5. An entry in the Kirchenbuch Tegernau called him Jacob Neuhauser, and described him as an 8-year-old son of Simon Neuhauser and Barbara Peterschmidt. By law the death of the child of an Anabaptist in Baden had to be registered in an Evangelisch church. If the age on Jacob’s death entry is accurate, then he would have been a twin to a child of this family born Feb. 20, 1796.

Our attribution of Tazewell County settlers Peter and Barbara to this couple is inductive; that is, a number of coincidences seem to support this assumption. To the best of our knowledge, no documents provide material proof that they belong here, and no documents dispute it. But there was only one Neuhauser family in the vicinity of the city of Basel. A description beyond ‘prime suspects’ appears to be justified.

3. According to his obituary, Peter Neuhauser [twin] was born in Upper Alsace, near the city of Basel Feb. 20, 1796, and died at Morton July 23, 1889. If this birth date is correct, and the age on Jacob’s death entry is correct, they would have been twins.

4. Barbara Neuhauser was born Nov. 1, 1800, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County June 5, 1880. She married widower Bartholomew Zook in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where their first child was born in 1835. Zook may have been born March 21, 1788, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County Sept. 18, 1871. See ZOOK for more on this couple.

According to his obituary, Peter Neuhauser was born in Upper Alsace, near the city of Basel Feb. 20, 1796, and died at Morton July 23, 1889.

A number of searches for Peter and Barbara through état civil records in villages on the French side of the present border with Switzerland have been unsuccessful. Despite this, it remains probable that he was born in the vicinity of St. Louis, Upper Alsace, a five-mile-long community that borders the northwest corner of the city of Basel. The descriptive wording in his obituary may have been chosen to avoid confusing Midwestern readers.

St. Louis was occupied by French soldiers in 1793. For the next few years it took on the names Bourg Libré and Fort Libré, while also continuing to use the German-language alternative Sankt Ludvig. Local residents called themselves Ludovicens.

The city has always been a border station for the exchange of commercial goods. During the French occupation the Bureau de Surveillance des Frontières questioned some of those who crossed the border (on the Basel side it was open field), but most of their attention was given to taxable items.

If Peter was born in St. Louis/Bourg Libré, there would have been no état civil entry. Their record keeping process was temporarily suspended Dec. 21, 1795, and did not resume until Sept. 10, 1796. Perhaps the civil administration was overtaxed by the massing of French troops for the protection of the border with Baden and an invasion of Italy that commenced in the spring. Brigadier General Napoleon Bonaparte took command of the French ‘Army of Italy’ March 2, 1796, and began a year of campaigns against Austria and its ally Italy.

Other Amish Mennonite couples who had children at St. Louis in this time frame were Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman and Anne Marie Stucky, and his brother Christian Zimmerman and Elisabetha König (see ZIMMERMAN). Zimmermans also spilled over into adjacent Bourgfelden, which was absorbed into St. Louis in 1953.

The city of Basel projects into what is now Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Its northeast corner touches the Baden district of Lörrach. The next record of this family is found in an Evangelisch churchbook at Tegernau.

124 It is apparent that the searches did not take into account geography as it was in 1796 and 1800. Solely as an example, consider the possibilities if Peter was born in the Anabaptist settlement at Liestal, now in Canton Basel-Landschaft. It was 10 miles southeast of the city of Basel, and less than five miles south of the Rhine River border with Baden. Liestal welcomed the French Revolution and resented taxation by the city of Basel. They did not consider themselves part of the old Rauracian Republic, or the occupation Département du Mont Terrible that was established by French occupation troops in 1793. That department’s capital was in faraway Porrentruy, 47 miles to the west. But sentiment was such that Napoleon Bonaparte received ovations when he rode through the town in 1797. For 22 years (1793-1815) the people of Liestal may have considered themselves residents of Upper Alsace, though the present day border of Upper Alsace was 13 miles away. And many other out-of-the-way locations have similar stories. Thus it is not difficult to imagine that Peter was born at Arlesheim, Liestal, or a number of similar small communities now found in Switzerland.

125 A modern example of the uniqueness of the geography, commerce, and transportation challenges in the area is Europort Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, an international airport constructed in 1946. It has a French zone, and a Swiss zone. Administrators from each country recognize the two parts as independent entities. Arriving passengers receive either a French or Swiss passport stamp, depending on which officer they approach. Yet is is almost completely within St. Louis, with its operations headquarters at adjacent Blotzheim.
Baden. This was a small milling village, 14 miles northeast of the city of Lörrach, in the foothills of the Black Forest. Peter’s twin brother Jacob died at Ober Tegernau in 1804. By the laws of Baden, the death of a child with Anabaptist parents was required to be registered in a Protestant church.

Recall from ROTH that Austrian General von Mack surrendered at the Battle of Ulm in 1805, and following the event the new prince-elector of Baden-Durlach allied with France. In 1806 the Holy Roman Empire was abolished, and Napoleon Bonaparte made Margrave Karl Friedrich a grand duke and leader of the Confederation of the Rhine. The margrave’s domain became a grand duchy [Ger. Grossherzogtum Baden], and was now seen as a buffer protecting France from its enemies. In 1811 Grand Duke Karl Friedrich died. He had played both sides to increase his political influence and enrich his family. In 1812, Bonaparte’s Grand Army retreated from its humiliating losses in the Russian Campaign, ending his influence in the region.

Perhaps the family crossed from Baden to live in Upper Alsace as early as the Baden-France alliance in 1805. Recall that Peter’s father Simon [senior] died on Schweighof dairy farm at Courtavon, Upper Alsace, on the border with Switzerland Dec. 29, 1814.

Although his name could not be found on passenger lists imaged by the National Archives, the Groupement Généalogique du Havre et de Seine-Maritime has identified ‘Pierre Neyhauser, 34’ on French emigration documents. He embarked at Le Havre April 2, 1831 bound for New York.

Initially Peter found employment as a farm laborer in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

His future wife Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach (between Feldbach and Hirtzbach) July 22, 1807, and died at Waldo Township, Livingston County Feb. 2, 1884, a daughter of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber. See PETERSMITH for details of her immigration. She may have arrived in the Mill Creek area of Lancaster County in the spring of 1832.

On Jan. 23, 1835 in Lancaster County the third cousins married. He was 39, she was 28. Peter and Anne Marie relocated to Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio later that year. In January of 1836 the diaries of Christian Iutzi described Peter Neuhauser as 'neighbor Neuhauser.' The Neuhausers must have lived with or very near Christian Augspurger and Catherine Hauter, who were next door neighbors to Iutzi’s Middlehof farm.

'Peter Nauhouse' is found on the 1840 census of Lemon, Butler County: one male in the 40-49 age range; one male under 5; one female 30-39; and one female under 5. Peter submitted a Declaration of Intent to be naturalized at Hamilton, Butler County in 1847.

The family appears on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County as farmer Peter Newheus, 56, Germany; Maria, 10, Germany; Peter, 12; Barbaray, 10; Jacob, 7; Christian, 6; Maria, 3; and John, six months; all children born in Ohio. The same census page shows the households of minister Joseph Kinsinger and Magdalena [Augspurger], and John Schlonacker [Sloneker, from Schlünegger] and Barbury [Barbara König/King]. Magdalena was a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Catherine Hauter.

The Neuhausers resettled in Tazewell County in the spring of 1852.

In 1860 involuntary conscription for military service was widely expected. Past experiences with census takers made residents wary. As we have shown several times, some residents took chances by purposely misleading them. It was felt that any inconsistency might delay the process. One trick was to feign an inability to speak English, and hope that the census taker would not know the correct spelling of a name. Another was to present the misspellings on travel documents. Errors occurred on this census that had not occurred before and would not occur again. The Neuhauser family living at Washington rose to the occasion: they appear as John Nihouser, 60, Germany; Sarah, 55, Germany; laborer Peter, 22, Illinois; Jacob, 20, Illinois; domestic Barbara, 18, Illinois; laborer Christian, 16, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; John, 10, Illinois; and laborer Jacob Konsinger [Kinsinger], 16, Illinois. Though the names of the parents are wrong, and all the children were actually born in Ohio, and the ages of Jacob and Barbara are reversed, at least the names of all six children are correct.

They appear on the 1870 census of Morton as Peter Nihouser, 74, France; Meary, 64, France; Christ, 26, Ohio; Mary, 22, Ohio; and John, 20, Ohio. And on the 1880 census of Morton: Christ Newhouser, 35, Ohio, farmer, parents from Alsace; Peter Newhouser, 84, Alsace, parents from Alsace; Mary Sann, domestic [Christ's future wife], 30, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Mary Newhouser, 73, Alsace.

126 Ober Tegernau [upper outside] (population 390) was administratively absorbed into Kleines Wiesental [small meadow valley], still in the district of Lörrach, on Jan. 1, 2009. There is still a Nieder Tegernau [lower outside] below it.

127 Jacob Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 5, 1844, and died in McLean County Nov. 21, 1914, a son of Michael Kinsinger (minister of the South Danvers Hessian congregation and a passenger on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832) and Magdalena Naffziger (a daughter of ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger and Barbara Beck and a Nimrod passenger).
Herald of Truth, March 1884: "On the 2d of February, in Waldo Twp., Livingston Co., Ill., Sister Mary Newhauser (maiden name Schmidt), wife of Peter Newhauser of bronchial affection, aged 76 years, 6 months and 10 days. On the 4th she was buried in the Waldo twp. grave-yard, followed by a large concourse of friends. Services by Daniel Steinman and Joseph P. Schmidt and Chr. Schlegel. She was a faithful member of the Amish Church. She leaves a husband 88 years of age, and two sons to mourn their loss, but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. She had a desire to go and be with Jesus, she remarked a few days before her death, 'For me to live is Christ, for me to die is gain.' Oh let us all be in earnest to work for the glory that a waits us beyond."

Peter’s obituary was published in Herald of Truth more than eight months after his death. From the May 1890 issue: "On the 23d of July 1889, in Tazewell County, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Peter Neuhauser, aged 93 years, 5 months and 3 days. He was born on the 20th of Feb. 1796 in Upper Alsace, near the city of Basle, Switzerland. In the spring of 1831 he immigrated to America, settling in Lancaster Co., Pa. Here he was married on the 23d of Jan. 1835 to Mary P. Schmidt. In the fall of the same year they moved to Butler County, Ohio, and in the spring of 1852 to Illinois, settling in Tazewell County, where he spent the remainder of his life. Sister Neuhauser died several years ago. Their union was blessed with seven children, of whom two sons survive the parents. Bro. Neuhauser leaves many grandchildren and great-grand children. He retained his mental faculties to the last. He was a faithful, peace-loving member of the old Amish Mennonite church. Funeral services by Daniel Roth and Peter Ropp." He is buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

Children of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt born in Butler County, Ohio include:

1. Peter Neuhauser [Jr.] was born July 8, 1838, and died Aug. 26, 1864. On Oct. 21, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Smith; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born at what is now Congerville May 11, 1841, and died at Harper, Kansas April 14, 1916, a daughter of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. On Oct. 11, 1866 at Bloomington, McLean County she remarried to Valentine Maninger. For more on this couple see SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING.

2. Barbara Neuhauser was born Feb. 21, 1840, and died in Livingston County March 24, 1881. On Feb. 3, 1861 in Tazewell County she married Peter Smith; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born in Butler County June 20, 1837, and died in Livingston County Nov. 17, 1875, a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. For more on this couple see SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING.

3. Jacob Neuhauser was born July 1, 1842, and died 'near Peoria' Aug. 7, 1872. On Nov. 7, 1869 in Woodford County he married Anna Myers. She was born at Nancy, France June 8, 1851, and died at Liberty, Nebraska June 8, 1929. Their household is found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Jacob Neuhauser, 28; Ohio; Ann, 19; France; and farmer Rudolph Rettaga, 25, Switzerland. Descendants of their son Emanuel, born at Metamora Jan. 6, 1872, are Neuhausers.

4. Christian Neuhauser was born June 20, 1844, and died at Olio, Woodford County Nov. 14, 1921.

5. Maria/Mary A. Neuhauser was born Jan. 9, 1847, and died in Livingston County April 25 or 30, 1883. In 1872 in Livingston County she became the second wife of John H. Dierberger. He was born at Neudingen, Baden May 10, 1840, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 22, 1919, a son of Valentine Dierberger and Veronika Kammerer. His first wife had been Regina Wagler of Markolsheim, Lower Alsace, who he had married in Livingston County April 22, 1866; she died in Livingston County Aug. 13, 1871. They are found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as John Dierberger, 40; Baden; Mary 33, born in Ohio to parents from Baden; and six children born in Illinois.

6. John W. Neuhauser was born Dec. 2, 1849, and died at Royal Park, Michigan July 9, 1942. On Feb. 28, 1878 in McLean County he married his second cousin Fanny Gunden. She was born in Butler County. Her Buckeye Cemetery headstone says Oct. 25, 1847, but other sources give Oct. 26, 1849, which is closer to her census age. She died April 26, 1888, a daughter of John von Gunden and Catherine Peter Schmidt/Smith. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as John Neuhauser, 30, born in Ohio to a father from Baden and a mother from France; Fannie, 30, born in Ohio to French parents; Peter, 1, Illinois; and William, three months. On Jan. 5, 1890 in Tazewell County John remarried to Anna Eichelberger. She was born in Tazewell County March 29, 1858, and died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 16, 1916, a daughter of George Eichelberger and Veronika Stalter. Gospel Herald, December 1916: "Anna Eichelberger was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Mar. 29, 1858; died Nov. 10, 1916, near Manson, Iowa. She had been an invalid for 20 years, but the direct cause of her death was tonsillitis and erysipelas. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth, and whenever health permitted filled her place during services, she remained faithful to the end. Jan. 5, 1890, she united in marriage with Bro. J. W. Neuhauser, they made their home near Flanagan, Ill., for 26 years, moving to Manson, Ia., in the spring of 1916, making their home with Bro. and Sister John Webb. Those left to mourn her departure are her husband, four step children, Peter, William, John, and Katie; four sisters, Magdalena Burkey, Mary Good, Katie Jansen, Phoebe Marshall also four brothers, Cris, Peter, Joe, and George, beside a large circle of friends. Sister Neuhauser requested that Psalms 91 be read and that hymns, "Nearer My God, to Thee," and "Jesus Lover of My Soul" be sung at the funeral, which was held in the Mennonite Church in Manson, Ia., Bro. D. D. Zehr in charge, took for his text Prov. 16:25, Jno. 14:6, interment in Rose Hill Cemetery. May God comfort the bereaved ones." Gospel Herald, July 1942: "John W., son of Peter and Mary Neuhauser, was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Dec. 2, 1849; died at the home of his daughter Katie (Mrs. John Webb,
Christian Neuhauser was born in Butler County, Ohio June 20, 1844, and died at Olio, Woodford County Nov. 14, 1921.

As noted earlier, the 1880 census of Morton shows Christ Newhouser, 35, Ohio, farmer, parents from Alsace; Peter Newhouser, 84, Alsace; Mary Sann, domestic [Christ's future wife], 30, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Mary Newhouser, 73, Alsace.

On Feb. 1, 1881 in Tazewell County Christian married Mary Sann. She was born at Chenoa, McLean County March 23, 1850, and died in Tazewell County Dec. 9, 1889, a daughter of Jacob Sann and his first wife Jakobina Stalter.

Christian's household appears on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christ Newhauser, 55, born in Ohio in June 1844 to German parents; Edwin H., 18, born in Illinois in February 1882 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; Amos E., 16, born in Illinois in September 1883 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; and John E., 13, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois.

In 1910 Christian and his son John were living in the household of his son Amos (with a wife and three children) at Olio, Woodford County.

Gospel Herald, November 1921: "Christian Newhauser was born near Hamilton, Ohio, June 20, 1844; died at the home of his son Amos, near Metamora, Ill., Nov. 14, 1921. He died instantly of heart trouble. He attended church on Sunday, ate breakfast on Monday morning, took a short walk from the house, and fell down without another word. He had been a widower for 32 years. There are three sons (Edwin H., Amos E. and John C.), one brother (John), and seven grandchildren who mourn his departure. He will be missed by home, church, and community. He was ready to die; he expressed the desire to die suddenly. He was an affectionate, thoughtful, loyal, and earnest member of the Mennonite Church from his youth. Surely another pillar has fallen. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Samuel Gerber and Clayton F. Derstine. Text, II Tim. 4:7, 8."

Christian and Mary are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

Catherine Neuhauser was born circa 1760.

She married Christian/Chrétien Gerig. He was born circa 1752.

Circa 1803 they had a son at Neue Welt [new world], in what would now be described as the northern end of the sub-district of Münchenstein, in the district of Arlesheim in Canton Basel-Landschaft. It was located on the opposite (eastern) side of the south-north River Birs, across from what was then St. Jakob farm.

They were living at Étobon, Haute-Saône when they attended the marriage of that son at Exincourt, Doubs Sept. 16, 1829. Note that Étobon is within six miles of two locations mentioned earlier in association with Neuhausers: Clairegoutte and Magny-Jobert.

The civil marriage entry of son Christian described the groom as dairyman [Fr. laitier] Christian Gerig, 26. He was a resident of Exincourt born at Neuenvelt en Suisse, canton de Basle. His parents were described as Christian Gerig, 77, and Catherine Neuhauser, 69, residents of Étobon who were present and consenting. The bride was Marie Frey, 29, a day laborer at Châtenois [Châtenois-les-Forges, Territoire de Belfort] and a resident of Voujeaucourt [below Montbéliard]. Her parents were described as farmer Joseph Frey, 72, and Catherine Meyer, 49, residents of St. Hyppolite who were present and consenting.

128 Münchenstein, a municipality adjacent to Arlesheim in the district of Arlesheim, was the place where a new typeface – Neue Haas Grotesk - was invented at the Haas Type Foundry in 1957. In 1960 it was renamed Helvetica.
Zook of Elm Grove

In the Bernese dialect a Zaügg is a cynical, chiding, or critical person. This surname is also found as Zaüg, Zuck, and Zook. Heimatorte or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights in Canton Bern include Eggwiwil, Lützelfüh, Oberdiessbach, Signau, Sumiswald, and Trüb (older spelling Trüb).

But the surname Zook may also be derived from the town of Zug in Canton Zurich. It sits on the northeast quarter of a lake called the Zugersee. Throughout much of its later history it was a Hapsburg possession, and held a Catholic majority. There Zug likely referred to someone who had fishing rights. Zug in German can also be a train, the stroke of a pen, or a move (such as a chess move).

A number of Zaüg/Zaügs and Zugs have figured in Anabaptist history:

- Caspar Zougck of Schuselbühl near Sumiswald was one of the Anabaptist representatives in the debate at Bern in 1538.
- Üli Zaügg of Signau, Christen Stauffer of Eggwiwil, and Üli Neuhausen were called leading Anabaptist ministers in 1644. They were imprisoned in the castle at Thun. Zaügg left Canton Bern Sept. 10, 1660 and went to Holland.
- Hans Zug was among seven Anabaptist ministers who left Canton Zurich and went into Canton Bern, where they were arrested. The Martyrs Mirror, which calls him Zaug, tells the story. He was arrested at Signau Jan. 1, 1659, and imprisoned until at least 1672.
- Brothers Christian and Johannes, and their cousin Moritz, sailed on the Francis and Elizabeth from Rotterdam, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742. They left many descendants in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

This portion of text has caused a fair share of late nights. In the end we could not explain several events in the life of Bartholomew Zook, who came to Elm Grove in 1854.

In the portion of text CLUES OR DISTRACTIONS? we will follow a family from Trüb, Canton Bern where the first name Bartlome/Barthlome appears several times. But it should also be noted that the German version Bartholomäus is associated with the Catholic saint called Bartholomew by English-speakers. He is honored by Kapelle Schönbrunn chapel at Menzingen, Canton Zug. Established in 1400 AD, for many centuries it was called the Kapelle Sankt Bartholomäus. Menzingen is adjacent to the village of Zug.

Bartholomew gave his birth date as March 21, 1788. Two censuses suggest 1788, one 1790, and his obituary 1789.

Not even the surname of his first wife is known – only that she was French. She died before he emigrated from Europe with their four children circa 1833.129

Not a single état civil administrative entry has been identified, nor the location where they lived. No passenger list or port of entry has been identified, though this is not unusual.

The most reliable census report from his children (oldest son Michael Zook in 1870) indicated he was Swiss and his first wife was French. In 1850 his birthplace was given as Germany, but this may only reflect the language he spoke to a census taker. In 1870 his birthplace was given as Swedenberg or Swadenberg, then crossed out and followed by ‘Ger.’ He has also been linked with Basel; however, this may only reflect confusion with his second wife and brother-in-law, Barbara and Peter Neuhauser.

Circa 1834 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Bartholomew remarried to Barbara Neuhauser (their first child was born in August 1835). Barbara was born Nov. 1, 1800, a daughter of Simon Neuhauser and Barbe Peter Schmid (see NEUHAUSER).130 She likely immigrated with her brother Peter in the spring of 1831.

The first of Barbara’s four children was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1835.

Bartholomew and Barbara were in Butler County, Ohio by September of 1837.

'Bartholomew Zugg' is named as a head of household on the 1840 census of St. Clair Township, Butler County, next door to John Swartzentruver.131 The tally shows one male 50-59 years of age; one male 15-19; one male 10-14; and two males under five; one female 40-49; one female 16-19; and one female under five.

129 Recalled by Bartholomew’s grandson Daniel Zook, according to Harry D. Zook’s Descendants of Bartholomew Zook in the January 1986 issue of Lancaster Mennonite Heritage.

130 However, it is also possible (whether or not she was Peter’s sister) that she is found on the passenger list of the Poland, which sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 29, 1833: Marguerite Neuhasser, 68 or 70 [overwritten], France; Catherine, 33; Barbe, 32; Magdaline, 21; and Christ, 2.

131 St. Clair Township was created in 1803, but has lost a number of parcels of land since then. It is now in two separate parts: the larger above the county seat Hamilton; the smaller below it. Overpeck, Williamsdale, and Woodsdale (once called Aupsurger) are located in the upper part. Altogether it is 21 square miles. At the time the Zoeks were living there it was a prosperous community, mainly because of the Great Miami River and the fertile silt-laden soil surrounding it.
Bartholomew Zug signed an Alien Intent to Apply for Citizenship form at Hamilton, Butler County in September of 1840. It described him as a 53-year-old native of Switzerland, listing sons Michael, 19; Bartholomew, 14; Christian, 5; and Joseph, 2.

The family can be found on the 1850 census of St. Clair as Bartly Vook, 60, Germany; Barbara, 50, Germany; Bartly, 23, Germany; Christian, 18, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 13, Ohio; Jos., 11, Ohio; John, 10, Ohio; Ann, 27, Germany; and Jacob Crouse, 22, Germany. Oldest son Peter was living at Milford, Butler County.

In 1851 oldest son Michael purchased 100 acres in Section 31 of Washington, Tazewell County for $160. Bartholomew is thought to have resettled at Elm Grove in 1854. Recall from STAKER that in May of 1853 the Illinois Central Railroad train track had reached Bloomington, followed by the Chicago and Alton Railroad in October. He purchased 200 acres in sections 33 and 34 of Elm Grove for $1,050.

The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows Bartholomew Luck, 72, Switzerland; Barbara, 60, Switzerland; Joseph, 11, Ohio; and John, 9, Ohio.

Both Bartholomew (Sr.) and Michael are shown on the 1864 plat map of Elm Grove. In 1864 Michael sold his land for $275. The following year Bartholomew sold his land for $2,000. According to the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, on Dec. 31, 1868 Bartholomew Zook (Sr.) purchased 40 acres in SESE, Section 10, township 28N, Livingston County for $14 per acre, a total sale of $560. The land had formerly been set aside for the railroad.

The 1870 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows a combined household: farmer Bartholomew Zook, 82, Sverdenberg, Ger.; Barbara, 69, Germany; D. H. King [son-in-law David Henry King, a son of Samuel King and Magdalena Kurtz], 36, Ohio; Barbara [daughter Barbara Zook], 32, Ohio; Mary, 10, Illinois; Saml. B., 8, Illinois; Emanuel J., 7, Illinois; David S., Illinois, 4; Joseph H., 3, Illinois; servant Phebe Kauffman, 17, Illinois; and Elizabeth Summer, 4, Illinois. Farther down the page is the household of son John B. Zook.

Bartholomew died intestate at Nebraska, Livingston County Sept. 18, 1871. Herald of Truth, January 1872: “On the 22nd of September, in Livingston County, Ill., of dropsy and old age, Bartholomew Zook, aged 83 years, six months and one day. He was buried on the 24th. Funeral discourses were delivered by Christian Rupp, from Herald of Truth, and remarks by Chr. Schloegel and J. P. Schmitt, from I Cor. 15.”

The History of Livingston County (1878) lists Barbara and her children Michael, J.B., and C.W. as farmer-taxpayers served by the Zookville post office in Section 10 of Nebraska Township. 'Zookville' was the name for a group of stores. The first store had been opened by son Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook in 1872; he sold the business in 1875.

Barbara died at Nebraska Township June 5, 1880, where she was living with her daughter Barbara Zook King. Herald of Truth, July 1880: “On the 5th of June, in Livingston Co., Ill. of the infirmities of age, Barbara Zug, at the age of 79 years and 7 months. Buried the 7th, in the presence of many friends and relatives. Funeral services were held by Christian Ropp, from I Thess. 4:13-18, and by John Schrag of Dakota from 2 Tim. 4:6-8, and further remarks by Chr. Schloegel and J. P. Schmitt. The maiden name of the deceased was Newhauser; she was the second wife of Bartholomew Zug, deceased, both of whom were faithful members of the Amish Mennonite church.”

Bartholomew and Barbara are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. Children of Bartholomew Zook and his unidentified first wife include:

1. Michael Zook was born in France Nov. 7, 1820, and died at Larned, Kansas Dec. 1, 1887. Before 1844 he married Barbara Otto. She was baptized in the Evangelische church at Emdebruch, Rhine-Westphalia Feb. 19, 1819, and died at Larned Oct. 25, 1896, a daughter of Michael Otto and Catharina Bender. In 1851 they purchased 100 acres in Section 31 of Washington, Tazewell County for $160. Michel may be the Mikel Suik who appears as a Washington resident on the 1855 state census of Tazewell County. They appear on the 1870 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County on the same page as his parents and younger brother John: farmer Michael Zook, 49, France; Barbara, 57, Hesse Ger.; Michael, 13, Illinois; Daniel, 10, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 8, Illinois. The 1880 census of Nebraska shows farmer Michael Zook, 59, born in France to a Swiss father and French mother; Barbara, 61, born in Germany to German parents; Pheba, 28, Ohio; laborer Daniel E., 21, Illinois; Lizzie, 18, Illinois; Kate Rich (indicated as a daughter), 26, Illinois; Joseph W. Rich, 3, Illinois; Barbara H. Rich, 1, Illinois; and uncle Joel Zimmerman, 17, Illinois. Larned on the Santa Fe Trail was not platted by a surveyor until December of 1873. It became the county seat of Pawnee County, Kansas. Herald of Truth, January 1888: “On the 1st of December, east of Larned, Pawnee county, Kansas, Bro. Michael Zook, aged 67 years and 24 days. He leaves a widow, seven children and twenty-one grandchildren to mourn his loss. He was born in Germany, emigrating from there with his parents at the age of thirteen. He became a member of the Amish Mennonite Church in youth and remained faithful to the end. He was buried on the 4th, followed to the grave by many neighbors, friends and relatives. Services by Peter Zimmerman, John Egli and Simon Hetrick from I Pet. 1:22-24 and James 1:27.” They are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery at Larned.
Children of Bartholomew Zook and his second wife Barbara Neuhauser include:

2. Anna Zook was born circa 1822 (the only relevant census says Switzerland, family notes say France), and died in Tazewell County before 1865. On March 6, 1851 in Butler County, Ohio she married Christian Kaufmann. The marriage was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger; his list was transcribed into History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as 'Christian Hoffman and Anna Cuke.' Christian was baptized in a Catholic church in the village Herten, in the city of Rheinfelden, in the district of Lorrach, Baden Jan. 25, 1825, and died at Minier Dec. 26, 1908, a son of Joseph Kaufmann and Barbara Wenger. Herten is on the north side of the Rhine River, across from Kaiseraugst, Canton Aargau, 13 miles east of Basel. The baptism entry is found in Archdiocese of Freiburg im Breisgau records. They can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as Christian Kofman, 37, Switzerland; Ann [Zook], 39, Switzerland; Jacobena, 7, Illinois; Annie, 3, Illinois; and Christian, 1, Illinois; they are found on the census page immediately before the one that shows Anna's parents. On March 12, 1865 in Tazewell County Christian remarried to Catherine Oyer, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Catherine Elisabeth Salzmann and the widow of Groveland grocer Joseph Oyer. They are found on the 1870 census of Hope and the 1880 census of Morton. Catherine is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Morton as 'Katharina Kaufman.' Christian is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hope and as Christian Kaufmann. See OYER for more on this couple. We could not determine where Anna is buried.

3. Jacobine 'Phoebe' Zook was born in France Dec. 8, 1824, and died at Cazenovia, Woodford County June 25, 1894. On Nov. 14, 1854 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Bachman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Jacob was born as Jakob Bachmann at Arnstadt, Thuringia Dec. 6, 1827, and died at Minonk, Woodford County March 27, 1895. See BACHMAN, BACHMANN OF ARNSTADT for more on this couple.

4. Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook [Jr.] was born in France April 9, 1827, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 23, 1883.

Children of Bartholomew Zook and his second wife Barbara Neuhauser include:

5. Christian W. Zook was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 28, 1835, and died at Groveland May 19, 1911. On Nov. 6, 1864 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena/Madeleine Augsburger; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Gingerich. She was born at Paradise, Lancaster County Oct. 2, 1848, and died Jan. 5, 1925, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. They are found on the 1870 census of Groveland as butcher Christian Zug, 33, Pennsylvania; Magdalena, 21, Pennsylvania; William, 2, Illinois; and Edward, eight months, Illinois. They were living at Waldo in 1880. Christian is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland as 'C.W. Zook, 1836-1911.'

6. Barbara Zook was born in Butler County Sept. 21, 1837, and died at Larned, Kansas Sept. 3, 1891. On April 3, 1859 in Tazewell County she married David Henry King. He was born at Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio April 18 or 28, 1834, and died at Newton, Kansas Nov. 20, 1926, a son of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz. For more on this couple see KING.

7. Joseph Zook was born in Butler County Feb. 14, 1839, and died at Manson, Iowa Oct. 7, 1928. On Oct. 26, 1869 in McLean County he married Barbara Birkey. She was born Aug. 24, 1849, and died March 19, 1920, a daughter of Valentine Birky and Magdalena Naftziger. They are found on the 1870 census of Groveland as miller Joseph Zug, 31, Ohio; Barbara, 22, Illinois; and mill engineer Joseph Auer [Oyer], 19, Illinois. In 1874 they were living in Stark County, Illinois. Gospel Herald, October 1928: "Joseph Zook was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1839; died from pneumonia at his home in Manson, Ia., Oct. 7, 1928; aged 89 y. 7 m. 23 d. In early life he moved with his parents to Pekin, Ill, where he grew to manhood. In 1869 he was married to Barbara Birkey, near Bloomington, Ill. Twelve children were born to them, six of whom with their mother preceded him in death. In 1896 he moved with his family to Calhoun Co., Ia., living on a farm for several years, after which he moved to Manson, at which place he died. He expressed a readiness to go and spoke much of the mansions the Lord has prepared for His children. He was the last one of his father's family. As a young man he united with the Mennonite Church in which faith he died. He helped to organize the first Mennonite Sunday school and Church in the vicinity of Manson. During his long and active life he was called upon to endure many hardships, griefs, and disappointments, but he met them all with courage and an unfaltering trust in the One who doeth all things well, forgetting himself in his concern for the welfare of his family. To them he was: 'A rock of strength to lean upon in time of joy and stress, an understanding, loyal soul, a heart of tenderness.' Funeral services were held at the home and at the Manson church, Oct. 9, 1928, in charge of the home ministers, Bros. J. C. Eggisti, Nick Stoltzfus, and A. R. Egli. Texts, Psa. 90: 1 Thes. 4; 11 Tim. 4:6-8, Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery."

8. John B. Zook was born in Butler County Dec. 3, 1849, and died at Larned, Kansas Feb. 22, 1912. On Feb. 26, 1865 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Saltzman; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Butler County July 27, 1842, and died at Larned, Kansas Sept. 16, 1913, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Saltzman and Marie Imhof. They are found on the 1870 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County on the same page as John's parents and older brother Michael: farmer John B. Zook, 29, Ohio; Saltzman, 27, house keeping, Ohio; Dan W., 4, Illinois; Aaron, 3, Illinois; John H., 1, Illinois; and Susan Summers, 9, Illinois. According to the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, on Oct. 30, 1869 John B. Zook purchased 40 acres in NESE, Section 10 (the same section where his parents had purchased land a year earlier), township 28N, Livingston County for $12 per acre, a total sale of $480. The land had formerly been set aside for the railroad. In the winter of 1886 they moved to Pawnee County, Kansas. Gospel Herald, October 1913: "Catharine (Saltzman) Zook was born in
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Butler Co., Ohio, July 27, 1842; died near Larned, Kans., Sept. 16, 1913; aged 71 y. 1 m. 20 d. She was married to John Zook in Tazewell Co., Ill., and lived with him in happy companionship for nearly half a century. To this union were born seven sons and three daughters. All survive her and all were present at the funeral together with 27 out of the 28 grandchildren who survive her. She also has two sisters living in Ohio. Bro. and Sister Zook moved from their home in Illinois to Pawnee Co., Kans., in 1886, and settled down on the open prairies where they lived the remainder of their days, her husband having preceded her to the spirit world a little over a year ago. She united with the Mennonite Church in early life and remained a faithful member until the end. She was ready and anxious to leave the earth and enter the heavenly home. She suffered for a number of years from diabetes, which disease caused her death. Funeral services were held Sept. 17 by D. H. Bender, assisted by M. Kellar of the Church of the Brethren. Text, Job 5:26. They are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery at Larned.

Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook [Jr.] was born in France May 9, 1827, a son of Bartholomew Zook and his first wife.

On Aug. 3, 1851 in Butler County, Ohio he married Barbe Stecker/Barbara Staker. She was born at Bistroff, Moselle July 7, 1829, a daughter of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalena Gabriel. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio lists the marriage between 'Bortle Cuke' and 'Barbara Stuker.'

They resettled in Illinois by 1857; perhaps as early as 1854, like his parents. The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Bartholomew Zook, 33, France; Barbara, 30, France; Lana, 7, Ohio; Susan, 6, Ohio; Joseph, 4, Illinois; John, 2, Illinois; farm laborer Michael Frederick, 21, Bavaria; and Magdalena Pound, 36, Bavaria. On the same census page Valentine Neuhauzer, 40, France is found in the household of Peter Wirich [Weyrich].

The 1870 census of Danvers, McLean County lists farmer Bartholomew Zook, 44, born in France; Barbary, 40, born in France; Magdaline, 17, Ohio; Susan, 15, Ohio; Joseph, 14, Illinois; John, 12, Illinois; Christian, 8, Illinois; Benjamin, 5, Illinois; and Eli, 2, Illinois. The birthdates and places of the children indicate that the family had moved from Ohio to Illinois in 1855-56.

The Zooks opened the first store in Section 10 of Nebraska Township in 1872. The group of stores that sprang up around it were called Zookville, and this became the name of the local post office. They sold their business in 1875.

The 1880 census of Deer Creek, Montgomery Township, Woodford County (Deer Creek straddles the county line) lists farmer Bartholomew Zook, 53, born in Alsace to parents from Alsace; Barbara, 50, born in France; Joseph, 24, Illinois; Christ, 17, Illinois; Benjamin, 14, Illinois; and Eli, 12, Illinois. Bartholomew Zook Jr. died at Deer Creek Feb. 23, 1883.132 He is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.

Barbara is found on the 1910 census of Danvers: Edward H. Wick, 28, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois; Anna M. [Rupp] Wick, 30, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; Melvin H., 3, Illinois; Claud M., six months, Illinois; widowed mother-in-law Susan [Zook] Rupp, 56, born in Ohio to a Swiss-German father and a French-German mother; father and French mother; and widowed grandmother Barbara Zook [Stecker/Staker], 82, born in France to French-German parents, immigrated 1844 (though she is thought to have immigrated with her mother in 1847).

Their children include:

1. Magdalena Zook was born in Butler County, Ohio circa 1853. On March 14, 1871 at Danvers she married Peter D. Nafziger; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Nafziger was born on the Diessburgerhof estate (a location now in the Eifel National Park of Germany) April 22, 1842, and died in Fulton County, Ohio in 1920, a son of Johannes/John D. Nafziger and Philippine Siegel. They are found on the 1880 census of Archbold, Fulton County, Ohio; and on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio.

2. Susan/Susanna Zook was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1854, and died at Danvers June 26, 1919. On Feb. 1, 1872 at Danvers she married Michael Rupp. The ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Madison, Butler County, Ohio in 1844, and died at Danvers May 1, 1888, a son of Christian Rupp and Jakobina Raber. See ROPP, THE UNFORTUNATE RUPP FAMILY OF DANVERS for more on Michael and Susan.

3. Joseph E. Zook was born at Deer Creek Dec. 12, 1856, and died at Limestone, Peoria May 31, 1945. On Feb. 15, 1881 at Danvers he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Sarah Kauffman; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born circa 1863, and died at White Oak, McLean County Jan. 9, 1926, a daughter of Jonathan Kauffman and Catherine Gertrude Sharp. His death entry described him as a farmer at East Peoria. They

132 His will was probated in McLean County.
are buried under a joint marker in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers as 'father Joseph E. Zook, 1855-1945,' and 'mother Malinda S. Zook, 1863-1926.'

4. John D. Zook was born at Groveland Nov. 29, 1857, and died at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township Sept. 17, 1936. On March 3, 1891 at Danvers he married Anna Leah Kauffman; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born Oct. 24, 1870, and died in McLean County July 7, 1949, a daughter of Jonathan Kauffman and Catherine Gertrude Sharp. His death entry described him as a retired farmer living at Congerville with his wife Anna. They are buried under a joint marker in Imhoff Cemetery.

5. Christian E. Zook was born in Illinois circa 1862. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery as 'C.E. Zook, died 1883.'

6. Benjamin D. Zook was born at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township Feb. 5, 1865, and died at Bloomington March 27, 1940. On Feb. 26, 1896 at Bloomington he married Agnes L. Heidervald. She was a daughter of William Heidervald and Louise Becker. His death entry described him as a gardener living at White Oak, McLean County with his wife Agnes. He is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.

7. Eli D. Zook was born at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township in 1869, and died there Jan. 17, 1944. On March 4, 1897 at Danvers he married Cora M. Wick. She was a daughter of Henry Wick and Helen Zimmerman. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers as 'Elie D. Zook.'

Clues or Distractions?

A number of genealogy fragments have popped up in online databases to explain Bartholomew Zook. Taken separately they seem plausible, but if one follows the entire thread it ends with a family that could not have been his.

In the late 1600s and 1700s a family lived at Trüb, a community that has now accepted the standardized spelling 'Trub.' Throughout this text we will use the spelling Trub (without the pronunciation mark) for the sake of clarity.

Trub sits along a ridge in the Emmental Region of Canton Bern. From the village it is only a brief walk west downhill into a valley; on the east side it looks down on the border with Canton Lucerne. Zaugs had long inhabited the communities in the canton – about 24 square miles. In the late 1500s Bernese patricians purchased many of the high alpine meadows where cattle grazed in the summer. Once basic improvements were made to define property lines, many local families chose to set aside fields exclusively as grasslands, to be mowed for the fodder that would sustain cattle in winter. Fewer year-round laborers were needed, eventually their prospects stagnated, and they left for the cities or emigrated. Many migrated away from the area as early as the mid-1600s.

Untangling the numerous histories of Zaugg/Zaügg families in the Emmental Region and their involvement with Anabaptism are beyond the scope of this project. Though the Protestant Reformed church records have been preserved and can be found online, one reaches a point where an Ulrich or a Hans may be one of a half-dozen of a similar age found in the same area. It is difficult to resist the temptation to 'jimmy the generations' and assume connections where none exist – and this has been particularly prevalent among family historians drawing Zaugg/Zaügg lines to American immigrants.

One of the initial odd points was the prevalence in this family of the non-traditional name Bartlome. We found that it originated with the baptism of a Zaugg son in 1708, where one witness was Staathalter/district governor Bartlome Haldimann (comparable to an American county administrator).

Peter Zaugg and Margreth Jost were married at Trüb Nov. 6, 1674.

Their son Peter Zaugg was born at Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental, adjacent to Trüb's southwest corner), but baptized at Trüb June 13, 1679. Witnesses included Peter Röthlisberger, Hans Müller, and Madlena Agerther. On April 29, 1701 at Langnau he married Madle Jost. She was baptized at Langnau April 17, 1679, a daughter of Daniel Jost and Chrystyna Grimm.

Their children include:

2. Christyna Zaugg was baptized at Langnau June 17, 1703. Her parents were described as Peter Zaugg from Trüb and Madle Jost. Witnesses included Hans Kräybül, Elisabeth Lüti, and Anna Gerber. She married Conrad Zimmerman.
3. Armanda Madle Zaugg was baptized at Langnau Oct. 11, 1705. Her parents were described as Peter Zaugg Trubens and Madle Jost. Witnesses included Hans Jost, Jg.fr. [junge frau – young lady] Armanda Frisching, and Barbara Jost.
4. Bartlome Zaugg was baptized at Trüb Jan. 29, 1708. The entry described his parents as Peter Zaugg from Trüb and Madlena Jost. Witnesses included Gr. [district governor] Bartlome Haldimann, Daniel Jost, and Lucyna [Lucia] Langeneegner. A note says, "Lauf Taufschyn von Langnau ist [illegible] ein Ehrlicher nach Trüb gefaneiden Sohn getauft" – according to a baptism attestation from Langnau [apparently the actual birthplace], he should be baptized.
at Trüb.” He married Susanna Jaberg of Diessbach no later than 1737. A document created Jan. 27, 1751 and preserved in the state archives of Canton Bern details a transaction with a miller at Thierachern (10 miles southwest of Schwarzenegg) described as “Bartlome (Bartholomaitis) Zaugg” It recorded his exchange of pieces of land with the community, and shows his signature. His death was recorded in the Thierachern Totenrodel Jan. 4, 1748. The entry for Bartli Zaugg said he was 39 years and two months old, and named his widow.

a. Friederich Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern March 7, 1737, but died the same day. Her parents were described as Bartlome Zaugg, living at Thierachern but from Trub, and Susanna Jaberg of Diessbach. Witnesses to the baptism included Frederic von Graffried [von Graffenried], Samuel Zaugg, and Elisabetha Jaberg.

b. Susanna Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Oct. 25, 1739. Witnesses included collator Friedrich von Graffenried, Catharina Jaberg, and Madle Naffzger, wife of Christen Wenger.  

5. **Samuel Zaugg** was baptized at Trub April 3, 1718.


**Samuel Zaugg** was baptized at Trub April 3, 1718, and died at Thierachern May 23, 1784. His baptism witnesses included Samuel Rübi, minister Gabriel Koch of Thun, and Rosina Bartschi. As with Bartlome’s entry, a note stated that he should be baptized at Trub.

On Feb. 20, 1738 at Thierachern he married Anna In der Mühle. She was baptized at Amsoldingen (adjacent below Thierachern) March 31, 1715, and died at Thierachern April 17, 1784, a daughter of Hans In der Mühle and Christina Neuenschwander.

About six months later, on Aug. 24, 1738, a son Johannes was baptized at Thierachern. We suspect he was actually born the previous year, but not baptized in a Protestant Reformed church at the time. His birth conflicts with another child baptized at Schwarzenegg in December.

Schwarzenegg was 22 miles southwest of Trub by a roundabout route. We found no records of Zaugg/Zaügg baptisms until 1738. In that year or shortly after at least five couples came there: Hans Zaugg of Trub and Barbara Walli of Höchstetten, who had married at Trub May 21, 1731; Uli Zaugg (son of Jacob) of Trub and Margrete Aschbacher, who had married at Trub July 27, 1733; Samuel Zaugg of Trub and Anna In der Mühle; Peter Zaugg of Langenegg and Susanna — iss; and Christ Zaugg of Langenegg and Catherine Zoss.

Recall from STAKER that the Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche, Schwarzenegg bei Thun served a parish that included Eriz, Horrenbach, Oberlangenegg, and Unterlangenegg, all communities drawn out of the Steffisburg parish. Histories from Steffisburg and Schwarzenegg make the point that the smaller rural church was established to counter a growing number of Wiedertäufer in the rural areas. Schwarzenegg was never a large village, just a meeting point midway on the boundary between the districts of Unterlangenegg (on the west) and Oberlangenegg (on the east). When the pastor at Steffisburg began to keep notations in his records indicating which children had Anabaptist parents, the one in Schwarzenegg was more discrete.

Circa 1746 the family moved back to Thierachern. Their farm Spengeli would now be described as a three-way intersection of roads at Uebeschi, slightly more than a mile southwest of the village of Thierachern. Curiously, not one of the children of Samuel Zaugg and Anna In der Mühle married at Thierachern from 1759 to 1784. Perhaps they returned to Trub after the lease on Spengeli farm expired.

They include 11 sons:

1. Johannes Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Aug. 24, 1738. His parents were described as Samuel Zaugg from Trub and Anna In der Mühle. Witnesses included Ludi Zaugg, der Brüder [actually Bartlome], Hans In der Mühle [the child’s grandfather], and Christina Zaugg, der Schwester [Christyna, aunt to the child].

2. Bartlome Zaugg (1) was baptized at Schwarzenegg Dec. 27, 1738, and died before Aug. 24, 1742. Baptism witnesses included Johann Weitenbach, Bendicht Zaugg, and Anna Neuenschwander.

3. Samuel Zaugg was baptized at Schwarzenegg Dec. 17, 1739. The father was described as Samuel Zaugg [the surname is actually illegible, covered by an ink smear] from Trub. Witnesses included Johannes Weitenbach, Bendicht Zaugg [likely Bartlome], and Anna Neuenschwander. He married Barbara Nidegger. Entries at Trub for children born at Thierachern include Barbara (1782) and Samuel (1785).

4. Ludwig Zaugg was baptized at Schwarzenegg April 23, 1741. Baptism witnesses included Adam Hirschig, Lienhard Zaugg, and Ursula Zaugg. He married Anna Werdmüller.

5. Bartlome Zaugg (2) was baptized at Schwarzenegg Aug. 24, 1742, and died at Schwarzenegg Nov. 28, 1742. His baptism entry described his parents as Samuel Zaugg from Trub and Anna zur der Mühl. Witnesses included Bartlome Zaugg from Trub, Peter Haltman, and Margretha Grümisen from Steffisburg.

6. **Bartlome Zaugg** (3) was baptized at Schwarzenegg March 8, 1744.

7. Abraham Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Feb. 20, 1746. Witnesses included Hans In der Mühle, Bartlome Zaugg, and Madlen In der Mühle, wife of Hans Räpp.
8. Christen Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Feb. 25, 1748. Witnesses included Christen Osch of Amsolding, Christen Bantz of Thierachern, and Madle Schwendiman wife of Peter Nafliger of Amsolding.

9. David Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Feb. 5, 1750. His parents were described as Sammi Zaugg im Spangli and Anni In der Mühle from Amsoldingen. Witnesses included Hans In der Mühle, Christen Thierstein, and Madlen In der Mühle, Thierstein’s wife. He married Anna Maria Sieber. Entries at Trub for children born at Thierachern include Christen (1778), David (1782), Johannes (1792), describing the father as David of Uebeschi.

10. Joseph Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Dec. 26, 1751. His parent were described as Samuel Zaugg zu ßbach and Anna In der Mühle. Witnesses included Georg Zimmerman of Hallen, shoemaker Joh. Riebry, and Anna Balsiger, wife of Johannes Basmer. He died on Spengeli farm March 14, 1773.

11. Peter Zaugg was baptized at Thierachern Sept. 22, 1754. Witnesses included Adam Hirsig of Amsoldingen, Christen Benz of Thierachern, and Margarete Kilchberger born Müller of Bern. He may have married Magdalena Jien of Sehangau at Trub Sept. 29, 1775.

**Bartlome/Barthlome Zaugg** was baptized at Schwarzenegg March 8, 1744, and named after his uncle. Witnesses included Peter Halitman, Christian Fankaüser of Eggiwil, and Eva Furer of Goldiwil.

On Feb. 8, 1767 at Trub he married Catharina Lüti of Heimiswil (20 miles northwest of Trub). The entry described him as Barthlome Zaugg von hier wohnstatt zu Bern – from here, living at Bern.

The baptisms of children of Bartlome/Barthlome Zaugg and Catharina Lüti are found in the Trub register called the Taufrodel auswärts Getaufte 1781-1803, for baptisms that took place elsewhere.

Ahlen may have been Halen, on the northwest corner of the city of Bern.

1. Margaritta Zaugg was baptized ‘bei der salz quelle am Ählen’ - at the salt springs at Ählen Sept. 11, 1773. Witnesses included Michel Lüti, the maternal grandfather; Verena Lüti; and Elsbeth Bürcki.

2. Jacob Zaugg was baptized at the salt springs at Ahlen April 10, 1778. Witness included Ludwig Zaugg, uncle; Jacob Lüti of Schloss Lentzburg [now in Canton Aargau]; and Susanna and Elisabeth Hirschi of Steffisburg.

3. Anna Maria Zaugg was baptized at the salt springs at Ahlen Aug. 27, 1780. Witnesses included Niclaüs Lori of Münsingen, Anna Köhler, and Maria Schläffli.

4. Rosina Zaugg was baptized at the salt springs at Ahlen July 14, 1782. Witnesses included Daniel Äschlimann, Rosina Dorothea, and Magdalena König.

5. Johan David Zaugg was baptized at the salt springs at Ählen March 13, 1785, according to a Trub entry. Witnesses included David Wittwer of Gsteig, Abraham Zaugg of Trub, and Maria Schlo[illegible] of Gsteig.

6. Magdalena Zaugg was baptized at Zollig July 15, 1787. Zollig may have been Zollikofen, six miles north of the city of Bern, four miles northeast of Halen. Witnesses included Johannes In der Mühle, Statthalter at Bern; and Magdalena and Susanna In der Mühle from Amsoldingen.

Note that Magalena’s baptism July 15, 1787 would conflict with the possibility of a younger brother born March 21, 1788.

However, the possibility remains open that Bartholomew Zook of Elm Grove was fathered by another son from the 11-son generation.

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133 She may have been Catharina Lüdi, baptized at Heimiswil May 25, 1745. She was a daughter of Michel Lüdi of Heimiswil and Anna Köhler, who were living in the city of Bern.

Or, she may have been Cathrina Lüdi, baptized at Heimiswil Jan. 16, 1746, a daughter of Caspar Lüdi and Susanna Müller.

134 These out-of-town baptism entries can be found online on the site of the state archives, as Volume 14, images 57-59/287.
Good: Guth of Eppenbrunn

The progenitor of this family left Canton Bern (a part that was later Canton Aargau) several decades before the Amish Division. Jakob Gut of Oftringen was imprisoned as an Anabaptist leader, then banished from the canton Sept. 9, 1660. He was presumably the same Jakob Gut who went to Hilsbach in the Pfalz. As a representative of Anabaptists in the Lower (northern) Pfalz, he corresponded with Reist faction Mennonites in the Upper Pfalz and Amish Mennonites at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, descendant Michael/Michel Guth was a resident of Mehlingen (a suburb of Kaiserslautern) in the Pfalz in 1761. He married twice and had two sons 24 years apart.

Background geography:
Eppenbrunn and Trulben are in Germany, two miles above the border with the French department of Moselle. Eppenbrunn was administered by the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken. However, from 1802 until 1812 its civil records were kept by the department of Moselle.
Just below the Moselle border are Walschbronn, Epping, Hottviller, Urbach, Bitche, and Sturzelbronn. Though within France, these communities were German speaking.
The Sultzthalerhof and Günstalerhof are forest estates located between Windstein and Langensoultzach, Lower Alsace. Their relative isolation would allow the families there to pass through the Napoleonic wars undisturbed.

First Son Heinrich/Henri
The mother of first son Heinrich/Henri Guth has not been identified. He was born at Mehlingen in 1747, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Eppenbrunn Dec. 31, 1809. He married Susanna/Suzanne Steiner. They lived on the Sultzthalerhof estate.

Johannes/Jean Guth was born on the Sultzthalerhof estate in 1773, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Eppenbrunn in 1828. He married Anna Christner. She was born on the Günstalerhof estate in 1773, and died at Epping, Moselle Jan. 30, 1814, a daughter of Christian Christner and Margarete Stutz.
The Global Anabaptist Encyclopedia Online states that Johannes "was the ancestor of all the families of this name that are today found in the Pfalz and adjoining regions, all of whom belonged to the Amish branch." The family moved to the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Eppenbrunn in the Pfalz in 1802.

Children of Johannes/Jean Guth and Anna Christner include:

1. Johannes/Jean Guth was born on the Günstalerhof estate July 30, 1798, and died on the Bärenbrunnerhof estate at Dahn (22 miles northeast) in 1889. His civil birth entry created at Windstein described his parents as miller Johannes Guth, 30, and Anna Christner. Witnesses included Michael Müller, 30; and Barbara Christner, 28. On Nov. 1, 1820 at Epping, Moselle he married Barbara Catherine Nafziger. She was born at Gros-Réderching, Moselle April 27, 1801, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch of the Faunerhof estate at Eppenbrunn. When their daughter Catherine married Christian Jordy at Lembach July 11, 1846, their civil marriage entry described the bride's parents as Jean Guth, 49, laborer at Busenberg; and Barbe Nafziger, 46; both present and consenting.

2. Barbara Guth was born in 1801. We could not identify her birthplace. On July 20, 1818 at Epping, Moselle she married Peter Nafzigier. He was born in 1790, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch.

3. George Guth was born on the Eppenbrunn July 20, 1803, and died there March 11, 1809.

4. Peter Guth was born on Eppenbrunn March 4, 1806 (the birth of Pierre Guth was found in a 10-year civil index of Eppenbrunn records kept by the department of Moselle for the period 1808-12) or Aug. 5, 1806 (per his modern grave marker).

5. Christian/Chrétien Guth was born at Eppenbrunn June 25, 1808, and died on the Mühlenbach estate at Sturzelbronn, Moselle April 8, 1853. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Steiner. She was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace Nov. 9, 1809, and died at Sturzelbronn May 3, 1857, a daughter of Andreas Steiner and Barbara Müller. Two of their daughters came to America and married sons of older brother Peter.

6. Georg/Georges Guth was born at Eppenbrunn Feb. 7, 1811 (per the 10-year index of civil records kept by the department of Moselle 1808-12), and died on the Dorsterhof estate at Bitche, Moselle in 1889. He married Marie Güngerich. She was born at Bitche March 13, 1811, and died at Walschbronn, Moselle in 1844, a daughter of Michel Güngerich and Barbara Hauter. George farmed on the Ransbrunnerhof, Kirschbacherhof, and the Dorsterhof. In

Hermann Guth proposed that Michel was a younger brother of Jacob Guth, who married the widow Zug, arrived at Philadelphia on the Francis and Elizabeth Sept. 21, 1742, and settled in the Northkill Creek Amish settlement. See KAUFFMAN for background on Jacob.
1859 he was the deacon of the Ixheim congregation. Georg/Georges and Marie were the great-grandparents of author Hermann Guth.

7. Elisabeth Guth was born at Eppenbrunn in 1813. She married Christian Oesch. He was born on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach near Zweibrücken Jan. 14, 1801, and died at Gerhardsbrunn (27 miles north of Eppenbrunn), a son of Joseph Oesch and Magdalena Nafziger.

On July 6, 1814 at Epping Johannes/Jean remarried to Anna Madeleine Nafziger. She was born in 1783, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate in 1828, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch of the Faunerhof estate at Eppenbrunn. Note that she already had a brother and sister married to his children.

Children of Johannes/Jean Guth and Anna Madeleine Nafziger born on the Ransbrunnerhof at Eppenbrunn include:

8. Valentin 'Welti' Guth was born in 1815, and died on the Weinumshof estate at Hagenau, Alsace in 1881. He married Barbara Steiner. She was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace July 17, 1813, a daughter of Christian Steiner and Marie Stocki.

9. Joseph Guth was born March 3, 1817, and died on the Grafenweierhof at Bitche, Moselle March 23, 1894. He married Barbara Stalter of the Wahlerhof estate, then Magdalena Stalter of the Bickenaschbacherhof, then Marie Gengerich of the Freudenbergerhof near Zweibrücken.

10. Katharina/Catherine Guth was born in 1819, and died at Hottviller, Moselle March 24, 1896. She married Joseph Eyer. He was born of the Felsenbrunnerhof estate at Trulben in 1807, a son of Christian Eyer and Elisabeth Stalter.

11. Magdalena Guth was born in 1820. She married Daniel Eyer. He was born on the Felsenbrunnerhof estate at Trulben in 1816, a son of Christian Eyer and his second wife Elisabeth Stalter.

12. Christine Guth was born March 3, 1823, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle May 28, 1896. On May 22, 1841 at Walschbronn, Moselle she married Andreas/André Oesch. He was born on the Dorsterhof at Bitche, Moselle May 24, 1815, a son of Nicholas Oesch and Catherine Hauer.

Peter Guth was born and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Eppenbrunn March 4, 1806 (the birth of Pierre Guth was found in a 10-year civil index of Eppenbrunn kept by the department of Moselle for the period 1808-12) or Aug. 5, 1806 (per his modern grave marker). He died at Washington June 21, 1886 (headstone date). Acting as a servant in exchange for his fare, Peter assisted the travel of Jacob Kinsinger and his family. He appears on the passenger list as Peter Good, 24.

They boarded the packet ship De Rham at Le Havre in mid-October of 1830. It sailed directly to Boston. However, Peter appears on a passenger list for a second disembarkation at New York on Dec. 21, 1830. An account of the voyage and other familiar names on the passenger list is given in KENNEL.

C. Henry Smith's *Mennonites of America* places Peter's arrival in the 'Wesley City colony' in 1833. Circa 1835 he married Susanna/Susan Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle April 4, 1808, and died at Washington Dec. 12, 1888, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Oyer and Suzanne Schertz. Her family had been passengers on the Superior arriving at New Orleans Dec. 4, 1830.

According to the *Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database*, Peter Good purchased 160 acres for $1.25 per acre in Section 19, Township 26N Sept. 6, 1838.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County lists their family as farmer Peter Good, 40, Germany; Susan, 30, Germany; Nancy, 14; Eliza, 11; John, 10; Peter, 7, Christian, 2; and Joseph, five months; all children born in Illinois. They appear next door to Nicholas Rhodes [Roth] and Andrew Roth, and are found on the same census page as Jacob Ower [Oyer] and Benjamin Redger [Rediger], indicating that they were already living in the community of Washington.

The marriage pattern of the family was a bit unusual: the two youngest sons married cousins in 1868 and 1871. The 1870 census of Washington shows the household as farmer Peter Good, 65, Germany; Susan, 63, Germany; farm laborer Joseph, 21, Illinois; and Mary [cousin, later wife], 21, Illinois. They lived next door to son Christian and his wife Elizabeth 'Eliza' Guth, who was Mary's sister.

In 1868, minister Michael Mosiman of Groveland and minister Nicholas Roth of Morton led the Busche Gemeinde congregation (in the northwest corner of Tazewell County) into alignment with the Egly Amish. When the Defenseless Mennonite Church was constructed at Groveland in October 1878, Peter served as the first deacon with minister Nicholas Roth.

In 1880 his household appears on the Washington census as farmer Peter Guth, 73, Germany; and Susan Guth, 70, France.

Children of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer born at Washington were all found with the spellings 'Guth' and 'Good.' They include:
1. Anna 'Nancy' Guth/Good was born at Washington Aug. 20, 1836, and died at Schickley, Nebraska Aug. 25, 1921, where she is buried in Salem Mennonite Cemetery. On Feb. 20, 1856 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Rediger; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was born June 28, 1831, and died at Waldo Aug. 26, 1861, a son of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresmann. For background on this couple see REDIGER.

2. Elisabeth 'Eliza' Guth/Good was born April 5, 1838, and died at Washington Dec. 6, 1894. On March 20, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Reeser. He was born at Châteauroux, France Dec. 28, 1838 (see RISSER/REESER for an explanation), and died at Washington April 25, 1900, a son of Jean/John Risser/Reeser and Catherine Zimmerman. He is found as 'Joseph Reeser' on the 1860 census of Washington. 1880 census of Washington as farmer Joseph Reser, 42, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Switzerland; Elizabeth Reser, 43, born in France to a father from Germany and a mother from France; Susan, 19, Peter, 17; Anna, 13; and Joseph, 10. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

3. John Guth/Good was born May 10, 1840, and died at Washington Oct. 8, 1896. On March 5, 1861 in Woodford County he married Maria/Marie Ehresman. She was born in Ohio Nov. 30, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his second wife Anna Barnett. In 1861 they moved onto a 315-acre farm at Washington. They appear on the 1880 census of Washington as John Guth, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Mary, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; and nine children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1894: “On the 8th of May 1874 near Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., sister Maria Ehresman, wife of John Good. Buried on the 10th in the Washington cemetery. Sister Maria was married on the 5th of March 1861. The union was blessed with 10 children. There are also 14 grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and wife and a faithful follower of Christ in our denomination. Funeral services by the writer and Pre. Koenig of the Deer Creek Cong. and Emanuel Hartman from Isa. 18 and 38:12, 13. A large concourse of friends followed her remains to the grave. Michael Kinsinger.” John remarried Oct. 15, 1895 to Catherine Schlegel, widow of John Gascho, but John is buried in Glendale Cemetery with Maria/Mary.

4. Peter Guth/Good was born Jan. 6, 1843, and died single Sept. 17, 1865. He is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington.

5. Christian Guth/Good was born in May 1848, died Aug. 6, 1918. On Aug. 29, 1868 in Tazewell County he married his cousin Elizabeth 'Eliza' Guth. She was born on the Mühlenbach estate at Stützelbronn, Moselle May 5, 1846, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 11, 1923, a daughter of Christian Guth and Magdalena Steiner. The 1870 census of Washington shows them next door to Christian's parents, as farmer Christian Good, 23, Illinois; Eliza, 26; Germany; and Peter, 1, Illinois. The 1900 census of Washington shows them as Christian Guth, born in Illinois to German parents in May 1848; Elizabeth, born in Germany in April 1847; Daniel, born in December 1879; and Amos, born in December 1884. Gospel Herald, July 1923: "Elisabeth Guth was born in Zweibrücken, Bavaria, Germany, May 5, 1846; died at the home of her daughter Mrs. Jacob Roth at Milford, Nebraska, June 11, 1923; aged 77y. 1m. 6d. She came to America with an uncle and two of her sisters in the spring of 1868, settling near Washington, Ill. She was married to Christian Guth, Aug. 29, 1868, who preceded her to eternity Aug. 6, 1918. This union was blessed with six children, five sons and one daughter. She leaves her children, 18 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one sister and many relatives and friends to mourn her departure. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth in which faith she died. The funeral services were held at the home, conducted by Jonas Litwiller and Samuel Gerber. Text, Rev. 14:13." They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

6. Joseph Guth/Good was born Dec. 22, 1849, and died April 22, 1872; he is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. On Feb. 26, 1871 in Tazewell County he married his cousin Marie/Mary Guth. She was born on the Mühlenbach estate at Stützelbronn, Moselle Feb. 1, 1850, and died in Seward County, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1878, a daughter of Christian Guth and Magdalena Steiner. On March 19, 1874 in Livingston County she remarried to Joseph Stauffer. He was born at Willmandingen, Baden June 18, 1852, and died in Ontario Dec. 10, 1918, a son of Joseph Stauffer and Barbara Roth. In 1880 he remarried to Matti Bender in Henry County, Iowa. Gospel Herald, May 1878: "Feb. 26th, in Seward Co., Neb., in childbed, Sister Mary, wife of Joseph Stauffer, aged 28 years and 25 days. She leaves a bereaved husband and three children to mourn their loss. Her child she took with her. She was a faithful sister in the Amish church. She bore her brief sickness with great patience. A very touching sermon was delivered on the funeral occasion by Joseph Gascho and P. P. Hershberger, from Lamentations 3: and Matt. 24:42-44. This family with his parents came to this place from Livingston Co., Ill., and in less than a month the sister was called to her eternal home."

SECOND SON CHRISTIAN

The mother of Michel Guth's second son Christian Guth was Michel's second wife Susanna Springer. Christian was born at Mehlingen in 1771. He married Barbara Güngerich from the Bärenbrunnerhof at Dahn. They farmed at Schweinbach and Burgwalden near Augsburg after 1802.

Their son Christian Guth was born on the Günstalerhof estate circa 1800, and died at Burgwalden. He married Barbara Christner of the Günstalerhof estate.
Their youngest four children sailed from Le Havre on the *Charles Hill*, and arrived at New York May 19, 1854. The passenger list shows Württemberg passengers Joseph Guth, 23; Peter, 22; Christin, 20; and Magd, 20. The oldest daughter followed with her future husband in 1856.

Children of Christian Guth and Barbara Christner born at Burgwalden include:

1. Elisabeth Guth/Good was born circa 1828, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 5, 1899. The ship *Havre* sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Nov. 24, 1856. The passenger list names Peter Christner, 48; Elis. Guth, 28; and Anton Koelbel, 26 (her future husband). They married in Tazewell County Jan. 21, 1857. Anton Kalbl was born in Germany in 1830, died at Kearney, Nebraska Dec. 22, 1915, and is buried in Kearney Cemetery as 'Anton Kabel 1830-Dec. 22, 1915.' They are found on the 1860 census of Hopedale as farmer Anthony Kobbel, 32, Germany; Elizabeth, 32, Germany; Elizabeth, 1; and Frank Otto,49, Germany; they were next door neighbors to Elisabeth's younger brothers Christian and Peter Good. 'Anton Kelbel' signed a declaration of intent for naturalization in Tazewell County in 1862. After Elisabeth's death Anton lived with their daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Unzicker at Garfield, Nebraska (per the 1910 census, which shows Anton as an 82-year-old widower, Lizzie 52, and John 52). They are buried in Kearney Cemetery as 'John Unzicker, Oct. 11, 1858-April 17, 1936' and 'Lizzie Unzicker, 1859-Jan. 16, 1922.' John was born at Gridley, McLennan County, a son of Valentine Unzicker and Magdalena Schertz. They also had a daughter Mary born at Peoria Nov. 3, 1862, who died at Colby, Kansas Nov. 26, 1954. On Dec. 2, 1886 at Wilber, Nebraska Mary married Heio Bremer. The marriage entry stated that Mary's parents were Anton Kalbl and Elisabeth Good. Heio Bremer died in 1934, age 78. They are buried in Beulah Cemetery at Colby, Kansas.

2. Joseph Guth/Good was born Jan. 19, 1831, and died at Hopedale Feb. 10, 1909. On March 2, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Katharina 'Kate' Stalter; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Hemerton, Bavaria Jan. 22, 1832, and died at Hopedale Oct. 15, 1919, a daughter of Jakob Stalter and Katharina Stalter. She immigrated in 1854. They are found on the 1880 census of Boynton as farmer Joseph Good, 49, Germany; Catharine, 47, Germany; and six children born in Illinois. *Gospel Herald*, March 1909: "Died, Feb. 10, 1909, near Hopedale, Ill., Bro. Joseph Good, aged 78 y. He leave to mourn his death his aged wife, who has shared the joys and sorrows for 51 years, two sons, six daughters, one brother and one sister, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. Bro. Good was an earnest and humble Christian. For him to live was Christ, and to die was gain. he suffered much pain during his sickness, but we believe that now he is being comforted. Buried Feb. 13. Services by Jos. Egli, John C. Birky and Daniel Naiziger." *Gospel Herald*, Nov. 1919: "Katharine, daughter of Jacob Good and Magdalena Stalter, was born in Germany Jan. 9, 1832; died at the home of her daughter in Hopedale, Ill., Oct. 15, 1919; aged 87 y. 9 m. 6 d. At the age of 14 she united with the A. M. Church, of which she was a faithful member until death. In the year of 1854 she sailed for America. She was united in marriage to Joseph Good in 1856. Her husband died Feb. 10, 1909. To this union were born 10 children. One son and one daughter died in infancy. She leaves two sons and six daughters, (Joseph, Dan, Lizzie Birkey, Phoebe Birkey, Barbara Bachman, Sarah Beller, Katie Horsch, and Mary Birkey); also 40 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the home by Bro. J. C. Birkey and the church by Jonas Litwiller and J. C. Birkey." They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

3. Peter Guth/Good was born March 25, 1832, and died Aug. 8, 1916. On Aug. 17, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Veronika/Veronica/Fronika 'Fanny' Birkey; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Jan. 16, 1837, and died Feb. 12, 1916, a daughter of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho. They are found next door to brother Christian and brother-in-law Anthony Kobbel [Anton Kalbl] on the 1860 census of Hopedale: farmer Peter Good, 28, Germany; Fanny, 23, Illinois; Elizabeth, 2, Illinois; and Ludwick, 25, Illinois. They were found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Peter Goot, 49, born in Altbayern [Oberbayern, the governmental district of Bavaria where Munich and Augsburg are located] to a father from France and a mother from Altmuth; and Fronia, 43, born in Altmuth to parents from France.

4. Christian Guth/Good was born in Württemberg Feb. 4, 1833, and died Sept. 26, 1889 (headstone date). In 1858 at Little Mackinaw he married Jacobine 'Phoebe' Ehresman. She was born in Germany March 11 or 19, 1834, and died May 2, 1902 (headstone date), a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his first wife Magdalene Barnett. They are found next door to brother Christian Good and brother-in-law Anthony Kobbel [Anton Kalbl] on the 1860 census of Hopedale: laborer Christian Good, 26, Germany; Phoebe, 24, Germany; Christian, 1, Illinois; and John, 30, Germany. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Guitt, 47, Bavaria; Phoebe, 46, born in Württemberg to parents from Württemberg; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Her obituary can be found in *EHRESMAN*. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

5. Magdalena 'Lena' Guth/Good was born Feb. 14, 1835, and died at Hopedale Aug. 18, 1921. On March 27, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Johann/John Sutter; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Johann/John was born at Probfeld (adjacent to Karlskron, below Ingolstadt) March 14, 1825, and died at Hopedale Dec. 11, 1904, a son of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch. See SUTTER for background on this couple.

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Plank: Blank of Steffisburg

In the Bernese dialect Blank describes someone with a pale or white complexion. Recall from STAKER, "The Yoder Newsletter" cites Document K-893 of March 9, 1580, which has recently been moved to the State Archives of Canton Bern. The deed describes land on the border of Steffisburg and neighboring Fahrni [now Fahrni bei Thun]. The brothers Caspar and Nicolaus Joder, sons of the deceased Caspar Joder, bought, together with the families Stücker, Steinmann, Blank, Roth, and Zimmerman related to them by marriage, a large part of the March of Fahrni and jointly exploited it."

A look at the Blank family of Steffisburg led us to links with the Rupp/Ropp family. This was the element that bridged our Rupp searches from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines back to Steffisburg. But it was an equal surprise to find the Blanks had descendants in Central Illinois.

No Anabaptist birth records were created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (some of our impressions were derived from burial, real estate, and notorial records). Because of this, it is largely suspected that both families had sons who have not been identified, and there are connections with the Rupp and Blanks who settled in Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s.

Their son Hans Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 15, 1586 (spelled Blancke). Witnesses included Mihel Graf, Hans Barb, and Verena Falkhyßen.
On Jan. 21, 1611 he married Beatrix Grünig.
Their son Hans Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 25, 1621 (spelled Blanck). Witnesses included Hans Blanck, Michel Kaußmann, and Barbl Schindler.
On March 22, 1644 he married Margreth Carli. Hans became overseer of community property [Ger. Seckelmeister des Lands] for Steffisburg. His name and title are found on the enameled tableau called the Mosesfeld, on the wall of the Protestant Reformed Church.
Children of Hans Blank and Margreth Carli baptized at Steffisburg include:
1. Niclaus/Nigi Blank was baptized May 31, 1646. Witnesses included Hans Brönniman, Christen Frey, and Madlen Walhart.
2. Margreth Blank was baptized Dec. 31, 1648.
3. Hans Blank was baptized March 14, 1652, and died as an infant.
4. Hans Blank was baptized Nov. 6, 1653, and died in a mill owned by the noble Ribeauvrière family at Ribeauvillé, Alsace Dec. 23, 1742. On May 22, 1676 at Steffisburg he married Catharina/Cathrin Rupp. She may have been a daughter of Üli Rupp and Anna Bucher who was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 3, 1650. Their children include:
   a. Susanna Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 24, 1678. The entry described her father as Hans Blank of Riederen in Steffisburg.
   b. Jacob Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 19, 1680. Witnesses included Jacob Rüchti, Christian Blank, and Magdalena Erb.
   c. Hans Blank was born at Riederen in Steffisburg, baptized at Steffisburg July 1, 1683, and died Dec. 18, 1744. He was a miller in the Herrnmlübl at Ribeauvillé.
   d. Barbara Blank was baptized at Steffisburg March 7, 1686.
   e. Christen/Christian Blank was born at Riederen in Steffisburg, baptized at Steffisburg March 10, 1689, and died Aug. 12, 1760. He was a miller in the Schlundermülb at Ribeauvillé.
   f. Nicaus/Nicolas 'Nigi' Blank was born at Riederin in Steffisburg, baptized at Steffisburg April 24, 1692, died Aug. 31, 1753, and was buried at Fertrupt. He signed his own name 'Nigi Blanc.' Nicolas married Anna Goldschmidt, who died in childbirth Sept. 6, 1756. He was a miller at Ribeauvillé.
   g. Cathrinn Blank was baptized at Steffisburg March 24, 1695.
5. Christen Blank was baptized Dec. 14, 1656. On Dec. 13, 1680 at Steffisburg he married Anna Joder (found as Anni Joder on the marriage entry). She was baptized at Steffisburg May 1, 1659, a daughter of Jost Joder and Anna Trachsel. Christen was later described in church records as a 'heretic Anabaptist' and a 'disobedient Anabaptist.' On July 16, 1690 the Council of Bern ordered the district administrator of Trachselwald to find out "whether the Anabaptists Jost Joder [husband of Anni Zoüg] and Christen Blank, as have been reported, are staying in Schangnau and whether they took their capital with them." It ordered that a report be made to the local Anabaptist Chamber. On Dec. 21, 1690 at Steffisburg their daughter Barbara Blank was baptized; witnesses included Verena Kaußman, Barbara Gugenerich, and Anna's brother 'Hans Rüpp der Jung der Au.' In 1692-93 Jacob Amman made a tour of Bernese villages to evaluate support for his advocacy of strict practices. He was accompanied by his brother Üli

136 The Hans Blank who married Barbara Jenni in a double ceremony with Hans Rüpp and Christina Meier in 1656 was a second cousin of this Hans.
acting as scribe, minister Nikolaus Augspurger (a progenitor to the Butler County, Ohio family), and Christen Blank. Christen and Anni were later at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. A 1703 property report describes residents of an estate at Le Vernoy (now in Doubs Department, eight miles northwest of Montbéliard; nine miles west of Frédéric-Fontaine/Claircogoutte/Étobon, and 22 miles west of the town of Belfort). One family consisted of Christ Blank, 45; his wife Anna Joder, 44; and five children 2-10. Another family may have been that of her younger brother Jost: Jost Joder, 42; Elisabeth; and five children 5-16. Blanks were still there a decade later. By 1718 Christen and Anna had relocated to an estate of the Prince of Montbéliard at Abbévillers (10 miles southeast of Montbéliard). Children baptized at Steffisburg include Christen (1681), Anna (1684), Hans (1685), Jost (1688), and Barbara (1690).

**Niclaüs/Nigi Blank** was baptized May 31, 1646. Barbara Im Hoof/Im Hooff was baptized at Steffisburg June 19, 1651. On her 20th birthday they were married in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg. The marriage entry identifies Niclaüs as the town treasurer's son.

Niclaüs and Barbara lived at Schwarzenegg in Steffisburg parish.

Niclaüs appears as 'Niguy Blanc' on a list of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1697; as 'Niklaus Blank' on a 1703 tax roll; and as 'Niclaus Blanka' on a 1704 tax roll. He became a minister and companion of Jacob Amman, and occasionally co-signed documents with his barely literate friend.

On Aug. 13, 1712 King Louis XIV of France issued an order expelling Anabaptists from Alsace. Only a handful of families that Christian III directly employed were permitted to remain at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Only six heads of households remained during the period 1713-18. The number more than doubled by 1721, as older sons started their own families.137


Children of Niclaüs Blank and Barbara Im Hoof/Im Hooff include:

1. Margreth Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 27, 1672.
2. **Christen Blank** was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 5, 1673.
3. Barbara Blank was baptized at Steffisburg April 1, 1677. She may have married Peter Eiman at Steffisburg Feb. 10, 1696.
4. Hans Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 5, 1679.
5. Niclaüs 'Nigi' Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 4, 1681. He married Barbara Ummel. She was born circa 1683, and died Aug. 22, 1753 (her burial entry said she was 70, from Diessbach). Recall from HOCHSTETTLER that a letter of recommendation [Fr. certificat de attestation] was signed by a representative of Christian III and the mayor of Echery Nov. 8, 1715 for 'honest Niclaus Blank' [Fr. original honneste Nicola Blank], his brothers Michel and Pierre, their brother-in-law Henry Hyser [Heinrich Hüser], brothers Christe and Anthony Kropf, David Chertzer [later Schertz], and Michel Mourer [Maurer], 'all of the Anabaptist religion'.138 They were obligated to leave the kingdom [Fr. Ils sont obligé de se retirer hors du Roaume]. It attested to the quality of their 'conduct, life, and manners' over 'many years they have lived in this vicinity.' All of those listed except Peter Blank are found on a list of Anabaptists created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732. Niclaüs 'Nigi' Blank appears as an 85-year-old on a list of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines residents created in 1765.

- Minister Nikolaus/Nicolas 'Nigi' (pronounced 'Nicky') Blank was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1720. He married Catherine/Katharina Güngerich. She was born on the Froensbourg estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace circa 1725, a daughter of Hans 'Hans der alle' Güngerich. She died in childbirth with stillborn twins at Fertrupt, Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 21 or 27, 1747.139 He become an elder of the Colmar congregation.

6. Peter/Pierre Blank was baptized at Steffisburg March 1, 1685, and died before 1729. He married Verena/Véronne/Freni Stauffer/Stauffer. In 1729 she remarried to Valentin/Velten Güngerich, a son of Hans 'Hans der alle' Güngerich of the Froensbourg estate. They were farming there in 1736.140 He died before 1759.

7. **Michel Blank** was born at Schwarzenegg, and baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687.

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137 In 1732 a list of Anabaptist heads of households in the county of Ribeauvillé included 'Nicolas Blanck,' 'Michel Blank,' and a Joseph Rupp (we could not identify him further).

138 Niclaüs 'Nigi' Blank's financial records mention training [Fr. apprentissage] for Michel Maurer in 1722 and Christ Kropf in 1727, so it is likely that they were his employees.

139 According to one source, Fertrupt burial records show that Josef Blank son of Nicolaus Blank died Jan. 8, 1757, and was buried at Fertrupt the following day. His age was given as nine years and three months. If this is correct, it would place his birthdate circa Oct. 8, 1748 - after the death of Catherine/Katharina Güngerich.

140 According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Valentin/Velten Güngerich was a son of Hans 'Hans der alle' Güngerich. Valentin/Valentine was on the Froensbourg estate with his father in 1736, but died before 1759. He married at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1729. His bride was Verena/Véronne/Freni Stauffer/Stauffer, who was the widow of a Blank. Peter was the only adult male Blank living in the community in 1715 who does not appear there on a list created in 1732.
8. Anna Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 17, 1690. She may be the Anna Blank who married Hans Lehman at Steffisburg June 5, 1713. If so, she died Oct. 22, 1772. Lehman was born at Steffisburg Nov. 10, 1689, and died there July 1, 1756, a son of Niclaus Lehman and Maria Berger.

9. Verena Blank was born circa 1693, and buried at Fertrupt March 27, 1743. She married Heinrich/Henri Hüsper/Hausser/Hyser, a son of Rudolf ‘Rudy’ Hüsper. They lived on the Ziegelhof at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. See HEISER for background.

CHRISTEN BLANK

Christen Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 5, 1673. On Dec. 17, 1696 at Steffisburg he married Verena Carli. She was a daughter of Peter Carli and Dorothea Krebs, baptized at Steffisburg on the same day as her future husband.

Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

2. Christen Blank was baptized Feb. 26, 1702. Witnesses included Christen Sürer, Jacob Rüchti, and Christina Im Hoof.
3. Niclaŭs Blank was baptized July 31, 1707. Witnesses on the barely legible entry included Rudolf Manuél and Cathrin Zoūg.
4. Peter Blank was baptized Oct. 2, 1712. Witnesses included Niclaŭs Carli, Heinrich Rüchti, and Maria Ascher.

He married Anna Müller.

An entry at Steffisburg says that on June 10, 1730 a son Niclaŭs/Nicolas Blank, born to Christen Blank of Steffisburg and Anna Müllerin of Ringgenberg (on Lake Brienz or the Brienzsee, 24 miles southeast of Steffisburg), was baptized at Folschweiler [Folschviller], Herzogthum Lothringen (dukedom of Lorraine). Folschviller is now in the department of Moselle, France.

The entry was placed on a lefthand page of the register, set aside for ceremonies that took place outside the parish. We can speculate that the boy was several years of age when he was baptized in a Reformed congregation; his son may have been born circa 1746.

French genealogist Jean François Lorentz has gathered information on a Nicolas Blanck who was born circa 1746, and died at Bistroff (seven miles south of Folschviller) Nov. 26, 1823. The birth time frame and geography suggest that he belongs here.

He appeared as a witness at two weddings where his age was given as 50 on March 6, 1797, and as 52 on Feb. 4, 1798.

Before 1772 he married Madeleine Hirchy [Hirschi]. She was born circa 1748, a daughter of Simon Hirchy and Barbara Schertz. (Perhaps we could also speculate that Nicolas was born circa 1751, and added years to his given age to appear older than his wife).

Their children include:

1. Barbe Blanck was born circa 1772, and died at Grostenquin April 1, 1847. On June 15, 1796 at Maxstadt, Moselle she married Joseph Schertz. He was born circa 1768, and died on Hingsange farm at Linstroff Sept. 28, 1812, a son of Nicolas Schertz and Elisabeth Stalter.
2. Anne Blanck was born at Bening Nov. 1, 1774, and died at Niedervisse, Moselle May 21, 1838. On Feb. 24, 1798 at Bistroff she married Jean Nafziger. He was born at Rahling Feb. 6, 1773, and died at Niedervisse Nov. 20, 1824, a son of Jean Nafziger and Catherine Schertz.
3. Madeleine Blanck was born Feb. 5, 1777, and died April 2, 1851. On Nov. 16, 1795 at Francaltroff (adjacent to Grostenquin) she married Christian Gingerich [Gingerich]. He was likely born at Francaultruff (and not Altroff, as is often found) Jan. 5, 1770, and died at Henriville, Moselle Jan. 30, 1825. They grew clover for horsefeed on La Chapelle farm at Linstroff. Christian became elder at 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. However, his petition co-signer, Christian Engel, sailed from Le Havre to New Orleans in 1833 and became elder at the Partridge Creek meeting.
4. Marie Blanck was born circa 1778. Circa 1806 she married Jean Moser. He was born circa 1772, and died at Bistroff Oct. 29, 1819.
5. Catherine Blanck was born circa 1784, and died at Herréville-lès-Chanteurs May 31, 1847. Circa 1810 she married Joseph Gerber.
MICHEL BLANK

Michel Blank was born at Schwarzenegg, baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687, and buried at Fertrupt (below Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) May 24, 1755.

He married Elisabeth Hochstettler, who was born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1706, a daughter of Jacob Hostetler/Hostettler and (we suspect) Christina Künkzi (see HOCHSTETTLER). They lived in the main house [Ger. Landhaus] of a large estate at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines with her sister Verena.

Their children include:

1. Nicholas Blank was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 12, 1739. He was buried at Fertrupt 12 days later.
2. Michel Blank was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 4, 1740. He was buried at Fertrupt seven days later.
3. Michel Blank/Blanck was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1742, and died at Hottviller, Moselle Sept. 7, 1804.
4. An unnamed son was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 24, 1744. He was buried at Fertrupt five days later.

Michel Blank/Blanck was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace circa 1742, and died at Hottviller, Moselle Sept. 7, 1804. He was a day laborer and livestock handler. He married Anne Jaüsi. Between 1775 and 1779 they moved north to Longeville-lès-St. Avold, Moselle. This community is only four miles north of Folschviller, the village where Niels Blank and Anna Müller had a son Niels in 1730.

Anne may have died before 1794. In that year a census of Anabaptists counted Brandelfing farm [Ger. Brandelfingerhof] above Gros-Réderching [Ger. Grosrederchingen]. It reported the family of 42-year-old Joseph Genurich [Güngerich/Guingerich] and 34-year-old Anne Roubin [Rübi]. Among the children in the household were Nicolas Blanck, 21; Barbe Blanck, 21; and Christian Blanck, 14.

Children of Michel Blank/Blanck and Anne Jaüsi include:

1. Barbe Blanck was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1773, and died at Ville-en-Vermois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 20, 1837. On Nov. 25, 1795 she married her second cousin Christian Kempf. He was born circa 1770, and died at Ville-en-Vermois Oct. 28, 1830, a son of Christian Kempf and Elisabeth Hochstettler (Elisabeth was a granddaughter of minister Jacob Hochstettler, and a daughter of Johannes Hochstettler and Anna Wagler). A mixed household on Offerdung farm at Gros-Réderching was reported on a 1794 census as Christian Kempf, 52; Elis. Hochstettler, 54; Christian Kempf, 24; Madeleine Kempf, 19; Elisabeth Kempf, 12; André Kempf, 15; Elisabeth Jantzy, 22; and Anne Jantzy, 3 [this may have been Jaüsi].
2. Anne Blank/Blanque was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 4, 1774, and died at Grostenquin, Moselle in 1829. On Jan. 10, 1797 at Grostenquin she married Joseph Maire/Meyer. He was born at Albestroff, Moselle Sept. 29, 1759, and died at Grostenquin March 15, 1828, a son of Pierre Maier/Meyer and Anne Hirschi/Hirchy.
4. Joseph Blanck was born at Longeville-lès-St. Avold May 4, 1779, and died at Ville-en-Vermois March 6, 1859. On Nov. 7, 1802 at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Madeleine Eymann/Eiman. One witness to the marriage was Christian Roup, who was a younger brother to minister Hans Rupp/Jean Ropp and an uncle to Andreas Ropp. He was described as a 47-year-old living at Igney, and a friend of the groom; he would also have been a second cousin through his mother, Barbara Hochstettler.
5. Christian Blank was born circa 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle Dec. 28, 1809.

Christian Blank was born circa 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle Dec. 28, 1809.

Circa 1803 Christian married Suzanne/Susanna Neuhauser. She was born at Singling circa 1777, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Dec. 16, 1849, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Barbe Zimmerman. Christian was a cultivator.

Children of Christian Blank and Suzanne/Susanna Neuhauser born at Imling include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Blanck was born Aug. 10, 1804, and died at Wilmot Dec. 24, 1872. She married Jacob Lebold. He was born circa 1803, and died at Wilmot Dec. 6, 1849. She is found on the 1851 census of Wilmot with seven children.
2. Jean Blanck/John Plank was born Aug. 10, 1806, and died near Congerville Dec. 10, 1885.
3. Catherine Blanck was born March 14, 1808, and died at Wellesley, Ontario March 9, 1881. She married John S. Schwartzentruber. He was born April 10, 1802, and died at Wellesley Dec. 21, 1879. They are found with 10 children on the 1851 census of Wilmot.
4. Elisabeth Blanck was born Sept. 3, 1809, and died at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 24, 1826.
5. Christian Blanck was born July 31, 1810, and died at Imling eight days later.
Suzanne/Susanna remarried to Christophe/Christian Abresol [Aebersold] at Imling Oct. 29, 1812. He was born at Rhodes, Moselle March 1, 1788, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario March 25, 1862, a son of Jean Abresol and Barbe Zwalter. He had been working as a cultivator at Azoudange.

Suzanne/Susanna and her second husband sailed from Le Havre on the France. They can be found on the passenger list as it arrived at New York June 26, 1828: Christian Abersol, 41; Susan, 46; John, 22; Catharine, 20; Christian, 13; Joseph, 9; and Susan, 6.

In North America Abresol became 'Ebersol' or 'Ebersole.' They settled on lots 23 and 24 at Wilmot, Ontario. Widower Christian/Christophe is found as an 'Ebersoll' on the 1851 census of Waterloo. He remarried to Magdalena, who we could not identify further.

The 1861 census of Wilmot shows farmer Christian Ebersol, 73, France; Magdalena, 60, France; Joseph, 45, France; and widower labourer Jacob Albright [Albecht], 59, France; all Mennonite.

Children of Suzanne/Susanna Neuhauser and her second husband Christophe/Christian Abresol include:

6. Christian Ebersole was born at Reding, Moselle Oct. 17, 1814, and died at Upper Leacock, Lancaster County Aug. 28, 1890. He married Elisabeth Stoltzfus. She was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 26, 1814, and died at Monterey, Lancaster County Jan. 2, 1894, a daughter of David Stoltzfus and Anna Fisher. Herald of Truth, October 1890: "On the 28th of August, in Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., ofancer, Christian Ebersole, aged 75 years, 10 months and 22 days. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church from his youth. He left his wife and 8 children, and 23 grandchildren to mourn his departure. Buried Sunday the 31st, in Myers' graveyard. Services to a large gathering of relatives and friends by David Beiler and Christian King." Herald of Truth, January 1894: "On the 2d of January 1894, near Monterey, Lancaster Co., Pa., Elizabeth Stoltzfus, aged 77 years, 2 months and 27 days. Buried on the 5th. Funeral services by Benjamin Fisher and Henry Stoltzfus from 2 Cor 4:16-18."

7. Joseph Ebersole was born at Reding Jan. 5, 1816, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Aug. 18, 1862.

8. Susanna Ebersole was born at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 10, 1822, and died at Wayland, Iowa March 21, 1890. She married Emile Arthaud. He was born March 10, 1806, and died Jan. 24, 1887. They resettled in Iowa in 1851. Herald of Truth, February 1887: "On the 24 th of January, near Olds, Henry Co., Iowa, of paralysis, Emil Arthaud, aged 80 years, 10 months and 14 days. Services by Ben. Eicher from 2 Cor. 5:1-10. The deceased brother was much loved and respected by all. He leaves a widow and 12 grown-up children." Herald of Truth, May 1906: "On March 21, 1906, in Wayland, Iowa, Susan, wife of the late Emil Arthaud; aged 83 years. Her maiden name was Susanna Ebersolt. She was born in France, Europe, and at the age of four years came with her parents to Pennsylvania, where she lived for two years and then went to Canada. In 1840 she was married to Emil Arthaud. In 1851 they emigrated to Iowa, where she resided in Washington and Henry counties until she died. She was the mother of fifteen children of whom ten are still living; 48 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by D. Graber and P. Stucky in German, and S. M. Musselman in English. She united with the Amish M. church in her youth and remained a faithful member." Jean Blanck/John Plank

Jean Blanck/John Plank was born at Imling, Moselle Aug. 10, 1806, and died at Congerville in Montgomery Township Dec. 10, 1885.141

Jean/John married Catherine Engel in Tazewell County Feb. 24, 1840. She was born at Zommange, Moselle Aug. 30, 1819 (headstone date), and died at Congerville Dec. 22, 1898, a daughter of Joseph Engel (son of minister Christian Engel) and Barbara/Barbe Roggy. Her family arrived in Central Illinois in April 1837.142

They are found next door to minister Jacob Zehr (found as Jacob Sears) and his wife Elizabeth Ehrisman, and a household removed from Christian Smith and his wife Catherine Bechler on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County): John Blank, 40, France; Catharine, 31, France; Christian, 11; Susan, 7; Joseph, 4; Barbray, 2; all children born in Illinois.

The 1860 census of Montgomery County, Woodford County shows John Plank, 54, France; Catherine, 44, France; Christian, 19; Susan, 17; Joseph, 15; Barbara, 12; John, 10; Catherine, 7; Marie, 5; Peter, 2; and Magdalena, 6 months; all children born in Illinois.

The family is entirely omitted from the 1870 census, though this was likely inadvertent. The 1873 plat map of Montgomery Township shows the 79-acre property of 'J. Plank' next to that of 'J. Zehr' in the northwest corner of

141 John Plank who lived at Danvers, McLean County was not a descendant of the Blank family. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 3, 1792. and died at Danvers April 20, 1868. On April 20, 1816 he married Barbara Lantz. They came to McLean County from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania in 1856. John's parents were Christian Blank and Barbara Yoder. Christian's father was Melchior Blank, who moved from Berks County to Mifflin County in 1799. His father was immigrant Johann Melchior Blankenburg.

142 There is a household for 'Jean Blank' on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, but it shows two males 20-29 years of age and one female 30-39.
Section 8. They appear on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer John Plank, 73, born in August, France; Catherine, 60, born in June, France; Barbara, 31, born in June, Illinois; Lena, 20, born in May, Illinois; and Peter, 23, born in December, Illinois.

Jean Blanck/John Plank and Catherine Engel ('Katharina Plank') are buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers near another grave that is thought to be her sister: "Mary Engle, June 1, 1828-Aug. 16, 1908."

Their children born at Montgomery, Woodford County include:

1. Christian Plank was born Feb. 24, 1841, and died Jan. 9, 1896; he is buried in Hardy Cemetery at Hardy, Arkansas.
2. Susanna/Susan Plank was born July 2, 1843. She may be the domestic servant Susan Plank, 20, born in Ohio, in the household of Peter Noffsinger on the 1870 census of Deer Creek. The 1880 census of Danvers shows her as a 36-year-old servant, born in Illinois, in the household of Cary Hougham.
3. Joseph Plank was born Aug. 31, 1845. We could not locate him after the 1860 census. He did not serve during the Civil War.
4. Barbara Plank was born May 24, 1848, and died May 5, 1882. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery.
5. John Plank was born March 28, 1850. His household is found on the 1880 census of Darlington, Kansas: John Plank, 20, born in Illinois to parents from France; and Jenny, 23, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania. The unit actually served until Jan. 21, 1866, he was 'discharged for disability' May 20, 1862. In 1866 he paid state income tax at Minonk. The entry described him as 'retarded.' He does not appear on the 1870 census of Minonk. His wife Harriet is buried beside him in Hardy Cemetery; she was born April 11, 1844, and died April 9, 1897. Hardy grew out of a railroad construction camp in the Ozarks in 1884.
6. Katharina/Catherine Plank was born July 18, 1852. On Jan. 22, 1880 in McLean County she married George H. Goodenough. They are found on the 1900 census of Arlington, Kansas as livestock dealer G.H. Goodenough, 46, born in Illinois in October 1833 to parents from New York and Illinois; Katherine, 47, born in Illinois in July 1832 to French parents; and daughter Berrie L., 15, born in Illinois in December 1884 to parents from Illinois. The census taker had the correct ages for George and Katharina but miscalculated their birth years.
7. Marie/Mary Plank was born Jan. 2, 1855, and died Feb. 19, 1930. On Nov. 4, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Daniel O. Kinsinger. He was born March 5, 1842, and died Dec. 15, 1922, a son of minister Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger. See KINSINGER for more on this couple.
8. Peter Plank was born Dec. 14, 1857, and died Sept. 28, 1916; he is buried in Imhof Cemetery. He is found on the 1900 census of Montgomery as farmer Peter Plank, born in Illinois in December 1857 to parents from France. The 1910 census of Fayette, Livingston County shows him as a 52-year-old servant/farm laborer in the household of Emanuel Schmidt.
9. Magdalena 'Lena' Plank was born May 6, 1860, and died June 28, 1953. On Feb. 17, 1904 she married Peter Kistler, becoming his third wife. Peter was born at Congerville April 19, 1843, and died Oct. 1, 1904, a son of John Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Naffzier. He married Caroline Defenbaugh at Streator, LaSalle County Sept. 5, 1865; she was born June 23, 1845, and died June 11, 1870. On Jan. 10, 1872 in Barton County, Missouri he remarried to Catherine 'Kate' Vercler. She was born in Woodford County in October 1849, a daughter of John Vercler and Catherine Dettweiler. She can be found in their household on the 1850 census of Woodford County as Katharine, 1, born in Illinois. Peter and Kate appear on the 1880 census of Grant, 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.

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143 He is easily confused with Joseph Planck, later known as carpenter Joseph F. Planck. He was born at Metamora in 1841, a son of Joseph Planck and Mary Ann Ricketts, and appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as a 9-year-old in the household of Justis Stewart. He served as a private and finally a sergeant in Company E, 108th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He married Emily C. Brady in Woodford County Nov. 24, 1862. They lived at Washington and Peoria.
in October 1849 to French parents. Lena Plank 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.
Goldsmith: Goldschmid of Richterswil

Not all stories end happily. That is certainly the case of the unfortunate Goldsmith family of Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

The Goldschmid family is found at Richterswil, Canton Zurich. As noted in HEISER, Richterswil is a village on the southwest shore of the Zürichsee, 17 miles southeast of the city of Zurich. Other Anabaptist families from that area are Bachmann/Bachman, Bär (North America Behr and Bear), Egli (Egly and Egle), Hüsner or Häuser (later standardized as 'Heusser' and pronounced 'Hoyzer'; Heiser in Illinois), Hiestand, and Landis (later Landes).

Goldschmid became Goldschmidt to German speakers, Goldschmitt to French speakers, and Goldsmith to English speakers.

Hans Heinrich Goldschmid was baptized at Richterswil, Canton Zurich Feb. 23, 1621. He was likely the 'Heinrich Goldschmid, alt: 90' who died there May 16, 1709. He married Anneli Häusser before 1650. She was baptized at Richterswil Aug. 24, 1628. Their children baptized at Richterswil include:

1. Jacob Goldschmid was baptized Sept. 13, 1659, and died as an infant.
2. Jacob Goldschmid was baptized Nov. 5, 1661, and died at Richterswil April 27, 1721.

Jacob Goldschmid was baptized at Richterswil Nov. 5, 1661, and died there April 27, 1721.

On Nov. 12, 1689 at Richterswil he married Barbara Haab (the marriage entry calls her 'Barbara Habin auf den Langenberg,' her death entry also calls her 'Habin,' but her children's birth entries spell her surname 'Haab'). She was born at Horgen (10 miles southeast of Zurich) Feb. 17, 1667, and died at Richterswil April 25, 1718, a daughter of Jörg Haab and Elisabeth Huber. Jacob was a knife smith [Fr. coutelier].

At least four of their children baptized at Richterswil resettled at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines:

1. Heinrich Goldschmid was baptized Jan. 18, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755.
2. Anna Goldschmid was baptized Nov. 25, 1694, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 6, 1756. She married Niclaus/Nicolas 'Nigi' Blank. He was born at Riedern bei Bern, baptized at Steffisburg April 24, 1692, died Aug. 31, 1753, and was buried at Fertrupt, a son of Hans Blank and Catharina/Cathrin Rupp. He signed his own name 'Nigi Blanc.' He was a miller at Ribeauville.
3. Hans Heinrich Goldschmid was baptized July 15, 1709, and died after 1779. He was known as Heinrich Goldschmidt in der Ziegelhof at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. He married Anne Neuhauser. He or his older brother witnessed the death entry of Johannes Bachmann, created at Villé in 1749. Johannes Bachmann was the father or brother of minister Jacob Bachmann. Joh. Heinrich Goldschmidt is found on a census of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1763. Children of Hans Heinrich Goldschmidt and Anne Neuhauser include:
   a. Jacob Goldschmidt was born circa 1737, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 2, 1810. Circa 1774 he married Barbe Eymann/Eiman (an aunt to Andreas Ropp's wife Elisabeth Eymann/Eiman). She was born circa 1751, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 15, 1807, a daughter of Pierre Eymann and Catherine Kropf. Jacob's civil death entry described him as cultivator Jacques Goldschmidt, 73, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, a son of the deceased cultivator Henry Goldschmidt and the deceased Anne Neuhusser [actually Jacob's stepmother]; and the widower of Barbe Eymann. It was signed by his son cultivator Henry Goldschmidt, 34, as 'Heinrich Goldschmidt.'
   b. Susanna Goldschmidt was born in 1745, and died at Froeningen, Upper Alsace Dec. 23, 1812. She married Christian/Chrétien Zimmerman. He was born circa 1734, and died at Froeningen April 24, 1804.
   c. Marie Goldschmidt was born May 16, 1750, and died on the Streicherhof at Uffing, Bavaria (30 miles south of Hanfeld) Sept. 26, 1831. She married Nicolas Hyser. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1745, and died there Dec. 22, 1805, a son of Nicholas Hüser/Hyser and Anna Schmucker. See HEISER for background on this family. In Oct. 24, 1807 at Strasbourg Marie remarried to Noé Augspurger/Noah Augspurger, an employee on the Canardière estate. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 8, 1755, and died in Bavaria after 1831, a son of Noé Augspurger and Julienne Doebler/Diebler. His first wife had been Anna Müller, who died on the Canardière estate May 6, 1806; a daughter from that first marriage was married to an Oesch from Hanfeld, Bavaria, and this became the home of Noé/Noah and Marie. See AUGSPURGER for background on their family.

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144 Langenberg is now a wild animal park at Langnau am Albis near Horgen. Horgen is seven miles up the western shore of the Zürichsee.

145 Ziegel means 'brick.' A Hof can be a farm or estate, but the literal translation is yard, describing an enclosed courtyard surrounded by house, barns, and stable on most estates. Thus Ziegelhof could be the name of an estate, or a brick yard. This address is also found as Ziegelhaus.
4. Conrad Goldschmid was baptized Jan. 15, 1713, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 17, 1760. He was described as ‘the knife smith in the meadow.’ He married Anne Marie Huntzinger. She was born at Montbéliard circa 1750, and died from complications of childbirth at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 9, 1755. They may have had more children than we could identify; we drew largely on a burial list from Fertrupt. Hans/Jean Schlabach, 38, a cultivator on the farm Devant-Voyemont at Saales. Although it was being mined in 1819, it has now been reforested. Children of Conrad Goldsmith/Goldschmitt/Goltshmid and Marie Reck include:

1) Catherine Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1781, and died at Bourg-Bruche March 30, 1846, age 65. Her civil death entry named her birthplace and parents, and was signed by witness and brother-in-law Jean Schlabach, 42.

2) Henry Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1786, and died at Bourg-Bruche Jan. 8, 1829. His civil death entry gave his age as 43, stated that he was a son of ‘Coinrat Colschmint,’ and ‘Marie Reginer,’ and was witnessed by brother ‘Joseph Colschmint,’ 38.

3) Barbe/Barbara Goldschmidt was born at at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or Bourg-Bruche Jan. 9, 1790, and died at Le Vermont, Voges April 23, 1849. The death entry calls her ‘Barbe Colchemeth,’ age 58, and says that she was born in Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche. On April 1, 1819 at Saales, Lower Alsace she married Jean Schlabach. He was born at Saales April 8, 1787, and died at Le Vermont, Voges March 22, 1849, a son of David Schlabach and Marguerite Luginbühl. Conrad was present and consenting as father of the bride (he is actually found as cultivator ‘Connalrle Colchmitz,’ a resident of Saales, and signed his name as ‘Conrat Goltschmidt’), and another witness was brother Joseph ‘Colschmitz,’ described as a 30-year-old cultivator from Colroy-la-Grande. The entry described the bride's parents as cultivator Conneralte Colchmitz, age 68 years six months, and the deceased Marie Reck.

4) Joseph Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche May 26, 1792, and died at Le Hang June 1, 1830. On Feb. 23, 1813 at Bourg-Bruche he married Madeleine Schoerihe [Gerig/Görg]. She was born at Bourg-Bruche June 27, 1794, and died there Jan. 30, 1815, a daughter of Christian Görg and Marie Barbe Eymann. The groom's father was described as cultivator Conrad Kolsmitte, a resident of Le Hang, present and consenting; he signed ‘Conrat Goltschmit.’ On April 14, 1815 at Bourg-Bruche Joseph remarried to Barbe Beller. She was born at La Broque, Salm Feb. 28, 1791, and died in 1857, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Marie Ann Lehmann. Their civil marriage entry called
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

them 'Joseph Kolmitte' and 'Barbe Bèler.' The groom's father was again described as a cultivator at Le Hang.

d. An unnamed child was born March 8, 1755, and died March 15, 1755. The child was buried at Fertrupt.

**Heinrich Goldschmid** was baptized at Richterwil Jan. 18, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755.

He is thought to have arrived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1712, roughly the time that others were dispersing. There he was known as the knife smith or metal smith in the meadow - *der Schmid in der Matten*.

Circa 1717 he married Elisabeth Schmitt. She died before 1732.

Heinrich’s household may be found on a 1732 census of Anabaptist households in the county of Ribeauvillé, holding four members.

Circa 1732 he remarried to Barbara Hüser/Hauser. She was born circa 1691. She died at age 51 years 6 months, and was buried at Fertrupt Feb. 19, 1743. She was likely a daughter of Rudolph 'Rudy' Hüser, who had arrived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines from Richterswil via Mannheim between 1708 and 1712.

Children of Heinrich Goldschmid and his first wife Elizabeth Schmitt born at or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

1. Heinrich Goldschmidt was born circa 1718. He died single Sept. 25, 1746, and was buried at Fertrupt.
2. Jacob Goldschmidt was born Feb. 2, 1722.

**Jacob Goldschmidt** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 2, 1722, and died there March 16, 1771. He married widow Barbara Frey (also found as Fritz or Fretz). She was born in 1722, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 7, 1797. In 1766 Jacob traveled to the Netherlands with other ministers to settle a dispute between congregations.

Their children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines spelled their surname Goldschmid, Goldschmidt, Goldschmitt, or Goldschmitte. They include:

1. Jacob Goldschmidt was born Feb. 5, 1744, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 27, 1803. He married Catherine Stucky. She was born on the Schoppenwihr estate at Ostheim March 19, 1749, a daughter of minister Benediet/Benoit 'Benz' Stucki/Stucky and Anna Maria Neuhauser.
2. Heinrich Goldschmid was born Oct. 22, 1746, and died April 21, 1747.
4. Conrad Goldschmidt/Goldschmitt was born June 30, 1756.
5. Elisabeth Goldschmidt was born in 1759, and may have died as an infant.
6. Joseph Goldschmidt was born March 13, 1761. He married Catherine Güngerich. She was born in 1763, and died in 1827. Their children born at Thanvillé, Lower Alsace include:
8. Jean Goldschmidt was born in 1763, and died unmarried at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 29, 1806.
9. Pierre Goldschmidt was born June 9, 1766, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 1, 1837. He married Anne Kaufmann. She was born in 1762, a daughter of Valentin Kaufmann and Barbe Sommer.

Miller **Conrad Goldschmidt/Goldschmitt** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 30, 1756, and died there March 8, 1818.

He married Katharina/Catherine König. She was born on the Obernimburg monastery grounds at Nimzburg, Baden circa 1760, and died in 1836, a daughter of Christian König and Elisabeth Stucki/Stucky. They lived at Thanvillé, Lower Alsace; in the Tannenzapfen Mühle (pine cone mill) southeast of Ribeauvillé (at least 1792-1800); perhaps at Ungersheim, Upper Alsace; and then at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines 1813-18 (Conrad's 1818 death entry said he had been a resident for the past five years).

The mill at Thanvillé was a possession of the castle at Thanvillé. Both were owned by Lieutenant-General Charles-Frédéric de Lort de Saint Victor, who was later a lieutenant-general under Napoleon. In 1786 he sold it to Jean-Félix de Dartein, an industrialist who manufactured artillery. Two years later it passed to his son.

Conrad's distinctive signature appears on a civil entry created in Upper Alsace in 1807. He is found as a 39-year-old witness (note that the age is a decade off) at the marriage of Joseph Ropp (younger brother to Andreas...
Ropp) and Barbe Roth, where he was described as a resident of Ungersheim. This would seem an unlikely location, but we note that his son Jacob/Jacques married at nearby Richwiller in 1824; his wife came from Baden; and his daughter Catherine was living in Baden.

When Conrad died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 8, 1818, his civil death entry described him as a 61-year-old miller, a son of deceased tailor Jacques Golschmitt and Barbe Fritz. It mistakenly stated that he was survived by the widow 'Barbe Koenig.' It was signed by son Jacques Goltzschmitt, 34, who signed his name 'Jacob Goldschmidt.'

Children of Conrad Goldschmidt/Goldschmitt and Katharina/Catherine König include:

1. Catherine Goldschmidt (as found on her birth entry) was born Dec. 19, 1785, and died Feb. 9, 1786. Her birth entry was found by Dominique Spahn in the Catholic parish records of Thonville, Lower Alsace. It described her father Conrad Goldschmidt as a miller and native of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and her mother as Catherine König, a native of ‘Ninbourg’ on the other side of the Rhine, ‘…both Anabaptists currently living in this parish.’ Her body was buried a la méthode de leur secte dans le jardin attenant au moulin qu‘ils habitent au dit Thonville – according to the customary rites of their sect in the garden next to the mill where they live in Thonville.

2. Chrétien Goldschmidt (as found on his birth entry) was born at Thonville Nov. 23, 1786. His entry was also found by Dominique Spahn.

3. Catherine Goldschmidt was born circa 1788. She married widower Christian Gautschi before 1811. He was born on Wopplinsberg farm on the north side of Emmendingen, Baden circa 1783, and died at Madison, Butler County, Ohio July 3, 1856, a son of Christian Gautschi and Maria Stritt. Some of the witnesses on entries for his family include Michael Zimmerman, later a resident of Tazewell County; Benedict König, who was later a minister in Butler and Fulton Counties, Ohio; and Jacob König. Christian and Catherine lived at Emmendingen before emigrating. Catherine's name appears on documents there for the first time as a witness to the death of her sister-in-law Jacobea Gautschi in 1811. They were passengers on the Asia as it arrived at New York from Le Havre May 26, 1834 with Redigers, Gundys, Gauthsches, and Eyers from Baden bound for Butler County, Ohio. The Asia passenger list shows Chret. Gautschi, 51; Catherine, 46; Jacobine, 20; Jean, 17; Madeleine, 15; Benoit, 11; Henry, 5; and Catherine, 42. 'Christian Gauchie' is found on the 1840 census of Madison, Butler County, Ohio: one male under 5 years of age; one male 10-14; three males 15-19; three males 20-24; and one male 40-49; one male 50-59; one female under 5; two females 15-19; one female 20-24; and one female 50-59. Their son Heinrich/Henry Gautsche was born on Elbschberg farm near Emmendingen July 15, 1825. In accordance with local law his birth was registered at Sankt Martinus Katholisch church at Kirchdorf, Villingen, Baden (25 miles east of Emmendingen) July 26. He was naturalized at Hamilton, Butler County Oct. 9, 1852. On Aug. 23, 1853 at Madison, Butler County he married Barbara Meyer. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augspurger, who was married to Henry's older sister Magdalena Gautsche. The minister was also an uncle to the bride, because Barbara was a daughter of Nicholas's sister Mary Augspurger and the 'hook-and-eye' Augspurger congregation minister Joseph Meyer. She may be found on the 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County as a 16-year-old born in Ohio to farmer Joseph Myers, 35, and May, 34. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Worth, Woodford County as farmer Henry Gaughshe, 54, Ohio; Barbara, 44, Ohio; eight children born in Ohio, a 3-year-old born in Illinois, and boarder Peter Nafzinger, 75, France. Henry died at Worth June 4, 1899. Gospel Herald, January 12, 1912: "Barbara Gautsche (nee Meyer) was born March 1, 1835; died Dec. 10, 1911; aged 76 y. 9 m. 9 d. She was a member of the Mennonite church from her youth. She was united in marriage with Henry Gautsche, which union was blessed with 7 sons and three daughters, one son and one daughter, also her husband, preceded her to the realms beyond. She leaves to mourn her death six sons, two daughters, 25 grandchildren four having preceded her, and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 13, 1911, at the Union church in Metamora, Ill., by Bros. Andrew Schrook and Val. Strubhar. Texts, Jno. 5:24, 25, and Isa. 35:3-10." Henry and Barbara are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

4. Jacob/Jacques Goldschmidt was born at Ribeauvillé circa 1792. On April 12, 1824 at Richwiller, Upper Alsace he married Catherine Schlatter. She was born at Richwiller Feb. 21, 1791, and died in Adams County, Indiana Sept. 3, 1878, a daughter of Christian Schlatter and his second wife Christina Frey. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 31-year-old cultivator living at Richwiller. It said that Jacob's father Conrad had died at Ste. Mère-au-Mines March 8, 1818, and his mother Catherine Koenig was present and consenting; the bride's father was also present and consenting. The Asia passenger list names the couple as Jacq. Goldschmidt, 43; Charlotte, 43; Charlotte, 70; Joseph, 17; Charlotte, 6; and Jacques, 10. They are found on the 1840 census of Madison, Butler County as Jacob Goldsmith: one male 40-49; one female 10-14; and one female 40-49. Their daughter Catherine born June 15, 1828 married Defenseless Mennonite founder Henry Egley. The 1870 census of Hartford, Adams County shows farmer Henry Egley, 45, Baden; Katharine, 42, France; nine children born in Ohio and Indiana; Henry's father Abram, 72, Württemberg; and Jacob Goldsmith, 79, France. Jacob died before October 1878. Gospel Herald, October 1878: "Sept. 3rd, in Adams Co., Ind., of the infirmities of age, Catharine Goldsmith, widow

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146 In Bernese dialect a Gautschi is a money lender. The surname became Gautsch in Ohio.
of Jacob Goldsmith, aged 87 years, 6 months and 13 days. She leaves two children, 19 grand-children, and 27 great-grandchildren.”

5. Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith. According to his personal Bible, he was born in the pine cone mill [Ger. Tannenzapfen Mühle] near Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace March 19, 1796. We could not identify a civil record of the event, but his personal Bible gives details and named his parents as Konrad Goldschmidt and Katharina König. He sailed from Le Havre on the Montgomery, arriving at Philadelphia June 18 or 19, 1819. His personal Bible gives the date June 19. Oddly, the best record of this voyage is a typewritten transcript page held at Le Havre. It lists him as Joseph Schmidt, 22, born at Fribourg [Freiburg, 11 miles south of his mother’s birthplace at Nimburg, Baden]. This may have had something to do with the fact that Freiburg did not record the births of children to Anabaptist parents until 1830. After his arrival he remained near Philadelphia, where he met 17-year-old Elizabeth Schwartzentruber. She was born at Lich, Hesse Feb. 17, 1807, and died at Wayland, Henry County, Iowa Aug. 18, 1900, a daughter of Christian Schwartzentruber and Katharina Müller/Catherine Miller. They were married in Pennsylvania Jan. 4, 1824. That spring Joseph, his new wife, and his widowed mother-in-law migrated to Ontario. They settled on Lot 14 on the north side of Snyder’s Road in the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario. Later that year minister and elder Johannes/ John Stoltzfus and minister Christian König/King of the congregation at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, visited and organized the first Wilmot congregation; they ordained Goldsmith and Johannes/John Bremneman as ministers. The Goldsmiths moved to Butler County with the Ropps and others circa 1831, farming at St. Clair and then Lemon. Joseph ministered with his uncle, Benedict König/King. On Jan. 25, 1835 the stormy meeting leading to a division into conservative 'hook-and-eye' and progressive 'button' congregations in Butler County took place at Goldsmith's farmstead, now 2605 Oxford-Middletown Road at Milford. He was ordained an elder of the Collinsville congregation in 1838. In 1840 he appeared on the census of Madison as Joseph Goldsmith. In 1847 he ran into financial difficulties, sold his Ohio land, and moved again to Lee County, Iowa, where he established the state's first Amish Mennonite congregation. His family can be found on the 1850 census of Lee County, Division 28, as Joseph Goldsmith, 50; Elizabeth, 45; and 12 children. They later lived at Wayland, Henry County, Iowa, where he died April 26, 1896.

6. Magdalena Goldschmidt was born at Ribeauvillé April 18, 1797. Her civil birth entry described her parents as miller Conrad Goldschmitt, 39, and Catherine Koenig, living at Tannenzapfen Mühle in the forest. Her father signed 'Conrad Goldschmitt.'

7. Benjamin Goldsmith was born at Ribeauvillé Aug. 9, 1800. His civil birth entry described the location near the boundary of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. It was witnessed by Frederic Farny, 36.

**Benjamin Goldsmith** was born at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace Aug. 9, 1800.

'Benj. Goldschmet, 26' is found on the passenger list of the Nimrod as it arrived at Philadelphia from Amsterdam Aug. 18, 1826. This was the ship that brought land claimant Christian Nafziger, 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger (later of Woodford County), Christian Steinman (who later purchased Andreas Ropp's lot at Wilmot), Peter Danner (later Donner) of McLean County, and others going to Wilmot.

Benjamin may have lived with his older brother Joseph on the north side of Snyder’s Road at Wilmot. The 1830 survey map of Wilmot does not show his name, but does show Joseph Goldsmith.

In 1831 Joseph left Ontario to resettle in Butler County, Ohio. Benjamin may have accompanied him. The 1840 census of Lemon shows the household of Benjamin Goldsmith: three males 20-29; one male 30-39; two females under 5; and one female 30-39.

It is likely that Benjamin was married to Catherine in Ohio circa 1835. We could not identify her beyond the census information that she was born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1799.

Benjamin and Catherine resettled in Tazewell County in 1843 or 1844. It is likely that they were accompanied on the journey by his cousin, Andreas/Andrew Roth, who became the first of the Roth family to move west from Ohio. KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG shows how the Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths and the Roths were cousins, sharing Johannes König and Barbara Roth as aunt and uncle.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows Benj. Goldschmidt, 50, Germany; Catherine, 51, Germany; Mary, 15, Ohio; Catherine, 13, Ohio; and Daniel, 6, Illinois. 147

The 1860 census of Washington has Benjamin Goldnutt, 60, Germany; Catharine, 60, Germany; Mary, 22, Ohio; Catharine, 21, Ohio; and Daniel, 16, Illinois (note the years taken off the ages of the daughters).

The family apparently relocated to Worth in Woodford County after the 1865 state census (they were not listed at Worth; we have not seen the list for Washington). As improbable as it seems, they appear on the 1870

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147 On the census page the Goldschmidt family is one house removed from Michael Zimmerman, 70. Michael's connection to Benjamin is problematic. He was a brother to Verena Zimmerman (the wife of Nicolaus Roth and mother to Andreas/Andrew Roth). Nicolaus Roth was a brother to Barbara Roth (who married Johannes/Hans König). Johannes/Hans König was a brother to Katharina/Catherine König, Benjamin's mother.
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Census of Worth as Michael Goldsmith, 60, ferrier [blacksmith], Wurttemberg; Margaret, 50, Wurttemberg; and farm hand Daniel, 30, Wurttemberg. We assume that only the location, the father's occupation, and the name and occupation of the son was correct.

Children of Benjamin Goldschmidt/Goldsmith and Catherine include:

1. Mary Goldsmith was born at Lemon, Ohio circa 1835. The 1870 census of Metamora shows Mary Goldsmith, 35, born in Pennsylvania, a domestic servant in the household of Samuel Powell of England. The 1880 census of Metamora shows servant Mary Goldschmidt, 34, Germany, in the household of 72-year-old Dominicque Magin of France. She is found again on the 1900 census of Metamora as servant Mary Goldsmith, 63, born in Germany in August 1837 to German parents, a boarder in the home of John Zimmerman. Her immigration date was given as 1843 [actually the year she came to Illinois from Ohio]. She lived next door to her brother Daniel's wife Clara M. Smith and her nephew William Goldsmith.

2. Catherine Goldsmith was born at Lemon, Ohio circa 1837. She appears on the 1880 census of Metamora as Kathi Goldschmidt, 44, born in Indiana to German parents, a servant in the household of Joseph Grabill.

3. Daniel Goldsmith was born at Washington, Tazewell County circa 1844.

Two excerpts from Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois (1878) tell the story of son Daniel Goldsmith:

"The next in the vocabulary was a murder which for some time created the most intense excitement, and the final acquittal of the prisoner seriously threatened lynch law. This was the alleged murder of Christian Shertz by Daniel Goldsmith, in 1871, and had attendant circumstances of a most distressing character.

Shertz was a stepson of Mr. Joseph Shertz, an old settler of Worth Township, and a highly respected citizen. He had taken the name of his stepfather, upon assuming that relationship, and when he married, the old people set him up on a farm six miles east of Metamora, on the Panola road. [Roanoke]

It was while sitting at home in the bosom of his family, spending a quiet Sunday evening, listening to the reading of the Bible, that a shot came through the window and killed him. It was on the 3d of December, and one of the stormiest nights of the Winter season, when the howling of the wind without and the driving of the snow against the sides of the house would stifle the sound of a murderer's footsteps.

The evidence was wholly circumstantial, but of a very strong character of that kind. Goldsmith was indicted by the Grand Jury, and the fact that he had lived with Shertz, that they had had trouble and disagreements, and Goldsmith had left him but a few days previous to the murder, coupled with other points of a strong circumstantial character, everything seemed to indicate beyond a doubt that he was the assassin.

His trial lasted from Monday afternoon until about the same time on Saturday, when the jury, who had received the case at 7 o'clock on Friday evening, returned a verdict of 'Not guilty.' The counsel for the people were Smith M. Garratt, District Attorney, and Hon. W. W. O'Brien, now of Chicago. For the defense, Messrs. Burns (now Circuit Judge), Ray, Feilitzsch and Barnes, all able lawyers.

As we have said, the points in the case were all circumstantial, and therefore left room for doubt. The assassin of Christian Shertz may never be positively known until the last day, when all things shall be revealed.

The following extract from the Woodford Sentinel shows the prevailing sentiment at the result of the trial: "We are now, and always have been, opposed to mob violence of any character whatever, and we trust we may never be compelled to chronicle a case in Woodford County, but if we are to have such farces enacted as the last two murder trials spoken of, we want to ask, where are the people going to get justice, and how?"

"In the Winter of 1870-71, occurred, in the western part of the township, a horrible murder. Mr. Christian Schertz, while sitting by his fireside and playing with his children, was most brutally murdered, by a shot from without, by some unknown person.

Certain suspicious circumstances led to the arrest of Daniel Goldsmith, a resident of the western part of the county. It appeared in evidence, that he had been out hunting the day before; that one barrel of his gun had been discharged; and that the ball found in Mr. Shertz's body corresponded to those used by Goldsmith.

The evidence, though considered by many as convincing, failed to convict, and he was set at liberty."

For more on murder victim Christian Schertz see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL. The 1880 census of Metamora shows Benjamin as Benn. Goldschmidt, 79, "worked at farm," France; and (lined out, marked 'died') Katharine, 81. The Woodford County Mortality Book notes that 81-year-old native of Germany Katharine Goldschmidt died from inflammation of the bowels at Metamora in August 1880. She was thought to be a resident of the county for 47 years, but this probably should have been 37, expressing an arrival in 1843. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora, where the half-sunken headstone says, "Catherine, wife of B. Goldsmith." Benjamin may also be buried there.
The same census shows them next door to son Daniel. He had married Clara M. Smith in Peoria County July 3, 1877. They appear as farmer Daniel Goldschmidt, 35, Illinois, parents from France and Hesse-Darmstadt; Clara M., 20, Illinois, parents from Ohio and Vermont; William, 2, Illinois; and Minnie J., 3 months, Illinois.

The 1900 census of Metamora shows William [Louis] Goldsmith, 22, born in Illinois in March 1878 to parents from Illinois; his occupation seems to say ‘compliment clerk,’ but is overwritten and illegible. He lived with his mother Clary [Clara Smith], 38, born in Illinois in December 1861 to parents from Ohio, married 23 years.

At the same time Daniel was living in Iowa. The 1900 census of Hardin, Iowa shows teamster Daniel Goldsmith, 55, born in Illinois to German parents December 1844, as the father-in-law in the home of John Heirmeier, born in Illinois in June 1869, and Minnie [Goldsmith], 20, born in Illinois in March 1880, and their three children (birth places indicate they moved from Illinois to Iowa between 1897 and 1900). Looking back at the 1880 census of Metamora we find Johny Hermeier, 12, living only two households removed from the Goldsmidts.

The 1910 census of Panola has Daniel Goldsmith, 66, born in Illinois to parents from France and Germany. He was described as a divorced railroad laborer. The 1920 census of Limestone, Peoria shows Daniel Goldsmith, 76, born in Illinois to parents from France and Hesse. He was described as an inmate at the Peoria County Home.

The Sept. 12, 1918 draft registration of William Louis Goldsmith, 40, gave his birth date as March 16, 1878. He was described as a married traffic clerk living at Peru, LaSalle County. His physical characteristics included gray eyes and black hair.

The Metamora Herald obituary for William Louis Goldsmith says he was born March 16, 1878, and died Aug. 12, 1937. He is buried near his mother Clara in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora. The birth year 1878 is found on his headstone, but the year of death was never inscribed. He may have been the last of his family in the area.
Rediger: Reŭtiger of Ichenheim

The puzzle of the genealogy of this family has a number of missing pieces. We made our first attempt 10 years ago. This year we started from scratch to make a more thorough second attempt.

Allied bombing during World War II destroyed many older records that would have been helpful. Since that time a few authors have worked on this family. Unfortunately, now it is difficult to know what was based on reliable sources or evidence, and what was based on guesswork.

The surname originated as Reŭtiger. It is found relatively often in records around Lake Thun. The village of Reŭtigen is located less than two miles inland from the western shore of the lake. It sits between Spiez (historically a ferry port) and Erlenbach im Simmental (the village where Jacob Amman was born). Though Reŭtiger would describe someone from this village, it can also mean 'to rejoice.'

The surname Reŭtiger evolved into Rediger in Alsace and America, perhaps because of familiarity with the French verb rédiger, to write.

There is also a third spelling, 'Reidiger.' The phrase 'sie reidiger' means 'they are more righteous.' The earliest example we could identify was found in a Protestant church record created in Baden in 1760.

Johannes/Hans Reŭtiger married Barbara Jaggi (another surname found relatively often in records around Lake Thun, it means 'hunter').

Their son Sebastian Reŭtiger was born circa 1720, and his younger brother Johannes was born circa 1721. No birth entries for these two sons have been identified. All Amish Mennonite Redigers descended from Sebastian.

We suspect but cannot prove that Johannes/Hans remarried to Barbara Andrist, and they had a child named Barthlome Reŭtiger born at Boltigen, Canton Bern in 1724 (see BARTHLOME REŬTIGER). Only Barthlome is found in records created at Boltigen.

BOLTIGEN

Boltigen is located nine miles west of Erlenbach im Simmental, the birthplace of Jakob Amman; and 14 miles west of Reŭtigen, which is located inland from the western shore of Lake Thun. It is part of the mountainous Obersimmental-Saanen administrative district.

A Catholic church in Boltigen was mentioned in historical texts as early as 1228. In 1280 the bishop's directory of Lausanne described it as a church dedicated to Saint Mauritius (equivalent to Maurice, Moritz, Maritz, and Morris). The St. Mauritius Church structure in Boltigen was renovated or rebuilt in 1510.

When the Council of Bern mandated conversion to the new Protestant Reformed [Ger. Evangelisch Reformierte] religion Feb. 7, 1528, the residents of Boltigen initially resisted. However, most soon fell in line with government doctrine under the threat of heavy fines. This led to skirmishes between the conformists in the lower village and nonconformists in the upper village.

148 St. Mary's Chapel at Reŭtigen dates from at least the early 13th century. The present population is about 1,000.

The earliest Reŭtiger we found in America was a Bernese immigrant named Peter. In 1709 his travels took him from the city of Bern to Rotterdam, and via Newcastle to the Virginia coast. His name is found on a map of New Bern, North Carolina published in 1710. In Christoph von Graffenried's Account of the Founding of New Bern (1920), a letter written by Christian Janzen or Christen Jantz from New Bern April 30, 1711 mentions his son-in-law: "We lie along a stream called the Neuse. Here six years ago the first people were English, until two years ago Swiss people began cultivating. The English are, it seems to me, rather rich in cattle, all sorts of crops, and the finest fruit trees (and those yielding fruit most of the year, except two months). It is natural that we are behind in that regard, but we have hope through God's blessings to catch up. We came shortly before Christmas. By God's blessings my daughter Ziona, son-in-law Petter Reutiger, and I, and others besides, have much stronger houses than the English; we have also cleared land, and much has fences." Another letter from Janzen calls him 'Peter Röhtiger.'

149 The Volhynian Mennonite Riediger family is entirely distinct from this one. Abraham Riediger was born in West Prussia Feb. 22, 1782. He was baptized near Sztum (now in northern Poland) circa 1799. On April 24, 1807 he married Anna Kroker. In 1818 they went to Lichtfelde, a village in the Molotschna colony (now Zaporizhia Oblast in the Ukraine), where he became administrator. Under his guidance 254 families settled there in 1819 and 1820. By 1835 the population grew to about 6,000 people cultivating 324,000 acres. He had three sons: Abraham, Peter, and Martin; and a daughter, Katharina. Their descendants live in Russia and Canada.

150 All newborns in Canton Bern were required by law to be baptized in a state church. So the absence of records for Sebastian and Johannes strongly suggest they were born elsewhere. In Zur Geschichte der Mennoniten im Herzogtum Pfalz-Zweibrücken (1962), Ernst Drumm stated that Sebastian was born at Boltigen. He may have found this location in Zweibrücken records (suggesting Sebastian himself believed he was born at Boltigen, or simply that it was his Heimat legal place of origin for Swiss citizenship rights). Our searches also ruled out Zweisimmen to the south of Boltigen; Steffisburg to the northeast; and Oberwil im Simmental, Dürstetten, Erlenbach im Simmental, Wimmis, Reutigen, and Spiez to the east.
The church was destroyed by fire in 1840, and rebuilt on the same site in the northeast corner of the village. The new St. Nicholas Church serves both Protestant and Catholic congregations.151

The War of the Polish Succession involved most of Europe from 1733 to 1738. In 1737 the Old Swiss Confederacy decided that Anabaptist citizens who refused military service could be assigned mandatory work in silver mines (though the threat was never actually carried out). Sebastian was not yet an Anabaptist, but the overall impressments of Swiss males for military training and service may have been his incentive to emigrate. It would have been fairly easy to obtain official permission to leave the canton. A simple explanation that one was unable to earn a livelihood at home was generally sufficient.


The Kloster Hornbach was a merger point and resting area on one of the most-traveled Catholic pilgrimage routes in Europe. Recall from ROPP that the Way of St. James [Ger. Jakobswege] is a spider web of dirt roads across Europe, leading to the altar of the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in the northwest corner of Spain. It was noted that many of the churches in the area of Lake Thun were built along a southern loop. In the same way, the Hornbach monastery had been constructed in 737 as the final Palatine resting station merging two paths that had begun at Speyer on the Rhine River [Ger. Pfälzer Jakobswege]. From Hornbach a departing pilgrim might cross the border south into France before continuing west.

To travel to Hornbach, Sebastian would have first traveled to Basel. There he would have boarded a flat boat on the Rhine River, following it downstream (north). He would have disembarked at Wörth am Rhein (parallel to Karlsruhe), then walked or rode another 50 miles west.

It is likely that he walked onto a poorly tended farm that had once been cultivated by Benedictine monks. Farmers in the surrounding fields may have been the descendants of Swiss or Tyrolean families brought into the area to repopulate it after the Thirty Years War.

THE DUCHY OF PFALZ-ZWEIBRÜCKEN

Amish Mennonites first settled in the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken after the expulsion from Alsace in 1712. Recall from ROPP: "In many instances departing families accepted certificates of good character from Christian III of the house of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken. He was a member of the same Wittelsbach family that later ruled Bavaria, a count of Rappolstein, and a captain in the French army. He was responsible for the administration of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and was obliged to follow the dictates of the French king. The majority of Anabaptists who left Alsace chose locations that had been specifically allowed to them under older agreements and recommended by the count."

In 1731 Pfalz-Zweibrücken passed through inheritance from the Swedish to the Pfalz-Birkenfeld-Zweibrücken branch of the counts palatine, a branch of the House of Wittelsbach. Christian III, who had been Count Palatine of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld, became the new Duke of the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken. Upon his death in 1735, his son became Christian IV, an elector of the Holy Roman Empire until his death in 1775. Like his father he leased properties to Amish Mennonites, as well as employing them as farm managers and laborers. General background on Pfalz-Zweibrücken can be found in STALTER.

We know where he was working on July 16, 1739, because on that day he was expelled from the duchy. According to Drumm, church archives at Zweibrücken [Ger. Kirschenschaffnei-Archiv Zweibrücken VI/434] document Sebastian's troubles.

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151 Coincidence or not, there is a pasture area called Reidigen in the Juan Pass, four miles west of the village center of Boltigen. It is only about 2,000 feet within the border with Canton Fribourg. In 1837 the Dictionnaire Geographique-Statistique described it as two hamlets, Ober Reidigen and Unter Reidigen, in 'la vallée de la Jogne' [Juan] at the base of Bäderhorn alp.

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152 The Klosterhof is now the Klosterhof Hornbach Hotel.
Sebastian attended several *Mennoniten* meetings held in Hornbach. When this came to the attention of Evangelische minister Johann Heinrich Keller, he attempted to dissuade the 19-year-old servant from joining the Sekte der Wiedertaüfer.

Eventually Sebastian was summoned before an Evangelische morals court presided over by ministers, the high consistory court [Ger. Ober Konsistorium] in the city of Zweibrücken. There he was questioned for two hours. In Pfalz-Zweibrücken re-baptism was prohibited to someone who had entered the country as a Protestant. It is likely that the ministers reminded Sebastian that he was still a foreign national, and there was still a quota on how many Anabaptists could live there. But he could not be dissuaded.

The church alone did not have the authority to expel someone. But by identifying Sebastian as an Anabaptist, they forced the hand of the government. A decision came in the form of an official posting (signed Regierung or government) July 16. It stipulated that "all Reuтиger who have come here must depart these princely territories."

Sebastian left the area. Presumably he went across the Rhine River into Baden soon afterward. There he may have resided on or near the Spitalhof estate at Offenburg until 1763.

Sebastian married Susanne Detweiler, who was born circa 1725. She was a daughter of Durst Detweiler, who farmed on the Spitalhof estate until his death in 1748. Susanne died some time between March 15, 1758 and Sebastian's second marriage in 1772. Five of their children have been identified.

In 1763 Sebastian and his younger brother Johannes arrived on the Ottenweierhof estate between Ichenheim and Schutterzell, Baden. This location is only eight miles southwest of the Spitalhof estate. It is within six hours walking distance of the Rhine River crossings into Alsace, and was halfway between the meeting places of the Amish Mennonite congregations in Baden-Durlach (north) and the Hochburg area (south).

### THE OTTENWEIERHOF ESTATE

In 1720 the Ottenweierhof estate was placed under imperial landlord Wilhelm von Dungern. It would remain in his family for approximately 98 years. In 1753 the deed was obtained by Reichsritter [imperial free knight or free noble of the Holy Roman Empire] Karl Ludwig von Dungern, who purchased it from a cousin for 20,000 florins. Sebastian's arrival there closely coincides with the death of Karl Ludwig June 19, 1763.

For 50 years the site would serve as a meeting point for Anabaptists from Strasbourg in Alsace and those in Baden. *Die Ortenau: Zeitschrift des Historischen vereins für Mittelbaden* (No. 272, 1991): "Besides the Protestant and Catholic servants mentioned earlier, the Ottenweier Hof was above all a favorite abode of the Anabaptists. The first reliable reference to their presence can be found in 1763, with Sebastian Reuтиger and others. The family of the dairyman, who died in 1790 [1791], consisted of about twelve persons. One could not help but notice them living in a special Protestant community of only twenty persons. Even today one is reminded of them by the stone structures facing the main building on the edge of the forest, baptismal tables [Ger. Täufertisch] for their worship services and ecclesiastical activities."

In 1813 the property was purchased by businessman Carl Ludwig Lotzbeck. He continued to reside in Lahr (nine miles to the southeast) where his snuff and tobacco factory was located. Eventually the estate reverted to the community of Ichenheim and fell into disrepair. In 1980 it was purchased by Jürgen Seitz, a musical entertainer. It has now been fully restored and hosts light musical events.

The estate can be easily picked out on a satellite image. Follow the Hofweg southeast out of Ichenheim. Before it reaches the Ortenaustrasse, the Ottenweierhof estate is found on its south side as a manor house with a u-shape of farm

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153 This is consistent with the experience of Nicholas Stoltzfus in 1744. He wrote a letter to the Duke of Zweibrücken asking for permission to marry an Anabaptist, with the implication that he would first have to accept adult baptism. He said that he had been influenced by the 'quiet manner of conduct' of Anabaptists on the Rinkweierhof estate at Hornbach. He was told that if he chose to do so, he would have to leave the duchy for an unspecified period of time. He did, but returned within seven years. Later Stoltzfus sailed from Rotterdam on the Polly, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 18, 1766. The Stoltzfus family in America was so prolific that he is said to have a million descendants.

154 Martin Dättweiler was born at Langenbruck (now in Canton Basel-Schaft, Switzerland) circa 1676. He married Anna Schneider, who was born at Lauwil (10 miles northwest of Langenbruck) circa 1675. Their son Durst Detweiler was born circa 1698, and died on the Spitalhof estate at Offenburg, Baden in 1748. He married Katarina Germann. Their children may have included: 1. Sarah Detweiler, born circa 1723, who died at Bennwih, Upper Alsace Jan. 5, 1788. She married Christian Roggy (also found as Roggi). He was born at Vendenheim, Lower Alsace circa 1734, and died at Strasbourg circa 1797; a son of minister Johannes/Jean Johannes Roggy. Sarah was buried at the Katzenwangen mill Jan. 6, 1788. 2. Joseph Detweiler, also born circa 1725, died on the Spitalhof estate before June of 1784. 3. Susanne Detweiler, born circa 1725, was the first wife of Sebastian Reitiger. 4. Judith Detweiler, who married Johannes Rupp. Their daughter Judith Rupp, born circa 1764, married Christen/Christian Boshart (see ROPP, BACKGROUND). 5. Benjamin Detweiler, who was born circa 1745.

The Spitalhof estate was located on the western outskirts of the village of Offenburg. In present day one would look for the intersection of Wichernstrasse and Marlenersstrasse, then walk northwest into the state forest [Ger. Stadtwald]. The once-cultivated land north of the forest house [Ger. Forsthaus] has now returned to its natural state.

155 Ichenheim and Schutterzell are now districts of the municipality of Neuried, Baden.
buildings below it. Across the road to the north is a forest where Reŭtigers were buried. It is still called the Täuferwald. In January of 2017 the local council voted to resume using it as a wooded cemetery.

Many family events were recorded at the Evangelische church in Ichenheim, fulfilling a legal obligation. As we found from other sources in some instances, some events recorded there may taken place elsewhere. We found several births that actually took place as far away as Freiburg (also called Freiburg im Breisgau), 34 miles to the south.

Circa 1772 Sebastian remarried to Anna Lederach. The Swiss surnames Lederach and Laderach were derived from Lädrach or Läderich (a leather worker). Its Heimat or legal place of origin for Swiss citizenship rights is Konolfingen, Canton Bern.

Anna was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl in the Schwetzingern District south of Mannheim, Baden circa 1739. There was a very large and well-organized Amish Mennonite congregation in this area, 100 miles north of Ichenheim.

As noted in ROTH, when Margrave Karl Friedrich came to power in 1771, his domain consisted of an upper Catholic region (Baden-Baden), a lower Lutheran region (Baden-Durlach), and a patchwork of properties owned by the Austrian Hapsburgs, the prince-bishop of Basel, and knights of the Holy Roman Empire. In that year Baden-Durlach was further divided into (north-to-south) an upper margravate, the district of Hochburg, and a lower margravate.

Entries for Amish Mennonite life events were not recorded in the Protestant [Ger. Evangelische] register at Ichenheim before 1814. Yet the death of Sebastian's younger brother Johannes Reŭtiger was recorded there Sept. 16, 1786. Thus we know that Johannes was not an Anabaptist. His parents were named as "Vater Johannes, mutter Barbara geboren Jaggin" [Jaggi], and his age given as 65 [thus born circa 1721]. No surviving widow was identified.

BROTHER JOHANNES REŬTIGER

Johannes Reŭtiger may have been the Johann/Johannes Reutiger who married Susanna Catharina Spindler. They farmed at Bauschlott, Baden (19 miles east of Karlsruhe, six miles north of Pforzheim), where Susanna's death is recorded in Evangelische records June 14, 1786. She was 65, thus born circa 1721.

Their son Johannes Reutiger/Reidiger was born at Sulzburg, Baden (48 miles south of Ichenheim) April 15, 1749. He also farmed at Bauschlott, where he married twice and fathered at least 10 children.

The events are recorded in Evangelische records at Bauschlott. On Sept. 9, 1779 he married Maria Magdalena Hofssäss. She was born circa 1744, and died at Bauschlott Nov. 12, 1788, a daughter of Georg Adam Hofssäss and Anna Barbara Bietighofer. She had Catherine (1777), Johann Michael (1779), Johann Friedrich (1782), Andreas (1785), Johann Jacob (1787), and Rosine (1788). On April 5, 1791 at Bauschlott Johannes remarried to Catharina Thom. She was born there Nov. 15, 1769, and died there in March 1832, a daughter of Johann Jacob Thom and Elisabetha Salome Steiner. She had Catharina Christine (1791), Carolina Elisabeth (1793), Christophe (1798), and Elisabeth Augusta (1803).

In 1794 Bauschlott was combined with two other villages to form Neulingen. Some coincidences of geography suggest that this Johann/Johannes was the Johannes whose death was recorded at Ichenheim. He may have expanded his knowledge of the area around Ichenheim by accompanying Sebastian on visits to Amish Mennonite congregations. Sulzburg is adjacent to Buggingen, the home of the Roth family that came to Central Illinois. Bauschlott (now Neulingen) was only eight miles east of Remchingen, the home of Eyers beginning in 1754; and only six miles east of Königsbach (now Konigsbach-Stein), a meeting place for Eglis, Griesers, Kempfs, Schrags, and Wolbers.

The French Revolution of 1789 led to a major military event that must have had a profound effect on the fortunes of this family.

The French royal family was placed in house arrest in the Tuileries Palace at Paris Oct. 5, 1789. When Sebastian Reŭtiger [Sr.] died on the Ottenweierhof estate Feb. 19, 1791, Europe was still at peace.

156 Some sources express doubt that Sebastian could have been the husband of both Susanne Detweiler and Anna Lederach. They point to the decade gap between his first and second sets of children, and note his age. Sebastian would have been 33 when his first son was born. When the first son of the second set was born, he would have been 53. When his last child was born he would have been 58.

157 We found Anna as mother-of-the-groom Anne Lederach on the marriage entry of Andreas Reidiger and Anne Ringenberg created at Imling July 22, 1796, and as mother-of-the-bride Ann Lederach or Lederech on the marriage entry of Christian Ringenberg and Katharina Reidiger created at Imling Sept. 10, 1796.

158 The late John Alma Hüppi's The Anabaptist König Family in Baden, a text written for The Laubers: A Journey of Faith, European Genealogy, Preliminary Draft V, was omitted from the final publication. In it Hüppi described Sebastian's second wife as "Ann Leder(er), born on the Rotburgerhof."
However, the French royal family made an unsuccessful attempt to escape on June 21 of that year. They fled Paris in a carriage and picked up a loyalist cavalry escort outside the city. But the king was recognized in the village of Ste. Menehoud by a postmaster who knew his face from the assignat coin. Over the next 14 miles angry crowds began to run along the path of the carriage, and the escort dropped away. The entire party was arrested at Varennes-en-Argonne, Meuse June 25, and returned to Paris and their eventual executions. They had traveled 144 miles, coming within 31 miles of their goal, la Citadelle de Montmédy.

On Aug. 27 Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II and Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia issued their Declaration of Pilnitz. It stated that maintaining monarchies in Europe was more important than individual differences between national leaders. It was meant to assure the safety of the recaptured French royal family. Marie Antoinette was Leopold II's younger sister.

Leopold II died suddenly in Vienna March 2, 1792. Nonetheless, because of what they saw as interference in their internal affairs, the French National Convention declared war on Austria April 20.

The War of the First Coalition (1792-98) pitted France against the remainder of Europe. It was only interrupted by a truce in 1795 and early 1796, when the French forces were reorganized after being weakened by the defections of their own officers fleeing the Reign of Terror at home.

THE SIEGE OF KEHL

In the 1700s the Rhine River was much different in appearance than it is today. Dredging, the construction of canals, and the shoring up of its banks has cleared it out but slowed the swift current. In some places its width has decreased by as much as 75 percent.

The first permanent bridge across its width had been constructed between the city of Strasbourg and the village of Kehl in 1338. The lengthy process of dropping stones, creating earthen dams, and laying stones again meant that the construction of new bridges might take two decades or more.

The government of France first assumed possession of the city of Strasbourg in 1678. In 1681 the famous military engineer Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban rebuilt its huge citadel. On the opposite side of the river the bridge heads at Kehl were protected by a polygon-shaped fort surrounded by cannon emplacements, earthworks, and trenches. It was about 400 feet wide, with stone walls 12 feet high.

The Treaty of Rijswijk in 1697 formalized French possession of Strasbourg, but ceded the village of Kehl on the opposite side of the river to Baden. Because Baden was part of the Holy Roman Empire, the crossing point between Strasbourg and Kehl, only 11 miles north of Ichenheim, would become a strategic point of contention.

On May 7, 1770 an extremely formal ceremony took place on a small island off of Kehl. Marie Antoinette entered a temporary building as a member of the Austrian royal family. She changed out of her Austrian clothing and put on French clothing before departing on the French side. This symbolically represented her new allegiance to France, where she would marry the man who four years later would become King Louis XVI.

But the crossing had more than symbolic value.

During the War of the First Coalition the French forces on the west bank and the Austrians and their allies on the east bank saw their only chances of overall victory lying in its possession. In the summer of 1796 French general Jean Victor Marie Moreau crossed the bridges from Strasbourg and occupied Kehl. Almost 7,000 largely untrained and inexperienced Austrian imperial troops withdrew within a few hours.

The Austrians finally re-entered the area of Kehl with experienced units Sept. 15. Three days later they converged with three columns of Austrian and Serbian infantry and Hussar cavalry. The French held them off with 'case shot' - lead grape shot fired from cannons positioned in the narrow roadways (a risky proposition that put the cannoneer in a 'do or die' situation very near his targets; if his position was overrun, it meant a bayonet). By late that night French reinforcements had arrived to hold the fort.

Hindsight suggests that General Moreau, who was now maneuvering within Baden, should have headed north to combine his forces with others. But he chose to challenge the troops of Archduke Charles. Moreau's second mistake was to place undue importance on the village of Waldkirch at the edge of the Black Forest (32 miles south of Ichenheim). On Oct. 19 the Austrians came downhill out of the Black Forest into the Battle of Emmendingen (27 miles south of Ichenheim) and forced a French retreat to the south.

159 General Jean Victor Marie Moreau was later commander of the Army of the Rhine. However, he allowed disloyal officers to meet in his home, and was sentenced to two years in prison in 1804. He requested and was permitted to go into exile. He and his family sailed from Cadiz, Spain on the ship New York, and arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 26, 1805. From 1806 to 1812 he lived a quiet retirement at Morrisville on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River (across from Trenton). The estate had earlier belonged to merchant-financier Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution who went bankrupt in 1798. During the War of 1812 Moreau was offered command of all American troops, but declined. After the disastrous Russian campaign he returned to Europe to help the allies against Napoleon. A cannon ball crushed part of his right leg at the Battle of Dresden Aug. 27, 1813, and he died at Lahn (now in the Czech Republic) Sept. 2. He was buried in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was posthumously awarded the rank of Marshal of France by King Louis XVIII, and his wife received a pension from Tsar Alexander I.
By this time the residents of the village of Kehl had evacuated into the countryside. Knowing that the Austrians would return in greater numbers, the French prepared to withdraw. They did not have time to dismantle the fort (this would be done in 1815). However, on Oct. 26 they used cannons to destroy the village of Kehl, the earthworks, and the entrenchments, leaving little the Austrians might use against them.

But the French knew that Kehl could not be abandoned altogether for long. On Nov. 22, 16,000 French infantry and 3,500 cavalry crossed the bridges and moved through Kehl. The effort was a disaster. The November fog and mud made it impossible to move artillery along the roads. They withdrew yet again after only a four hours march, leaving just a small group of advance observers at Kehl.

On Dec. 9 Austrian artillery units formed a loose ring around Kehl. They advanced to the outer boundaries Jan. 1, and on Jan. 9 the few French occupants retreated to Strasbourg.

The siege had lasted 115 days, and cost each side about 4,000 men.

Anna Lederach died some time after the Sept. 10, 1796 marriage of her daughter Katharina/Catherine at Imling, Moselle. (Recall that in the summer of 1796, French forces had crossed the bridges from Strasbourg and occupied Kehl).

For a time line of events in Baden 1800-30, see ROTH.

It is likely that the children of Sebastian Reŭtiger and his first wife Susanne Detweiler were born on the Spitalhof estate at Offenburg, Baden. They include:

1. Joseph Reŭtiger or Reŭthiger (as he signed his own name) was born Sept. 7, 1753, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate April 20, 1819. He married Catherine Unsicker/Katharina Hunziger. She was born circa 1758, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate July 14, 1830. Joseph initially worked as a miller in the community mill above the village of Schutterzell. He may not have actually resided there, since it is within walking distance of the Ottenweierhof estate. In Strasbourg they lived between the two bridges on the Rhine River [Fr. entre ces deux ponts du Rhin]. An Evangelische death entry at Ichenheim says Joseph Reutiger died at age 65 on April 20, 1819, leaving widow Katharina Hunziger. Their children include:
   a. Katharina/Catherine Reŭthiger was born at Schutterzell circa 1783. We found her in Strasbourg records as the 17-year-old unmarried mother of a daughter Catherine. The child was born May 25, 1800, and died May 31, 1800. Her civil birth entry described the mother Catherine as a 17-year-old native of Schutterzell, and the grandparents as 47-year-old cultivator Joseph Reuthiger and Catherine Unzicker. Grandfather Joseph signed the entry with only his last name, which looked like 'Rnūthignr' (the old style 'e' looking like an 'n'). On June 23, 1814 on the Ottenweierhof estate Katharina/Catherine became the second wife of Jakob Ackermann; his first wife Anna Marie Birki had died earlier that year. He was born circa 1778, and died at Köfering in 1851, a son of Johannes Ackermann and Magdalena Baumann (or a suspected first wife Barbara Albrecht). They lived at Josephenburg or Köfering near Ingolstadt, Bavaria. They were the parents of two Ackermans who came to Tazewell County (see ACKERMAN). Katharina/Catherine died at Josephenburg or Köfering between 1820 and Oct. 31, 1824, the date of Jakob's third marriage to Katharina Birky. See ACKERMAN for background on this couple.
   b. Madeleine Reŭtiger was born at Schutterzell circa 1789, and died at Strasbourg April 7, 1797. Her civil death entry described her as an 8-year-old native of Schutterzell. Witnesses included father Joseph Reuthiger, 44, and uncle Benjamin Reuthiger, 36.
   c. Jacobée Reŭtiger was born at Strasbourg July 30, 1801. Her civil birth entry described the address of her parents à la porte de Bouchers à l'Isle du Rhin [near the Boucher gate on the Rhine island]. It was witnessed by her father Joseph Reutiger, 44 [yielding a birth circa 1757], and uncle Benjamin Reuthiger, 36 [yielding a birth circa 1765].
   d. Jacques Reŭtiger was born at Strasbourg Sept. 21, 1803, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate March 26, 1812. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Reuttriger and Catherine Unsicker, who lived between the two bridges on the Rhine River. It was witnessed by cultivators Jean Rothacker, 48, and Michel Zehr, 39, both residents of Strasbourg. It was signed 'Joseph Rnūthignt' (the old-style 'e' looking like an 'n') and 'Joha Rothacker.'

2. Barbara Reŭtiger was born circa 1754, and died at Rambergvillers, Vosges Sept. 13, 1808. In 1771 she married Christian Schertz. He was born circa 1753, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle Jan. 16, 1808, a son of Nicolas Schertz and Barbara Burcki. Their children born at Gondrexange include:
   a. Andreas/André Schertz was born Sept. 10, 1790. On Jan. 14, 1813 at Rhodes, Moselle he married Barbe Salzman. She was born on Zelle farm near Petit-Tenquin, Moselle April 2, 1792, a daughter of Michel

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160 In 1906 the Schutterzell community mill was rebuilt in the original half-timbered style as the Landgasthof Schutterzeller Mühle, a guesthouse and beer garden. The original grinding stones are imbedded in a wall surrounding the beer garden. From the Ottenweierhof estate, one would travel southeast on Hofweg, then slightly north on Ortensaustrasse.

161 We found sources that say Christian was born at Haut-Clocher, Moselle, but this may only reflect confusion with a later Christian Schertz born there.
Salzmann and Catherine Weiss [Wyss]. He worked as a miller in the mill at Deneuvre, Meurthe-et-Moselle.

b. Anne Schertz was born Feb. 16, 1792, and died at Deneuvre, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 24, 1864. On Dec. 5, 1826 at Deneuvre she married Jean Joseph Grob [Kropf]. He was born at Vieux-Lixheim, Moselle circa 1795, and died at Deneuvre Jan. 11, 1864, a son of Pierre Kropf and Susanne Ringenberg. Their civil marriage entry described his parents as shopkeeper Pierre Grob of Nonpatelize, who was present and consenting; and the deceased Susann Herrringueberg [Susanne Ringenberg]. The bride was described as Anne Chertz, born at Gondrexange Feb. 16, 1791, whose parents were Christianne Chertz, who had died at Gondrexange Jan. 16, 1808; and Barbe Reütiger, who had died at Ramberviller, Vosge Sept. 13, 1808 [we did not find civil death entries at either location]. Witnesses included father-of-the-groom Pierre Grob, 60, a farm equipment operator at Nonpatelize; and brother-of-the-bride and miller André Chertz, 50, a miller in the mill at Deneuvre. Anne signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate; Jean Joseph signed 'KROB'; and his father signed 'PK.' André signed 'Andreas Schertz.'

c. Marie Schertz was born April 5, 1796, and died at Gondrexange April 29, 1811. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator Christianne Chartz and Barbe Rediquer. Witnesses were paternal uncle and cultivator Jean Chartz, 36; and brother-of-the-bride and farmhand André Chartz, 21.

3. Magdalena Reütiger/Madeleine Rediger was born circa 1757 or later (based only on the birth of her first known child circa 1775). She died before her son Joseph's marriage in 1805. She married widower Joseph Detwiller/Dettweiler. He was born circa 1750, and died on the Sptihalhof estate before Sept. 24, 1779 (only five days before the birth of his second child). He was a son of Joseph Detwiller (circa 1725-1784), and a nephew to Sebastian [Sr.]

a. Joseph Detwiller/Dettweiler was born on the Sptihalhof estate circa 1775, and died at Beaufézé, Meuse March 12, 1848. On Jan. 4, 1805 in the city of Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Hauter.162 She was born at Hornbach, Pfalz-Zweibrücken July 22, 1785, and died at Bar-le-Duc, Meuse March 31, 1868, a daughter of Joseph Hauter and Magdalena Schertz. Her father was a miller at the duval palace mill. Joseph's civil death entry described him as Joseph Detveiller, 73, an elderly miller [Fr. ancien meunier], and the husband of Madeleine Hauter, who was 64; he was a son of the deceased Joseph Detveiller and Madeleine Bosnhart. It was witnessed by son Jean Detveiller, 39. Magdalena's civil death entry described her as Madeleine Hauter, 83, born at Hornbach, Bavière [Bavaria], the widow of Joseph Doetweiler, and a resident of Rue de Chalens No. 21 at Bar-le-Duc. One witness was her son miller Christophe Doetweiler [as he signed his name], 54.

The child of Joseph Detwiller/Dettweiler and his second wife Magdalena Reütiger/Madeleine Rediger was born only five days after his death:

b. Magdalena Detwiller/Dettweiler was born at Freistett, Baden Sept. 28, 1779 (per her marriage entry). On Aug. 28, 1798 at Kesakastel, Lower Alsace she married miller Joseph Schertz. He was born at Kesakastel July 8, 1773, a son of miller Joseph Scherz and Barbara Nafzgerin [Nafziger]. The parents of the bride were described as the deceased Joseph Detveiller and Magdalena Rediger, who was a resident of Offenburg. The first two witnesses were Joseph Detwiller, 22, brother of the bride; and Andreas Eyer, 22. The signatures looked like Joseph Scharitz and Magdalena Dötweilerin.

4. Benjamin Reütiger or Reüthiger (as he signed his own name) was born circa March 15, 1758, and died on the Ottenweicthof estate as a widower Jan. 15, 1835 (when his age was noted to be 76 years and 10 months). Circa 1784 on the farm La Forge below Imling he married Barbara/Barbe Ringenberg. She was born circa 1764, and died before 1835. The marriage at La Forge strongly suggests that Barbara was a daughter of André Ringenberg and Magdalena Schwartz. This would have made her an aunt to the children of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel. Those children included Jean Ringenberg, who married Madeleine Hochstettler and lived at Strasbourg while Barbara was there, perhaps later going to Bavaria (see the footnote); Annette/Anne Ringenberg, who married Barbara's younger half-brother Andreas Reütiger/André Rediger at Imling July 22, 1796; and Christian Ringenberg, who married Barbara's younger half-sister Katharina Reütiger/Catherine Rediger at Imling Sept. 10, 1796.163 Benjamin and Barbara lived at Strasbourg after 1785.

a. Benjamin Rediger was born circa 1787, and died in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1848. He married Barbara Guérin. For the first six months of 1818 they lived at Boissy-St. Léger, a Schulmeister estate 10 miles southeast of Paris. Barbara Guérin died, and Benjamin remarried to Barbara Geisert. She was born at

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162 Sarrbrücken was occupied by French revolutionary troops in 1793. France did not cede it until 1815, when it became part of the Prussian Rhine Province.

163 Jean Ringenberg was born circa 1770, a son of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel, and a grandson of André Ringenberg and Magdalena Schwartz. On Feb. 9, 1796 at Béning, Moselle, and on Feb. 14, 1796 at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace, he married Madeleine Hochstettler. She was born circa 1778, a daughter of Christien/Christian Hochstettler and Barbara/Barbe Nafziger. When a daughter was born at Strasbourg June 26, 1803, she was described as Madeleine Rinkenberg, a daughter of cultivating Jean Rinkenberg and Madeleine Hochstettler living à l'Ile du Rhin. Witnesses included cultivators Jean Rothacher, 34, and David Rothacher, 60. The father signed 'Jean Ringenberg.' See RINGENBERGER for background on this couple.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Freistett, Baden (on the Rhine River 25 miles north of Ichenheim) in 1799, and died there Sept. 20, 1819, a daughter of George Geisert and Barbara Bernert. After her death widower Benjamin and his two children sailed from Le Havre on the Asia, arriving at New York May 26, 1834. The passenger list shows Benj. Reuttinger, 45; Benjamin, 15; and Madeleine, 14. Fellow passengers included widow Johannes von Gund (called 'Jean Gundee' on the passenger list and later called John Gundy); Daniel Eyer; Christian Gantsche and Catherine Goldschmidt; and Catherine's brother Jacob Goldschmidt. According to the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, 'Benjamin Rutiger' purchased 168 acres at $1.25 per acre in Section 18, Township 26N Sept. 14, 1838. Children of Benjamin Reidiger and his first wife Barbara Guérin include:

1) Benjamin Rediger was born at Boissey-St. Legér Feb. 16, 1818 (his headstone says Feb. 18). The entry was found in Boissy records under 'Benjamin Reithiger' by Neil Anne Stuckey Levine, naming the parents as 'Benjamin Reithiger' and 'Barbara Guérin.' On March 28, 1842 in Woodford County he married Barbara Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman. Barbara was born at Niderhoff Aug. 20, 1824 (her headstone says Aug. 24, 1825), a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. They appear on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Benjamin Redger, 32; Germany; Barbara, 26; Joseph, 6; Illinois; Magdalena, 2; Illinois; Phoebe Ower [Jacobine Oyer, Barbara's younger sister]; 12; and Catherine Fournes [Farny], 22; Illinois. They lived next door to Barbara's uncle Jacob Ower [Oyer], 72; and Barbara, 50. They also appear on the same census page as Peter Good [Guth] and Nicolas Rhodes [Nicholas Roth]. On the 1860 census of Washington: farmer Benj. Rediger, 42; France; Barbara, 33; France; Joseph, 16; Madalina, 12; Elizabet, 6; Mary, 4; and Phoebe, 1. On the 1870 census of Washington: farmer Benjamin Rediger, 52; France; Barbary, 45; France; farm laborer Joseph, 26; Magdalena, 22; Elizabeth, 16; Mary, 14; Jacob [Jacobine], 11; Christian, 9; and Catharine, 5; all children born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Washington shows farmer Benjamin Rediger, 62, born in France to parents from France and Baden; Barbara, 54, born in France to French parents; Magdalena, 28; Mary, 23; Jacobine, 21; Christian, 19; and Catharine, 14; all children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Reno, Kansas shows Benjamin living in the household of his son Christian: farmer Christian Rediger, 45, born in Illinois in February 1855; Magdalena, 40, born in Illinois in February 1860; Judith, 20, born in Illinois in July, 1879; Dina, 18, born in Illinois in September 1881; Tillie, 4, born in Kansas in June 1885; and Benjamin, 82, born in Germany in February 1818. They lived next door to Peter Farny/Farney and Barbara Rediger (a daughter of Johannes/John Rediger and Anna Birky). The previous census page shows Illinois transplants named Augustine, Cender, Guth, Habecker, Oyer, and Schrock. Barbara died at Washington Oct. 30, 1881, and was buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. Benjamin died in Kansas March 27, 1906. His body was returned to Illinois to be buried next to his wife. Their children of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Oyer born at Washington include:

a) Joseph Rediger was born Jan. 9, 1844, and died Jan. 23, 1875. On March 31, 1872 in Tazewell County he married Mary Birky. She was born in Tazewell County March 23, 1848, and died at Morton Oct. 11, 1925, a daughter of Andreas/Andrew Birky and Catherine Litwiller. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

b) Madeleine or Magdalena Rediger was born circa 1847/48. We could not identify her after the 1870 census.

c) Elizabeth Rediger was born June 24, 1855, and died in Kansas March 22, 1911. On Jan. 31, 1875 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Benjamin Stuckey. He was born in Upper Alsace Dec. 24, 1849, and died in Kansas Nov. 30, 1921, a son of Benoit Stucky/Benjamin Stuckey and Verena/Fanny Hochstetler. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Jos. Stuckey, 31, Germany; Elizabeth, 25, Illinois; Ruffina, 2, Illinois; Jos. B., 11 months, Illinois; and sister-in-law Phoebe Rediker [Jacobine], 20, Illinois. They also appear on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Enterprise, Kansas, which give Joseph's immigration year as 1855. They are buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas.

d) Mary Rediger was born in 1856, and died July 7, 1927. She is found living with her widowed sister Jacobine on the 1920 census of Washington: Phoebe Freidenger, 60, born in Illinois to French parents; and Mary Rediger, 63, born in Illinois to French parents (in 1918 Alsace-Lorraine had been freed from German occupation). She is buried in Glendale Cemetery.

e) Jacobine 'Phoebe' Rediger was born Feb. 8, 1859, and died at Washington, Tazewell County June 7, 1934. She married Henry Freidinger. He was born
March 10, 1854, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Aug. 5, 1918, a son of John Nicholas Freidinger and Elizabeth Sandmeyer. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

f) Christian Rediger was born at Danvers, McLean County in the last six months of 1860, and died in Reno County, Kansas Oct. 10, 1930. His headstone in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas says he was born in 1855, which is not consistent with his family's census reports, though it is consistent with his last census report. On Feb. 6, 1878 at Danvers he married Magdalena Hildy. She was born at Danvers Feb. 16, 1860, and died in Reno County Jan. 28, 1956, a daughter of Nicolas Hild/Hilty and Elizabeth Stuckey. They are buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas.

g) Catharine Rediger was born July 12, 1866. On Feb. 19, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Isaiah Metzler. He was born in Indiana July 25, 1859, and died in Tazewell County July 3, 1926, a son of Christian Metzler and Anna Wagner. Before the marriage he was a boarder in the household of Andrew Roth at Washington. They are found on the 1900 census of Tremont as farmer Isiah Metzler, born in Indiana in July 25, 1859 to a father from Pennsylvania; Cathrin, born in Illinois July 12, 1866 to parents from Germany; and Benjamin, born in Illinois Dec. 31, 1884.

2) Magdalena Rediger was born circa 1819. We could not follow her after her 1834 arrival.

b. Anne Rediger was born on the farm La Forge below Imling Jan. 4, 1789, and died in 1827. On June 24, 1809 at Strasbourg she married Christian/Chrétien Hochstettler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Chrétien Hochstettler, 18, a resident of Eckbolsheim, Lower Alsace who was born at the mill Katzenwangen at Bemiwir, Lower Alsace July 20, 1790, a son of cultivator Chrétien Hochstettler and Barbe Roggi, residents of Eckbolsheim. The bride was described as Anne Rethiger, 20, a resident of l'Isle du Rhin at Gelbenguth, Strasbourg who was born on the farm La Forge near Sarrebourg, Meurthe Jan. 4, 1789, a daughter of cultivator Benjamin Rethiger and Barbe Ringenberger. Their signatures looked like 'Anna Reuthiger' and 'Chrétien Hochstettier.' They had two children at Eckbolsheim in 1812 and 1814, then two at Bemiwir in 1821 and 1824. Christian/Chrétien died Oct. 11, 1841.

Magdalena Reüdiger was an Anabaptist single parent [Ger. eine ledige Mennonit] noted in the Evangelische register at Ichenheim in 1823, 1826, and 1833. There is a strong likelihood that her name was given accurately each time a child was registered, because the birth registration of Anabaptist children at an established church was a legal requirement in Baden after 1815. And the recorder would have known the residents of the Ottenweierhof estate. The mother was certainly not a minor on any of the three dates; in that case the name of the maternal grandfather would have been included on the entry. Thus by process of elimination, we can guess that she was a daughter of Benjamin Reüther/Reuthiger and Barbara/Barbe Ringenberg, born between Anne and Jean. There is a three-year widow between 1789 and the initiation of the état civil record keeping system (and gaps even earlier) when her birth may have occurred. Her three children include:

1) Jacobea Rediger was born March 20, 1821, and died May 27, 1823.
2) Magdalena Rediger was born Sept. 7, 1826, and died Nov. 9, 1855.
3) Jakob Rediger was born Sept. 17, 1833, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 25, 1910. He immigrated in 1850 (per the 1900 census) or 1851 (per the 1910 census). We suspect he sailed from Le Havre on the bark-rigged steamer John Hancock, and arrived at New Orleans May 20, 1851. The passenger list shows passengers 101-107 from Baden as Christian Giesler, 26; Jakob Rediger, 25; Francois Sell, 19; Barbara Geisler, 25; Elisabeth Rediger, 30; Jacques Rediger, 17; and Barbara Eglé, 20.164 The older Jacob on the list may have been born at Mullheim, Baden (31 miles south of Denzlingen) Jan. 1, 1825, a son of Johannes Giesler and Katharina Zimmerman. He is found as a 45-year-old farmer from Baden on the 1870 census of Tippecanoe, Indiana.
have been the one who married Magdalena Rediger in Woodford County in 1855. On March 13, 1852 in Butler County, Ohio, Jacob Rediger (as he was now known) married Veronica 'Fannie' Schmidt/Smith (headstone 'Fannie Schmitt'). She was born at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 10, 1833, and died at Normal, McLean County Jan. 21, 1914 (headstone dates), a daughter of Johannes or Jean Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith and Christine Schwarz. (Note that this Veronica 'Fannie' Schmidt/Smith is easily confused with a niece of the same name, a daughter of her older brother John, who in 1875 in Livingston County married Benjamin Reidiger/Benjamin B. Rediger). They are found on the 1900 census of Bloomington as cooper Jacob Rediger, 67, born in Germany in September 1832, immigrated in 1850; Fannie A., 67, born in Pennsylvania in August 1832 to parents from Germany; and daughter Minnie, born in Illinois in October 1872. The 1910 census of Bloomington describes J. Readiger, 77, born in Germany, married 57 years, immigrated in 1851; his occupation was cooper (barrel maker) in the candy business, where he had worked 50 years (suggesting his employer was the Paul F. Beich Candy Company in Bloomington); and Mrs. J. Readiger, 77, born in Pennsylvania to French parents, mother of 13 children, of whom nine were living. Jacob and Fannie are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

c. Barbe Rethiger (as she signed her own name) was born circa 1792. On Feb. 12, 1818 at St. Maur-des-Fossés (on the southeast outskirts of Paris) she married Johann Friedrich Lindenlaub. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as day laborer Frederic Lintenlaub or Lentinlaup. He was born at Mintersheim [a location we could not identify] May 28, 1792, a son of Christian Lentinlaup and Elisabeth Routderine. She was described as Barbe Rediguères, born at Strasbourg Aug. 25, 1794 [we could not find a civil entry there for this date, and it conflicts with her brother Jean; we suspect her age was lessened to match the groom]. Her parents, cultivator Benjamin Rediguères and Barbe Ringenberg, were present and consenting. Their signatures appear as Johann Friedrich Lindenlaub, Barbe Rethiger, Benjamin Reithiger, and Barbara Ringenberg. Barbe died at St. Maur-des-Fossés Jan. 29, 1826. Her civil death entry described them as Barbe Reithiger, 34 [thus born circa 1792] and Frederic Lindenlaub, 34. Their children born at St. Maur-des-Fossés include:
   1) Jean Lindenlaub was born Jan. 12, 1817. He was mentioned on the marriage entry.
   2) Elisabeth Lindenlaub was born March 21, 1825.

d. Jean Rediger was born at Strasbourg Jan. 27, 1794, and died there Oct. 2, 1794. His civil birth entry described his father as an Anabaptiste, and was witnessed by Joseph Zehr, 40, Anabaptiste. His civil death entry described his father as someone living near la porte de 9 Thermidor in Strasbourg.

e. Chrétien Rediger was born at Strasbourg May 28, 1795. His civil entry said his parents lived à la porte de la Fédération in Strasbourg.

f. Jean Rediger was born at Strasbourg at midnight of Aug. 25, 1797, and did there Nov. 15, 1827. His civil birth entry described his parents as living à la porte de Boucher by the two bridges at Strasbourg. His civil death entry described him as bachelor miller Jean Reuthiger, 29, born at Strasbourg, having died at l'Hospice Civil, a son of miller Benjamin Reuthiger and Barbe Ringelberg.

g. Jacques/Jacob Rediger was born at Strasbourg Dec. 16, 1799, when his parents were living à la porte de Boucher. His civil birth entry described father Benjamin as a cultivator. He died at Levallois-Perret, Haute de Seine July 27, 1882. He married Victoire Constance Aubry.

h. Pierre Rediger was born at Strasbourg Aug. 19, 1802. His civil birth entry was witnessed by cultivator Jean Ringenberg, 34.

i. André Rediger was born at Strasbourg Jan. 13, 1805, and died at Villiers-St. Georges, Seine-et-Marne, France March 24, 1838. His civil birth entry described his father as a 45-year-old cultivator. He married Victoire Adélaide Decornable.

j. Jacobée Roethiger (as her name appeared on her civil death entry) was born circa September 1807, and died at Strasbourg Aug. 15, 1808. Her civil death entry said she had died on l'Isle du Rhin at 11 months of age; her parents were described as Benjamin Roethiger and Barbe Rinckenberger.

5. Sebastian Reûtiger [Jr.] was born circa 1759, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate Jan. 15, 1835, age 76, or Oct. 29, 1836. On June 27, 1773 he married Magdalena Güngeric. She was born on the Schafbusch estate at Steinseltz, Lower Alsace June 12, 1774, and died at Ichenheim May 24, 1835, a daughter of Christian Güngeric and Anna Holly.165 Sebastian [Jr.] assumed the lease on the Ottenweierhof estate upon the death of his father in 1791. In 1815 a birth entry at Ichenheim described him as a Mennonit Pachter [Amish Mennonite tenant]. In considering their children's marriages with Stalters, it may be relevant to recall from STALTER that the surname Stalter was generally found around the village of Spiez on the west shore of Lake Thun. Spiez is adjacent to Reûtigen. To understand the Stalter marriages that follow, it is helpful to know that Christian (married Elisabeth Rinkenberger), Josef [Sr.] (married Susanne Hauter and Barbara Reidiger), and Johannes (married Magdalena Reidiger) Stalter were brothers.

But who was Elisabeth Rediger, born circa 1821?

165 Ferme Schafbusch is still an active entity.
Further, all of the children who went to Pfalz-Zweibrücken were known as 'Reidiger' while there, though some became 'Rediger' after moving on to America. Children of Sebastian Reŭtiger [Jr.] and Magdalena Güngerich born on the Ottenweierhof estate include:

a. Magdalena Rediger was born in 1792. On Jan. 29, 1812 on the Ottenweierhof estate she married Johannes Stalter (the event was recorded in the Evangelische register Feb. 7). He was born in 1789 (Ortsippenbuch) or in 1794, and died in 1828, a son of Christian Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. They  
flarmed on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengsbach, Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

b. Jakobea Rediger was born on the Spitalhof estate at Offenburg, Baden Nov. 7, 1796, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County July 19, 1869. She married Johannes König. He was born in Baden June 24, 1791, and died in Europe in 1857, a son of Christian König and Maria Zimmerman. Jakobea arrived at Montgomery, Woodford County as a widow with children circa 1858. See KING for background on their family.

c. Anna Rediger was born in 1797, and died in Moselle Sept. 3, 1823. On April 14, 1818 in Auenheim parish (Auenheim is adjacent to Kehl on its north side) she married Christian Hauter. He was born on the castle estate Gutenbrunnen at Asswiller, Lower Alsace June 23, 1797, a son of Johannes Hauter and Barbara Oesch. On Dec. 31, 1863 at Sarrewerden, Lower Alsace Christian remarried to Barbara Sommer. She was born at Bischoffsur-sur-Sarre, Lower Alsace Sept. 27, 1804, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Magdalena Martin.

d. Barbara Rediger was born Sept. 14, 1802, and died on the Monbijou estate at Deitrichingen, Pfalz-Zweibrücken May 4, 1867. On Feb. 3, 1822 on the Ottenweierhof estate she became the second wife of Josef Stalter [Sr.] (his first wife was Susanne Hauter). He was born on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengsbach March 27, 1786, and died on the Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen Jan. 25, 1853, a son of Christian Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. Josef became a deacon.

e. Johannes Rediger was born May 9, 1806, and died Nov. 11, 1867. In 1828 he married Elisabeth Stalter. She was born May 9, 1809, and died Nov. 11, 1867, a daughter of Josef Stalter [Sr.] and his first wife Susanne Hauter.

f. Katharina/Catharina Rediger was born April 5, 1808, and died at Arrowsmith, McLean County Jan. 1, 1877. On March or May 3, 1808 on the Ottenweierhof estate she married Josef Stalter [Jr.]. He was born Sept. 15, 1807, and died at Arrowsmith Oct. 22, 1888, a son of Josef Stalter and his first wife Susann Hauter. He emigrated from Europe in 1853 after getting into financial troubles. She immigrated in 1855 to join her husband in Butler County, Ohio, and in 1859 they came to McLean County. He became a minister of the Rock Creek Meeting. See STALTER for background on this couple.

g. Elisabeth Rediger was born circa 1812, and died in Europe in or before 1853. On Feb. 18, 1835 on the Ottenweierhof estate she married Johannes/John Stalter. He was born on the Monbijou estate Sept. 15, 1812, and died at Gridley, McLean County May 18, 1897, a son of Josef Stalter [Sr.] and his first wife Susanne Hauter. They leased the Kirschbacherhof estate near Hornbach. Elisabeth died in Europe, and her widowed husband emigrated in 1853. See STALTER for background on this couple including Johannes's later marriages and life in Livingston County.

h. Christian Rediger was born Sept. 2, 1815, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate Jan. 13, 1837. His Evangelische birth entry described his father as a Mennonit Pachter [Amish Mennonite tenant].

i. Susanna Rediger was born Feb. 23, 1820, and died June 27, 1821.

Children of Sebastian Reŭtiger and his second wife Anna Lederach born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden include:

6. Jakob Reŭtiger was born March 6, 1773, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate Jan. 1, 1843. Circa 1790 he married Jakobea/Jakobina Gunggerich. She was born on the Schafbusch estate at Steinseltz April 15, 1779, a daughter of Christian Gunggerich and Anna Holly. She was a younger sister to Magdalena, the wife of Jakob's half-brother Sebastian [Jr.]. In 1815 a birth entry at Ichenheim described Jakob as a Mennonit Pachter [Amish Mennonite tenant]. Jakob leased land on the Scheibenhardt estate farm [Ger. Hofgut] on the outskirts of Karlsruhe, Baden 1817-37, then returned to the Ottenweierhof estate.166 Sometime after the 1824 birth of his youngest child, Jakob remarried to Magdalena Gunggerich. She was born at Steinseltz June 27, 1773, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate May 29, 1835. In 1833 the Agricultural Weekly of the Grand Duchy of Baden [Ger. Landwirthschaftliches Wochenblatt für

166 Hofgut Scheibenhardt was constructed around a three-story hunting lodge/castle in 1698. In present day studios of the Karlsruhe State Academy of Fine Arts are located there. This property is easily confused with the community of Scheibenhardt. Although the community is only 12 miles west of Karlsruhe, it is located in the Rhineland-Palatinate on the west side of the Rhine River, on the border with Lower Alsace.

In Amish Mennonites in Germany, p. 50, Hermann Guth wrote that, "Jakob Reiderig is named on the estate [Gut] Gottesau in 1718; he belongs to the Reidiger family on the Ottenweier estate." The estate of Gottesau Palace [Ger. Schloss] is located in Karlsruhe. We believe Guth meant to write that Jakob Reidiger (1773-1843) was there in 1818 rather than 1718.
Wessel' and 'Magdalene Rediger.' Presumably the ceremony did not take place and this was the Andrew Wessel who married Catherine Kohendoffer in Woodford County Jan. 18, 1856. Andrew appears on the same census page as Redigers at Partridge in Woodford County, Ohio. On June 15, 1855 a blank marriage license was issued at Metamora, but not returned, for a marriage between 'Andrew Wessel' and 'Magdalene Rediger.' The passenger list shows him as Joseph Rediger, 36, farmer, Baden.' On July 13, 1834 in Butler County, Ohio he married Anne Schmitt, who was also called Anna or Nancy Schmidt. She was born at Bispign, Moselle Aug. 2, 1808, a daughter of Joseph Schmitt and Freni/Véronique Gerber. Before 1839 Joseph purchased the northwest quarter in Section 36 at what is now Partridge. At the time the timberland property was in Tazewell County, but is now in Woodford County. Partridge was not named until townships were established in the Black Partridge Creek area in 1851. They are shown on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Joseph Rediker, 54, Germany; Nancy, 44, Germany; Joseph, 14, Ohio; Madalena, 13, Ohio; Nancy, 12, Ohio; Catherine, 11, Ohio; Daniel, 10, Illinois; Jacob, 8, Illinois; Barbara, 6, Illinois; Frances, 4, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 3, Illinois. Joseph is buried in Rediger/Clarke Cemetery on the site of his family farm; his headstone calls him 'Joseph Reidiger.' The 1860 census of Partridge shows a blended household: farmer Jacob Reidiger, 34, Baden [the new husband of daughter Magdalena]; Madalena, 23, Ohio; Nancy, 1, Illinois; farm laborer Jacob, 17, Illinois [Madalena's younger brother]; farm laborer David, 19, Illinois [another younger brother]; and Nancy Reidiger, 74, France [Madalena's mother Anne Schmitt Rediger]. Anne died Aug. 30, 1876. She is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove as Anna Reidiger. Children of Joseph Rediger and Anne Schmitt include:

1) Joseph Rediger was born in Trumbull County, Ohio May 22, 1835, and died at Partridge Feb. 7, 1879. On Dec. 28, 1856 in Woodford County he married Anna Eliza Clingman. She was born in Scioto County, Ohio April 17, 1833, and died at Partridge Aug. 13, 1913, a daughter of John Clingman and Margaret Levis. Her family had come to Woodford County from Ohio in 1835. Jacob enlisted as a private in the army at Metamora Aug. 22, 1862, and mustered in at Peoria Sept. 18. His entrance documents describe him as a single 19-year-old farmer born in Trumble [Trumbull] County, Ohio but a resident of Metamora; 5-foot 7-inches; black hair; dark eyes; dark complexion. He was attached to Company F of the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry for a period of three years. On May 14, 1863 his company took part in the Vicksburg Campaign. It became largely ineffective after April 1864, when it was routed by cavalry at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads near Alexandria, Louisiana. Jacob mustered out as a corporal at Mobile, Alabama July 10, 1865. After the war he farmed 500 acres (the southwest quarter of Section 24 at Partridge); Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County, Illinois described him as 'the proprietor of one of the largest and finest farms in Woodford County.' The 1870 census of Partridge shows them as farmer Joseph Bediger, 35, Ohio; Annie, 37, Illinois; Caroline, 13, Illinois; Adaline [later Almeda], 11, Illinois; John, 8, Illinois; Lewis, 3, Illinois; George, 2, Illinois; and Margaret, 1, Illinois. Anna can be found as Eliza Rediger in 1880, and as Ann E. Rediger on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Partridge. They are buried in Rediger/Clarke Cemetery.

2) Magdalena 'Lena' Rediger was born in Butler County, Ohio July 18, 1836, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 27, 1912. On Oct. 21, 1855 in Woodford County she married Jacob Rediger (the entry calls them Jacob Rediker and Lenna Rediker; he was also known as Jacob R. Rediger). He was born July 25, 1824, and died Nov. 13, 1895; his parents could not be identified. We suspect he sailed from Le Havre on the bark-rigged steamer John Hancock, and arrived at New Orleans May 20, 1851. The passenger list shows passengers 101-107 from Baden as Christian Giesler, 26; Jacob Rediger, 25; Francois Sell, 19; Barbara Geisler, 25; Elisabeth Rediger, 30; Jacques Rediger, 17; and Barbara Eglé, 20. The Jacques on the list may have been the Jacob who married Veronica 'Fannie' Schmidt-Smith in Butler County, Ohio in 1852. Recall the 1860 census of Partridge mentioned earlier. They appear on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer Jacob Rittiger, 45, Baden; Madelaine, 24, Illinois; Anna, 

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167 Found as 'Larpole' on the passenger list.
168 On June 15, 1855 a blank marriage license was issued at Metamora, but not returned, for a marriage between 'Andrew Wessel' and 'Magdalene Rediger.' Presumably the ceremony did not take place and this was the Andrew Wessel who married Catherine Kohendoffer in Woodford County Jan. 18, 1856. Andrew appears on the same census page as Redigers at Partridge in 1860, age 38, married to Catharine, age 26, with three small children.
4) Catherine Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 4, 1839, and died at Morton Oct. 10, 1915. On

3) Anna 'Nancy' Rediger was born in Butler County Oct. 16, 1837. We could not identify her

6) Jacob Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 13, 1842, and died at Great Bend, Kansas April 17, 1912, at Milford, Nebr., aged 75 y. 7 m. 9 d. Her sickness was stomach and heart trouble. She is survived by three sons and 18 grandchildren. Husband, three sons, two daughters and one grandchild preceded her to the spirit world. Services were conducted by Jos. Schlegel and Jacob Stauffer at the East Fairview Church near Milford, Neb. Texts, Jno. 14:1-6, and II Cor. 5:1-10.

5) David Rediger was born at Partridge March 2, 1840, and died at Richland, Illinois May 25, 1883. In December 1864 at Richland he married Mary Jane Duchesne. She was born in Woodford County June 3, 1842, and died at Peoria March 3, 1931, a daughter of John Baptiste Duchesne and Elisabeth Catherine Voutrain. They are found at Richland in 1870, and on the 1880 census of Richland as farmer David Rediger, 39, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary J., 38, born in Illinois to French parents; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

10, Illinois; Daniel, 8, Illinois; Joseph, 5, Illinois; Jacob, 2, Illinois; and Jacob Schlabach, 70, Baden. They are also found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Jacob Roddiker, 53, Germany; Lena, 44, born in Ohio to German parents; Joseph, 15, Illinois; David, 9, Illinois; and Noah, 7, Illinois. They resettle at Milford, Nebraska in February 1888, where they are buried in Eastview Cemetery. According to his local newspaper obituary, Jacob had a leg broken when he was kicked by a horse in the last year of his life. Subsequent infections caused blindness. Herald of Truth, February 1896: "On the 13th of December [sic] 1895, in Seward Co., Neb., Bro. Jacob Rediger, aged 71 years, 4 months and 18 days. He leaves his wife, three sons and six grandchildren; five children preceded him. He was a faithful member in the Amish church. Buried on the 15th in the Fairview cemetery. Funeral services by Bish. Christian Rediger from John 14:13." Gospel Herald, March 1912: "Sister Lena, wife of Jacob Rediger, deceased, was born July 18, 1836, in Butler Co., O., died Feb. 27, 1912, at Milford, Nebr., aged 75 y. 7 m. 9 d. Her sickness was stomach and heart trouble. She is survived by three sons and 18 grandchildren. Husband, three sons, two daughters and one grandchild preceded her to the spirit world. Services were conducted by Jos. Schlegel and Jacob Stauffer at the East Fairview Church near Milford, Neb. Texts, Jno. 14:1-6, and II Cor. 5:1-10."

7) Barbara Rediger was born at Partridge May 29, 1844, and died at Pekin Aug. 3, 1934. She can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 16-year-old domestic Barbara Rediker in the household of Jacob Ropp and Elisabeth Schlegel. On Dec. 3, 1865 at Pekin she married John Schrock. He was born at Trenton, Butler County March 26, 1843, and died at Pekin April 20, 1935, a son of John Schrock and Catherine Salzman. They are found 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.

2) Catherine Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 4, 1839, and died at Morton Oct. 10, 1915. On

10, Illinois; Daniel, 8, Illinois; Joseph, 5, Illinois; Jacob, 2, Illinois; and Jacob Schlabach, 70, Baden. They are also found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Jacob Roddiker, 53, Germany; Lena, 44, born in Ohio to German parents; Joseph, 15, Illinois; David, 9, Illinois; and Noah, 7, Illinois. They resettle at Milford, Nebraska in February 1888, where they are buried in Eastview Cemetery. According to his local newspaper obituary, Jacob had a leg broken when he was kicked by a horse in the last year of his life. Subsequent infections caused blindness. Herald of Truth, February 1896: "On the 13th of December [sic] 1895, in Seward Co., Neb., Bro. Jacob Rediger, aged 71 years, 4 months and 18 days. He leaves his wife, three sons and six grandchildren; five children preceded him. He was a faithful member in the Amish church. Buried on the 15th in the Fairview cemetery. Funeral services by Bish. Christian Rediger from John 14:13." Gospel Herald, March 1912: "Sister Lena, wife of Jacob Rediger, deceased, was born July 18, 1836, in Butler Co., O., died Feb. 27, 1912, at Milford, Nebr., aged 75 y. 7 m. 9 d. Her sickness was stomach and heart trouble. She is survived by three sons and 18 grandchildren. Husband, three sons, two daughters and one grandchild preceded her to the spirit world. Services were conducted by Jos. Schlegel and Jacob Stauffer at the East Fairview Church near Milford, Neb. Texts, Jno. 14:1-6, and II Cor. 5:1-10."

3) Anna 'Nancy' Rediger was born in Butler County Oct. 16, 1837. We could not identify her after the 1850 census. She may have been the Anna Rediger who married John Smith in Woodford County Jan. 26, 1857, but we could not find a matching couple in the county on the 1860 census.

4) Catherine Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 4, 1839, and died at Morton Oct. 10, 1915. On Dec. 28, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Peter Wagler (born Peter Jacob Berse). He was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace Nov. 29, 1831, and died at Morton Aug. 28, 1903, a son of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Peter Wagler, 48, born in France to French parents; Catherine, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from France; and nine children. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

5) David Rediger was born at Partridge March 2, 1840, and died at Richland, Illinois May 25, 1883. In December 1864 at Richland he married Mary Jane Duchesne. She was born in Woodford County June 3, 1842, and died at Peoria March 3, 1931, a daughter of John Baptiste Duchesne and Elisabeth Catherine Voutrain. They are found at Richland in 1870, and on the 1880 census of Richland as farmer David Rediger, 39, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary J., 38, born in Illinois to French parents; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Old Salem Cemetery in Marshall County.

6) Jacob Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 13, 1842, and died at Great Bend, Kansas April 17, 1922. He married Mary Felicite Duchesne. She was born in Woodford County Dec. 29, 1841, and died at Great Bend Feb. 11, 1921, a daughter of John Baptiste Duchesne and Elizabeth Catherine Voutrain. They are found at Richland in 1870, and on the same page of the 1880 census of Richland as brother David: farmer Jacob Rediger, 38, Illinois; Mary, 28, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. Jacob farmed 160 acres at Richland. They are found on the 1920 census of Great Bend as Jacob Rediger, 77, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Alsace; and Mary F., 69, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Lorraine, France.

7) Barbara Rediger was born at Partridge May 29, 1844, and died at Pekin Aug. 3, 1934. She can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 16-year-old domestic Barbara Rediker in the household of Jacob Ropp and Elisabeth Schlegel. On Dec. 3, 1865 at Pekin she married John Schrock. He was born at Trenton, Butler County March 26, 1843, and died at Pekin April 20, 1935, a son of John Schrock and Catherine Salzman. They are found 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.

8) Frances 'Fannie' Rediger was born at Partridge March 13, 1846, and died at Pekin Nov. 19, 1934. On April 29, 1866 in Tazewell County she married Isaac Wagler. He was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Oct. 15, 1840, and died at Groveland March 30, 1920, a son of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

9) Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Rediger was born at Partridge Jan. 11, 1848. On Oct. 5, 1868 in Tazewell County she married David Paith. He had served as a private and corporal with Company K, 78th Infantry regiment Ohio during the Civil War. They can be found on the 1910 census of Pekin, which gives his age as 66, hers as 60; her birthplace and some other information is incorrect. David is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin, where his headstone gives his military rank and unit. David died several days after an accident while employed by the
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Pekin Wagon Company. Estate administrator Samuel S. Rediger appealed to the Industrial Board of Illinois on behalf of the widow. The appeal was heard March 4, 1915. David was making $11.60 a week when his foot was cut by a buzz saw at work; the only disputed issue was whether or not he died from infection. Elizabeth was awarded $5.80 a week for 416 weeks.

c. Benjamin Reidiger was born circa 1799, and died at Wimsheim, Württemberg on or before Feb. 3, 1848. On July 20, 1820 he married Barbara Ehresmann. She was born on the Obermönshem estate at Wimsheim Württemberg (26 miles southeast of Karlsruhe) Aug. 27, 1797, and died in Tazewell County Aug. 31, 1861, a daughter of Johannes Ehresmann and Veronika Egli/Egly. The couple farmed on Lärchenhof estate at Wimsheim. Benjamin's death was recorded in the Wimsheim Familien Register Feb. 3, 1848. It identified him as a son of Jakob Reidiger and Jakobine Gingerich of the Scheibenhardt estate farm at Karlsruhe. A later note says that his widow and children went to America in 1849. The Carnatic sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 23, 1849. The passenger list includes (in order) Joseph Roediger, 24, farmer, Bavaria; Barbara, 48; Barbara, 26; Johannes, 20; Jacob, 18; Elisabeth, 9; Philippe Oesterle, 35; Veronika Roediger, 24; and Barbara Güngerich, 32. In America, German immigrants from this time frame were collectively known as Forty-Eighters, reflecting the political unrest that began in that year. The Rediger family later explained that they had emigrated from Europe to avoid military conscription. The family is shown on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Barbara Reiger, 52; Barbara, 28; Fanny, 26, farmer Joseph, 25; laborer John, 22; laborer Jacob, 20; and Elizabeth, 11; all born in Germany. They are found on the census page after the family of Benjamin Rediger (1818-1906) and Barbara Oyer. Children of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehresmann born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim include:

1) Barbara Rediger was born at Friedenwiller, Baden Sept. 3, 1821, and died at Morton April 16, 1886. On Feb. 22, 1853 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of minister Michael Mosiman (see MOSIMAN for background on this couple).

2) Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim Nov. 3, 1822, and died Oct. 25, 1872.

3) Christian Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim Jan. 20, 1824, and died there Sept. 10, 1834.

4) Joseph Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim March 2, 1826, and died at Meadows, McLean County March 8, 1904. On Oct. 29, 1850 in Tazewell County he married Veronica 'Fanny' Oyer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1834, and died May 30, 1872, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. On Jan. 18, 1876 in Livingston County he remarried to Anna Farny Oyer, the widow of John Oyer, a daughter of Peter Farny and Anna Kempf. Joseph was ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister in 1863. Like Nicholas Roth and Michael Mosiman, Joseph fellowshipped with his second cousin Henry Egly of Berne, Indiana and was won over. His congregation was the fifth to join the Defenseless Mennonite movement, and became the Salem Defenseless Mennonite Church in 1866. In 1878 Rediger gave the dedication sermon at a new meeting house that became the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland (later the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland). His household is found on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer Joseph Rediger, 55, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna, 50, born in Canada to a father from Baden and a mother from Baden; six Rediger children 22-8 years of age; and five Oyer stepchildren 20-12 years of age; and Philip Oestille [Oesterle], 66, brother-in-law from Baden. The entry is found only four households removed from cousin John Ehresman and his wife Catherine Sommer. Joseph, Veronica, and Anna are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

5) Johannes/John Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim Nov. 28, 1828, and died March 13, 1882. On March 15, 1853 in Tazewell County he married Anna Birky; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born Jan. 20, 1832, and died Dec. 4, 1901, a daughter of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer John Rediger, 51, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna Rediger, 46, born in Baden to parents from France; and 10 children born in Illinois. Anna is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

6) Jacob Rediger was born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim June 28, 1831, and died at Waldo Aug. 26, 1861. On Feb. 20, 1853 in Tazewell County he married Anna 'Nancy' Guth/Good; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born at Washington Aug. 20, 1836, and died at Shickley, Nebraska Aug. 25, 1921, a daughter of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. They are found on the 1860 census of Washington as farmer Jacob Rediger, 28; Anna, 23, Illinois; Susannah, 3; and Barbara, seven months. On March 7, 1867
in Tazewell County Anna remarried to Christian G. Roth. He was born at Willmandingen, Baden Dec. 19, 1834, and died at Milford, Nebraska Dec. 28, 1893 (headstone date), a son of Benedikt Roth and Jakobina King. Herald of Truth, January 1894: "On the 31st of December, 1893 near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., of gripe, Bro. Christian Roth, aged 59 years and 9 days. He was laid to rest in the Fairview cemetery. He lived in matrimony 26 years and 10 months. He leaves his wife and three sons to mourn his departure. Funeral services by Joseph Schlegel. Text, 2 Cor. 5:1-8." Gospel Herald, September 1921: "Anna (nee Guth) Roth was born near Washington, Ill., Aug. 20, 1836; died at the home of her son (Peter Roth) near Shickley, Neb., Aug. 25, 1921; aged 85 y. 5 d. She leaves three sons, two daughters, 37 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, besides many other relatives and friends. Husband and three children preceded her to the spirit world. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth, and remained faithful until death. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Ben Schlegel and W. M. Eicher. Burial at Salem cemetery. May God bless the bereaved ones."

Elizabeth Rediger was born Sept. 5, 1839, and died March 15 or 25, 1861. Her name is not found in the Wimsheim Familien Register, and she may have been born elsewhere or adopted into this family.

d. Daniel Reidiger/Rediger was born circa 1799, and died at Blumberg, Baden July 17, 1867. He married Elisabetha Eyer. They initially leased land on the grounds of the Jesuitenschloss estate at Merzhausen (37 miles south of Ichenheim). Merzenhausen was a Catholic community touching the lower boundary of Freiburg. The communal farm Steppacherhof at Blumberg (70 miles southeast of Ichenheim, on the border of Swiss Canton Schaffhausen) is at least as old as the 12th century. Daniel's death entry identified by Helmut Gingerich described him as Daniel Rediger, 68, widower of Elisabeth Schrag [this may or may not indicate a second marriage], and son of Jakob Rediger and Jakobea Gungerich. In no particular order:

1) Elisabetha Rediger was named as the mother of Johann Rediger, born at Blumberg March 26, 1839; he died there Feb. 13, 1843. She was again named as the mother of Andreas Rediger, born on the Steppacherhof at Blumberg March 24, 1841; he died March 26, 1842. Both birth entries name maternal grandparents Daniel Rediger and Elisabetha Eyerin.

2) Barbara Eyer was named as the mother of Heinrich Rediger, born at Blumberg March 26, 1845. The entry named the maternal grandparents as Daniel Rediger and Elisabetha Eyerin. On Jan. 9, 1868 at Blumberg Heinrich married Barbara Tschantz.

3) Josef Rediger and Verena Müller were named as the parents of Daniel Rediger, born at Blumberg April 8, 1852.

4) Anna Rediger was named as the unmarried mother of Maria Rediger, born at Blumberg July 13, 1853.

e. Christian Reidiger was born at Freiburg, Baden (per his journal) June 5, 1805, and died in March 1860. On Jan. 18, 1829 on the Bickenaschbacherhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengsbach, Pfalz-Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Stalter. She was born on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach Dec. 10, 1805, and died in Livingston County Jan. 5, 1877, a daughter of minister Christian Stalter and Elisabetha Eyerin. The Steppacherhof at Blumberg is now an ostrich farm [Ger. Straussenfarm].

160 The Jesuitenschloss estate sits on a hill above Merzhausen. The Society of Jesuits occupied it before 1777. At the time Daniel was living there it belonged to the von Kagenack family. They were prominent administrators and landholders, and descendants of Johann Friedrich Friedolin Frether von Kagenack, who had been imperial chamberlain to Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II. The Jesuitenschloss is now a popular tourist destination with a winery and restaurant.

170 The Steppacherhof at Blumberg is now an ostrich farm [Ger. Straussenfarm].
2) Jacobina 'Phebe' 'Phoeba' 'Bena' Rediger was born in Germany Feb. 2, 1845, and died at Bloomington, McLean County March 7, 1922. On Dec. 3, 1874 in McLean County she married widower Ludwig/Louis Stalter. He was born at Trippstadt (below the city of Kaiserslautern) in what is now the Rhineland-Palatinate Nov. 25, 1841, and died at Hanna City, Peoria County Oct. 15, 1914, a son of Magdalena Schrag.171 He and his mother sailed from Le Havre on the Splendid, and arrived at New York Nov. 28, 1856; the passenger list showed them as Madeleine Stalter, 50, and Louis, 14. He had married his first wife Anna Schrock in at Spring Bay May 11, 1861, and she died Feb. 19, 1874. Louis and Jacobina are found on the 1880 census of Morton as grocer Louis Stalter, 37, Germany; Phoeba, 34, Germany; Lena, 17; Anna, 14; Peter, 12; and Louis, 10; all children born in Illinois. Louis served two terms as sheriff of Tazewell County. Louis divorced Jacobina, and married a third time. On Nov. 7, 1888 in Tazewell County he remarried to widow Roseanna Dearth Kerr Harris. She was born in 1852, and died in 1927, a daughter of Rudolph Dearth and Elizabeth Fuhrman. Her first husband was name Harris. They appear on the 1900 census of Elmwood, Peoria County, where Louis is a bit younger, born in France in November 1843. Louis was buried beside his first wife. A joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery says, 'Louis Stalter, 1841-1914, Anna Stalter, 1840-1874.' The 1920 census of Gridley, Livingston County shows widow Bena Stalter, 73, born in Germany, immigrated in 1868. Her death entry calls her Jacobina Stalter, but says she was a daughter of Christian Rudiger and Magdaline Stalter; resided at Gridley; and is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. Her headstone says simply 'Bena Stalter, Feb. 2, 1845-March 7, 1922.'

3) Christian Rediger was born in Germany Aug. 26, 1849, and died at Aurora, Nebraska in 1869. According to History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church (1926), he was baptized by minister Josef Stalter in 1863. He did not emigrate from Europe until 1867. On March 25, 1875 he married Katharina Risser. She was born in 1857, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Nov. 18, 1919. He was ordained as a minister in 1878, and helped to organize the Flanagan Mennonite Church. He was ordained as an elder by Joseph Stuckey in 1885. He left Illinois in that year and relocated at Aurora, where he organized the Pleasant View Mennonite Church. They are buried in Aurora Cemetery.

f. Jacob Rediger/Rediger was born June 30, 1807, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 15, 1889. He married Magdalena Schrag. The Ortsippenbuch Ichenheim says she was born at Erzingen. This village is on the border with the Swiss Canton Schaffhausen, 85 miles southeast of Ichenheim. She was born circa 1813, and died at Milford April 11, 1882, a daughter of Johannes Shrag and Elisabeth Eyer (they farmed on the Heimbrunnerhof estate at Königsbach, Baden; Königsbach and adjacent Remchingen are located 100 miles northeast of Ichenheim). Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth wrote that after leaving the Ottenweilerhof estate in 1868 Jacob and Magdalena were last at Merzhausen. Perhaps

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171 John Stalter and Magdalena Imhof were named as Ludwig/Louis's parents when information was provided for his 1888 marriage. However, a birth entry for Lutvig Stalter created at Trippstadt Nov. 25, 1841 names only his mother, Magdalena Stalter. This suggests that he was her illegitimate child.

We could not determine Magdalena Stalter's place or date of death. She is last found in the home of her daughter Elizabeth at Washington, Tazewell County in 1870. It is possible that she is buried in an unmarked grave at Guth Cemetery in Sunnyland in Washington.

Louis had an older sister Elisabete/Elizabeth Stalter. She was born at Trippstadt April 28, 1825, and died at Morton April 16, 1888. Her birth entry also named only her mother, Magdalena Stalter. On Oct. 4, 1849 at Trippstadt she married Heinrich Schmalenberger. The marriage entry named his parents, but did not name hers. He was born at Trippstadt Dec. 5, 1825, and died at Washington Dec. 5, 1869, a son of Johannes Schmalenberger and Katharina Jung. (Trippstadt is adjacent to the village of Schmalenberg). He sailed from Le Havre on the Samuel M. Fox, arriving at New York Nov. 11, 1851. This was the same voyage that brought the Sutor/Sutter family. The passenger list shows tailor Henri Schmalenberger, 25, and carpenter Henri Jung, 48, from Hesse. The 1860 census of Groveland has H. Smallberry, 34; Elizabeth, 35; Eva, 10; Ann, 8; Laura, 2; and Barbara, four months. Henry Schmalenberger of Bavaria was naturalized at the courthouse in Peoria Sept. 28, 1860. The 1870 census of Washington shows Elizabeth Smallberry, 44, Germany; Ernest, 17, New York; Leana, 12, Illinois; Barbara, 10, Illinois; Andrew, 8, Illinois; Peter, 6, Illinois; and Lena Stalter, 60 Germany. They lived next door to Benjamin Rediger (found as Elizabeth Fuhrman. Her first husband was name Harris. They appear on the 1900 census of Elmwood, Peoria County, where Louis is a bit younger, born in France in November 1843. Louis was buried beside his first wife. A joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery says, 'Louis Stalter, 1841-1914, Anna Stalter, 1840-1874.' The 1920 census of Gridley, Livingston County shows widow Bena Stalter, 73, born in Germany, immigrated in 1868. Her death entry calls her Jacobina Stalter, but says she was a daughter of Christian Rudiger and Magdaline Stalter; resided at Gridley; and is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. Her headstone says simply 'Bena Stalter, Feb. 2, 1845-March 7, 1922.'

171 John Stalter and Magdalena Imhof were named as Ludwig/Louis's parents when information was provided for his 1888 marriage. However, a birth entry for Lutvig Stalter created at Trippstadt Nov. 25, 1841 names only his mother, Magdalena Stalter. This suggests that he was her illegitimate child.

Another older sister Barbara Stalter was born at Trippstadt May 18, 1835, and died at Fon du Lac Jan. 15, 1922. On May 28, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Abraham Rinkenberger. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania March 29, 1833, and died at Fon du Lac April 15, 1915, a son of Peter Rinkenberger and Anna Schrock. The 1900 census of Fon du Lac shows them with errant information likely provided by one of their children: farmer Abraham Rinkenberger, 65, born in Pennsylvania in March 1835 to German parents; Barbara, 60, born in Germany in March or May 1840, immigrated in 1840 but only in the country 50 years; with four adult children and a grandchild born in Illinois. The 1910 census of Fon du Lac gives their ages as 74 and 72; they were living with three grown children. They are buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery at Robein.
they were actually there at the time of brother Daniel’s death in 1867. Jacob fulfilled the last obligations of Daniel’s lease on the grounds of the Jesuitenschloss, and presumably divided the refunded lease deposit among Daniel’s heirs. Jacob and Magdalena sailed from Bremen on the steamer New York, and arrived at New York March 25, 1868. The first page of the passenger list shows German farmer Jan. Reidiger, 58, and Magd., 54. On the eighth page we find their children and two companions: German farmer Chr. Reidiger, 26; Cath., 22, Jos., 21, Benj., 19; Joh., 15; Elisab., 9; Chr., 9 [a male]; and German farmers Henry Grieser, 19; and Jac. Walber, 20. The 1885 state census of Ohio, Woodford County shows Jacob Rediger, 77, Baden; and Magdal., 72, Baden. They were living next door to their daughter Magdalena and her husband Johannes/John Teuscher. Jacob is found as a 78-year-old in the household of his son Joseph on the 1885 state census of Precinct O (later Milford), Seward County, Nebraska. Herald of Truth, August 1889: “On the 15th of June, near Milford, Seward Co., Nebraska, Preacher Jacob Rediger, aged 81 years, 11 months and 17 days. He was a laborer in the ministry for fifty-three years, and worked faithfully until the last six months of his mortal life. He seldom missed an appointment. He lived in matrimony 47 years and had 12 children, of which three, together with his wife, preceded him. Nine children, 42 grand children, and one great-grand child followed him to the grave. Services by Joseph Gascho and Joseph Schlegel from 2 Cor. 5:2 and Matt. 25:23. He was buried in the Mennonite graveyard.” Jacob and Magdalena are buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford, Nebraska. Their children include:

1) Magdalena Reidiger/Rediger was born at Ichenheim Aug. 5, 1838, and died at Fisher, Champaign County July 7, 1917. On Nov. 13, 1859 she married Johannes/John Teuscher. He was born in 1833, and died May 14, 1887. Gospel Herald, August 1917: “Magdalena Teuscher (Rediger) was born Aug. 5, 1838, in Baden, Germany; died July 7, 1917, at Fisher, III., aged 78 y. 11 m. 2 d. Death was due to mitral regurgitation, from which she had been a sufferer for the past five years. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church which she joined in her younger years. She was united in marriage to Johannes Teuscher Nov. 13, 1859, and came to Eureka, Ill., in 1873. To this union were born four sons and one daughter. For the last ten years she has made her home with her son John of Fisher. She leaves to mourn her departure four sons, 22 grandchildren, four brothers, three sisters, and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Amish Mennonite Church conducted by Bro. Samuel Garber, assisted by Bro. Peter Zehr. Her selected text was II Pet. 1:12-15. Interment was made in the cemetery nearby.”

2) Jakob Rediger/Jacob Rediger was born at Ichenheim Sept. 15, 1839, and died at Flagler, Colorado Jan. 10, 1931. He emigrated from Europe in 1865. On Aug. 19, 1866 in Woodford County he married Catherine Schertz. She was born in Illinois June 30, 1843, and died at Yuma, Arizona Dec. 24, 1892, a daughter of David Schertz and Catherine Schrag. His letters to Baden encouraged his parents to follow him. Herald of Truth, February 1893: “On the 24th of Dec., 1892, in Arapahoe Co., Colo., of dropsy of the heart, sister Catharine, maiden name Schertz, wife of Bro. Jacob Reiger, aged 49 years, 5 mos., 25 days. She had been receiving medical treatment at Yuma, and died while there. She leaves her sorrowing husband and children; five children preceded her. Buried on the 27th near Thurman. Funeral services by Joseph Rediger of Seward Co., Neb., and Jacob Roth, and Joseph Schlegel of Thurman. The 1900 census of Precinct 22, Lake County, Colorado shows Jacob Rediger, 62, born in Germany in September 1837 [1839], immigrated in 1860; miner Benjamin, 26, born in Illinois in September 1873 to parents from Germany and France; miner Peter, 25, born in Illinois in May 1875 to parents from Germany and France; Lena, 17, born in Nebraska in April 1881 to parents from Germany and France; and Lydia, 13, born in Nebraska in July 1886 to parents from Germany and France, ‘at school.’ Jacob was living with his son David and daughter-in-law Barbara Ruby when their home was damaged by a tornado at Thurman Aug. 10, 1924. He was buried in the cemetery nearby.”
making his home in Eureka, Ill. In 1879 he moved to Milford, Neb., and in 1890 to Arickaree, Colo. For the last seventeen years he has made his home with his son David of Flagler, Colo. In 1865 he was married to Katherine Schertz. Eleven children were born to this union, eight sons and three daughters. His wife, five sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, his parents, one brother, three sisters preceded him in death. He leaves two daughters (Lydia Schrock, Lena Lichti), three sons (David, Ben, Peter), 31 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, three brothers, and two sisters. He accepted Christ as his Savior in his youth and remained faithful unto the end, ever seeking the welfare of his family and admonishing his children in the Lord. Funeral services were conducted by H. Kuhns on Jan. 13. 

Text, *Heb. 13:14.* The body was laid to rest in the cemetery adjoining the church near Thurman, Colo.

3) Christian Reidiger/Rediger was born at Ichenheim Nov. 27, 1840, and died at Milford, Nebraska Jan. 21, 1932. On June 25, 1878 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Eigsti. She was born at Metamora, Woodford County March 7, 1856, and died at Hartford, Kansas Nov. 13, 1895, a daughter of Joseph Eigsti and Susan Nafliger. *Herald of Truth,* December 1895: "Elizabeth Rediger died in Hartford, Kans., November the 13th, 1895. She and a part of the family came here from Colorado four weeks before her death. She was 39 years, eight months and six days old. She was mother of 13 children of which one went before her. She leaves 12 children and a husband to mourn their loss, but they need not mourn as those that have no hope. What was most sad, Bro. Rediger and part of the family did not arrive here until the day after her death. She was buried on the 16th. Funeral services in the Hartford Christian church by John Steckley and D. D. Kaufman in German, and Joseph Schlegel in English. Text, *Psalm 90: 12.* She was a member of the Amish Mennonite church. Joseph Schlegel." *Gospel Herald,* February 1932: "Christian Rediger was born in Baden, Germany, Nov. 27, 1840; died at the home of Perry Stutzman, Jan. 21, 1932; aged 91 y. 1 m. 24 d. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Eigsti June 25, 1878. To this union were born 13 children, seven sons and six daughters. He came with his parents from Germany to Woodford Co., Ill., in the year 1868. In 1883 he with his family came to Milford, Nebr., where they lived until the year 1889. They later located at Thurman, Colo. From there they moved to Hartford, Kans., and because of the death of his life companion, he moved again to Milford, Nebr., in the year 1899. In this community he remained the rest of his life. During the last 20 years he lived with one of his children. His wife, two sons, one daughter, two brothers, and three sisters preceded him in death. He is survived by 10 children: Edward, Phoebe, Joseph, Susie, Lena, Benjamin, Emma, Christian, William, Lydia. He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters, 65 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior in his youth and united with the Mennonite Church of which he was a member when he died. He was apparently in good health until the last few days of his life when pneumonia set in, which caused his death. Funeral services were held at the East Fairview Church, conducted by J. E. Zimmerman and Ben Schlegel. Text, *Rom. 8:18.*

4) Veronica Reidiger/Veronica Rediger was born at Ichenheim Jan. 10, 1842 (the date given on her marriage entry; her obituary says Feb. 7), and died at Boynton Dec. 4, 1922. On Nov. 12, 1865 at Königsbach, Baden she married Rudolph Ehrisman; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Egly of Mönsheim. Rudolph was born at Königsbach Nov. 21, 1842, and died in their home at Linn, Woodford County Nov. 19, 1895, a son of Jakob Ehresmann and Katharina Eyer. For background on this couple see EHRESMAN.

5) Catherine Reidiger/Rediger was born at Ichenheim April 22, 1843, and died at Manson, Iowa Aug. 3, 1937. On Jan. 31, 1869 in Woodford County she married John Ulrich. He was born at East Peoria Aug. 18, 1845, and died in Woodford County July 15, 1912, a son of Peter Ulrich and his first wife Anna Oyer. For her obituary see ULRICH.

6) Joseph Reidiger/Rediger was born at Ichenheim May 13, 1845, and died at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 28, 1938. On July 3, 1873 he married Magdalena Birk. She was born Jan. 4, 1853 (calculated from her obituary) or February 1854 (per the 1900 census of Milford), and died at Milford, Nebraska May 28, 1924, a daughter of Joseph Birky and Barbara Eigsti. She appears on the 1860 census of Morton as Nancy Birky, 6, suggesting she was born an Anna in 1854 (Nancy was considered the fashionable American equivalent in immigrant communities where there were many, many Annas). *Gospel Herald,* June 1924: "Magdalena (Birky) Rediger was born at Morton, Ill., Jan. 4, 1853; died at their home in Milford, Nebr., May 28, 1924; aged 71 y. 4 m. 24 d. She was married to Joseph Rediger July 3, 1873. In 1881 they came to Milford and labored faithfully for the lord until she was called to the glory world. Not having any children of their own, their love and sympathy for others was manifested by caring and providing for others, among whom were Mary Teuscher and
Barbara Ehrisman. She leaves a husband, two brothers, and three sisters. Two brothers and two sisters preceded her in death. At the time of her departure all the remaining brothers and sisters were present. Her death was due to cancer, suffering a year or more. She finally underwent an operation, but nothing could be done to improve her condition. A longing to see Jesus and to meet Him were her wishes.\textsuperscript{5} Gospel Herald, September 1938: "Joseph Rediger was born in Baden, Germany Mar. 13, 1847; died Aug. 28, 1938 at the home of Henry Teuscher, Milford, Nebr.; aged 93 y. 5 m. 15 d. He was married to Magdalena Birky July 3, 1873. Those preceding him in death were his wife, three brothers, and four sisters. He leaves his two foster children (Mary Teuscher and Barbara Ehrisman of Milford, Nebr.), one brother (Benjamin of Hoopston, Ill.), one sister (Lizzie Wekler of Los Angeles, Calif.), and many relatives and friends. At the age of 23 he with his parents came from Germany and located at Eureka, Ill. Later, in 1881, he moved to Milford, Nebr., with his parents, where he lived on the farm southwest of town for many years. They then moved to town, where his wife died. Having no children of their own, their love and sympathy for others was manifested by caring and providing for others. He gave his heart and life to God in his youth."

7) Daniel Reidiger was born at Ichenheim Nov. 12, 1846, and died there Dec. 9, 1846.

8) Benjamin Reidiger/Benjamin B. Rediger was born at Ichenheim Aug. 17, 1848, and died in Breckinridge County, Kentucky June 12, 1943. Birth entry witnesses included Christian Eyman and Christian Griesser. On Feb. 14, 1875 in Livingston County he married Veronica 'Fannie' Schmidt/Smith. She was born at Charleston, Lee County, Iowa in November 1858, and died in 1919, a daughter of Johannes Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith and Catherine Birkelbach/Burgelbaugh/Birkelbaw. Benjamin was naturalized in Livingston County March 22, 1877. They appear on the 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County as day laboror B.B. Rediger, 51, born in Germany in August 1848, immigrated in 1868; Fanny B., 41, born in Iowa in November 1858 to French and Canadian parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County. The 1920 census of Chenoa, McLean County has Ben B. Rediger, 71, born in Germany, immigrated in 1868; Albert, 33, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Iowa; and Pheobe, 25, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Iowa. The 1940 census of Hoopston, Vermilion County shows Benjamin Rediger, 91, Germany, as a father-in-law to Eugene Smith, 22, Illinois.

9) Maria Reidiger/Rediger was born at Ichenheim Sept. 14, 1850, and died at Merzhausen Aug. 13, 1859. Birth entry witnesses included Christian Eiman and Christian Griesser. Maria was the last of the children recorded in Evangelische records at Ichenheim.

10) Johannes Reidiger/John Rediger was born Jan. 11, 1853, and died Feb. 9, 1913. He married Hannah Wright. She was born Oct. 12, 1849, and died Oct. 11, 1911. The 1880 census of Hudson, McLean County shows farmer John Rediger, 27, Baden; Hannah, 29, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Virginia; and two children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Normal, McLean County has farmer John Rediger, 47, born in Germany in January 1853, immigrated in 1868; Hannah, 50, born in Illinois in October 1858 to parents from Ohio and Virginia; Mary, 21, born in Illinois in October 1878; and Frances [male], 17, born in Illinois in May 1883. They are buried in Kaufman Cemetery at Hudson, McLean County.

11) Elisabetha Reidiger/Elisabeth Rediger [twin?] was born at Merzhausen or Freiburg, Baden April 8, 1858, and died in Los Angeles Jan. 11, 1945.\textsuperscript{175} On May 10, 1876 she married Christian Wirkler. He was born in Switzerland July 10, 1840, and died in Los Angeles Oct. 1, 1932, a son of Christian Wirkler and Lydia Ummel. They are found on the 1900 census of Harvey, Kansas as Christian Wirkler, 59, born in Switzerland in July 1840; Lizzie, 42, born in Germany in April 1858; Mary A., 23, born in Illinois in February 1877; Lizzie R., 22, born in Kansas in March 1878; and John E., 20, born in Kansas in July 1879. They are buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park at Glendale, California. Christlicher Bundesbote, Jan. 23, 1845: "Mrs. Elisabeth Wirkler, youngest daughter of minister and Mrs. Jacob Rediger, was born on April 8, 1858 in Freiburg, in Baden, Germany. When she was nine years old she came with her parents to Eureka, Ill. Here she grew up, and was baptized into the confession of her faith, and joined the Mennonite congregation whose faithful member she remained. She married Christian Wirkler, and the young family lived until 1888 on a farm near Wichita, Kansas. Then, to be again among Mennonites, they moved near Halstead, and in 1893 to Newton, where they lived 24 years, and then made their last earthly home in Los Angeles. Here she made up her life as a husband was called into the upper home in 1932. His wife fell in

\textsuperscript{175} Merzhausen was the home of Daniel Rediger and Elisabeth Eyer. The birth was recorded there. Merzhausen touches the lower boundary of Freiburg (also called Freiburg im Breisgau).
October 1841, causing a fracture of the hips. She was confined to a wheelchair, nursed in love by her daughter Elizabeth. On Jan. 11, 1945, her often repeated wish, ‘I want to be home’ was fulfilled. The funeral reception took place Jan. 15, with the preachers D.D. Eitzen and H.B. Dirks talking in the Church of the Heather, and Otto Hirschler playing German Christian songs on the organ. The burial took place at the Forest Lawn Cemetery next to the tomb of her husband. The dear ones love the children dearly: Mary; Mrs. C.E. Krebbiel and family; Elisabeth at home, and John E. Wirkler and family, of Oberlin, Ohio.”

12) Chr. Reidiger is listed among the children on the 1868 passenger list. He was nine years old, the same age as Elisabeth (thus her twin?), and marked down as a male. Jacob's obituary said that he had 12 children. Chr. must have died before 1889 to make the total of three also described there. We suspect but cannot prove that, because there was already a Christian in the family, his full name was actually something like Christian Jakob or Christian Johannes. He may also have been adopted, a grandchild, or a tagalong.

g. Katharina Reidiger was born in 1810, and died at Beuren June 9, 1850. Joe Springer identified her death entry, calling her Catharina Rettiger. She married Christian Grieser. He was born circa April 22, 1806, and died at Beuren (now part of Salem, Baden-Württemberg Jan. 17, 1853, a son of Heinrich Grieser and Barbara Barth. They farmed at Beuren. Christian’s death entry was identified by Joe Springer; it names his second wife as Catharina Gussler. She died at Beuren Nov. 30, 1855, age 37.

5) A stillborn daughter was born June 7, 1845.

4) Elisabetha Grieser was born at Ichenheim Feb. 2, 1843, and died there Nov. 15, 1843.

3) Daniel Grieser was born at Ichenheim, Baden Dec. 12, 1840, and died at Dewey, Champaign County Feb. 19, 1824, where he was a minister. His Evangelische birth entry was witnessed by Jakob Reidiger, a Mennonit Pachter [Amish Mennonite tenant] on the Ottenweierhof. On Oct. 30, 1864 he married Magdalena Güngerich/Güngerich. She was born June 24, 1838, and died at Dewey July 5, 1922. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher, Champaign County. The 1880 census of Hopedale shows farmer Daniel Greaser, 40, Baden; Lena, 43, Baden; Lizza, 16, Baden; Lena, 14, Baden; Mary, 13, Baden; Jacob, 10, Baden; Henry, 8, Baden; Christian, 5, Baiern [Bayern/Bavaria]; Kate, 3, Baiern; and George, 2, Baiern. The two couples immediately before them were minister Joseph Litwiller and Elizabeth Zehr, and Daniel Koch/Cook and Catherine Birkey, and August Unzicker and Elizabeth Birkey; the two couples immediately after them were minister Christian Naßziger and Elisabeth Zehr, and Daniel Koch/Cook and Jakobina ‘Phoebe’ Stalter. Daniel was naturalized in Tazewell County April 3, 1889; one witness was Louis Stalter. They are found on the 1900 census of East Bend as farmer Daniel Grieser, 59, born in Germany in December 1840, immigrated in 1878; Magdalena, 62, born in Germany in June 1837, immigrated in 1878; and son and farm laborer George, 22, born in Germany in January 1878, immigrated in 1878. The 1920 census of Condit, Champaign County has Daniel Grieser, 79, immigrated in 1879, naturalized in 1884; and Maglena, 81, immigrated in 1879, naturalized in 1884.

4) Elisabetha Grieser was born at Ichenheim Feb. 2, 1843, and died there Nov. 15, 1843.

5) A stillborn daughter was born June 7, 1845.
6) Christian Grieser was born at Ichenheim June 24, 1846. He sailed from Bremen on the Donau, and arrived at New York March 9, 1874. He married his cousin Magdalena Grieser, a daughter of his uncle Joseph Grieser and Verena Zimmerman. In 1880 they were living in Nebraska, Livingston County. The household is found as farmer Christian Grieser, 34, Prussia; Malinda, 28, Prussia; Malinda, 10, Prussia; Fannie, 7, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Willie, 2, Illinois; Mary, two months, Illinois; unemployed father-in-law Joseph, 72, Prussia; and unemployed aunt Barbara Rogue, 68, Prussia. The next three heads-of-households on the census page were Valentin Augstin, John R. King, and C. Rinkenbarger. The 1910 census of St. Paul, Minnesota shows Christian griser, 63, Germany, immigrated in 1874; Lena, 57, Germany, immigrated in 1874; a son; a daughter; and two granddaughters.

7) Heinrich/Henry Grieser was born at Beuren May 13, 1848, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Aug. 12, 1929. As noted earlier, he sailed from Bremen on the steamer New York, and arrived at New York March 25, 1868. On Feb. 24, 1874 he married Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of John P. Smith [Peterschmidt] and Catherine Birckelbaw. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. The 1920 census of Pike, Livingston County shows farm laborer Henry Grieser, 72, Baden, immigrated in 1866, naturalized in 1878; and Elizabeth, 66, born in Iowa to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada. The Biographical Record of Livingston County (1900) says Henry "...lost his mother when only two years old, and his father died two years later. He was thus left an orphan at the early age of four years. He was reared and educated in his native land, and emigrated to America in 1868, locating in Woodford County, Illinois, where he made his home for four years. In 1872 he came to Livingston County and located in Waldo township."

8) Catharina (birth entry identified by Joe Springer/Katharina/Catherine 'Kate' Grieser was born at Beuren June 9, 1850, and died at Meadows, McLean County Aug. 15, 1922. She sailed from Hamburg on the S.S. Rhein, and arrived at New York April 15, 1871. The passenger list shows Cathrine Grieser, 21, Baden. On Feb. 11, 1872 in Livingston County she married Jakob Stalter, also known as Jacob Z. Stalter. He was born Oct. 20, 1840, and died at Pontiac, Livingston County Dec. 18, 1922, a son of Jakob Stalter and Veronika Zimmerman. See STALTER, NEPHEW JAKOB STALTER for background on this couple. Her Gospel Herald obituary is given there; it notes that she immigrated in 1870, and upon her death she left three surviving brothers but no sisters.

h. Anna Reidiger was born May 22, 1812, and died at Reichenberg, Germany Oct. 3, 1897. On the Gassenbach estate near Idstein she married Jakob Stähly [Stahli]. He was born on the Obertraisa estate (also found as Obertrasya) 32 miles east of Hochheim in the Odenwald area of Hesse-Darmstadt March 19, 1808, and died at Reichenberg, Germany June 4, 1892, a son of Jakob Stähly and his first wife Elisabeth Brenneman (see NAFZIGER for background on the Stäßlys and the Obertraisa estate).

i. Barbara Reidiger was born at Ichenheim June 27, 1815, and died at Karlsruhe Dec. 21, 1836 (according to an Evangelische entry there). Her Evangelische birth entry described her father as a n Amish Mennonite tenant [Gier. Mennonit Pachter].

j. Elisabeth Reidiger/Elisabeth Reidiger was born on the Scheibenhardt estate farm Feb. 18, 1820, and died Feb. 8, 1910. On Sept. 14, 1845 at Wimsheim she married Jakob Egle [Egli]. He was born on the Lärchenhof farm at Wimsheim, Württemberg Feb. 11, 1817 (per his marriage entry) or June 11, 1817 (per his death entry), and died at Möttingen (14 miles southeast of Pforzheim) Nov. 29, 1854, a son of Heinrich Egl and Jacobine Ehrismann. After his death Elisabeth lived with her younger sister Marie and her husband Christian Egle (Jakob's younger brother). They sailed from Hamburg on the SS Holtsatia, and arrived at New York April 10, 1874. The passenger list shows their party as farmer Christian Egle, 57; Marie Egle [born Reidiger], 48; Mary, 8; Elisabeth Egle [born Reidiger], 50; Marie, 20; farmer Joh. Teutscher, 41; Magd. [born Magdalena Reidiger, a daughter of Jakob Reidiger/Reidiger and Magdalena Schrag who had immigrated in 1868], 31; Jacob, 13; and Wilh., 9. Marie Egle, who came with her mother to America, was born at Riet Aug. 29, 1865.

k. Marie Reidiger/Mary Reidiger was born on the Scheibenhardt estate farm near Karlsruhe March 24, 1824, and died at Waldo, Livingston County June 6, 1909. From 1845 to 1848 Marie lived with her sister Katharina and her husband Christian Grieser at Beuren. On Nov. 24, 1850 she married Christian Egle [Egli]; the ceremony was performed by minister Jacob Zimmerman. Christian was born on the Lärchenhof farm at Wimsheim, Württemberg Dec. 15, 1822, and died at Waldo Jan. 18, 1892. Christian and his brother Heinrich Egle leased the Leinfelderhof estate at Enzweihingen (20 miles northwest of Stuttgart). Their adjoining house and stable still exists. Their marriage was registered in the Evangelische church at nearby Riet. They remained there until March of 1871, when they relocated to the Hof Haidach on the outskirts of Pforzheim. However, they returned to the Leinfelderhof the following year. In 1872 or 1873 their son Jacob was drafted into the Prussian army. After their arrival in New York they first resided at Eureka, Woodford County for two years. They are found on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer Christian Egle, 58, Wurtemburg [Württemberg]; Mary, 56, Baden; Christian Jr., 22, William, 19

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Mary, 16; all children born in Württemberg. Marie/Mary is also found on the 1900 census of Waldo in the household of her son Christian: Mary, 76, born in Germany in May 1824, immigrated in 1874. Marie and Christian are buried in Waldo Cemetery.  

For additional background see Duane L. Egle's two-part article Christian Egle and Marie Rediger Family in Mennonite Family History Oct.-Nov. 2015.

7. Katharina Reütiger /Catherine Rediger was born circa 1774. On Sept. 10, 1796 at Imling, Moselle she married Christian Ringenberg. The Siege of Kehl was taking place at the time. Their civil marriage entry described Catherine Roediger as a daughter of laborer Sebastien Roediger and Anne Lederich of Ottenwiller, Germany. It described the groom as Christian Ringeueberg, a son of the deceased cultivator Jean Ringueberg and Marie Engel. Christian was born at Imling in 1771, and died on the Samhof estate at Frederichshofen, Bavaria (two miles west of Ingolstadt) in 1828. In 1839 their sons Jean and Christian won the annual land management gold medal from the General Committee of the Regional Agricultural Council of Munich. They were described as Mennoniten tenants at Samhof. An 1864 farm directory described Jean as a farmer on the Samhof estate, and Christian as a farmer at Reichertshofen, 10 miles south of Ingolstadt. Their children born at Imling include:

a. Jean Ringenberg (found as Jean Rinkenbere) was born April 11, 1798.

b. Magdeleine Ringenberg was born March 23, 1800, and died at Imling Sept. 21, 1800.

c. Christian Ringenberg was born Aug. 6, 1801.

8. Andreas Reütiger/Andre Rediger was born March 13, 1775, and died at Blanche-Eglise, Moselle Nov. 9, 1828 (though no civil entry is found there). On July 22, 1796 at Imling, Moselle he married Annette/Anne Ringenberg. This was about the time that French troops first crossed into Kehl. Annette/Anne was born at Imling March 10, 1779, a daughter of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Andre Radeger, a son of the deceased laborer Sebastian and Anne Lederach living at Ottenweyher. The bride was described as Annette Ringeueberg, daughter of the deceased laborer Jean Ringueberg and Marie Engel. They settled on Rinting farm at Bébing, Moselle. Their children born there include:

a. Jacobé Rediger was born May 13, 1797, and died at Bébing March 16, 1804.

b. Anne Rediger was born Oct. 14, 1798, and died at Bickenholtz, Moselle May 23, 1866. On May 12, 1813 at Bébing she married Christian Rouvenacht. He was born on Les Bachats farm at Rhodes, Moselle June 12, 1790, and died at Bickenholtz, Moselle Jan. 3, 1853, a son of Jean Rouvenacht and Madeleine Engel. For background on their children who came to Central Illinois, see RUVENACHT.

c. Pierre Rediger (as found in the civil index) was born Oct. 14, 1800. He was likely the Joseph Rediger who died at Bébing April 21, 1804, age three years and six months.

d. André Rediger was born May 24, 1802, and died at Bébing March 30, 1804.

e. Marie Rediger (found in the civil index as Rethiger) was born Jan. 10, 1804. She may have been the Marie Reyquier (as found in the civil index) who gave birth to an illegitimate daughter Catherine at Bébing Nov. 4, 1820.

f. Jacobé Rediger was born April 26, 1808. We suspect but cannot prove that she was the Jacobine Rediger who became the second wife of Johannes/John Stalter in Bureau County Jan. 28, 1868. If so, she died in Livingston County Feb. 22, 1877. He was born on the Monbijou estate Sept. 15, 1812, and died at Frederichshofen, Bavaria (two miles west of Ingolstadt) in 1828. In 1839 their sons Jean and Christian won the annual land management gold medal from the General Committee of the Regional Agricultural Council of Munich. They were described as Mennoniten tenants at Samhof. An 1864 farm directory described Jean as a farmer on the Samhof estate, and Christian as a farmer at Reichertshofen, 10 miles south of Ingolstadt. Their children born at Imling include:

a. Jean Ringenberg (found as Jean Rinkenbere) was born April 11, 1798.

b. Magdeleine Ringenberg was born March 23, 1800, and died at Imling Sept. 21, 1800.

c. Christian Ringenberg was born Aug. 6, 1801.

h. André Rediger was born July 13, 1810, and died at Rimaucourt, Champaigne-Ardennes March 24, 1886. On Nov. 20, 1830 at Trois Fontaines l'Abbaye, Marne he married Anne Rouvenacht. She was born at Rhodes Jan. 13, 1808, and died at Rimaucourt Oct. 22, 1896, a daughter of Jean Rouvenacht and Madeleine Engel. Her declaration of French citizenship signed Sept. 22, 1872 said she was born at 'Roth' Jan. 14, 1808, and resided at Rimaucourt. Of their seven known children, only son Pierre/Peter came to America. He was born at Frebécourt, Vosges April 4, 1838, and died at Hubbard, Oregon May 12, 1913. On Feb. 11, 1868 at Seraumont, Vosges he married Elisabeth Schweitzer. She was born at Einvillu au Jard, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 24, 1839, and died at Maixe. Meurthe-et-Moselle April 5, 1808, a daughter of Conrad Schweitzer and Madeleine Zehr. He is found on the 1910 census of Township 5, Clackamas County, Oregon as farmer Peter Rediger, 76, born in France to German parents. After his death his probate papers said he had a son Joseph living in France. Gospel Herald, May 8, 1913: "Peter Rediger was born near Metz, France; he died at the residence of Daniel Erb near Hubbard, Ore., April 12, 1913; aged 77 y. 10 d. About 40 years ago he came to America, and spent a number of years in Illinois and Arkansas. In the spring of 1892 he came to Oregon where he lived a hermit's life for the past 21 years. In early life he united with the Amish Mennonite (Old Order) Church. While the declining last 10 years of his life were idly misspent, he fell away from all church connections, until one month before he died he professed repentance and requested to be restored in peace and fellowship; after which his

176 Background on Marie can be found in a Duane L. Egle's Mennonite Family History magazine two-part series, Christian Egle and Marie Rediger Family, Oct.-Nov. 2015.
mind rapidly failed him, in which condition he passed away. Very sad that man should waste any part of this life. Funeral services conducted at the Zion A.M. Church by the brethren Dan Roth and Edward Z. Yoder. Text, Heb. 13:14. Laid to rest in the cemetery nearby." He is buried in Zion Mennonite Church Cemetery at Hubbard.

i. Madeleine Rediger was born Jan. 15, 1813, and died at St. Urbain-Maconcourt, Haut Marne May 12, 1883. On Sept. 30, 1834 at Dolving, Moselle she married Joseph Guerber. He was born at Dolving Oct. 25, 1807, and died at Tranqueville-Graux, Coussey May 25, 1888, a son of Valentin Guerber and Anne Hirschy. On a French Citizenship Declaration Sept. 28 1872 Madeleine described herself as someone born at Bébing Jan. 15, 1813, and a resident of Maconcourt, Haut Marne married to a Guerber.

j. Pierre/Peter Rediger was born on June 8 or 9, 1815, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Oct. 23, 1898. The 10-year index of Bébing civil birth entries called him Pierre Raydiquier. The entry described his parents as cultivator André Raydiquier and Anne Reinqueberg of Rinting farm, and said that his birth took place aujourd'hui à minuit - today at midnight. The entry was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Reinqueberg, 36. We could not determine the date of his immigration. Woodford County records say Peter Rediger and ‘Magdalena Scenter’ married there June 28, 1857. Magdalena Cender was born at Niedernai, Lower Alsace Sept. 28, 1817, a daughter of Christian Cender and Magdalena Eymann. Her civil birth entry describes her as Madelaine, and her parents as cultivator Chrétien Zehnter and Madeleine Eymann. 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; Catherine, 21; and Madeleine, 9. The 1880 census of Roanoke shows retired farmer Peter Rediger, 65, France; Magdalena, 63, France; and Catharina, 22, Illinois. When Peter was naturalized in Woodford County Nov. 7, 1892, his witness was Peter Belsley. In 1900 his widow is found as an 83-year-old Madgalena Rediger, born in Germany in September 1817, who immigrated in 1855. She was living with granddaughter Martha M. Bachman, 19, born in Illinois in October 1881. The 1910 census described her as a 93-year-old great-great aunt, born in France, who immigrated in 1855. She spoke German at home, and had her own income. She was living with Emil W. Rediger, 32, born in Illinois to parents form Germany and Illinois; and Martha M., 28, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois. Gospel Herald, Jan. 15, 1914: "Magdalena Rediger, nee Cender, was born in Germany Sept. 28, 1817. She emigrated to America in May 1855, locating near Metamora, Illinois. In August 1856 she was united in matrimony with Peter Rediger, moving to Bureau County, Illinois. In 1863 they again located in Woodford County near Roanoke, where she spent the last fifty years of her life. To this union were born two children, Phoebe and Catherine. Her life was the scene of many sorrows and disappointments, the early deaths of her children causing her many sad hours, yet her faith in God was unshaken .... Her husband preceded her to the better world in 1898, thus leaving her the only survivor of her family. .... She passed to her reward on Dec. 24, 1914, at the ripe old age of 96 y. 2 m. 26 d. ...." They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery as 'Peter Rediger Gest. 8 Juni 1815 Gest. 23 Oct. 1898, Alter 83 Jahr. 4 mo. 15 ta.' and 'Magdalena Rediger born Sept. 28, 1817, died Dec. 24, 1913.'

9. Maria Magdalena Reütiger was born circa 1778, and died at Willmandingen, Baden Aug. 25, 1826. On June 2, 1795 on the Obernimburg estate between Nimburg and Bottingen, Baden she married Benedict 'Benz' König/King. He was born there circa 1774, and died in Fulton County, Ohio circa 1856, a son of Christian König and Elisabeth Stucki. Benedict renewed his family's lease on the Obernimburg estate after the death of his father, and later leased the Steckenhof estate at Denzlingen with his brother Jacob. In 1805 he replaced Jacob Zimmerman as elder of the Hochburg congregation. As a widower he sailed to America in 1832, at the age of 60. In Butler County, Ohio he became minister and elder of the Collinsville congregation, playing a part as a mediator in the religious division of 1835. See KING for background on this couple.

Barthlome Reūtiger

Another puzzle piece: someone whose surname and proximity suggest that he was a younger half-brother, second cousin, or other relation to Sebastian and Johannes.

An Evangelische Täufoodel documents the baptism of Barthlome Reūtiger at Boltigen, Canton Bern Dec. 10, 1724. He was a son of Hans Reūtiger and Barbara Andrist. Witnesses included Michel Bergman, Jacob Freutzgraben, and Anna Kinggen (born Fülliger). Recall that the parents of Johannes Reūtiger (born circa 1721), and presumably Sebastian (born circa 1710-1720), were identified as Johannes Reūtiger and Barbara Jaggi.

Bartholomew was an apostle. Barthlome, the French Barthélemy, and the Latin Bartholomeus are equivalent names.  

177 The same couple had a child baptized Oct. 2, 1729. The name is illegible, but starts with R or K. Witnesses included Barthlome Müller, Michel Müller, and Elisbeth Reūtiger (born Stülliger).
From 1754 (or earlier) until 1784 (or later) Barthlome resided at Daubensand, Lower Alsace. This tiny village is eight miles southwest of Ichenheim on the opposite side of the Rhine River, 20 miles south of Strasbourg.

He may have been the 'Bartholomaeus Röthinger' who married Susanna Barbara Spindler at Gerlingen, Baden July 4, 1752 (we have not viewed the Evangelische marriage entry, which is cited in LDS records). The father of the groom was identified as Johann Röthinger; the father of the bride was identified as Jerg Spindler. Note the surname Spindler - the same as the spouse of Johannes Reŭtiger (born circa 1721). Gerlingen is approximately 78 miles northeast of Ichenheim.

It is very likely that he was the Bartholomaey Reidiger who married Catharina Mönch at Nonnenweier, Baden March 6, 1760 (we have viewed the Evangelische marriage entry). The groom was gebürtig aus der Schweiz - a native of Switzerland. His surname was written in the Old German style so that the vowel 'e' looks like 'n.' The bride was born at Sondhausen, Zwalzland, and her father was Martin Mönch.178 Nonnenweier is located seven miles southwest of Ichenheim, and only two miles east of Daubensand (with the Rhine River midway between them).179

According to Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany, Barthlome "...is supposed to have gone to Hanover in 1786," when he would have been about 62 years of age. Perhaps he went to live in the home of his youngest son Michael or a daughter we have not identified. This would have been a significant hardship in that era - Hanover is 360 miles north of Daubensand.

A son and grandchildren of Barthlome were living at Strasbourg at the same time as two sons and grandchildren of Sebastian. The only commonality we found was that they 'Gallicized' their surname by signing it Reŭtiger (perhaps at the prompting of a civil clerk). Despite many civil entries for family births, deaths, and marriages, there is no common name found among witnesses.

Children of Barthlome Reūtiger and his first wife Susanna Barbara Spindler include:

1. Christophe Reuthiger was born at Daubensand circa 1754, and died at Strasbourg Dec. 24, 1813. He married Anne Marie Müller. They were found at Strasbourg, while searching civil records for Sebastian's sons Josef Reŭtiger/Joseph Reuthiger (married Katharina Hunzinger/Catherine Unzicker) and Benjamin Reŭtiger/Reuthiger (married Barbe Ringenberg). The families were recorded under varied spellings, but most commonly as 'Reuthiger.' When Christophe died at Strasbourg on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1813, his civil death entry called him Christophe Reuthiger. He was a 59-year-old, thus born circa 1754. He was described as the husband of Anne Marie Müller, and had died in their home at No. 26 Rue de Soleil. His parents were described as the deceased cultivator Barthélemy Reŭtiger and an unidentified deceased mother. His birthplace was given as 'Dubesand, Helvetc.' He had died of nervenfieber, or typhoid fever. Coincidence or not, three days before his death the Austrian army had crossed the Rhine River from Baden to commence the invasion of France that would culminate in the capture of Paris. Anne Marie Müller died at Strasbourg less than three weeks after her husband, on Jan. 12, 1814. Her civil death entry said she was 48 (thus born circa 1766), born at Blaesheim, Lower Alsace (10 miles southwest of Strasbourg) to unidentified parents. She had died of typhus in the civil hospital.

a. Marie Salomé Reidiger was born at Lingolsheim, Lower Alsace Feb. 21, 1787. She was the mother of illegitimate twins born at Strasbourg Aug. 3, 1808. Charles Joseph Reuthiger died at 22 days of age Aug. 25. The civil death entry described his mother as Marie Salome Reuthiger, living at Rue de l'Abreuvoir No. 34. Jacques Théodore Reuthiger died Aug. 29. On Dec. 14, 1814 at Strasbourg she married Laurent Ori. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Laurent Ori, born at Orbé [Orbey], Upper Alsace June 13, 1764, a resident of Strasbourg. He was the widower of Catherine Mny, who had died at Strasbourg May 21, 1814, and a son of Laurent Ori of Orbé. The bride Marie Salomé Reidiger was born at Lingolsheim, Lower Alsace Feb. 21, 1817, a daughter of the deceased tailor Frédéric Christophe Reidiger and the deceased Anne Marie Müller. Laurent died at Strasbourg June 20, 1831. On July 12, 1832 at Strasbourg Marie remarried to Jean George Schuster.

FHL microfilms for the period 1700-1732 show two Reŭtiger marriages at Boltigen: Christian Reŭtiger and Katarina Catschen May 22, 1703; and Hans Reŭtiger and Elsbeth Zwalter Nov. 19, 1717. A number of baptisms were found: parents Michel Reŭtiger and Elsbeth Stüller: Johannes May 25, 1710; Madl March 10, 1715; and Hans Oct. 4, 1726. Parents Peter Reŭtiger and Elsbeth Zwalter: Elsbeth July 17, 1720. In addition, it may be relevant that an adult Barthlome Reŭtiger was a witness to the birth of Salomon Kunzi, a son of Jacob Kunzi and Agatha Jaggi on Nov. 14, 1717.

178 We could not identify this location. Sandhausen is below Heidelberg. This could also be Sonthhausen or Sundhausen, the site of a ruined castle at Geisingen, 45 miles east of Freiburg and adjacent to Blumberg, Baden. Schweinslandstrasse runs from the center of Freiburg southeast for 19 miles to Todtnau (Routes L124 and L126). It could be in Schwarzland, another name for Schwarzwald (the Black Forest), which covers a substantial part of Baden.

179 Unfortunately, Protestant birth records for Daubensand discontinue after June 1754, and do not resume again until 1788. In 1971-72 Nonnenweier, Allmannsweier, Wittenweier, and Ottenheim were combined to form Schwanau.
Rhine River. Only one wall survives. It is now surrounded by Parc de la Citadelle, a public area.

2. Johannes Scheisser. Children of Johannes entry created at Kehl described them as Johannes Reutiger, 90 [thus born circa 1757], and Anna Magdalena Reutiger, age 68 (thus born circa 1756), and the bride as a daughter of Georg Speisser and Magdalena. His death Aug. 29, 1824 at Kehl Johannes remarried to Anna Magdalena Speisser. The entry described the groom as Johannes vowel 'e' written to look like 'n' in the Bernese style]. They had been living in Maison No. 4 at Pfaffenhoffen. On 62 [thus born circa 1756]; and his son-in-law tailor Ignatz Zerr, 41. His signature looked like 'Johannns Rnitgnr' [the vowel 'e' written to look like 'n' in the Bernese style]. Jacques Müller and Catherine Stoltzler. Her death entry was signed by her husband, described as tailor Jean Reitiger, 62 [thus born circa 1756]; and his son-in-law tailor Ignatz Zerr, 41. His signature looked like 'Johannns Rnitgnr' [the vowel 'e' written to look like 'n' in the Bernese style]. They had been living in Maison No. 4 at Pfaffenhoffen. On Aug. 29, 1824 at Kehl Johannes remarried to Anna Magdalena Speisser. The entry described the groom as Johannes Reutiger, age 68 (thus born circa 1756), and the bride as a daughter of Georg Speisser and Magdalena. His death entry created at Kehl described them as Johannes Reutiger, 90 [thus born circa 1757], and Anna Magdalena Scheisser. Children of Johannes Reutiger and his first wife Anne Barbe Müller include:

a. Johannes/Jeant Reitiger was born at Daubensand Aug. 14, 1784. On Dec. 5, 1816 at Pfaffenhofen he married Anne Marie Schwing. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Reitiger, born at 'Laubersand' and living at Pfaffenhofen. He was a son of tailor Jean Reitiger (present and consenting) and Barbe Müller, residents of Pfaffenhofen. The bride was described as Anne Marie Schwing, a minor born at Robertstau April 19, 1796, a daughter of day laborer Eduard Schwing (present and consenting) and Anne Marie Baumert, who were residents of Robertstau. Witnesses included tailor Jacques Reitiger, 22, brother of the groom. Three signatures top to bottom look like Johannes Rnitignr (the groom); Johannes Rnitignr (his father), and Jacob Rnitignr (the groom's younger brother).

b. Christina Salomé Reutiger/Reittiger was baptized at Lichtenau, Baden (25 miles north of Ichenheim) May 10, 1790; her parents were identified as Johannes Reutiger and Anna Barbara Reutiger. On Dec. 4, 1810 at Kehl she married Ignace Zerr, according to Catholic records (where he is found as Ignatius Zerr). She is found as Salomé Reittiger on the civil birth entry of her son Ignace Zerr [Jr.] created at Strasbourg Feb. 3, 1811. It states that her son was born at Kehl Feb. 2. Her husband was described as day laborer Ignace Zerr, 34 (thus born circa 1777). A margin note indicates that the son died at Lyon Jan. 3, 1839. When a daughter Caroline Louisa was born at Strasbourg June 9, 1824, the civil birth entry called the mother Christina Salomé Reutiger, and gave their address as Maison No. 156, Kraitenau. When a daughter Anne Marie was born at Strasbourg Dec. 21, 1829, they were living at Maison No. 33, Quartier St. Nicolas. Christina died at Strasbourg Dec. 21, 1829. Her civil death entry said she was 42, born at Lichtenau, Baden, a daughter of tailor Jean Reutiger and the deceased Barbe Müller; the wife of Ignace Zerr, 53, a resident of Maison No. 33, Quartier St. Nicolas, Strasbourg.

c. Peter Reitiger was born at Lahr (10 miles southeast of Ichenheim) Feb. 1, 1794.

d. Johann Jacob/Jean Jacques Reitiger was born at Lahr June 18, 1795, and died at Souffelwayersheim, Lower Alsace (six miles north of Strasbourg) May 2, 1866. On Oct. 27, 1814 at Pfaffenhofen he married Marie Catherine Schwing. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as tailor Jean Jacques Reitiger, born at Lahr, Grand Duché de Baade June 18, 1795, a resident of Pfaffenhofen. He was the son of tailor Jean Reitiger (present and consenting) and Barbe Müller, who were residents of Pfaffenheim. The bride was described as Marie Catherine Schwing, born at Pfaffenhofen July 2, 1786, a daughter of local residents Jean Frédéric Schwing (present and consenting) and Marie Salomé Frantz. The groom's signature looked like 'Jacob Rnitignr', while the bride signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate. The groom's father signed 'Johannes Rnitignr.' Jacob died at Souffelwayersheim, Lower Alsace (six miles north of Strasbourg) May 2, 1866. His civil entry witnessed by his sons Jacques and Charles described him as tailor Jacques Reitiger, 70; born at Lahr [Lahr]; a resident of Strasbourg; the widower of Catherine Schwing; and a son of Reitiger Laurent Jacques [Laurent was also the name of the recorder, and this may be the source of confusion] of Odelfhoffen. Baden [one mile southeast of Kork].
e. Anne Barbe Reüdinger (as she was found on her civil marriage entry) was born at Obenheim, Lower Alsace (adjacent to Daubensand) circa 1802, though no civil entry is found there, and died at Strasbourg July 10, 1823. On Dec. 26, 1809 at Strasbourg she married Aloise Schenck. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 25-year-old carpenter's assistant born at Hütten, Württemberg June 15, 1784, a son of Joseph Schenck and the deceased Brigitte Brosi. The bride was born à la tuilerie de Obenheim [at the tile factory in Obenheim], a daughter of tailor Jean Reüdinger and Anne Barbe Müller, residents of the Fort de Kehl who were present and consenting. She was a resident of Sundheim, Kehl. The document also recognized their daughter Marie Madeleine Schenck, whose birth June 7, 1829 had been registered at Sundheim, Kehl. Her civil death entry called her Barbe Riedinger, and described her as the widow of carpenter Aloyse Schenck, and a daughter of tailor Jean Riedinger and the deceased Anne Barbe Müller.

The child of Barthlome Reütinger and his second wife Catharina Mönch was:

3. 'Michael Redtiger' (as transcribed in the LDS database) was baptized at Magstadt, Baden (eight miles southwest of Gerlingen) Sept. 19, 1761, according to an Evangelische entry. His parents were named as Bartholomaeus Reitger and Catharina.
Kinsinger: Künzi or Künzi of Buchholterberg

In Old Germanic a Kuni was a family or clan. Künzi or Künzi is a diminutive form.\(^{181}\) Diebsbach was eight miles north of the town of Thun, Canton Bern. In 1870 it was renamed Oberdiessbach. Úli Künzi and Cathrina Schön were the parents of Úllrich Künzi, who was baptized at Diessbach Jan. 15, 1609.

On Nov. 19, 1632 at Diessbach Úlli/Ůllrich married Anna Jenni.\(^{182}\) Their children baptized there include:

1. **Peter Künzi/Künzi/Küenzi** was baptized Dec. 15, 1633. His entry describes his parents as Úlrich Künzi and Anna Jenni of Kürzenberg.\(^ {183}\)
2. Babi Künzi was baptized Feb. 21, 1636. Her entry describes her parents as Úlli Künzi and Anni Janni.

Lease documents and family notes say **Peter Künzi/Künzi/Küenzi** was born at Buchholterberg (on Diessbach’s east side, with Kürzenberg above it). He was baptized at Diessbach Dec. 15, 1633.

The village of Kürzenberg (now found as Kurzenberg) has not existed since 1945. It was located in what is now Linden, on the north side of Buchholterberg. ‘Kurzenberg’ is still used to describe the geographic area, a school, and a parish. Kürzenberg was also the ancestral home of the Amish Mennonite Holli/Holli/Holly family.

A Protestant Reformed Church was established at Buchholterberg in 1820, but before that both of these small rural communities were part of Diessbach Parish.

On Dec. 18, 1654 at Diessbach Peter married Catrin/Cathri Schenk. Their third child had been baptized there a week earlier. Apparently Peter and Catrin were obliged to wait to marry until the first Sunday after his 21\(^{st}\) birthday.

Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*: "The Mennonite Kinzingers probably go back to one Peter Kuentzi, who immigrated in 1685 from Buchholterberg near Thun in Switzerland to Eppstein in the Pfalz. In 1687 he is at the Diemersteinermuhle…"\(^ {184}\)

In 1687 Peter met with representatives of Countess Maria of the House of Orange-Nassau (1642-1688). He or his oldest son Peter signed a hereditary lease for a mill, receiving a specific guarantee of freedom of worship. The mill was situated on the grounds of ruined Diemerstein Castle, between two ridges in the forest at Diemerstein, 15 miles west of Eppstein and 10 miles east of Kaiserslautern.

Thus we can say that the father Peter would have been roughly 18 or 19 years of age at his marriage and the birth of his first child; 52 when he emigrated; and 54 when he or his oldest son of the same name signed a hereditary lease in the Pfalz (while his oldest son would have been roughly 35).

His descendants appear as Kentsingers in Neukirchen-Mehlingen (eight miles northwest of Diemerstein, now simply called Mehlingen) near Kaiserslautern, where subsequently Kinsingers are named as members and elders of the Sembach congregation. From here Kinsingers early emigrated to Hesse and Waldeck.

Künzi evolved into Kinzing, Kinsing, Kintzinger, Kinzinger, Kinsinger, Kentzinger, and Kinsinger because of local dialect pronunciations.

Children of **Peter Künzi/Künzi/Küenzi** and Catrin/Cathri Schenck baptized at Diessbach include:

1. Susanna Künzi was baptized Aug. 10, 1651. Her baptism entry described her parents as Peter Künzi and Catrin Schänck.

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\(^{181}\) Some sources say Kuno and Konrad are derived from Kuni, while others say those surnames were derived from kuonno, an Old Germanic word meaning ‘brave.’

\(^{182}\) Finding the parents of Úli is problematic. We looked for an Úli or Úllrich baptized at Diessbach between 1600 and 1613, and found only one - and the parents on that entry were Úli Künzi and Cathrina Schön. We could not identify their marriage in Diessbach records. Three other possibly related couples did marry there between 1600 and 1612: Hans Künzi and Cathrin Räber of Kürzenberg Oct. 19, 1601; Niclaŭs Cüntzi and Barbel Steiner April 8, 1605; and Peter Cünze and Barbe Kneubühl Nov. 5, 1612.

\(^{183}\) A coincidental ‘near miss’: on June 30, 1633 Joseph Künzi and Barbara Rüsser of Buchholterberg had twin sons baptized at Diessbach, Adam and Peter. Joseph and Barbara had been married at Diessbach Jan. 14, 1620; their marriage entry called them Joseph Cünzt and Barblí Rüssera. We gave preference to Úlli/Ůllrich Künzi and Anna Jenni because of the odd coincidence of their son Peter’s delayed marriage ceremony.

\(^{184}\) A few histories and online genealogy forums looking at Kinsingers have become hopelessly garbled by confusion with a contemporary Peter Künzi, who was also an Anabaptist. His Doppelgänger married at Grosshochstetten, Canton Bern Jan. 19, 1652. The entry describes the couple as *Peter Künzi von Wyl* and *Margret Steiman von ***** [illegible, ending in stein, but likely not nearby Trimstein]. Their children were born at Wyl (adjacent to Grosshochstetten, and since 1902 Schlosswil) between 1652 and 1670. They arrived in the Pfälz in 1672 and were aided by Dutch Mennonite relief, according to Dutch records.
2. Peter Künzi/Künzi was baptized Dec. 12, 1652. His baptism entry described his parents as Peter Künzi and Catrin Schänck of Buchholterberg.

3. Christ Künzi was baptized Dec. 10, 1654. His baptism entry described his parents as Peter Künzi and Trini Schenck of Kürzenberg. He died as an infant.

4. Christ Künzi was baptized Jan. 10, 1658. His baptism entry described his parents as Peter Künzi and Cathri Schenck of Buchholterberg.

5. Michel Künzi was baptized Sept. 9, 1660. His baptism entry described his parents as Peter Künzi and Cathri Schenck of Buchholterberg.

6. Barbli Künzi was baptized June 5, 1664. Her baptism entry described her parents as Peter Künzi and Cathri Schenk.

Christ Künzi/Christian Kentzinger was baptized at Diessbach Jan. 10, 1658, a son of Peter Künzi or Künzi and Cathrin Schenk.

The Global Anabaptist Encyclopedia Online says that, "Kinsinger (Kenzinger, Kentzinger, Kinnzinger, Kinzinger, Kitzinger) was a Swiss Mennonite family name occurring in the Pfalz Mennonite census lists under various spellings in 1717, 1724, 1743 and 1759. A Christian Kentzinger, whose name appeared in 1724, was the ancestor of those carrying this family name in South Germany."

A 1724 census actually shows Christian Kentsinger as a hauler and farmer living at Neukirchen-Mehlingen (eight miles northwest of Diemerstein) with married sons Abraham, a linen weaver, and Johannes, a wool spinner. Older son Abraham may have been an early emigrant. The Mortonhouse arrived at Philadelphia from Rotterdam Aug. 19, 1729. The standard passenger list contains 'Abraham Kinsinger;' the signature on a Declaration of Fidelity to the Crown reads 'Abraham Keysinger;' and the signature on an Oath of Allegiance taken at the Philadelphia City Hall that afternoon reads 'Abraham Kinsinger.' He was accompanied by his wife Anna Barbara and his daughter Freni (a nickname for 'Verena,' found as 'Frence'). Typical Swiss surnames on the lists include Bumgarner [Baumgartner], Crebil [Krayenbühl], Eshelman [Aeschliman], Huber, and Reis. According to the Lancaster County Warrant Register, 'Abraham Keysingher' took out a warrant for 150 acres in Lebanon Township and Bern Dec. 19, 1737. The warrant was not patented, indicating payments were not completed before his death in 1749. Over the years some information has been passed down about him in America, but the original source can no longer be identified: he was born at Neukirchen (now merged into Mehlingen) and his father was a Mennonite named Christian.

Younger son Johannes Kinsinger, born in 1698, is found with three children on censuses of Frankenstein (adjacent to Diemerstein) in 1743, 1753, and 1759. In 1753 and 1759 two sons may have reached maturity, because there is a second Johannes Kinsinger (presumably expressing a father and son) and a Jacob Kinsinger (presumably another son) listed at Frankenstein.

There is a strong likelihood that the son Johannes was the individual later known as Johannes Kinsing or Kinsinger (assuming that Abraham did not leave sons behind when he emigrated).

Johannes Kinsing or Kinsinger was born before 1732, and died at Weisenheim am Berg before April 1788. He married Maria Magdalena Schwarzentruber. She was born circa 1737, a daughter of Johannes Schwarzentruber (recall him as a minister mentioned in SCHWARZENTRAUB). When she died at Weisenheim am Berg Dec. 30, 1810, the death entry calling her 'Madeleine Schwartztraub' age 73, and also called her deceased husband 'Jean Kinsing,' but was signed by their 53-year-old son 'Jean Kinsinger.'

Johannes and Maria resettled at Weisenheim am Berg after 1759. The village is only 10 miles northeast of Diemerstein and Frankenstein, half covered by forest, at the edge of the Hardt Mountains.

Their children include:

1. Johannes Kinsinger was born at Herxheim in Berg in 1758, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 15, 1828.
2. Jacobine Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1766, and died after August 1823. She married Christian Imhof. He was born on the Weilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt (eight miles below Kaiserslautern) in 1755, a son of Christian Imhof and Katharina Danner.
3. Jacob Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1768, and died after September 1825. He married Anna Elisabetha Roggy. She was born at Neidenfels (12 miles southwest of Weisenheim am Berg) circa 1778, a daughter of Christian Roggy.
4. Katharina Kinsinger was born at Kaiserslautern before 1770, and died at Nieder-Modau, Darmstadt (about 40 miles northeast of Weisenheim am Berg) circa 1824. She married Samuel Maurer. He was born at Kaiserslautern before 1772, and died on the Gersweilerhof estate at Erlenbach before August 1823.
5. Maria Magdalena Imhof was born at Weisenheim am Berg after 1770. She married Joseph Imhof. He was born in 1768, a son of Peter Imhof and Katharina Roggy.
6. Maria Elisabeth Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg after 1770, and died before August 1823.
7. Johann Peter Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1774, and died at Walhausen (25 miles southwest of Kaiserslautern) March 14, 1816. On Nov. 24, 1798 at Contwig, Pfälz-Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Hauter. She was born in the mill at Ixheim, Pfälz-Zweibrücken March 30, 1780, and died at Walhausen May 17, 1851.

8. Maria Susanna Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg Feb. 21, 1778, and died at Feechingen, Saarland Jan. 1, 1803. On March 16, 1800 on the Weißensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt she married Johannes Hauter. He was born in 1779, a son of Andreas Hauter and Katharina Imhof.

9. Anna Barbara Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1781, and died there Feb. 7, 1799.

**Johannes/Jean Kinsinger** was born at Herxheim am Berg (adjacent to Weisenheim am Berg) in 1758, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 15, 1828. He married Veronica Imhof of the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt (eight miles south of Kaiserslautern). She was born circa 1771, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 31, 1806, a daughter of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Roggy.

He may have remarried to Maria Kropf. She was born circa 1761, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1839. Her civil death entry described her as Marie Kropff, 78, widow of the deceased Chrétien Kintzinger [Johannes/Jean?], who had died at Weisenheim. It was witnessed by cultivator Henry Goldschmidt, 57, and Chrétien Augsburger, 32, and signed 'Heinrich Goldschmidt' and 'Christian Augspurger.'

Five of the seven sons came to America: Samuel and Joseph in 1826, Jacob in 1830, Christian circa 1840 (after his son Johannes/John had sailed in 1834), and Peter likely in 1850. Oldest son Johannes did not emigrate, and youngest son Daniel died as an infant.

Children of Johannes/Jean Kinsinger and his first wife Veronica Imhof born at Weisenheim am Berg include:

1. Johannes Kinsinger was born Oct. 29, 1789, and died on the Stausteinerhof estate at Kleinsteinhausen near Pirmasens Nov. 13, 1834. On April 14, 1810 at Contwig, Pfälz-Zweibrücken he married Christina Schrag. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig circa 1794 (she was 16 at her marriage, he was 20), and died in Butler County, Ohio after 1870, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Christine Esch. The marriage entry described Jean as a cultivator at Weisenheim am Berg. Witnesses included his father cultivator Jean Kinsinger, 52; cultivator Jacques Kinsinger, 46; and cultivator Christian Schwarzenthuber, 75. Christina Schrag is found as 'C. Kinsinger, 64, Hesse Cassel' on the 1860 census of Oxford, Butler County, living in the household of her daughter Barbara and her son-in-law Christian Zimmerman. In 1870 she was living with her daughter Veronica and her son-in-law Moses Augsburger at Madison, Butler County, where she is found as 'Christena Kinsinger, 76, lives with daughter, France.' One of their children had an Illinois connection. Barbara Kinsinger was born Jan. 1, 1820, and died at Washington Nov. 17, 1896; she is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. On Sept. 8, 1850 in Butler County, Ohio she married Christian Zimmerman. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augsburger. Christian was born at Bourgfelden, Upper Alsace March 27, 1827, died in Tazewell County June 23, 1879, and was buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove, a son of Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer. For more on this couple, see ZIMMERMANN.

2. Jacob Kinsinger was born Sept. 14, 1791, and died in Davis County, Iowa after the 1870 federal census. On July 2 or 19, 1817 at Weisenheim am Berg he married Marie Madeleine Augsburger. She was born on Point du Jour farm at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or at Ixheim, Pfälz-Zweibrücken in 1793, and died in 1856, a daughter of Christian Augsburger and Maria Magdalena Kropf. They sailed from Le Havre on the De Rham, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830. The passenger list shows them as Jacob Kingsinger, 39; Marie, 36; Magdaleine, 10; Jacob, 9; Catherine, 8; John, 6; Lisa, 5; Christian, 3; and Peter, 1. For the story of this voyage and their encounter with the Great Snow of 1830, see KENNEL. Jacob signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840; it was witnessed by Conrad Schmidtman and Augustus Breitenbach. Jacob is found on the 1860 census of Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa as a 69-year-old farmer in the household of Anna Miller. On the 1870 census of Roscoe, Davis County he is found as an 80-year-old living in the household of his son Christian Kinsinger, 43.

3. **Christian Kinsinger** was born Sept. 22, 1794, and died in Davis County, Iowa in 1860.

4. Peter Kinsinger was born in 1795, and died in Butler County Dec. 12, 1864 (his headstone gives only his date of death and that he was 69 years old). He is buried in Collinsville Cemetery, Butler County. He is found in the household of his brother Joseph on the 1850 census of Milford described as farmer Peter Kinsinger, 55, Germany. The 1860 census of Milford shows the household as farmer Peter Kinsinger, 64, Germany; Magdalena, 56, Germany; 

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185 He may have sailed from Le Havre on the Onward, and arrived at New York July 13, 1850. The passenger list describes Pierre Kinsinger, 54, Bavaria. The 1850 federal census is supposed to have pictured households as they were on June 1 (half are interviewed before the date, half after). This suggests that he was not the passenger, or that he arrived at Milford before canvassing was completed.
and six children born in Ohio, presumably the children of his companion's earlier marriage. *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* states that he did not marry.

5. Samuel Kinsinger was born in 1799, and died in Butler County circa 1840. He and his younger brother sailed from Le Havre on the *Howard*, and arrived at New York Sept. 27, 1826. He appears on the passenger list as S. Kingsinger, 26. On Sept. 25, 1828 in Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born at Ixheim, Pfalz-Zweibrücken Feb. 26, 1808, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. On June 20, 1848 in Butler County Catherine remarried to Samuel's nephew Joseph Kinsinger (son of Christian Kinsinger and Magdalena Schrag).

6. Joseph Kinsinger was born Sept. 6, 1801, and died in Butler County Dec. 16, 1887. He appears on the *Howard* passenger list as J. Kingsinger, 24. On April 1 or Oct. 5, 1830 in Butler County he married Magdalena Augspurger. She was born on the Meinau estate at Strasbourg Dec. 13, 1809, and died in Butler County Oct. 19, 1884, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. According to *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio*, "He came to America and settled in Butler County in May, 1826. On Oct. 5, 1830 he united in marriage with Magdalena Augspurger. Soon after his arrival he identified himself with the Augspurger congregation, and in 1844 he was elected a minister, and was ordained by Reb. Jacob Augspurger." In 1835 Joseph purchased 110 acres at 1075 Oxford-Middletown Road, Milford from his father-in-law Christian Augspurger. They appear on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County as farmer Joseph Kinsinger, 49, Germany; Magdalen, 40, Germany; seven children born in Ohio; farmer David Summers, 28, Ohio; and brother Peter Kinsinger, 55, Germany. Joseph served as a minister of the Augspurger 'hook-and-eye' congregation until his death. *Herald of Truth*, November 1884: "On the 19th of October, in Butler County, Ohio, Magdalena Kinsinger fell asleep in Jesus. She was the widow of Pre. Joseph Kinsinger who died in 1857. She leaves 9 children, 26 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren; 8 children and 8 grandchildren have gone before her to their eternal home. She had been affected many years with heart disease. She was a faithful wife, an exemplary mother, a kind friend and an earnest, devoted Christian. She taught her children the saying: "Do not disrespect thy friend and thy father's friend." She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church and died in a blessed hope of eternal life. Peace to her ashes." They are buried in Union Cemetery at Collinsville.

7. Daniel Kinsinger was born April 19, 1804, and died April 21, 1805.

**Christian Kinsinger** was born at Weisenheim am Berg Sept. 22, 1794, and died in Davis County, Iowa in 1860. On Nov. 1, 1814 at Contwig, Pfalz-Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Schrag. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig in 1798, and died there May 9, 1824, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Christine Esch. They lived on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate.

Children of Christian Kinsinger and his first wife Magdalena Schrag born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig include:

1. **Johannes/John Kinsinger** was born Oct. 21, 1815.
2. Christian Kinsinger was born Feb. 2, 1817 (birth entry; Feb. 7 in his obituary and Feb. 11 on his headstone), and died in Cass County, Missouri Feb. 7, 1872. He married Anna Bertsche. She was born March 1, 1828, and died March 1, 1878, a daughter of Michael Bertsche and Katharina Naßger. Anna was an aunt to the Bertsches who married children of Johannes/John. They are found on the 1870 census of Camp Branch, Cass County, Missouri as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 53, Bavaria; Anna, 42, Bavaria; Katie, 20, Bavaria; Joseph, 13, Ohio; Samuel, 7, Ohio; and Anna, 4, Ohio. *Gospel Herald*, March 1873: "February 7th, in Cass county, Missouri, of lung fever, Christian Kinsinger aged 55 years, 11 months, and 24 days. He leaves a wife and 4 children to mourn his removal." They are buried at Clearfork Cemetery, Garden City, Cass County, Missouri.
3. Jakob Kinsinger was born April 11, 1818, and died April 21, 1818.
4. Joseph/Koseph Kinsinger was born June 13, 1819. On June 20, 1848 in Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born at Ienheim, Pfalz-Zweibrücken Feb. 26, 1808, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. She was the widow of Joseph's uncle Samuel Kinsinger, mentioned earlier. They are found on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Ohio as farmer Joseph Kinsinger, 31, Germany; Catharine, 40, Germany; Catharine, 20, Ohio; laborer Christopher, 18, Ohio; John, 17, Ohio; Elizabeth, 12, Ohio; Samuel, 21, Germany; Elizabeth Oyer, 18, Germany; Daniel Brannan [Brenneman?], 30, Germany; and Joseph Brannan, 66, Germany. They are listed two families removed from John Staker and Barbara Schertz. The 1880 census of Grove, Davis County, Iowa shows them as J. Kinsinger, 60, Germany; and Catharine, 58.
5. Jakob Kinsinger was born Oct. 27, 1827, and died Nov. 20, 1820.
6. Peter Kinsinger was born Nov. 25, 1821, and died Aug. 9, 1822.
7. Magdalena 'Ellen' Kinsinger was born May 27, 1824. We could not follow her after she is found as a 27-year-old on the 1850 census of Wayne, Butler County.

On June 26, 1827 at Contwig Christian remarried to Elizabeth Sommer. She was born at Contwig in 1794, and died at Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa after 1870, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbara Kempf.

Children of Christian Kinsinger and his second wife Elizabeth Sommer include:
9. Peter Kinsinger was born Feb. 6, 1829, and died March 15, 1830.
10. Daniel Kinsinger was born May 14, 1830, and died at Grove, Davis County, Iowa May 28 or 29, 1898. On Nov. 12, 1854 in Davis County, Iowa he married Mary Miller. She was born at New Hamburg, Ontario April 22, 1836, and died Aug. 31, 1925, a daughter of Michael Miller and Phoebe Nafziger. They are found on the 1885 state census of Grove as Daniel Kinsinger, 54; Mary, 49; with seven children. They are buried in Pulaski Cemetery.
11. Elisabetha/Elizabeth Kinsinger was born July 4, 1831. We could not follow her after she is found as a 28-year-old on the 1860 census of Grove.
12. Samuel Kinsinger (twin) was born July 16, 1834. At Bloomfield, Davis County he married Margaret Ann Godsey. She was born in Meigs County, Tennessee March 20, 1832, a daughter of Drury Godsey and Sarah Cox. The 1900 census of Bloomfield shows their household as storekeeper Samuel Kinsinger, 45; Margaret A. Kinsinger, 45; and six children. He is found on the 1900 census of Marion, Davis County, Iowa as widower farmer Samuel Kinsinger, 65, born in Germany in July 1834; with four children born in Iowa between 1869 and 1876; immigrated in 1846.
13. Peter Kinsinger (twin) was born July 16, 1834, and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Nov. 23, 1910. On Sept. 8, 1857 in Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa he married Catherine Miller. She was born at New Hamburg, Ontario May 3, 1840, and died Feb. 24, 1920, a daughter of Michael Miller and Phoebe Nafziger. They last appear on the 1910 census of Prairie as Peter Kinsinger, 75, Germany; and Catherine, 69, Germany. Peter's death entry gave his burial place as Peoria, Illinois.
14. Barbara Kinsinger was born March 12, 1837, and died at Pulaski Feb. 7, 1894. We could not follow her after she is found as a 33-year-old on the 1870 census of Grove.

According to *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Christian "...remained on the Heckenaschbacherhof, at first with his brother-in-law Christian Schrag and then as sole leaseholder after Christian Schrag's early death. Christian married twice and had in all fourteen children, and he was in constant financial difficulties. Because he was behind in lease payments, he had to leave the estate in 1840. He leased the Faunerhof at Epenbrunn. Due to the poor soils, he had no luck there either and finally emigrated to the U.S.A." By April 1841 Christian owed an amount equivalent to two years of payments on the Faunerhof. The family emigrated from Europe in 1846.186

They are shown on the 1850 census of Wayne, Butler County as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 55; Lesbin or Leslie, 55; Daniel, 20; Samuel, 16; Peter, 16; Ellen, 27; Elizabeth, 19; and Barbara, 13; the entire family born in Germany.

Christian and his brother Jacob resettled briefly near Charleston, Lee County, Iowa. In 1853 they relocated about 40 miles farther west at Pulaski, Davis County. An 1856 state census of Davis County shows Christian Kinsinger, 63; Elizabeth, 63; Elizabeth, 25; Peter, 22; and Barbara, 19; all born in Germany. The 1860 census of Grove, Davis County, Iowa shows Christian's household as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 66; Elizabeth, 70; Elizabeth, 28; and Barbara, 22; all born in Germany. They lived next door to the households of sons Daniel Kinsinger, 30; and Peter Kinsinger, 26. The 1870 census of Grove shows only Elizabeth Kinsinger, 79, Bavaria; and Barbara Kinsinger, 33, Bavaria.

**Johannes/John Kinsinger** was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig, Pfalz-Zweibrücken Oct. 21, 1815.

He sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Sully*, and arrived at New York Nov. 5, 1834. He appears on the passenger list as Jean Kinsinger, 19, Bavaria.

John is found on tax lists at Wayne Township, Butler County in 1836 and 1837. In 1837 in Butler County he married Barbara Peter Schmidt, who was also known as Barbara P. Smith. She was born at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Jan. 8, 1811 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Barbara Peterschmitt'), and died in Butler County in 1860, a daughter of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber.

'John Kensing' signed a *Declaration of Intent* for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in February of 1840. 'John Kensing' can be found on the 1840 census of St. Clair. The tally shows one male and one female 20-30 years of age, and one male and one female under five years of age.

The 1850 census of Fairfield shows farmer John Kinsinger, 34, Germany; Barbara, 34, Germany; Malinda, 12; Barbara, 10; Jacob, 8; John, 6; Anne, 4; and Elizabeth, three months; all children born in Ohio.

Barbara died in the first six months of 1860.

Children of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara Peter Schmidt born in Butler County, Ohio include:

1. John Kinsinger was born circa 1838, and died before 1850.

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186 According to the 1900 federal census remark of Samuel Kinsinger.
2. Magdalena 'Melinda' Kinsinger was born at Hamilton, Butler County Feb. 14, 1840, and died at Big Horn, Wyoming July 30, 1931. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County she married David Garber. He was born in Ohio June 30, 1838, and died at Big Horn, Wyoming Feb. 25, 1924, a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe. See GERBER AND GARBER for background on this couple.

3. Barbara Kinsinger was born in October 1842, and died in May 1921. On Jan. 16, 1862 in Butler County she married Jacob Augspurger. He was born in Butler County May 25, 1838, and died at Middletown, Butler County Dec. 12, 1912, a son of Nicholas Augspurger and Magdalena Gautsche. They are found on the 1900 census of Lemon Township, Butler County as farmer Jacob Augspurger, 62, born in Ohio in May 1838 to German parents; Barbara, 57, born in Ohio in October 1842 to German parents; and two children born in Ohio.

4. Jacob Kinsinger was born circa 1842, according to the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County. He served in the Civil War as a private in Company G, 108th Illinois U.S. Infantry. His records describe him as born in Butler County, Ohio but living at Groveland; age 21; height 5 foot-6; dark eyes; dark complexion; brown hair. He signed a one-year enlistment at Springfield Oct. 1, 1864. 23-year-old Noah Garber of Elm Grove (a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe) and 18-year-old Christian Smith Jr. (a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock) enlisted with him. During Jacob's 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, where Jacob transferred to the 47th Illinois Infantry. He mustered out at Montgomery Oct. 14, 1865.

5. John Kinsinger was born in Butler County circa 1844, and died in Dade County, Missouri in 1882. Circa 1876 he married Fontanella Aiken.

6. Anna Kinsinger was born at Fairfield, Butler County May 24, 1847, and died at Trenton, Butler County Nov. 9, 1930. On Nov. 16, 1865 in Butler County she married Christian Mosiman/Moseman. He was born at Milford, Butler County March 12, 1841, and died there in 1934, a son of Christian Mosiman and Barbe Schmitt/Smith. A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio: "Christian Mosiman, the son of Christian Mossiman, Sen., and Barbara Smith, was born in Milford Township March 12, 1841, and was married on the 16th of November, 1865 to Anna Kinsinger, daughter of John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara P. Smith. She was born in Fairfield Township May 24, 1848, her parents coming here in 1831, as did those also of Mr. Mosiman. Mr. Mosiman has been school-director, being elected in 1879. He is a farmer, and has a well-cultivated place. He is a member of the Mennonite Church." A road in Madison and Middletown is now named in his honor. Samuel K. Mosiman, a son of this couple born in Butler County Dec. 17, 1867, was president of Bluffton College 1910-35.

7. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kinsinger was born at Fairfield, Butler County May 3, 1850, and died in McLean County Nov. 18, 1913. On March 21, 1878 in McLean County she married Andrew Benjamin Salzman. He was born in Butler County July 29, 1855, and died Nov. 10, 1930, a son of André/Andrew Salzman and Barbara Peter Schmidt/Smith. See SALZMAN for more on this couple.

After Barbara's death John came to Tazewell County and worked on the farm of Christian Beckler. The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows laborer 'John Kissinger,' 44, Bavaria, living in Bechler's home. The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows Christian Beckler living in a home on his timberland in Section Two just west of Pleasant Grove, on the north side of Allentown Road across from the Waglers and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Presumably Christian and John entered into a 15-year agreement trading John's work for future land ownership.

The land that John purchased from Beckler is near the Tremont line, which has caused some confusion. Beckler did have another 101 acres on the Tremont side of the town boundary, but that parcel was sold to Nicholas Stecker/Staker Jan. 5, 1858; full payment was made Feb. 4, 1859. The boundary between the two townships confuses many because it actually cuts off the western side of the merchant area Tremont Village.

On March 10, 1861 in Tazewell County John remarried to Barbara Wagler; 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. He was 45, and she was 24.

Their household appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer John Kinzinger, 56, Bavaria; Barbara, 32, Brunswick; Catharine, 8, Illinois; Phillipine, 6, Illinois; Veronika, 3, Illinois; and Sarah, five months, Illinois; next door to George Rithehler.

On Jan. 15, 1876 Beckler sold John the Section 2 land that he had worked, and then relocated across the town boundary into Tremont. The one-dollar transaction was legally documented in the county deed book.

John could read and write English, and often acted as a business mediator or appeared in court for his German-speaking neighbors.

In 1880 the household contained farmer Jno. Kinsinger, 64, born in Germany to German parents; Barbara, 40, born in Ohio to French parents; Katie, 16; Pheba, 15; Fannie, 14; Sarah, 10; Samuel, 8; and Willie, 3; all children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows retired farmer John Kinsinger, 84, born in Germany in September 1815 to German parents, immigrated in 1834; Barbara, 71, born in Ohio in March 1829 to French parents; farmer Samuel, 27, born in Illinois in July 1872 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio;
William B., 22, born in Illinois in March 1878 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; and Carrie E., 19, born in Illinois in June 1880 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio.

John died at Elm Grove in October 1900, and Barbara died there Oct. 9, 1902. They are buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Children of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his second wife Barbara Wagler born at Elm Grove include:

8. Katharina 'Katie' Kinsinger was born Dec. 27, 1862, and died at Dillon Oct. 7, 1903. On Feb. 2, 1882 at Pekin she married Christian Oesch. He was born at Pekin May 30, 1854, and died at Dillon Jan. 15, 1890; he is buried in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, a son of Christian Oesch and Magdalena Zehr. In 1901 Katharina remarried to Christian King. He was born at Liberty, Butler County Oct. 13, 1840, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 23, 1924, a son of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. See KING for an accounting of Christian's three wives.

9. Jacobine 'Phoebe' Kinsinger was born Jan. 11, 1864, and died at Chicago July 20, 1953. On Jan. 11, 1891 in McLean County she married her cousin Johannes/John Bertsche; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Johannes/John was born on the Erlenkophof estate at Eppenbrunn on the German-Lower Alsace border Jan. 11, 1864, and died at Waldo, Livingston County May 27, 1938, a son of Johannes/John Bertsche and Katherina Hauter. Gospel Herald, July 1938: "Bertsche - John, son of John and Katherine (Hauter) Bertsche, was born Jan. 13, 1864, near Erlenkoph, Hof, Pirmasens, Bavaria, Germany; died at his home near Flanagan, Ill., May 27, 1938, following a brief illness of influenza and complications; aged 74 y. 4 m. 14 d. In 1873 he came to America with his parents and lived near Hamilton, Ohio, for two years, later moving to a farm near Weston, Ill., where he lived for one year, then moving to the community where he spent the rest of his life. He became a member of the Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a faithful member unto the end. From boyhood throughout life he was called upon to bear much suffering, but through God's grace he bore all pain bravely and was never known to complain, believing that 'all things work together for good to them that love God.' He left a beautiful testimony of his faith in God. On January, 1891, he was united in marriage to Phoebe Kinsinger of Groveland, Ill. This union was blessed with seven children. He leaves a sorrowing wife and six children: Almon, Nyle, Sarah, and Lucile of Flanagan, Ill.; Orville, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Mrs. Linda Jacobs of Pontiac, Ill. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, three sisters (Mrs. Lena Gyssler of Flanagan, Mrs. Barbara Kinsinger of Meadows, and Phoebe Bertsche of Chicago), and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter (Alta Lillian), a grandchild, and three brothers and three sisters. Funeral services were held at the Salem Mennonite Church on Monday, May 30, in charge of G.I. Gundy and Emanuel Ulrich. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

10. Veronica 'Fannie' Kinsinger was born Oct. 16, 1866, and died at Goodland, Indiana June 19, 1927. On Feb. 16, 1892 in McLean County she married her cousin Peter Bertsche; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born on the Erlenkophof estate at Eppenbrunn Aug. 1, 1867, and died at Goodland, Indiana Sept. 27, 1938, a son of Johannes/John Bertsche and Katharina Hauter.

11. Sarah Kinsinger was born Feb. 11, 1870, and died in Tazewell County June 21, 1891. Herald of Truth, July 1891: "On the 21st of June 1891, near Groveland, Tazewell Co., Ill., of consumption, Sarah, daughter of John and Barbara Kinsinger, aged 21 years, 4 months and 10 days. Sarah was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church, and expressed a living hope in Christ Jesus. Her parents, 8 sisters, 3 brothers, and many friends mourn their loss. The funeral on the 23d was largely attended. Services by Peter [illegible], Chr. King, and John P. Schmitt, from John 5: 24, 25." She is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery.

12. Samuel Kinsinger was born July 28, 1873, and died at Morton April 18, 1924. Circa 1908 he married Bernice Sankey. She was born in Missouri in 1872 (headstone), circa 1878 (age 42 on the 1920 census of Morton), or circa 1881 (age 29 on the 1910 census of Groveland). She died in 1942. They are buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

13. John Kinsinger was born March 23, 1875, and died Jan. 27, 1879. He is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery as 'Johnnie Kinsinger.'

14. William Daniel 'Willie' Kinsinger was born April 21, 1876, and died in Livingston County July 27, 1935. He is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. He had cognitive disabilities. He can be found as a 43-year-old on the 1920 census of Morton, living with older brother Samuel.

15. Carrie E. Kinsinger was born June 3, 1880, and died at Mineral, Bureau County July 31, 1945. On Jan. 7, 1902 in Woodford County she married Joseph D. Ulrich. He was born in Woodford County Aug. 10, 1872, and died at Rock Island March 23, 1930, a son of Peter Ulrich and Elizabeth King.

187 Was Bernice an orphan? The 1880 federal census of children at the Catholic Orphan School, 5th Ward, St. Louis includes Nettie Sankey, 8, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Fanny Sankey, 10, born in Missouri to parents from Missouri.
Minister Michael Kinsinger
(Montgomery)

We could not determine how or if this chain links to the main line.

**Daniel Kinsinger** was born at Marburg on the Lahn River in Hesse in 1765, and died in 1818.
In 1805 he married Catherine Schwartzzentuber. She was born in 1771, and died in 1834.
Their son **Michael Kinsinger** was born at Marburg Oct. 10, 1814, and died at Danvers, McLean County June 28, 1895.

*History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church:* "Michael was the third of five children. After the death of his father he, being practically homeless, lived with a man called Gingve [likely 'Gingre' for Güngerich] near Marburg, Germany, for ten years. He first learned the blacksmith's trade and then later the distilling business."

Michael sailed to America as a 15-year-old in 1829.188 On Nov. 12, 1837 in Butler County he married Magdalena Naffziger. Magdalena Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 3 or Aug. 1, 1818, and died Aug. 9, 1895, a daughter of minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck. The marriage ceremony was performed by her father.189

*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. In the same year Valentine and Peter Strubbar, with their mother and Rev. Michael Kinsinger, came from Butler County to Danvers Township." "They [the Kinsingers] came to McLean County, Illinois, in 1838. They lived in Bloomington a short time and then rented land in Danvers Township. They were parents of twelve children. The children were raised in a log house 16x18 feet, divided into two rooms and ground for the floor." In *Old Professions and New Ideas*, Robert Dirks says that, "Bloomington's first professional distiller, Michael Kinsinger, a native of Marburg, was Hessian Amish."

Michael and Magdalena are found on the 1850 census of Woodford County as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 34; Malinda, 30; Catharine, 12; Peter, 12; Daniel, 8; Jacob, 6; Christian, 4; and Barbaray, 2. They lived next door to Jacob Schantz and Catherine Deissen.190 They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 45, Hesse; Magdalena, 45; Catherine, 22; farm laborer Peter, 20; Daniel, 18; Jacob, 16; Christian, 14; Barbara, 12; Magdalena, 10; Anna, 8; Phebe, 6; Caroline, 4; and Killian, 1. 'They lived next door to Magdalena's father minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, who was separated from his wife and living in the household, and her brother Peter Jr.

Minister and elder John Michael Kistler (who had also lived in Butler County) ordained Michael as a minister of the Hessian South Danvers congregation in 1862.

The Kinsingers were omitted from the 1870 federal census, but there is little doubt that they were still living on their first homestead. An 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows the 'M. Kinzing' farm as the southeast quarter of Section 22. The Rock Creek ran through its 160 acres. Adjoining farms are labeled P. Noffsinger, J. Schrock, V. Strubhar, Jos. Maurer, and M. Zimmerman.

They are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 64, born in Hesse to a father from Prussia and a mother from Germany; Magdalena, 61, born in Darmstadt to parents from Darmstadt; and

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188 Michael had a brother who also came to America. Jacob Kinsinger was born Sept. 12, 1807, and died at Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania Jan. 20, 1894. He immigrated in 1832, and married Catherine Beachy in Somerset County circa 1833. She was born in the county May 3, 1809, and died there Dec. 13, 1892, a daughter of Peter Beachy and Barbara Hershberger. Five of their 10 children relocated to Iowa. Their son Peter (1839-1923) served as elder for a congregation in Johnson County, Iowa.

Michael's profile in *History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* is the source of the idea that his father Daniel died in 1828. However, it is obvious that there are inconsistencies: "Rev. Michael Kinsinger was born in Germany, October 10, 1814. His parents were Daniel and Catherine Schwartzzentuber Kinsinger. Daniel was born in 1765 and Catherine in 1771. They were married in 1805. Daniel died in 1828 and Catherine in 1834. Michael was the third of five children. After the death of his father he, being practically homeless, lived with a man called Gingve near Marburg, Germany, for ten years. [This would only be consistent if father Daniel Kinsinger had died in 1818]. He first learned the blacksmith's trade and then later the distilling business. He came to America in 1829 and settled in Butler County, Ohio. He came to America on his wedding trip. His wife died on the ocean. [It is unlikely that he would be a newlywed at 15]. Here he married Magdalena Naffziger, the daughter of Apostle Peter Naffziger in 1837. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Peter Naffziger."

189 The county entry lists them as Michael Kensinger and Magdalena Noffsiger.

190 One home removed was Michael Kinsinger, 30, Germany; Catharine, 28, Germany; Anna, 4, Ohio; Catharine, 3, Ohio; and Lena, 1, Illinois.
August, 18, born in Illinois. They lived one home removed from 'Apostle Peter,' found on the census as Peter Naffsinger, 91.

Michael died at Congerville (an area within Montgomery Township) June 28, 1895. Magdalena died there Aug. 9, 1895.

_Herald of Truth_, July 1895: "On the 28th of June 1895, near Congerville, Woodford Co., Ill., of general debility, Michael Kinsinger, aged 80 years, 8 months, 18 days. He was born in Hesse Darmstadt in 1814, was married to Magdalena Naffziger, Oct. 12th 1837 [sic], came to Illinois in 1839, where he has since resided. He leaves his aged and infirm companion and eleven children; also 49 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren; 4 children preceded him. He was for many years a minister in the South Danvers Cong. Buried on the 29th. Funeral services at the North Danvers M. H. by Chr. Guengrich in German and Joseph King in English. Services at the Imhoff grave yard by Joseph Stucky."

_Herald of Truth_, September 1895: "On the 9th of August 1895, in Woodford Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Magdalena Kinsinger, maiden name Naffziger, aged 77 years, 8 days. Her husband died just six weeks previously. Her remains were laid to rest in Imhoff's graveyard beside her husband. Funeral services in the North Danvers Mennonite M. H. by Chr. Guengrich, Jno. Kingsinger, Val. Strubhar, and Joseph Stucky. She leaves 11 children, 49 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren."

They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers, under the spelling 'Kinzinger.'

Children of Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger include:

1. Catherine Kinsinger was born in Butler County July 14, 1838, and died at Normal, McLean County Dec. 14, 1927. On Feb. 25, 1864 in McLean County she married Joseph Frye. He was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace Aug. 3, 1828, and died in McLean County Jan. 11, 1910, a son of Jean/John Frei and Catherine Sommer. Catherine is found as a widowed 71-year-old mother-in-law in the household of Thomas E. Adams and her daughter Kate on the 1910 census of Bloomington. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, where the joint headstone calls her 'Catherine Kinsinger.'

2. Peter F. Kinsinger was born at Congerville Dec. 13, 1839 (headstone date) or Dec. 17 (death entry), and died at Washington Jan. 25, 1921. On June 25, 1867 he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Nafziger. She was born Nov. 11, 1838, and died Oct. 30, 1883, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Katharina Nafziger. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton as 'Elisabeth, wife of Peter F. Kinsinger.' They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Peter Kinsinger, 40, servant; Lizzie, 35; with two children born in Illinois. 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.

3. Daniel O. Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 5, 1842, and died at Washington Dec. 15, 1922. On March 11, 1875 in Tazewell County he married Mary A. Schick. In 1880 they were living at Sheridan, Missouri: Daniel Kinsinger, 39, born in Illinois to parents from Hesse; Mary A., 25, born in Illinois to parents from Prussia [Alsace was occupied by Germany 1870-1918]; Rosalie, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Fannie, 11 months, born in Missouri to parents from Illinois. On Nov. 4, 1884 in Tazewell County Daniel remarried to Mary Plank. She was born at Montgomery, Woodford County Jan. 2, 1855, and died Feb. 19, 1930, a daughter of Jean Blanck/John Plank and Catherine Engel. The 1900 census of Washington shows Daniel Kinsinger, 58, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary, 45, born in Illinois in January 1855 to French parents; three children; and sister-in-law Susan Plank. Their household is found on the 1910 census of Washington as Daniel Kinsinger, 68, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; Mary, 52, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany; Arthur, 23, born in Missouri to parents from Illinois; Ray, 16, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; sister-in-law Susan Plank, 68, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany; and sister-in-law Lena [Plank] Kistler, 49, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany. The 1920 census of Washington shows them as retired farmer Dan Kinsinger, 77, born in Illinois to German parents, and Mary, 64, born in Illinois to French parents.

4. Jacob Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 5, 1844, and died in McLean County Nov. 21, 1914. On Jan. 11, 1877 in McLean County he married Helen Kieth. She was born Sept. 8, 1854, and died in McLean County May 23, 1940, a daughter of David Kieth. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

5. Christian W. Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 11, 1846, and died March 25, 1914. On Jan. 10, 1871 in McLean County he married Magdalena Strubhar; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born at Danvers, McLean County Feb. 12, 1849, and died June 16, 1935, a daughter of John Strubhar and Anna Schertz. They are buried in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

6. Barbara Kinsinger was born at Congerville Aug. 22, 1848, and died in Nebraska Feb. 7, 1890. She is buried as 'Barbara Zook, wife of David' in Fairview Cemetery at Dawson County, Nebraska. On Aug. 11, 1878 in McLean County she married David Alexander Zook. He was born in Ohio Aug. 11, 1848, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County Feb. 4, 1922 (headstone date) of Feb. 6 (death entry), a son of David Zook and Barbara King. He is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County. They were living at White Oak in 1870 and 1880.

7. Magdalena/Helena 'Ellen' Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 18, 1849 (headstone date, 1850 is also found), and died Nov. 29, 1932. On Jan. 14, 1869 in McLean County she married Jacob Gundy; the ceremony was performed by
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

minister Joseph Stuckey. Jacob was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Nov. 26, 1846, and died in McLean County April 26, 1919, a son of John von Gunden/Gundy and Mary Schwartzentruber. They lived at White Oak. Their joint headstone in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery calls her ‘Helena Kinzinger.’

8. Anna/Annie Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (twin)(her headstone says March 3), and died at Normal, McLean County March 8, 1906. On Dec. 23, 1875 in McLean County she married minister Peter Schantz; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church called him “The outstanding leader of the Central Conference Mennonite Church for a quarter of a century (1896-1921).”

9. Jakobina ‘Phoebe’ Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (twin), and died Feb. 19, 1939. On Feb. 9, 1886 in Tazewell County she married widower Joseph Strubhar. He was born Aug. 8, 1853, and died at Danvers June 20, 1916, a son of Peter Strubhar and Barbara Schweizer. His first wife had been Jacobine Ropp, who had died Aug. 9, 1883. All three are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

10. Caroline Kinsinger was born at Congerville Dec. 7, 1855 (headstone date), and died at Normal, McLean County July 30, 1924. She is buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington, McLean County. On Oct. 16, 1884 in McLean County she married George L. Kirchner; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. George was born in Germany in August 1847. The 1910 census of Dry Grove, McLean County lists them as George L. Kirchner, 63; Caroline, 43; and four children born in Illinois. They are found on the 1920 census of Normal, McLean County as George L. Kirchner, 72; and Caroline, 54.

11. Killian M. Kinsinger was born at Congerville Oct. 12, 1858, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Feb. 12, 1945. He is found at Montgomery in 1860, and White Oak from 1880 to 1930. He did not marry. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

12. August Valentine Kinsinger was born at Congerville Aug. 26, 1860, and died Feb. 28, 1956. On Sept. 19, 1889 he married Minnie Florence Rhadovi. She was born April 27, 1865, and died in McLean County Aug. 23, 1938. He is found at Montgomery in 1880, and they are found at White Oak in 1900. They are buried in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery under the name ‘Kinzinger.’
Ringenberger of Fribourg

Ringgenberg is a village located near Interlaken on Lake Brienz, just below Lake Thun in Canton Bern. Under the *Heimatrecht* legal rights system it is the legal place of origin for citizenship rights (*Heimat*) for almost all Swiss citizens named Ringenberg, Ringenberg, and Rinkenberg.

Not a single Ringenberger appears on census lists of the core followers of Jacob Amman at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines after the Amish Division. Historian Delbert Gratz wrote a 200-page book called *Bernese Anabaptists* (including pages of lists of Anabaptists in Canton Bern as late as 1823) without once mentioning the surname.

In the early 1700s they came from what is now Moselle in the region of Lorraine to the Bärbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach, a property that became a sort of training ground for future ministers. Eventually the lease on the property passed to a Ringenberg. By 1800 it was impossible to imagine a congregation in the region of Lorraine without some link to this family.

The French Peter Ringenberger
Groveland

Christian Ringenberg is known to us as the father of the groom on a marriage entry in the Catholic church book of the administrative district/parish of Niederschlettenbach in the Pfalz (now just above the border of the German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz with Lower Alsace). It documented a ceremony performed by Anabaptist minister Christian Holli/Holly on the grounds of the Bärbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach bei Dahn May 23, 1720. He is described as "Christiani Ringenberg, comorantis in Dominatu Friburg pago Langenberg," living at Fribourg [Ger. Freiburg] in the parish of Langenmberg [Ger. Langenberg]. Fribourg is now in Moselle (the department was not established until 1794) in the region of Lorraine.

His son Christian Ringenberg was born circa 1690. He became a laborer and farmer on the castle estate Ketzin near Gondrexange, nine miles northwest of Fribourg.

He married Anna Maurer in the 1720 ceremony. Anna Maurer was likely the daughter of Michel Murer born circa 1660, who had migrated from the area of Diessbach and Munsingen in the parish of Steffisburg to resettle at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Steffisburg records indicate that his surname was originally Mŭrer, as it is still spelled in Canton Bern.

Children of Christian Ringenberg and his first wife Anna Maurer include:

1. Hans/Jean Ringenberger was born before 1723, and died in 1763. In 1743 he came from the castle estate Ketzin to marry Magdalena Holly, a daughter of minister-leaseholder Christian Holli/Holly. Her father died in 1748, and she died the following year, leaving him with the lease on the Bärbelsteinerhof estate. He remarried to Anna Rupp. His death left three children who have not been identified. Anna continued on the estate with Tobias Kiefer as her co-leaseholder 1763-1772. Kiefer had been a co-leaseholder of the Steinbacherhof estate near Asswiller, with his brother Jacob Kiefer and Christian Nafziger (a nephew to Ulrich Nafziger). Perhaps he introduced widower Isaac Hochstettler of Asswiller to widow Anna; Isaac and Anna married in 1766. She had two more children, one Peter Hochstetter, whose descendants came to Tazewell County. Anna died in 1784.

2. André Ringenberg was born between 1723 and 1731, and died at Rhodes April 9, 1793. He married Magdelena Schwartz. She was born circa 1729, and died in the hamlet La Blanche Allemande (between Blâmont and Hattigny) Jan. 19, 1800. Her death entry described her as 'Maggalaine Noire,' 70, the widow of the deceased 'André Ringberich.' The entry was witnessed by Pierre Suisse, who was described as her son-in-law and a resident of Blâmont. He signed with an 'x,' indicating that he was illiterate. They farmed at Hattigny. Their sons account for the immediate proliferation of the family name in Moselle.

3. Christian/Christophe Ringenberg was born circa 1730.

Christian returned to what is now Moselle, perhaps after the death of Anna. He also remarried. Christian died at Danne-et-Quatre-Vents [Ger. Vierwinden] on the west side of Phalsbourg (now in Moselle) April 6, 1780. The death entry calling him 'Chrêtien Ringenberg' described him as an Anabaptist laborer and farmer at Ketzin, and gave his age as 90. It stated that he was buried in the garden of landlord [Fr. aubergiste] Antoine Ulrich. In addition it described him as the widower of 'Elizabette Pflegtiger' (possibly Elisabeth Fluckinger).
**Christian/Christophe Ringenberg** was born circa 1730, and died in the home of a daughter at Sotzelings, Moselle March 30, 1796. He farmed on the ruined castle estate Hingsange farm at Linstroff in what is now Moselle. Other families found there included Abresol, Blank, Esch/Oesch, Farni/Farny, Hirschi, Meyer, Oyer, Schmitt, Stecker, and Vitrick (this became Widrick in America). See STAKER for more on this location.

He married Marie Schertz. They had children on Hingsange farm in 1765 and 1772. Marie died, and he remarried to Catherine Kempf before 1786. Catherine died at Dolving, Moselle Aug. 23, 1821.

Christian attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759 as a representative of the Morhange area [Ger. Mörchingen; Linstroff is seven miles northeast of Morhange].

Christian/Christophe and his second wife Catherine Kempf were the parents of weaver Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger. He was born on Hingsange farm June 12, 1786, and died at Elm Grove May 5, 1861.

On Jan. 13, 1810 at Haut-Clocher, Moselle he married Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock. She was born at Rhodes in May 1787 (her headstone says 1790), and died at Elm Grove in April 1859, a daughter of Caspar Schrag and his second wife Maria Blaser.

Their marriage entry calls the groom 'Pierre Ringenbergier,' a son of 'Christophe Ringenbergier' and 'Catherine Kampf.' The bride was 'Ann Schraque,' a daughter of 'Gaspart Schraque' and 'Marie Blaser.' The father of the bride had died 20 years earlier, while her mother had died 19 years earlier. One witness was Jean Herges [Hirschi], 58, a farmer from Sarrelfing farm at Haute-Clocher and cousin of the groom. The groom signed his name 'Petter Rinckenberg,' and the bride signed with an 'x,' indicating she was illiterate. Catherine Kempf also signed with an 'x'.

They emigrated from Europe in 1831. Their youngest child was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1833. They also spent time in Butler County, Ohio before resettling at what is now Groveland in 1837.

Anna was a half-sister to Catherine Schrag (1771-1823) who married Joseph Oyer (1774-1845). Catherine died in childbirth, and Joseph remarried to Magdalena Litwiller. Anna's family's move from Butler County to Groveland in 1837 apparently prompted the Oyers to make the journey and purchase land in Groveland the following year.

The Ringenberg/Ringenbergers can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Peter 'RingerBarger', 64, France; Anne, 62, France; laborer Christian, 30, France; and laborer Abraham, 17, Pennsylvania; next door to Oyers.

After Anna's death in 1859, Peter lived with his youngest son Abraham. The 1860 census of Groveland lists the household as Peter Ringenberg, 74, France; his son Abram [Ringenberger], 32, Pennsylvania; Barbara [Stalter], 25, Bavaria; and grandson/son Peter, three months, Illinois.

When Peter died May 5, 1861, it was reported by his son Abraham. His estate was administered by Jacob Zimmerman. His application listed the heirs as John, Peter, Christian, Ann, Barbara, Mary, Cathrina, and himself. Peter and Anna are buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery at Fon du Lac.

All their children except the youngest were born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, where their birth entries employed the spelling 'Ringenberg.' We know that Peter signed his name 'Petter Rinckenberg.' Perhaps because of this, many of his descendants have chosen the spelling 'Rinkenberg.'

Children of Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock include:

1. Joseph Ringenberg was born at Linstroff Oct. 15, 1810, and died there Aug. 7, 1817.
2. Jean Ringenberg/John Ringenberger was born July 17, 1811, and died in Livingston County Oct. 29, 1886; he is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley. Circa 1843 he married Anna Gerber. She was born at Hoff, Moselle March 14, 1817 (her headstone says March 15, 1817), and died in Livingston County Feb. 1, 1902, a daughter of Christian Gerber and Catharine Springer. According to daughter Mary's obituary, they lived in Woodford County, then relocated to Tazewell County in 1854. Before 1870 they divorced, and Anna went to live with her children in Nebraska Township, Livingston County. John remarried to Catherine Baker (Baker may have been the surname of her first husband). The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows 72 acres belonging to 'J. Ringenberger' in the southwest corner of Section 11, Montgomery Township (his brother Peter lived in the northeast corner of the same section). His household is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township as farmer John Rinkenberger, 68, France; Catherine, 50, New Jersey; and stepson Linhart Baker, 15, Illinois. The 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows Anna Rinkenberger, 64, France, as well as her daughter Anna, 25, Illinois, in the household of son 'C. Rinkenberger, 33.' *Herald of Truth*, February 1887: "In Livingston county, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, John Ringenberger, in his 75th year. Services by John P. Schmidt from *John 5:24-25*. Deceased united with the Amish Mennonite church in his youth." "Anna wife of John Rinkenberger" is buried in Gridley Cemetery.

Children of Jean/John Ringenberger and his first wife Anne/Anna Gerber include:

a. Mary Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells (formerly Farnisville) in Montgomery Township, Woodford County Sept. 19, 1844, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 22, 1928. On July 15, 1863 she became the second wife of Johannes König/John R. King. He was born in Baden Sept. 16, 1825, and...
died in Livingston County April 25, 1895, a son of Johannes König and Jakobea Rediger. His first wife had been Fanny Ehresman. See KING for more on him including his obituary and their common censuses. The 1900 census of Flanagan Village, Nebraska Township has Mary R. King, 55, born in Illinois in September 1844 to a German father and French mother; and daughter Maudie R., 13, born in Illinois in November 1886 to a German father and a mother from Illinois. On Nov. 12, 1901 at Milford, Nebraska Mary remarried to widower Jean Stauffer/John Stauffer. He was born at Bolwiller, Upper Alsace March 19, 1841, and died at Milford, Nebraska May 5, 1914, a son of Jean Stauffer and Barbe Kaufmann. His first wife was Barbara Grieser (see REDGER). Gospel Herald, October 1929: "Mary Rinkenberger was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Sept. 19, 1844; died at the home of her son (C. R. King) at Manson, Iowa, where she was visiting at the time; aged 85 y. 3 d. At the age of 10 she with her parents moved to Tazewell Co., Ill. July 15, 1863, she was married to John R. King of Tazewell Co., where they lived on a farm, later moving to Livingston Co. To this union were born nine children, one dying in infancy. Those who survive their mother are Mrs. Phoebe Shafer, John R., D. E., N. E., Mrs. Anna Bachman, Chris, and Will, and Mrs. Maud Graber. Her husband preceded her in death April 26, 1895. She also leaves one brother and one sister, thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, also many relatives and friends. Nov. 12, 1901, she was married to John Stauffer of Milford, Nebr. After the death of her husband she resided there until the marriage of her youngest daughter, when they came to Nobel, Ia., where she has since made her home. Sister Stauffer accepted Christ as her personal Savior, united with the Mennonite Church, and remained a consistent member. At the time of her death she had her church home with the Sugar Creek church near Wayland, Iowa. In passing the children lose an affectionate mother. Her pleasant personality won her many friends. She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her. Her remains were brought to the home of her daughter in Flanagan where, on Sept. 26, services were held and at the Waldo church by the brethren J. D. Hartzler and D. W. Slagel. Interment in the Waldo cemetery by the side of her husband."

b. Christian Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Sept. 28, 1846, and died in Livingston County March 28, 1924. On March 7, 1871 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Augsburger. She was born at Minier May 20, 1854, and died at Gridley Jan. 4, 1936, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. They are shown on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County as 'C. Rinkenberger, 33; Lizzie, 25; four children born in Illinois; his mother Anna, 64; and his sister Anna, 25. They also appear on the 1900 census of Gridley Village, Livingston County. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

c. Peter Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Jan. 24, 1850, and died at Gridley April 30, 1933. On April 1, 1875 in Livingston County he married Christina Funk. She was born May 18, 1848, and died at Gridley March 31, 1927 (her headstone says April 3), a daughter of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are found at Rinkenburger on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County; on the 1910 census of Gridley; and Peter is found as a widower at Gridley in 1930. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

d. Anna Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Sept. 28, 1853, and died May 23, 1888; she is buried in Gridley Cemetery.

e. Sara Rinkenberger was born in Tazewell County Nov. 1, 1857 (headstone date), and died at Gridley Aug. 19, 1944. On Oct. 20, 1874 in Livingston County she married Frederick W. Schultz. He was born Feb. 17, 1848, and died at Gridley June 20, 1903. They are found on the 1900 census of Gridley as farmer Frederick W. Schultz, 52, born in Germany in February 1848, immigrated in 1860; Sarah R., 42, born in Illinois to German parents in September 1857; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

3. Christian Ringenberg was born in February 1814, and died at Linstroff May 23, 1814.

4. Pierre Ringenberg or Peter Ringenberger was born at Linstroff June 2, 1815.

5. Christophe/Christian Ringenberg/Ringenberger was born at Linstroff May 26, 1817, and died at Washington, Tazewell County July 17, 1871. On March 14, 1852] in Tazewell County he married Jakobina 'Bena' Kidder [Kettner]; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. See the paragraph on George Kettner and Marie Birki in BIRKY/BIRKEY. Christian and Bena's joint headstone in Rinkenberger Cemetery gives no dates.

6. Anne Ringenberg or Anna Ringenberger was born at Linstroff Nov. 6, 1819, and died at Alvin, Vermilion County July 17, 1871; she is buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery. On Oct. 25, 1846 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Burkey. He was born April 26, 1816, possibly at Obersanding Bavaria; and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Dec. 12, 1887, a son of Johannes/Hans/John Bircky/Burkey and Freni Swalter.

7. Barbe Ringenberg or Barbara Ringenberger was born at Linstroff Sept. 25, 1821, and died at Walnut, Bureau County Jan. 4, 1864; she is buried in Red Oak Cemetery at Walnut. On Jan. 7, 1844 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of Jacob Albrecht (his first wife was Katharina Ackerman, 1813-1842). He was born at Hochspeyer in the Pfalz Dec. 9 or Jan. 9, 1805, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 11, 1878, a son of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton.

8. Marie Ringenberg or Mary Ringenberger was born at Linstroff Oct. 1, 1823, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Aug. 24, 1903; she is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Flanagan. On Oct. 15, 1844 in Tazewell County she married
Jacob Zimmerman, also known as Jacob J. Zimmerman. He was born on the Schlatthof at Tiengen bei Freiburg, Baden April 18, 1818, and died at Flanagan Oct. 15, 1849, a son of Michael Zimmerman and Barbara Roggy. He is buried in Center Cemetery at Flanagan. The county marriage register indicates that a certificate (license) to marry was obtained for Jacob Klaus and Mary Ringenberger on July 9, 1816. However, it was never returned. Klaus married Mary Widman in Tazewell County Oct. 8, 1861.

9. Catherine Ringenberger or Katie Ringenberger was born at Linstroff Nov. 14, 1826, and died at Farmland Jan. 24, 1905. She is thought to be buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington, though no headstone is found there. On Nov. 20, 1849 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Schrock. The county marriage register lists the marriage of 'Joseph Strock' and 'Catharin Rinkeybarger.' They had a second civil ceremony June 12, 1859 (perhaps to correct the earlier recordkeeping error for purposes of future inheritance). Joseph was a son of Catherine Oyer, and his stepfather was John Schrock. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County (in a part that became Groveland) as farmer John Schrock, 77, Germany; Catherine [Oyer], 57, Germany; farmer Joseph Schrock, 27, Germany; and Catherine [Ringenberger], 23, Germany. Joseph died before the 1860 census. Catherine appears as 34-year-old widow 'Catherine Schrock' on the 1860 census of Groveland, with two children, 7-year-old Anna and 3-month-old Peter, living next door to her widowed father Peter Ringenberger. On Nov. 7, 1869 in Tazewell County she remarried to neighbor Jean Springer/John Spring. See SPRINGER for more on this couple.

10. Magdalena/Madeleine Ringenberg was born May 12, 1829, and died in infancy.

11. Abraham Ringenberger/Ringenberg was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania May 28, 1833, and died April 15, 1915. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Stalter; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born at Trippstadt in the Pfälz May 18, 1835, and died at Washington Jan. 15, 1922, a daughter of Magdalena Stalter. They are found on the 1880 census of Fon du Lac as farmer A. Ringenberger, 47, born in Pennsylvania to French parents; Barbara, 45, born in R. Biern [Bavaria]; and eight children born in Illinois. They belonged to the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland. They are buried in Ringenberger Cemetery.

**Pierre Ringenberg or Peter Ringenberger** was born on Hinsange Farm at Linstroff, Moselle June 2, 1815 (per birth entry), and died Jan. 18, 1892.

It is thought that he married Catherine 'Katie' Garber in Ohio in 1837 or earlier. (This may be too early a date, since their oldest identified children were not born until 1845). She was born in Alsace in June 1813, and died April 24, 1901. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Peter Rinkenberry, 35, France; Catharine, 25, France; Anna, 5, Illinois; Gideon, 3, Illinois; and Peter, 2, Illinois. Before 1860 they moved from Farmdale to a part of Montgomery Township called Congerville.

They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery as farmer Peter Rinkenberger, 44, France; Catherine, 44, France; Anna, 15, Illinois; and Gideon, 13, Illinois.

After the 1860 census the family employed the spelling 'Rinenberger.' In that year the oldest child, daughter Anna, turned 15. She had attended Railroad Schoolhouse in Elm Grove, and may have been the first fully-literate person in her family. The decision may have been hers.

The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows 'P. Rinenberger' as the owners of 160 acres in the northeast corner of Section 11. The 1880 census of Montgomery shows Peter Ringenberger, 65, France; Catherine, 66, France; Gideon, 33, Illinois; Abraham, 22; and Catherine, 26, Illinois.

Peter and Catherine are buried in Gridley Cemetery, McLean County as 'Peter Ringenberger born June 1815 died Jan. 1892' and 'Katie Ringenberger born June 1813 died Apr. 1901.'

Children of Peter Ringenberger and Catherine 'Katie' Garber include:

1. Mary Ringenberger (twin) was born June 6, 1845, and died Dec. 6, 1845.
2. Anna Ringenberger/Ringenberger (twin) was born June 6, 1845, and died at Carlock, McLean County Oct. 26, 1911. She married Christian M. Miller. He was born May 1, 1842, and died May 14, 1907. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville in Montgomery Township.
3. Gideon Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Dec. 21, 1846, and died June 2, 1931. He is buried in Gridley Cemetery.
4. Peter Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Nov. 17, 1848. He is thought to have died in 1866; he is not shown on the 1860 census of Montgomery.
5. Rachel Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Sept. 9, 1850, and died at Gridley Feb. 25, 1954 - age 103 years, five months, and 16 days. In 1874 she married Henry Funk. He was born in Baden June 1, 1845, and died at Gridley Nov. 1, 1905, a son of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.
6. Catherine 'Kate' Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Aug. 18, 1853, and died Jan. 29, 1940. She is buried in Gridley Cemetery.
7. Lydia Ringenberger was born and died in 1855.
8. Abraham Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born July 19, 1857, and died at Gridley April 3, 1940. In 1877 he married Lydia Zimmerman. She was born Feb. 22, 1857, and died June 2, 1951, a daughter of Michael Zimmerman and
married Susanne Guingerich, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi, and a stepdaughter of Michel Engel.  

Blanche-Eglise, Moselle Nov. 9, 1828, a son of Sebastian Reŭtiger/André Rediger.  He was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden March 13, 1775, and died at Bébing, Moselle Jan. 27, 1813, a daughter of Christian Engel .  

They lived on the farm La Forge below Imling, which is adjacent to Bébing; then on Sarixing farm at Bébing.  Marie's age was given as 65 on the marriage entry of her son, Joseph Ringenberg, created at Bébing May 18, 1812; witnesses at that event included 'cousins of the groom’ Michel Engel and Joseph Engel.  Her death on Rinting farm at Bébing was reported by son-in-law Andreas Reidiger/André Rediger.  

Children of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel born on the farm La Forge below Imling (now in Moselle) include:

1. Johannes/Jean Ringenberg was born in 1770.  He married Madeleine Hochstettler at Bébing, Moselle Feb. 9, 1796, and at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace Feb. 14, 1796.  She was born in 1778, a daughter of Christien/Christian Hochstettler and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Nafziger of the Lauterbacherhof near Reichshoffen.  At Reichshoffen minister Christian Engel and his father-in-law Christian Nafziger were marriage witnesses.  Christian Engel was actually cousin to the groom and uncle to the bride; the bride was the stepdaughter of Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger of the Steinbacherhof at Durstel, Lower Alsace, who was a sister to Christian Engel's first wife Katharina/Catherine Nafziger.  When a daughter was born at Strasbourg June 26, 1803, she was described as Madeleine Rinckenberg, a daughter of cultivator Jean Rinckenberg and Madeleine Hochstaettler living à l'Isle du Rhin.  Witnesses included cultivators Jean Rothacher, 34, and David Rothacher, 60.  The father signed ‘Jean Ringenberg.’  In 1813 they migrated to Bavaria.  Reiterating from HOCHSTETTLER:  In 1795 Maria Leopoldine of Austria-Est became the second wife of the Bavarian Elector Karl Theodor.  She was 18, he was 70.  In 1799 he suffered a stroke and died.  In 1801 she purchased the Stepperg Castle near Neuberg an der Donau and a brewery at adjacent Rennertshofen.  Johannes/Jean Ringenberg and Madeleine's brother Christian Hochstettler became tenant farmers on thegrounds of the estate.  

2. Christian Ringenberg was born in 1777, and died on the Samhof estate near Ingolstadt, Bavaria in 1829.  

3. Anne Ringenberg was born March 10, 1779.  On July 24, 1796 at Imling she married Andreas Reidiger/André Rediger.  He was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden March 13, 1775, and died at Blanche-Eglise, Moselle Nov. 9, 1828, a son of Sebastian Reŭtiger and his second wife Anna Lederach.  They settled on Rinting farm at Bébing.  

4. Pierre Ringenberg was born June 29, 1783, and died between 1815 and 1818.  On July 9, 1802 at Gros-Rédérectinghe he married Susanne Guingerich, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi, and a stepdaughter of Michel Engel.  The marriage entry was signed by stepfather Michel Engel and mother Anne Rubi, residents of Linstroff.  They lived on Weidesheim, the Roggy family estate at Kalhausen; then on Rinting farm at Bébing.  Pierre's age was difficult to pin down; when he witnessed a civil entry at Bébing for the birth of a daughter Madeleine to Andreas Reidiger/André Rediger and his sister Anne Ringenberg in 1813, his age was given as 38, when he was in fact 30.  After Pierre's death, Susanne became the second wife of Joseph Engel (1778-1818).  Pierre and Susanne's son Nicholas Ringenberg married Caroline Jutzi in Butler County, Ohio June 2, 1839; minister Benedict König/King performed the ceremony.  

5. Joseph Ringenberg was born March 25, 1786.  On May 18, 1812 at Rimling he married Catherine Schantz.  She was born at Bettwiller Aug. 26, 1787, a daughter of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki, who was living at Brandelfing farm.  Witnesses included Michel Engel, 40, of Brandelfing farm; and Joseph Engel, 34, of Kalhausen, described as cousins of the groom; Christian Gerber of Wising farm at Vahl-Ebersing; and Valentin Nafziger, 40, living on Offerding estate at Gros-Rédérectinghe.  

6. Catharine Ringenberg was born Sept. 15, 1788, and died Sept. 25, 1863.  On Feb. 6, 1806 at Hellocourt she married Joseph Vercler.  He was born Oct. 6, 1771, and died Feb. 19, 1818 at Hellocourt.  On Dec. 21, 1819 at Hellocourt she remarried to Peter Engel, son of minister Christian Engel (later elder of the Partridge Creek meeting).  At the time of their marriage she was living on Boule farm at Bihl, belonging to General Charles Louis Dieudonné Grandjean.  See ENGEL for more on this couple.  

7. Barbe Ringenberg was born in 1792, and died in 1821.  She married Christian Nafziger of the castle estate Ketzting near Gondrexange.
8. Jacobeé/Jacobine Ringenberg was born April 1, 1793, and died at Brandelfing farm April 23, 1823. On June 23, 1812 at Gros-Réderching she married cultivator Jean Guingerich of Brandelfing farm. He was born circa 1792, and died Aug. 28, 1832 on Brandelfing farm, a son of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi (who later remarried to Michel Engel).

**Christian Ringenberg** was born on the farm La Forge below Imling (now in Moselle) in 1771, and died on the Samhof estate near Ingolstadt, Bavaria in 1829. The Samhof estate is now the Samhof district on the west side of the city of Ingolstadt.

In 1796 he married Katharina Reidiger/Rediger. She was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden circa 1775, a daughter of Sebastian Reidiger and his second wife Anna Lederach.

Six of their children born at Imling have been identified with birth dates ranging from 1798 to 1806. Sometime around 1810 this couple resettled in the area of Ingolstadt, Bavaria. Ingolstadt was a university town. When Elector Max Joseph became King Maximilian I Joseph of Bavaria in 1799, he made changes in the law that lessened the influence of Jesuits at Ingolstadt and permitted religious freedom there for the first time. He had seen what Anabaptist farmers had done in Pfalz-Zweibrücken, and welcomed them to settle in the area. Catholic properties were secularized in 1802. Coinciding with the occupation of the Pfalz by French troops, a number of Anabaptist families moved eastward onto Bavarian soil.

Within a few years about 50 families such as Oesch, Oswald, Ingold, and Günsgerich were given formerly Catholic properties in the 16 miles from Ingolstadt east to Neuburg an der Donau, as the government encouraged cultivation of the Old Bavarian Donaumoos, also called the Danube Marsh. There were enough families to form a congregation about 1810, and more families came in 1820. They remained in the area until the '48er emigration. For more on this area see SUTTER and STEINMAN.

The exact birthplace of **Peter Ringenberger** could not be identified. When he died at Precinct K, Seward County, Nebraska (now the town of Goehner) Dec. 31, 1892, his *Herald of Truth* obituary said that he was age '82 years, 5 months' yielding the approximate birth date July 31, 1810. He is buried near Goehner. Perhaps a death certificate can be found there.

Our use of the spelling 'Peter Ringenberger' is arbitrary. He came from the Ringenberg family, the surname derived from the Bernese village Ringenegg. He signed his own name 'Petter Rinckenberg.' His children employed the spelling 'Ringenberger.'

This Bavarian Peter was a third cousin to the French Peter described earlier.

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**Christian Ringenberg born circa 1690**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>André</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>born circa 1730</td>
<td>born between 1723 and 1731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre/Peter</td>
<td>Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born in 1786</td>
<td>born no later than 1749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre/Peter of Groveland, the French Ringenberger</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born in 1815</td>
<td>born in 1771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter of Elm Grove, the Bavarian Ringenberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>born in 1810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He appears as 'Peter Ringenberg' on the passenger list of the bark *Atlantic* as it arrived at New York from Bremen Sept. 12, 1838. He is found in steerage with his second cousin Christian Ackermann (1813-1903), who later spelled his name 'Ackerman.' The list did not give their ages.

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191 Some sources say that he was the *Burgundy* passenger Pierre Ringenberg, found on the passenger list as a 24-year-old native of Switzerland. It sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 1, 1839. However, the *Burgundy* passenger was the Peter Ringenberger who is found on the 1860 census of Holmes County, Ohio as 45-year-old farmer Peter Ringenberger of Switzerland. He later appears on the 1880 census of Lincoln, Iowa as farmer Peter Ringenberg, 65, Switzerland; Anna, 49, Switzerland, and six children born in Ohio with two grandchildren born in Iowa. The 1885 state census of Iowa shows him as a 70-year-old in the household of his son-in-law George Harris and daughter Amelia. *The History of Polk County, Iowa* (1880): "Ringenberg, Peter Sr. - Farmer, section 27, P O. Palmer. Was born in Switzerland February 28, 1815, and in 1839 moved to
Sebastian Reüttiger born circa 1720

First wife Susanne Detweiler

Josef Reüttiger or Joseph Reüthiger
b. 1753 m. Katharina Hunziger/Catherine Unzicker
↓
Katharina Reidiger/Catherine Rediger
b. ca. 1783 m. Jakob Ackermann
↓
Christian Ackermann/Ackerman
b. 1813 m. Anna/Anne Belsley

Second wife Anne Lederach

Katharina Reüdiger/Rediger
b. ca. 1774 m. Christian Ringenberg
↓
Peter Ringenberger
b. 1810 m. Sybilla Garber

Recalling ACKERMAN: Christian Ackermann/Ackerman began his journey from Köfering near Regensburg, Bavaria. Upon arrival at New York he went directly to Butler County, Ohio, where he stayed for six months before continuing on to Spring Bay. In 1839 he married Anna/Anne Belsley. Christian and Anna settled at what is now Groveland in 1841, and near Evans Corner at Morton (now north of Route 74) in 1852.

On Feb. 7, 1848 in Tazewell County Peter Ringenberger married Sybilla Garber. She was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1827, and died before 1880, a daughter of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe.

Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Peter Ringenberger, 35, Germany; Siba, 23, Ohio; and farm laborer Christian Schlabach, 30, Germany. The names surrounding their entry - such as Sybilla's brother Emanuel Garber, the Ropps, and blacksmith Jacob Unzicker - indicate that they were already living in what would become Elm Grove.

Sybilla was admitted to Jacksonville State Hospital July 10, 1854, and discharged Sept. 1, 1854. The admissions record lists her as "Sibila Ringenberg, 24...nativity Germany, next of kin Peter Rigenberg of Pekin." The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows them as Peter Ringenger, 48, Bavaria; Phebe, 33, Ohio; Catharine, 9; Joseph, 8; Jacob, 3; and Daniel, five months; all children born in Illinois; the lived next door to Sybilla's brother Emanuel Garber. The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows 'P. Ringenberger' on 40 acres between the properties of Andrew Ropp and Sybilla's brother. The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Ringenberg, 60, Bavaria; Sibilla, 44, Ohio; Joseph, 18, Illinois; Jacob, 13, Illinois; Emily, 9, Illinois; and Mary, 6, Illinois.

Sybilla died before the 1880 census of Elm Grove: Peter Ringenberger, 69, Germany; Katie, 29, Illinois; Mary, 16, Illinois; Katie Saltons, 8 [Katie Saltonstall, Mary's daughter], Illinois; J. [Jacob] Ringenberger, 23, Illinois; and Sam Rahler, 20. She is thought to be buried in Railroad Cemetery. A number of markers and graves there were deeply covered when a rail bed was built up on its north side.

At the time of his death Peter was living with his oldest son Jacob in Precinct K, Seward County, Nebraska which has become the town of Goehner. Herald of Truth, February 1893: "On the 31st of December, 1892, in Seward County, Nebraska, suddenly, Peter Ringenberg. He appeared as well as usual and was sitting on a chair beside the stove when, without warning, he fell from the chair. They laid him on a lounge near by, but he was dead a moment after. His age was 82 years, 5 months. Funeral services by Joseph Schlegel and Jacob Stauffer."

Children of Peter Ringenberger and Sybilla Garber born at Elm Grove include:

1. Joseph Ringenberger was born May 19, 1850, and died in Seward County, Nebraska Nov. 18, 1917. On March 4, 1875 in Tazewell County he married Arnetta Hollstein. She was born in Illinois circa 1854, and died in Seward County Aug. 31, 1915. They are found on the 1910 census of Precinct K, Seward County as Joseph Ringenberg, 62, born in Illinois to a father from Germany (Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918) and a mother from Pennsylvania; Arnete, 56, born in Illinois to German parents; and John, 16, born in Nebraska to parents from Illinois.

2. Catherine 'Katie' Ringenberger was born Dec. 29, 1851, and died at Limestone, Peoria County Jan. 6, 1836. On May 19, 1870 in Tazewell County she married Thompson J. Saltonstall; he is found on the 1870 census of Pekin as saloon keeper Thompson Saltenstall, 21, Illinois. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows Catherine divorced with a daughter, living with her widowed father. On Oct. 27, 1889 she remarried to Noah Augsburger. He was born at Paradise, Lancaster County Feb. 18, 1850, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 27, 1892, a son of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery. On Aug. 19, 1900 in Tazewell County 'Katherine..."
Ringsburger Augsburger married a third time to Peter Vandyke. He was born in Tazewell County circa 1862, and died at Pekin Sept. 16, 1935, a son of Peter Van Dyke Sr. and his first wife Minerva Brown.\footnote{We had difficulty finding Peter Jr., but no problem finding his father Peter Van Dyke Sr. He was born in Canada April 10, 1820, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 14, 1893. Minerva Brown was the first of his three wives. He had 20 children. The 1880 census of Little shows him as Peter Van Dyke, 60, Canada; wife Elisebeth A. [Spencer], 35; and six children 13 and under born in Illinois. Peter Sr. and third wife Elizabeth Spencer are buried in Danforth Cemetery at Hopedale.}

3. Jacob Ringenberger/Ringenberg was born Nov. 16, 1857, and died at Eustis, Frontier County, Nebraska April 20, 1938. On July 12, 1883 in Tazewell County he married Wilhelmine 'Minnie' Feith. She was born in April 17, 1863, and died at Clearwater, Frontier County, Nebraska June 12, 1919, a daughter of Rudolph Feith and Elisabeth Weisman. Her family is shown on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as laborer Rudolph Faith, 36, Prussia; Annie, 40, Prussia; Wilhelmina, 17, Prussia; and August, 9, Prussia. They are found on the 1910 census of Clearwater, and Jacob is found there as a widower in 1920 and 1930. They are buried in Eustis City Cemetery as Jacob Ringenberg and Wilhelmine Ringenberg.

4. Daniel Ringenberger was born circa 1860, and died before 1870.

5. Amelia Sybilla 'Emily' Ringenberger was born Oct. 29, 1862, and died at Davenport, Iowa June 28, 1931. On Jan. 12, 1890 at Minier she married widower John R. Whisler. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio May 15, 1846, and died at Danville, Vermillion County July 28, 1915, a son of Joseph Whisler and Emeline Emery. They are found on the 1910 census of Mackinaw as John R. Whisler, 63, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; Emelia, 50, born in Illinois to German parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried at Mackinaw.

6. Mary Ringenberger was born circa 1864. One source says that on Dec. 20, 1883 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Miller, who was born in Dearborn County, Indiana circa 1868; and that she died in 1888.
Presumably 'Springer' was derived from Spring, a surname that is woven through many of the early genealogies from the area of Lake Thun in Canton Bern.

Daniel Springer was born circa 1750. Circa 1775 he married Marie Kohler, who was born in 1753. When she died on Olferding estate at Gros-Réderching, Moselle March 28, 1806, the civil death entry said that she was a daughter of Christophe Kohler and Anne Hunssinger of Colmar, Upper Alsace.

Their children include:

1. Johannes/Jean Springer was born circa 1776.
2. Catherine Springer was born in 1779.
3. Madeleine Springer was born on Olferding estate at Gros-Réderching circa 1780, and died at Porcelotte, Moselle Feb. 4, 1819. On Oct. 30, 1809 at Porcelotte she married Chrétien/Christian 'Weicz'. He was a son of Pierre Weiss and Catherine Moser.
4. Christian Springer was born at Plaine-de-Walsch (four miles southeast of Sarrebourg) circa 1782, and died at Dambach, Lower Alsace Jan. 18, 1827, age 45. He is found on his civil death entry as 'Chrétien Spring'; it was witnessed by his brother-in-law Joseph Bachman, described as a 45-year-old weaver, and Jean Steiner, described as a 45-year-old cultivator. On Feb. 2, 1809 on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle he married Suzanne Farny. She was born at Bistroff, Moselle in 1788, a daughter of Christian Farny and Anne Hirschi/Hirschy. One of their sons was Jean Springer, who was known in Tazewell County as John Spring. See DAVID'S COUSIN JEAN SPRINGER/JOHN SPRING.
5. Joseph Springer was born circa 1784.
6. Barbe Springer was born at Plaine-de-Walsch circa 1784, and died at Dambach, Lower Alsace June 14, 1839, age 55. On March 18, 1813 at Gros-Réderching she married weaver Joseph Bachman. He was born on Rinting farm between Bébing and Imling circa 1783, and died at Thuilley-aux-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle July 7, 1843, a son of Jean Bachman and Barbe Rouvenacht. His death entry created at Thuilley-aux-Groseilles described him as a 60-year-old weaver from Dambach; it was witnessed by their 28-year-old son miller Christian Bachman (he signed his own name Bachmann).

Johannes/Jean Springer was born circa 1776.

On Jan. 27, 1798 at Struth, Lower Alsace he married Katharina/Catherine Zehr. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Johannes Springer, 21, a son of Daniel Springer and Maria Kohler; and the bride as Cathrina Zehr, 19, a daughter of Daniel Zehr and Catrina Zehr. She was born April 15, 1778, and died at Tremont Sept. 10, 1849.

They migrated to Bavaria in 1819. There they settled at Solln, a suburb southwest of Munich. Their children born at Struth include:

1. Daniel Springer was born July 13, 1800; he may be the 'Daniel Sprenger' who died at Augsburg Nov. 8, 1875. He married Veronica Oesch. She was born at Hanfeld, Germany in 1804, and died there March 22, 1829, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Katharina/Catherine Bürki.
2. Madeleine/Magdalena Springer was born Aug. 24, 1803.
3. David Springer was born Oct. 14, 1806, and died at Minier in Little Mackinaw Township April 16, 1884.
4. Christian Springer was born July 11, 1810.
5. Johannes/Jean Springer was born May 15, 1815.

David Springer was born at Struth Oct. 14, 1806, and died at Minier in Little Mackinaw Township April 16, 1884. He is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

David married Elisabeth Guth. She was born at Busenberg in the Pfalz Jan. 31, 1803, and died at Tremont Sept. 10, 1849, a daughter of Christian Guth and Barbara Güngerich.

In Auswanderung die Nordamerika, Friedrich Blendinger lists the family of David Springer, his wife, and seven children. They emigrated from Solln with 3,000 florins in 1949, stating that their destination was Illinois.

They sailed on the Minnesota via Liverpool to New York, where they arrived June 21, 1849. The passenger list shows David Springer, 43; Elisabeth, 43; Catharine, 22; Elisabeth, 19; Johann, 15; Christian, 13; Joseph, 11; Magdalena, 9; and Barbara, 7. As noted earlier in EIGSTI, their fares from New York to Chicago would have been about $9.50. This would have been equivalent to about $250 in modern buying power.

From there many in their group traveled directly to Central Illinois. The party included 17-year-old Christian Eigsti; the widower Valentine Birky of Gern (now part of Munich) with the youngest five of his 13 children; Jacob Stalter (found as 'Stalder') and his new wife Barbara Birkey, a niece of Valentine Birky; 67-year-old Daniel Zehr of
Hanfeld; George Ritthaler (found on the passenger list as George 'Riedthalr,' 30), who became a member of the Dillon Creek meeting; Andreas Oesch, 26, of Hanfeld; and Elizabeth Egli, 50, of Hanfeld.

Elisabeth died within three months of the family's arrival in Central Illinois. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

David initially settled in Tremont (the township was established in 1851). He farmed there for eight years. He applied for naturalization at Pekin Dec. 29, 1854, and was affirmed Jan. 11, 1855. His application said that he was born at Struth, but had given allegiance to Maximilian of Bavaria.

In 1858 David resettled at Little Mackinaw, where he is found on the 1860 census.

In 1854 a 'Delavan Prairie meeting' had been formed, meeting every second Sunday in private homes. Some of the first heads of families were Christian Nafziger, Peter Nafziger, Joseph Litwiller, Christian Schlegel, and Christian Birkey. David Springer joined that meeting. It later became known as the Hopedale Amish-Mennonite Church or the German Church. In 1876 a building was constructed to become the Hopedale Mennonite Church.

Children of David Springer and Elisabeth Guth born at Solln near Munich include:

1. Catherine Springer was born in 1829, and died in Woodford County in December 1849. On Dec. 9, 1849 in Tazewell County she married Pierre/Peter Zehr. He was born at Struth June 1, 1819, and died in August 1850, a son of Joseph Zehr and Anna Verly. Catherine must have died within weeks of her marriage; her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora calls her, "Catharine Springer, Ehefrau des Peter Zehr gest. 1849." Pierre/Peter died in August 1850.

2. Elizabeth Springer was born July 24, 1830, and died Aug. 30, 1921. On Feb. 2, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Valentine Birky. He was born Oct. 12, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County June 28, 1901, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. He immigrated in 1846 on the brig Daniel Kilby. Valentine is listed as 38-year-old farmer Valentine 'Buckey' on the 1860 census of Tremont. The 1880 census of Tremont lists their household as farmer Valentine Burkey, 59; Elisabeth Burkey, 48; and seven children. Every member of the household is erroneously listed as a native of Berne with parents from Bern. For his obituary see BIRKY/BIRKEY.

3. John Springer was born Aug. 28 or 29, 1834, and died May 13, 1896. On March 16, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Nafziger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Unterweilbach, Bavaria May 1, 1836, and died Feb. 2, 1908, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Fröny Bürcky/Veronica Burkey. 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 the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

4. Christian Springer was born Oct. 12, 1835, and died at Peoria July 9, 1920. He is found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as a farm laborer in the household of Joseph Ropp and Catherine Birky. On Nov. 4, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Frena/Fannie Reeser; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born in Ohio Aug. 19, 1842, and died Feb. 13, 1906, a daughter of John Reeser and Katharina Zimmerman. They farmed 235 acres in Section 2 of Boynton.

5. Joseph Springer was born June 29, 1837, and died at Hopedale March 29, 1902. On March 27, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. On May 24, 1863 in Tazewell County he remarried to Barbara Nafziger; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Nafziger. She was born in Bavaria July 24, 1841, and died at Hopedale Nov. 24, 1921, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hussecker/Unzicker. Joseph and Barbara are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale, where their joint headstone spells her surname 'Nafziger.' They appear on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw, and the 1900 census of Minnetonka (a village within Little Mackinaw township). Barbara may be the 69-year-old Barbary Springer in the household of Ben Springer on the 1910 census of Little Mackinaw.

6. Magdalena Springer was born Feb. 2, 1840, and died at Colfax, McLean County July 16, 1921. On March 28, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Christian Litwiller; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Milford, Butler County, Ohio Sept. 15, 1835, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Aug. 13, 1917, a son of Joseph Litwiller and Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery.

7. Barbara Springer was born April 28, 1842, and died at Boynton Jan. 16, 1917. On March 20, 1862 in Tazewell County she married Valentine Nafziger. He was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden Sept. 9, 1834, and died Sept. 22, 1869, a son of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hussecker/Unzicker. Barbara is is found on the 1900 census of Boynton as mother-in-law Barbara Nafziger, 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, 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 3 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, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 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
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

language, and Simon Litwiller in English. The latter’s text was Rev. 14:14. Interment in the A. M. Cemetery. Rest in peace.”

David's Cousin Jean Springer/John Spring

Christian Springer and Suzanne Farny were married on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle Feb. 2, 1809. Their son Johannes/Jean Springer/John Spring was born at Sturzelbronn, Moselle Feb. 24, 1817. He was not only a cousin to David Springer, but also a cousin to Joseph Stecker/Staker (1808-1872) of Morton.

He may have immigrated with Michael Zimmerman and Magdalena Erb, and Johannes Müller and Magdalena Eyer. The packet ship Poland departed from Le Havre, arriving at New York May 3, 1839. The passenger list includes Magdalena Spring, 35, and Johannes Spring, 22. This suggests that he had worked with the Zimmermans and Müllers near St. Valentin, Indre, France; their employer was Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon Bonaparte (see ROTH for background on Bertrand).193

In Tazewell County Jean Springer would be known as John Spring. The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows three households in succession. They were situated on the northwest corner of what became Groveland overlapping into Fon du Lac:

- Peter Ringerbarger [Ringenberg], 64, farmer, France; Anne [Schrag], 62, france; Christian, 30, laborer, France; Abraham, 17, Pennsylvania.
- John Oyer, 34, farmer, France; Ann, 23, France; Joseph, 5, Illinois; Catharina, 4, Illinois; Anne, 2, Illinois; Peter, 5 months, Illinois; and Joseph, 36, farmer, France.
- Daniel Miller, 40, farmer, Germany; Adaline, 34, Germany; Martin, 9, Ohio; Madeline, 8, Ohio; John, 6, Ohio; John Spring, farmer, 34, Germany; Catharine Miller, 26, Germany; and John Oyer, 64, Germany.

On Sept. 1, 1850 in Peoria County John Spring married Catherine Farni/Farny/Forney. She was born on Alzing farm at Gosselming Nov. 1, 1828, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Farny and Anne Kempf. Peter/Pierre and his brother Christian were ‘the Amishmen who hired Lincoln.’

The 1860 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].
- Farmer John Spring, 40, France; Catharine [Farny], 30, France; and five children born in Illinois. John would later remarry to Joseph Schrock's widow.
- Farmer Peter Ringenberger, 74; his son Abraham, 32; Barbara [Barbara Stalter, Abraham's wife], 25; and Peter, seven months.
- Widow Catharine Schrock [Catherine Ringenberg, the widow of Joseph Schrock], 34, France; Ann, 9, Illinois; and Peter, three months, Illinois.

Catherine Farny died at Groveland March 28, 1868.

On Nov. 7, 1869 at Groveland John remarried to Catherine Ringenberg, also known as Katie Ringenberger. She was a daughter of Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag, and the widow of Joseph Oyer Schrock. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Nov. 14, 1826.

The 1870 census of Fon du Lac shows them as John Spring, 53, France; Catharine, 43, France; Christian, 18; Peter, 16; Anna, 15; Joseph, 13; John, 11; Daniel, 8; Magdelena, 6; and David, 5; all children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Catherine's brother Abraham Ringenberger and his wife Barbara Stalter.

The 1880 census of Fon du Lac shows them as farmer Christ Spring [John Spring], 64, France; Catharine, 43, Germany; Peter, 27; John, 20; Sam, 17, 'billious fever'; Madaline, 17; and David, 15. All the children were noted as having been born in Illinois, to parents from France and Canada (though their natural mother Catherine Farny was actually born in France in 1828, and only lived in Canada 1831-34). They were still living next door to ’A. Rinkenberger.’

John died at Groveland Jan. 25, 1891. He and his first wife are buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington under a joint headstone. His second wife Catherine Ringenberg died at Farmdale Jan. 24, 1905. She is thought to be buried in Guth Cemetery, though no headstone is found there.

Children of Johannes/Jean Springer/John Spring and his first wife Catherine Farny include:

193 A point that may or may not be relevant: Joseph Risser was witness to the death of Joseph Spring, 18, at Jeu le Fois, Indre Sept. 13, 1830. A look at Sturzelbronn records may tell us if Joseph was a brother or cousin to Jean.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

1. Christian Spring was born in 1852, and died in 1914. On May 21, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Frona Oesterle. She was born Aug. 22, 1854, and died July 21, 1919. They are found on the 1880 and 1910 censuses of Washington. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

2. Peter Spring was born at Morton in April 1954, and died at Limestone Township, Peoria Sept. 2, 1920. He farmed at Washington. He is buried in Glendale Cemetery.

3. Anna Spring was born in January 1856. On Nov. 11, 1877 in Tazewell County she married John Hulse. They are found on the 1880 census of Clayton, Woodford County. The 1900 census of Yakima, Washington shows them as blacksmith J.H. Hulse, 4, born in Illinois to German parents; Anna, 44, born in Illinois in January 1856 to a father from Pennsylvania and a mother from France; and five children born in Illinois.

4. Joseph Spring was born at Famdale March 27, 1857, and died at Washington Dec. 30, 1927. On April 3, 1884 in Tazewell County he married Margaret 'Maggie' Behrends. She was born at Morton circa 1863, and died there circa 1946.

5. John Spring was born at Washington Dec. 21, 1859, and died at Peoria March 22, 1923. On March 29, 1887 at Washington he married Anna Katherine 'Katie' Geltmacher. She was born at Morton Jan. 6, 1867, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1942, a daughter of Henry Geltmacher and Anna Margaretha Möhl. They lived at Fond du Lac. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

6. Daniel Spring was born Aug. 15, 1861, and died at Peoria Aug. 27, 1925. Daniel was a painter at Peoria.

7. Magdalena Spring was born Feb. 26, 1863, and died July 23, 1951. Magdalena was a painter at Peoria.

8. David Spring was born at Fon du Lac Dec. 2, 1864, and died at Peoria April 28, 1929. On April 7, 1887 in Tazewell County he married Emma Dinicus. David was a carpenter at Richwood Village, Peoria. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.

McLean County Springers

Gaspard Springer was the father of Jörg Springer (he signed his own name 'Jörg,' but it often appeared on civil entries as Georges). Jörg was born circa 1753, and died at Hoff (adjacent to Sarrebourg), Moselle Dec. 17, 1813. Jörg may have been an older brother to Daniel Springer born in 1750, but this cannot be verified with documentation. If so it would mean that the Springers of McLean County were cousins to the Springers of Tazewell County.

Jörg married Magdalena/Madeleine Würgler. She was born at Bébing July 8, 1760, and died at Hoff Jan. 5, 1825, a daughter of Rudolf/Rodolphe Würgler and his first wife Barbe Engel.

As noted in the supplemental genealogy VERCLER, an official document created at Sarrebourg June 17, 1794 barred Rudolf/Rodolphe Würgler and his son-in-law Jörg Springer from holding Anabaptist meetings in the Mattmühl.

Recall from ENGEL that Jörg attended a meeting of Amish Mennonite ministers in Sarrebourg at Oberstinzel Jan. 7, 1809. A petition requesting exemption from military service was drafted and signed by Jörg, Christian Engel, Hannes Hirschi, Christen Lehman, and Christian Napfizer.

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists Georges Springer as a head of a household at Hoff (11 residents).

Children of Jörg Springer and Magdalena/Madeleine Würgler/Vercler born in the Mattmühl ('grain mill') at Sarrebourg (all except André) include:

1. Chrétien/Christian Springer was born Sept. 21, 1782, and died as an infant.
2. Catherine Springer was born Aug. 14, 1783. On Feb. 6, 1807 at Hoff she married Christian Gerber, a son of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich. Christian was probably born at Kreutzfeld. An 1839 ship's passenger list gives his age as 52, yielding a birth year circa 1777. A second dubious source, his marriage entry created at a time of high military conscription, stated that he was born at Insviller in 1765.
3. Madeleine Springer was born in 1784, and died at St. Médard, Moselle May 1, 1854.
4. André Springer was born June 15, 1788, and died at St. Médard, Moselle May 2, 1861. On May 25, 1809 at Bourscheid he married Catherine Oesch. She was born at Bourscheid in 1789, and died at St. Médard Sept. 1, 1866, a daughter of Nicolas Oesch/Esch and Madeleine Baechler.
5. Joseph Springer was born Jan. 17, 1790, and died as an infant.
6. Joseph Springer was born May 5, 1791.

194 Gaspard Springer's second wife was Anne Eissin (1732-1798). She was too young to have been the father of his son Georges.
7. Christianne/Chrétien/Christian Springer (twin) was born Dec. 10, 1792, and died at Stanford, McLean County Oct. 8, 1879.
8. Marie Springer (twin) was born Dec. 10, 1792, and died at Sarrebourg July 14, 1795.
9. Pierre/Peter Springer was born July 24, 1794. On March 15, 1823 at Destry he married Marie/Mary Engel. She was born at Bidestroff, Moselle in 1800, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber. They are found on the 1840 census of Liberty Township, Butler County. Peter and 'Mary' can also be found on the 1850 census of Liberty Township; and on the 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County (this community became Allin in 1867). They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers as “Peter Springer, June 1800”, and “Mary, his wife, June 1800-Sept. 1870” (near Bachman, Schoenbeck, and Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker).
10. Anne Springer was born Dec. 10, 1795. On Dec. 21, 1822 at Destry she married Jean Engel. He was born Oct. 27, 1796, and died at Dolving Dec. 13, 1843, a son of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber. They lived at Ernestviller.
11. Jean Pierre Springer was born June 19, 1797, and died at Sarrebourg June 28, 1795.

Christianne/Chrétien/Christian Springer was born in the Mattmühl at Sarrebourg Dec. 10, 1792.

Amish Mennonites were frequently retained by French officers as servants. The employer's idea was to travel and live within an immediate circle of politically-neutral, nonviolent people. Their communal practices and common religion made each one intimately familiar with the group - and more likely to recognize a stranger in their midst. See EIGSTI for the story of one employer, Napoleon's spymaster Schulmeister.

A biography of a son in The History of McLean County, Illinois describes his father Christian Springer: "From 1812 to 1815, he was in the service of, and member of the body guard of Napoleon the First." The Sequicentennial History of Washington says, "The Springers came from France, where a brother, Christian, served as a personal bodyguard to Napoleon Bonaparte and was in the memorable battle at Waterloo." Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County says: "Christian Springer was a miller by trade, and with four other brothers, served under Napoleon in the War of 1812, in his native country, for a period of four years and then deserted, for the third time, finally coming to the United States."

On Dec. 21, 1822 at Destry Christian married Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel in a double ceremony with sister Anne Springer and Jean Engel. The civil entry said that he was living at Hoste. Witnesses included Gaspard Gerber, 78, and Joseph Schwendi, 44. She was born Feb. 24, 1798, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber. The History of McLean County says that the Springers "...came to the United States, and landed at New Orleans June 12, 1830; went to Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio, July 5, the same year."

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County says Christian "...purchased 206 acres of land, where he resided for sixteen years." Christian appears on the 1830 census of Madison Township as a neighbor of Christian Augspurger, and on the 1840 census of Fairfield Township next door to brother-in-law Christian Gerber ('Christian Garver') who married his oldest sister Catherine.

The Butler County Records Center in Hamilton, Ohio holds a naturalization Declaration of Intent from the September 1840 court term for Christian Springer, 48, from France; and sons Joseph, 16; Peter, 13; Christian, 11; John, 6; and Andrew, 4.

Christian and Magdalena are absent from the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio. It shows a household with only their children: farmer Joseph Springer, 25, France; Peter, 22, France; Christian, 20, France; Magdalena, 17, Ohio; John, 12, Ohio; Andrew, 10, Ohio; Catharine, 7, Ohio; and Mary, 5, Ohio.

In 1853 sons Joseph and Peter Springer ran a dry goods store at Hamilton, Butler County. It was destroyed by fire in February 1854. Joseph remained in Butler County, while his parents and siblings moved on to McLean County. They arrived at Danvers Nov. 10, 1854, and resettled at Allin in 1856.

On Sept. 26, 1865 three of the younger brothers obtained public land in Allin. The names Christian W., John S., and Andrew J. Springer appear on the purchases of two parcels in Section 10: 107 acres and 53 acres, at $10 per acre.

On the 1870 census of Allin, McLean County Christian is described as an 82-year-old retired farmer from France and 'Magdaleine' as a 77-year-old from France; the household also includes Andrew, 34, Ohio; Mary, 24, Ohio; and servant Mary Sherbine, 16, Ohio.

Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel died at Stanford Sept. 29, 1870. Gospel Herald, November 1870: "On the 29th of September, in McLean county, Illinois, Magdalena Springer, aged 72 years, 2 months and 7 days. She lived 48

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195 Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County gives the birth date Feb. 2, 1796.
years in the bonds of matrimony, and leaves a deeply afflicted husband, 8 children, and 11 grand-children. She was a member of the Mennonite church since she was 14 years old, and trusted in God unto the end. She was buried on the 2nd of October, and many friends and relations followed her to the grave. Funeral discourses were delivered by Pre. Harris and the writer in English, and by Michael Linsinger in the German language. Chr. Gingerich."

Christian Springer died at Stanford Oct. 3, 1879. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford. Their children include:

1. **Joseph Springer**, also known as Joseph E. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Dec. 21, 1823. He married Cathrine Springer, born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Sept. 5, 1826, and died at Stanford, McLean County April 24, 1916. On Nov. 13, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elise/Eliza Brenneman; the ceremony was performed by minister John Michael Kistler. She was the mother of Daniel and Elisabeth Jutzi. The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County calls her Eliza, 27, born in Ohio; but the 1870 census of Allin (the same community under a new name) describes the household as farmer Peter D. Springer, 43, France; Eliza, 39, Hesse; and four children born in Illinois. After his store in Butler County burned in February 1854, Peter worked for two years in dry goods stores at Peoria. In 1856 he resettled at Allin with other members of his family. He was elected to terms as McLean County justice of the peace in 1873 and 1878. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County.

2. **Catherine Springer**, also known as Joseph W. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Oct. 25, 1828. On March 28, 1871 in McLean County he married Eliza Springer. She was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate near Zweibrücken March 22, 1837, and died in 1929, a daughter of Joseph Stalter and Katharina Reideriger. They are found on the 1880 census of Martin, McLean County as farmer C.W. Springer, 50, France; Elizabeth, 42, Germany; and four children born in Illinois.

3. **Peter Springer**, also known as Peter D. Springer, was born at Lorquin, Moselle Sept. 5, 1826, and died at Stanford, McLean County April 24, 1916. On Nov. 13, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elise/Eliza Brenneman; the ceremony was performed by minister John Michael Kistler. She was born in Wohra, Hesse Oct. 13, 1831, and died at Stanford June 7, 1911, a daughter of Daniel Brenneman and Elisabeth Jutzi. The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County calls her Eliza, 27, born in Ohio; but the 1870 census of Allin (the same community under a new name) describes the household as farmer Peter D. Springer, 43, France; Eliza, 39, Hesse; and four children born in Illinois. After his store in Butler County burned in February 1854, Peter worked for two years in dry goods stores at Peoria. In 1856 he resettled at Allin with other members of his family. He was elected to terms as McLean County justice of the peace in 1873 and 1878. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County.

4. **Christian Springer**, also known as Christian W. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Oct. 25, 1828. On March 28, 1871 in McLean County he married Eliza Springer. She was born on the Kirschbacherhof estate near Zweibrücken March 22, 1837, and died in 1929, a daughter of Joseph Stalter and Katharina Reideriger. They are found on the 1880 census of Martin, McLean County as farmer C.W. Springer, 50, France; Elizabeth, 42, Germany; and four children born in Illinois.

5. **Magdalena Springer** was born at Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio in 1831, and died in 1916. On Dec. 28, 1864 in McLean County she married widower Nicholas Risser. He was born July 15, 1836, and died Aug. 12, 1907, a son of Nicholas/Nicholas Risser and his first wife Catherine Schmitt. He had married Katie Gerber/Garber in Butler County, Ohio March 21, 1858. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augspurger, and is listed in History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as 'Nicholas Reaser and Katie Garver.' Katie had one child and died before the 1860 federal census of Fairfield, Butler County 1860. The 1870 census of Allin shows Nicholas and Magdalena's household as farmer Nicholas Resser, 35, born in France; Magdalena, 39, born in Ohio to French parents; Catherine, 63, "living with son," born in France; Barbaray, 12, born in Ohio; Anna M., 1, born in Illinois; and John Riser, 21, born in Illinois; and on the 1880 census of Allin, McLean County as farmer Nicholas Rissor, 46, Germany; Magdaline, 49, born in Ohio to French parents; four children born in Illinois; and Catharine Rissor, mother, 70, Germany. They are buried as Magdalena Risser and Nicholas J. Risser in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.

6. **John Springer**, also known as John S. Springer, was born at Madison Township Nov. 13, 1833, and died Jan. 23, 1904. On Nov. 16, 1865 in McLean County he married Susan Sharbine. She was born in Pennsylvania Aug. 5, 1851, and died Nov. 14, 1905, a daughter of John Sharbine and Sophie Lape. John and Susan appear on the 1880 census of Allin as John Springer, 46, born in Ohio to parents from 'Lourean' [Lorraine]; Susan Springer, 26, born in Pennsylvania; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

7. **Andrew Springer**, also known as Andrew J. Springer, was born at Madison Township April 24, 1836, and died at Cleghorn, Oklahoma Nov. 29, 1915. On July 22, 1875 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Slabaugh [Schlabach]. She was born in Allegheny County, Maryland May 9, 1851, and died at Cicero, Cook County Feb. 14, 1928, a daughter of Daniel Slabaugh and Marie Brenneman.

8. **Catherine 'Kate' Springer** was born at Madison Township Aug. 13, 1839, and died at Gibson City, Ford County May 21, 1915. On Feb. 20, 1862 in McLean County she married Peter Schertz. He was born Aug. 18, 1833, and died June 13, 1911, a son of Joseph Schertz and Marie Lehman. They lived at Stanford. They are buried in Gibson City Cemetery.

9. **Mary Springer**, also known as Mary A. Springer, was born at Madison Township circa 1845, and died at Stanford May 17, 1889. On June 4, 1874 in McLean County she married David Habecker. He was born in Germany Nov. 18, 1835, and died at Stanford June 29, 1924, a son of Johannes Habecker and Maria Magdalena Klein. They are found

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196 Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County gives the birth date Dec. 24, 1824. Our date is drawn from the civil record.

197 His household can be found on the 1860 federal census of Fairfield, Butler County as Nicholas Reesor, 24, Germany; Catherine [his mother], 55, Germany; Barbaray, 1, Ohio; and John Myers, 30, Germany. We could not identify the mother of Nicholas Risser. Her obituary: Herald of Truth, August 1892: "July 2, 1892, in McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Catharine Risser, aged 85 years. She was born in France, came to this country in 1856 settling in Butler Co., Ohio, and in 1868 moved to McLean Co., Ill., where she lived with her only son Nicholas, until her demise. Besides her son she leaves five grand children and two great-grand children to mourn their loss. Buried on the 4th at Stanford. Funeral services by Peter Schantz and Joseph Stuckey from Rev. 14:13 and Phil. 1:21. She was a peaceable member of the church." She is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.
on the 1880 census of Allin as farmer David Habeker, 44, Germany; Mary A., 37, Ohio; and daughter Emma, Illinois. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.

10. George Springer died in infancy.

Oldest son Joseph Springer, also known as Joseph E. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Dec. 24, 1824. His story not only explains a rift in the Springer family, but crosses over into Tazewell County, and explains the family breakup that saw the Schweizer family of Morton disperse to other states.

On July 21, 1852 in Butler County he married Catherine Kinsinger. She died April 3, 1853. In that year Joseph and his brother Peter were running a dry goods store at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. When the store was destroyed by fire in February 1854, his parents and siblings decided to resettle in McLean County. He elected to remain in Butler County with his Kinsinger in-laws.

In Butler County he practiced law. Joseph apparently remained at Hamilton, where he represented a mining company with offices there. (Despite this, the name Joseph E. Springer appears as a witness for at least two naturalizations in McLean County in 1864, including Killian Kennel).

In 1868 he decided to buy a farm near his family in McLean County. He made an agreement with his brother John Springer and future brother-in-law Nicholas Risser. Joseph would send money, and they would purchase land for him. In 1868 and 1869 he mailed $2,000 in bank drafts from Ohio to Illinois.

A farm was purchased in February 1869, but the title was placed solely in the name of Nicholas Risser. When Joseph returned to Illinois, he found that his investment had yielded nothing. But his two 'partners' promised to revise the land title to give him partial possession.

On Jan. 11, 1870, at the age of 45, Joseph remarried to 17-year-old Catherine 'Kate' Risser. She was a daughter of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser and Catherine Schmitt, and a sister to the Nicholas Risser who held title to Joseph's land.

Their household is found on the 1870 census of Allin as farmer Joseph E. Springer, 46, born in France; Catherine, 17, born in France; and John Springer, 35, born in Ohio.

As the families of John Springer and Nicholas Risser grew, they came to see the purchased farm as an investment opportunity. They wanted to keep it intact to enhance its rental and resale value. Joseph was repeatedly rebuffed when he asked to have the land title rewritten to reflect his investment.

Eventually Joseph decided to bring suit, naming his brother John Springer and brother-in-law Nicholas Risser as co-defendants. His claim was heard in the circuit court of McLean County in August 1876. Joseph presented evidence that included bank drafts he had sent and letters he had received in Ohio. He won the case, and was given a quarter interest in the farm. He also received an award of $1,334 in damages to compensate for rent he should have received from the other two over the intervening years. The court decision said Joseph had waited "from spring until fall, and fall until spring" to receive the promised proper title.

Local public opinion must have come down on the side of Joseph. He served one term as supervisor of Allin, and two terms as justice of the peace. He and Kate appear on the 1880 census of Stanford as lawyer Joseph E. Springer, 54, born in France to French parents; Catharine, 27, born in France to French parents; and three children born in Illinois.

John Springer delayed paying the damages to his brother as long as he could. In 1885 his appeal reached the Supreme Court of Illinois at Springfield as the case Springer vs. Springer. There a judge confirmed the original decision.

The ill will from the law suits was so unsettling that many family members left the county. The 1900 census of Buckley Village, Artesia Township, Iroquois County shows Joseph E. Springer, 75, born in France in December 1824 to French parents; Catherine, 48, born in France in August 1851 to French parents; and five of their children born in Illinois. It also noted that Joseph had been a citizen since 1841, and Catherine had been a citizen since 1858.

See SCHWEIZER for background on that family's dispersement after the feud.
Dellenbach of Donon

Dällenbach is a valley brook. The Swiss Dällenbach or Dellenbach family has legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights [Ger. Heimatort] at Langnau and Signau in Canton Bern.

The progenitor of this family line was Andres Tallenbach/Andreas Dällenbach/André Dellenbach. He was born at Eriswil, Canton Bern circa 1621 (church records were not kept there until 1633), and died at his home on the road called Saint Philippe at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Feb. 12, 1687.

He married Elsbeth Krayenbühl. Their children include:

1. Hans Jacob Tallenbach was baptized at Eriswil Jan. 27, 1661.
2. Anna Tallenbach was baptized at Eriswil July 17, 1663.
3. **Andres Tallenbach/Andreas or André Dellenbach** was baptized at Eriswil April 7, 1665, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 20, 1702.
4. Jean Dellenbach was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 4, 1669, and died there Feb. 28, 1734. On Feb. 22, 1693 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Verena/Vérène Müller. She was born near the mine La Burgonde in the hamlet of Fertrupt on the outskirts of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 24, 1670, and died there Nov. 16, 1724, a daughter of Marx Müller and Verena Müller. They had at least eight children. There is nothing to indicate that this family had Anabaptist inclinations. Their youngest child Samuel Dellenbach was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 31, 1717. It is thought that he was the Samuel who sailed to America in 1754. If so, on Aug. 15, 1751 at Wolfisheim, Lower Alsace he married Maria Katharina/Marie Catherine Engels. She was born at Solfingen in the Pfalz Sept. 16, 1724, a daughter of Caspar Engels and Catherine Evertz; her family had been living at the foundry town Klingenthal (now on the border of Moselle and Lower Alsace). They sailed from Rotterdam on the Barclay, and arrived at Philadelphia in Sept. 14, 1754. Samuel was seen by a physician and took the Oath of Abjuration at the Philadelphia Courthouse the same day. He signed the oath with an 'x', indicating he was illiterate. His age at arrival was given as 38. (Passenger list, Samuel Dalabaack; oath list, Samuel De La Bough; physician list, Sammuel Tallebaugh). The couple later lived at Frederick, Maryland, where they belonged to the Protestant Reformed Church. There is no record of Samuel after 1778, and no record of Marie Catherine after 1789. They had no children.

**Andres Tallenbach/Andreas or André Dellenbach** was born circa 1663, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 20, 1702. He was a weaver [Fr. tisserand].

On Feb. 8, 1688 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Anne Marguerite Zancker. She was born at nearby Ribeauvillé circa 1663, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 6, 1737. Their children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

7. **Andreas/André Dellenbach** was born March 10, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 11, 1691.
8. Johannes Jacob/Jean Jacques Dellenbach was born May 22, 1692.
10. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born Oct. 20, 1697, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 9, 1700 or Aug. 31, 1702.
11. **Oswald Dellenbach** was born Oct. 10, 1700, and died Nov. 9, 1701.
12. **Oswald Dellenbach** was born Oct. 29, 1701, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 24, 1746.

**Oswald Dellenbach** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 29, 1701, and died there Nov. 24, 1746. He married Marie Madeleine Knauss at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 12, 1732. She was born at Mittelwihr, Upper Alsace (11 miles southeast of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) March 5, 1710, a daughter of Johann Jacob Knauss and Magdalena Vogel.

After 1745 they moved north to resettle as cultivators in Salm, the part of the town of La Broque where the prince of Salm had a farm. Swiss Anabaptist families had settled in the area after 1670. The first acknowledged Amish Mennonite religious leader at La Broque may have been Johannes 'Hans der Jüng' [the younger] Gümperich who arrived after 1712.

Children of Oswald Dellenbach and Marie Madeleine Knauss born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

2. Jean Pierre Dellenbach was born Dec. 1, 1735.
3. **Oswald Dellenbach** was born Aug. 14, 1737, and died at Salm in La Broque Jan. 24, 1801.
4. Jean Frédéric Dellenbach was born Sept. 25, 1740.
5. Jean Marc Dellenbach was born Feb. 24, 1742.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

6. Madeleine Dellenbach was born May 18, 1744, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 29, 1744.
7. Jean Jacques Dellenbach was born Sept. 8, 1745.

Oswald Dellenbach was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 14, 1737, and died at Salm in La Broque Jan. 24, 1801. He married Sara Forvalt/Forwald [Fordemwald]. She died at Salm July 22, 1792.

On Dec. 21, 1751 property from the Duchy of Lorraine passed to the prince of Salm. They had their family farm in Salm at La Broque, but moved the seat of government to Senones (now in the department of Vosges). The prince became sovereign of a 16-by-16 mile area encompassing 10,000 citizens and 30 villages.

Anabaptists found themselves ideally situated in an entity that did not have to follow French or Alsatian dictates. The principality of Salm was not dissolved until 1793, when it was absorbed by France. Thus 'Salm' might refer to a part of the town of La Broque, or the principality of Salm, or its ruling family. For more on the principality see ROPP.

The children of this couple resettled in the heights along the road Rue du Donon. It runs through Raon-sur-Plaine, a village that is now located in the department of Vosges. Neuhausers and Sommers lived there. The road leads east to a clearing called Haut Donon, near the top of Mont Donon, the highest peak in the northern Vosges mountains. The peak is over a departmental boundary into Lower Alsace. From there the road turns, heading south downhill to the mining town of Grandfontaine. It is crisscrossed with streams running east to the Bruche river. Farther downhill is the hamlet of Framont. In the 1700s it was the site of iron foundries and forges. Finally La Broque and Schirmeck sit by the Bruche river. (For more on this area see ROPP).

Children of Oswald Dellenbach and his first wife Sara Forvalt/Forwald include:

1. David Dellenbach was born at La Broque circa 1760, and died at Bourg-Bruche April 13, 1840, age 60. His civil death entry described him as a son of Osvald Dellenbach and Elisabeth Forwald, and the widower of Anne Neuhauser; it was witnessed by his son Jacob Dellenbach, 39. David married Anne Marie Neuhauser. She was born at La Broque in 1763, and died at Bourg-Bruche March 31, 1837, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Véronique Vongond. They lived at Malplaquet (near La Broque) and Bourg-Bruche.
2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born circa 1765. A translation of an entry found in Catholic records from Plaine: "In the year 1790, on the 25th day of March, Elisabeth Dellenbach, 25, of the parish of La Broque has been a resident of Plaine for several months. Having come to the realization that the true church is the way to salvation, of her own volition and without coercion, she has made a profession of faith in the Roman Catholic Church and renounced the Anabaptist heresy." Three weeks later, on April 13, 1790 at La Broque she married Joseph Gerst. He was 30, a son of Henri Gerst and Barbe Kleine of Plaine. The Catholic marriage entry described Elisabeth's parents as "Owald Dellenbach et de Salomé Fortenwald de la religion anabaptiste." The bride signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate.

Christien/Christian Dellenbach may belong here. He was born circa 1772, and died at Raon-sur-Plaine Dec. 11, 1819.
3. Jacob/Jacques Dellenbach was born at La Broque Dec. 3, 1775, and died at Grandfontaine Nov. 26, 1835.
4. Ulrich Dellenbach was born circa 1781, and died at La Broque May 1, 1794. His civil death entry described him as Ulrich Tallepach, 23, a son of cultivator Osvald Tallepach of Salm. It was witnessed by Christian Gerber and Jacob Beller.

On May 5, 1794 Oswald remarried to Sarah Vagner. She was born at Selestat, Lower Alsace Aug. 3, 1751, a daughter of Jean Vagner and Elisabeth Kheimer. They had no children together.

Oswald died in Salm at La Broque Jan. 24, 1801. His civil death entry called him 'Owald Dalebach.' It described him as a 66-year-old cultivator born in Salm at La Broque, who was married to Sara Vagner (an incorrect spelling of Vagner). It said that he was a son of the deceased Oswald Dalebach and Magdelaine Knausin. The entry was witnessed by cultivator 'Jaquele Dalebach,' 40 (he was actually about 34); he signed 'Jacob Dellenbach.'

Sarah Vagner remarried to Christian Baltzli (found as 'Baltze') at La Broque Feb. 24, 1806. He was born at Freistett, Freibourg near Rhodes (now in Moselle) March 9, 1745, and died at La Broque Jan. 8, 1807, a son of Rudolf Bázlí and Barbara Gerber. Witnesses included minister Jacob Kupferschmidt, 75, and Christian Gerber, 38, as friends of the bride; and Ulrich Von Gond, 55, and Christian Neuhauser, 43, as friends of the groom. Christian Baltzli was a son to Rudolf Bázlí and Barbara Gerber. He was also a brother to Rudolf/Rodolph/Rudolphe Bältzli, who was the grandfather of 'Red Joe' Belisle and his brothers, who were early...
settlers of what would become Woodford County. Thus this second marriage of a Dellenbach stepmother established a brief connection between the Belsley and Dellenbach families. When the Dellenbachs first arrived in Central Illinois they chose to settle near Spring Bay, where Belsleys were already established.

Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach

Occasionally we may state that a Dellenbach event took place in Raon-sur-Plaine or Grandfontaine, where civil records were kept, when it actually took place in the woods of Donon between them. Presumably each village claimed part of the forest.

Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach was born circa 1773, and died at Donon Dec. 12, 1819. The civil death entry created at adjacent Raon-sur-Plaine described him as Christianne Tellenbach, 47.

He married Barbara or Elisabeth Schrensberg (her signature looked like 'Trensberg' and later 'Schvensberg'). She was born circa 1781, and died after 1833.

The couple worked as itinerant laborers, and had children in the departments of Moselle (1799); Meurthe-et-Moselle (1801, 1803, and 1806); Schirmeck, Lower Alsace (1810 and 1812); and at Donon, Lower Alsace (1815, record created at Grandfontaine). There may be more locations that have not been accounted for.

Christian's civil death entry, created at Raone-sur-Plaine, described him as a voiturier (a valet or porter).

Children of Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach and Barbara or Elisabeth Schrensberg include:

1. Joseph Dellenbach was born at Lagarde, Moselle Jan. 2, 1799, and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt, Moselle July 24, 1844. On Jan. 21, 1832 at Raon-sur-Plaine he married Barbe Auget. She was born at Strasbourg Aug. 13, 1810, a daughter of Joseph Auget and Barbara Augspurger. The marriage entry described the groom as a voiturier at Raon-sur-Plaine like his father. His widowed mother 'Barbe Scherensberg' was described as a 51-year-old farmer at Donon who was present and consenting. It was witnessed by voiturier Christian Bächler, 29. On April 8, 1847 at Hermelange, Moselle Barbe Auget remarried to Jean Kempf, a son of André Kempf and Madeleine Abresol.

Joseph's birth at Lagarde suggests a family familiarity with minister Christian Engel, who farmed on Jambrot farm at Lagarde.

2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born at Verdenal, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 13, 1801. On Aug. 22, 1833 at Raon-sur-Plaine she married François Antoine Aimé. Their civil marriage entry described him as a 27-year-old domestic living at Donon. He was born at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace June 8, 1806, a son of deceased parents Lorenz Aimé and Barbe Claude. Elisabeth was described as 32, a daughter of the deceased Christiane Delabach and Elizabeth Schwender, who was present and consenting.

3. Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach was born at Verdenal, Meurthe-at-Moselle Oct. 30, 1803. His civil birth entry called him Christophe Talback, and described his parents as cultivator Christophe Talback of Grandseille and Elizabeth Choinspet.

4. Anne Dellenbach was born at Angomont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 19, 1806, and died near Salm in 1866. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator Christianne Tallepac, 31, and Elisabeth Choinse. On July 24, 1825 at Raon-sur-Plaine she gave birth to an illegitimate daughter Julie Dellenbach. The civil birth entry was witnessed by Anne's mother, who was described as 'Barbe Schvenberger,' 45, a widow of the deceased Christian Dellenbach; and by laborer Jean Oury, 39. The entry gave Anne's age as 19. When Julie died at Donon July 3, 1827, the civil death entry witness was described as voiturier Joseph Dellenbach, 28. On Aug. 30, 1832 at Raon-sur-Plaine Anne married Joseph Neuhauser. He was born at Moussey, Vosges May 7, 1800, and died at Salm in 1868, a son of Nicolas Neuhauser and Elisabeth Sommer. Their civil marriage entry described her parents as the deceased Christian Delbach and Elisabeth Chvensparre, 60, who gave her consent. Anne and Joseph are buried in the cemetery at Salm.

5. Madeleine Dellenbach was born at Schirmeck June 9, 1810. The civil birth entry described her as a daughter of Christianne Thélêpach, annabatiste, 36, and 'Barbe Scvinparich,' living on Vackenbach at Schirmeck. Her father Christian signed with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate.

6. Jean/John Dellenbach was born at Schirmeck Aug. 24, 1812. The civil birth entry created the following day described her parents as Christianne Thélêpach, annabatiste, 39, and 'Babe Schwinpart,' living on Vackenbach stream at Schirmeck. Witnesses included landowner [Fr. sieur] Sebastian Paradis, 60, a cultivator on the Herenbach; and cultivator Louis Paradis, 50. Christian signed with an 'x'. He sailed from Le Havre on the Marcia Cleaves, and arrived at New Orleans July 26, 1840. He appears on the passenger list as laborer 'Jean Delabaht,' 27. For the story of his disastrous trip up the Mississippi River see GERBER AND GARBER. The voyage also brought Peter Gerber and Magdalena Gänguchter; their names appear immediately after his. Peter Gerber and Magdalena Gänguchter had attended the marriage of their son Chrétien/Christian Gerber at La Broque Jan. 25, 1840. The bride was Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach, a cousin to Jean/John. The bride and groom would emigrate in 1842. 'John Delabaugh' appears on the 1850 census of Woodford County. He was living next door to the widow and children of Christian Dellenbach. His is shown as John Delabaugh, 40, France in the household of farmer Nathan Annice, 40, France. After the accidental death of Christian in December 1849, John apparently acted as a stepfather for his children. When Christian's daughter Ann died, accounts identified her as a daughter of John and Barbara Dellenbach, though no marriage between John Dellenbach and Christian's widow was recorded. John died intestate in Woodford
Charles Molitor was appointed as executor of his estate Jan. 20, 1857; 22-year-old nephew Christian Dellenbach put up his $230 surety bond. Appraisers were Charles Molitor, Heinrich Rocke, and Joseph Donner. After settling accounts the estate came to $119.10.

7. Pierre Dellenbach (found as 'Tellepach') was born at Donon Aug. 2, 1815. The entry created at Grandfontaine called his parents Christian Dellepach and Barbe Schvensbag of Framont at Grandfontaine, and gave Christian's age as 42.

**Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach** was born at Verdenal, Meurthe-at-Moselle Oct. 30, 1803. On Nov. 20, 1837 in Tazewell County Christian married Barbara Barbara Schrag/Schraque/Schrock); the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Engel. They were entered in the county register as Delebaugh and Gerar.

Barbara was born as 'Barbe Schraque' at Marsal, Moselle Dec. 14, 1805, a daughter of Hans Schrag/Jean Schraque and his first wife Anne Engel. Thus Christian Engel, who performed the marriage ceremony, was Barbara's uncle.

Barbara brought one child to the marriage, 5-year-old Magdalena. They may have come to America in 1832, when the daughter was 1-year-old (per remarks on the 1900 census), or later with widowed father Hans. Magdalena married Christian's cousin Jacob Dellenbach in 1848.

The [Illinois Public Land Database](#) notes that 'Christophe Delebaugh' purchased 80 acres in Section 9 of Township 27N June 10, 1845. Township 27N later became Worth in Woodford County.

The [Mortality Schedule of Woodford County](#) says 'Christian Delabaugh' was 'killed by a horse' in December 1849. Jacob Dellenbach was appointed executor of his estate. Jacob's surety bond was provided by Peter Bechler. After accounts were settled the estate totaled $2,534.50.

His widow and children are shown on the 1850 census of Woodford County. Their household included Barbary Delabaugh, 45, France; Christian, 15; Barbaray, 12; Ann, 12; and Mary, 10; all children born in Illinois.

Barbara Schrock died in Woodford County Oct. 26, 1852. Christian's cousin Jacob Dallenbach served as executor of her estate. After items were auctioned and accounts were settled her estate totaled only $34.10. Buyers included son Christian Dellenbach, Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach's husband Christian Gerber, John Bachman, and Michael Bechler.

Children of Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach and Barbara Schrock born in what would become Woodford County include:

1. Christian Dellenbach was born circa 1835 (1850 census) or 1836 (1860 census), and died between 1865 and 1869. The [Tax Assessment of 1862, District 7](#) shows Christian Dellenbach of Worth as a retail dealer paying $20. On March 7, 1865 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Wombacher (found as 'Warnbarger' on the marriage entry). She was born in Woodford County in April 1843, a daughter of John Wombacher and Magdalena Gross. After Christian's death she remarried to Henry Sommer. They are found on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Henry Summer, 38, Germany; Elisabeth, 37, born in Illinois to German parents; six children born in Illinois; and step-daughter Louise Delebach, 14, born in Illinois. Christian and Elizabeth are also thought to have had a son Frank born in 1862 (he was later a policeman at Peoria) and a daughter Magdalena.

2. Barbara Dellenbach [twin] was born circa 1838. She may be the Barbara Delabaugh who married Jacob Shickle in Tazewell County Dec. 28, 1853.

3. Ann/Anna Dellenbach [twin] was born circa 1838, and died March 24, 1862. Her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora says died at 23 years, 10 months, and [illegible] days. She is found on the 1860 census of Spring Bay as a 21-year-old domestic in the household of Swiss butcher Charles Spillman.

4. Mary Dellenbach was born June 23, 1840, and died at Metamora April 20, 1897. Her headstone says she died April 20, 1897, age 56 years, 9 months, and 27 days. On Nov. 1, 1859 in Woodford County she married George Wagner. He was born at Stolpen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany Aug. 24, 1834; and died at Cruger, Woodford County May 15, 1889. The 1880 census of Cruger shows them as Wagonner, 47; Mary, 38; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington, where their headstone calls George 'J.G.T. Wagner.'

**Jacob/Jacques Dellenbach**

**Jacques/Jacob Dellenbach** was born at Salm Oct. 4, 1775, and died at Grandfontaine Nov. 26, 1835. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Müller. She was born in 1760, and died at Raon-sur-Plaine March 1, 1808.

Their children include:

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199 Barbara and Ann are both age 12 on the 1850 census. Their names are bracketed together.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

1. Anne Dellenbach was born at Donon in 1795, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle March 22, 1848. On July 2, 1814 at Grandfontaine she married Jean Ringenberg. The civil marriage entry called them 'Jean Rinckesbeck' and 'Anne Tellepach.' The entry said that he was 25, born at Chazelles, Meurthe (actually Chazelles-sur-Albe, Moselle); his father Jean Ringenberg had died Dec. 14, 1809, and his mother Madeleine Haury had died Dec. 25, 1796. Anne was described as 19, born at Donon, a daughter of 'Jacob Tellepach' who was present and consenting, and the deceased Magdelaine Müller.

2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born at La Broque Dec. 9, 1800, and died at Grandfontaine May 2, 1863. On May 26, 1830 at La Broque she married Jean Neuhauser. He was born at La Broque Dec. 7, 1806, and died at Grandfontaine Jan. 6, 1856, a son of Pierre Neuhauser and Anne Mosiman.

3. Marie Dellenbach was born at La Broque Sept. 30, 1803, and died before Aug. 20, 1810.

On April 20, 1808 at Grandfontaine Jacob remarried to Marie Neuhauser. She was born at La Broque Dec. 3, 1775, and died in Woodford County March 4, 1872, a daughter of Nicolas Neuhauser and Elizabeth Gerber/Karbre/Karber.

The civil marriage entry described him as Jacques Dalebach, 40, born at Salm (dependence of La Broque) Oct. 4, 1767, a cultivator at Donon, Raon-sur-Plaine, and the widower of Magdeleine Muller, who died March 1, 1808. He was the adult son of Owald Dalebach, who had died at Salm Jan. 17, 1800, and Sara Forvalte, who died there July 22, 1792. Marie was described as 30, born at Salm Jan. 23, 1778, a daughter of Nicolas Neuhauser of Bruche and the deceased Elisabeth Karber [Gerber], who had died Feb. 7, 1783. Witnesses included inn keeper Balthasare Fongond, 47, (he signed his name Bastien Fongond) a friend of the groom from La Broque; and Christiene Karber, 38, a cultivator at Salm (he signed his name Christiane Karbre) and friend of the bride. In this instance the groom signed his name 'Jacob Dellenbach,' and the bride signed with an 'x' indicating that she was illiterate. After the marriage they resided at Donon.

All of their children were born at Donon, and their births were recorded at adjacent Grandfontaine. There records uniformly spelled their surname 'Tellepach':

4. Marie Dellenbach was born Aug. 19, 1810, and died at Grandfontaine Feb. 22, 1813. Her civil birth entry described her father as 'Jacob Tellepach,' 45, and her mother as 'Marie Nayhauser.'

5. A daughter was born and died on the same day Dec. 31, 1811.

6. Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach was born Oct. 7, 1814 (her headstone says Sept. 17), and died in Woodford County Jan. 19, 1899. On Jan. 25, 1840 at La Broque she married Chrétien/Christian Gerber. He was born at Gensbourg, Lower Alsace Nov. 2, 1814, and died at Metamora Dec. 9, 1893, a son of Peter/Pierre Gerber and his first wife Magdalena Gingerich. See GERBER for background on this couple.

7. Marie Dellenbach was born April 16, 1816, and died at Grandfontaine June 11, 1817.


9. Jacob Dellenbach was born March 10, 1822, and died in Woodford County Sept. 16, 1884.

While the two married oldest daughters chose to remain in Europe, the others chose to emigrate. The packet ship Sully sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 13, 1842. The passenger list shows Christian Gerber, 27, 2 trunks, 1 bed; Magdalena [Dellenbach], 27; Marie Neuhauser [mother of the Dellenbachs], 66, 1 trunk, 1 bed; Joseph [Dellenbach], 22, 2 trunks, 1 bed; and Jacob [Dellenbach], 20, 1 trunk, 1 bed.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows Marie and her son Joseph: farmer Joseph Delabaugh, 29, France; and Mary, 72, France.

The mother of this family died at Worth March 4, 1872 in the home of her daughter Madeleine/Magdalena and son-in-law Chrétien/Christian Gerber. Gospel Herald, April 1872: "On the 4th of March, at the residence of her son-in-law, Christian Gerber, in Woodford Co., Ill. of the infirmities of age, Maria Dellenbach, aged 97 years, 7 months, and 1 day. Her mortal remains were interred the 6th, in the presence of many friends and acquaintances. Sermon by Christian Esch and Peter Gingerich. Her intellect remained until the end. She was a faithful sister in the Omish Church for 80 years, and a widow 36 years. She was born in France, and came to America about 30 years ago."

Joseph and Jacob:

Joseph Dellenbach
Joseph Dellenbach was born at Donon Oct. 14, 1819.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows Joseph and mother Marie Neuhauser: farmer Joseph Delabaugh, 29, France; and Mary, 72, France.
Joseph's headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora says that he died Aug. 3, 1855, age 35 years, 11 months, and 16 days. His death coincided with an Asiatic cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855.

Joseph Gerber served as executor of Joseph's estate. Probate entries do not mention a widow or other heirs.

**Jacob Dellenbach**

Jacob Dellenbach was the youngest of his family, born at Donon March 10, 1822.

On Aug. 17, 1848 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Schrock. She was born June 24, 1831, a daughter of Barbara Schrock (already mentioned as the wife of Jacob's cousin Christian). Judging from her federal census reports, Magdalena may have been born in Germany (1850 and 1900), Bavaria (1860), Württemberg (1870), or Lorraine (1880). And *Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County* described "Jacob and Lena Dellenbach, the former a native of France, and the latter of America."

At the time of the marriage he was 26, she was 17. County records listed them as 'Jacob Delabauch' and 'Madaline Schrock.'

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows them living next door to mother Marie and brother Joseph: farmer Jacob Delabaugh, 27, France; Madaline, 18, Germany; and Joseph, five months, Illinois.

The 1860 census of Worth shows Jacob Dellenbach, 38, France; Madeline, 28, Bavaria; Joseph, 10, Illinois; Maria, 8, Illinois; Lana, 7, Illinois; Christian, 3, Illinois; and Christian Dellenbach, 24, Illinois (he was the son of Christian Dellenbach). The 1865 state census of Worth shows Jacob Dellenbach next door to Joseph Schertz. His household is tallied as two males 10 years of age and under; one male 10-19; one male 40-49 [Jacob]; two females 10-19; and one female 40-49 [Magdalena]. The 1870 census of Worth shows farmer Jacob Delabach, 49, Württemberg; Madeleine, 40, Württemberg; Joseph, 13 [he was actually 20]; Mary, 17; Christian, 12; John, 8; and Jacob, 1; all children born in Illinois.

The 1875 plat map of Worth Township. It bordered Metamora.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows farmer Jacob Dellenbach, 58, France; Magdalene, 47, Lorraine; Christ, 22; Jacob, 11; Elisabeth, 9; and Emma, 6; all four children born in Illinois to parents from France and Lorraine. The household of their son Joseph was listed on the same page.

Father Jacob Dellenbach died Sept. 16, 1884.

The 1900 census of Cazenovia shows Magdalena as the 68-year-old mother-in-law in the home of her daughter Elizabeth Ann and son-in-law Peter Bachman. The report indicates that she was born in June 1831, and came to America from Germany in 1832, having spent 67 years in the country.

Magdalena Schrock died 'from pneumonia and heart trouble' at Cazenovia March 25, 1901.

Jacob Dellenbach and Magdalena Schrock are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Their children born at Worth include:

1. Joseph Dellenbach was born in February 1850, and died at Partridge, Kansas June 16 or 23, 1922. He married Louise Helle. She was born in Alsace June 16, 1858, and died at Partridge, Kansas Dec. 23, 1932. The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them as farmer Joseph Dellenbach, 30, born in Illinois to parents from France and Lorraine; Louisa, 22, born in France to French parents; Lena, 3, born in Illinois; and Alfred, 1, born in Illinois. The 1920 census of Partridge, Kansas shows them as Joseph Dellenbach, 69, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace-Lorraine and France; and Louise, 61, born in Alsace-Lorraine to parents from Alsace-Lorraine, immigrated in 1875. They are buried in Partridge Cemetery.

2. Maria/Mary Dellenbach was born Aug. 15, 1851, and died at Floris, Oklahoma Sept. 21, 1915. On Jan. 4, 1873 at Danvers she married Washington Grove; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.200 He was born at Washington April 10, 1849, and died at Liberal, Kansas July 12, 1931, a son of Benjamin Grove and Hanna Rinehart. They lived in Kansas and Oklahoma. They are buried in Midway Cemetery at Floris.

3. Magdalena Dellenbach was born Jan. 8, 1853, and died May 8, 1907. On Jan. 7, 1873 she married Peter Samuel Gerber. He was born at Washington Aug. 8, 1849, and died at Lowpoint, Woodford County Dec. 12, 1939, a son of Joseph Gerber and Ann Suisse/Schweizer/Switzer. He was ordained as a minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church by minister and elder Joseph Bachman in 1894. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

4. Christian Dellenbach was born June 4, 1857, and died at Norborne, Missouri March 1, 1923. On Feb. 19, 1882 at Washington he married Melissa Belle Brownfield. She was born May 14, 1856, and died at Hardin, Missouri Feb. 1, 1944, a daughter of Thomas Brownfield and Elizabeth Grove. Their household is found on the 1900 census of Roanoke as farm manager Christian Dellenbach, 43, born in Illinois in January 1856 to German parents; Melissa B., 44, born in Illinois in May 1856 to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and six children born in Illinois and

200 The Stuckey marriage list has them as Washington Grove and 'Alary Dellenbach,' likely a misinterpretation of a handwritten 'Mary Dellenbach.'
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Nebraska. They can also be found on the 1910 census of Egypt, Missouri. They are buried in Fairhaven Cemetery at Norborne.
5. A daughter died as an infant.
6. A son died as an infant.
7. Jacob E. Dellenbach was born March 4, 1869, and died at Flanagan Sept. 22, 1961. On Sept. 28, 1893 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Litwiller. She was born at Delavan Nov. 17, 1868, and died at Peoria June 25, 1918. They can be found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Panola. They later lived at Graymont, Livingston County, and are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.
8. Elizabeth Ann Dellenbach was born April 2, 1871, and died March 8, 1936. On Dec. 19, 1889 she married Peter Bachman. He was born at Cazenovia Aug. 28, 1866, and died at Cazenovia April 21, 1940, a son of Jacob Bachman and Jacobine 'Phoebe' Zook. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

In addition John Dellenbach was raised by this family. He was born in 1861 or 1862, and likely died before the 1880 census. He appears as an 8-year-old on the 1870 census. Family notes say he may have been a nephew (apparently through the Schrocks) who died at age 19.

Pennsylvania Dellenbachs

The families that lived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and later La Broque were the only European Dellenbach families outside Switzerland that we could positively identify as Anabaptist. There may have been branches that are not documented. It seems highly likely that the Anabaptist immigrants Valentine and Peter Dellenbach who came to Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s share some connection. We took some time to track them because we thought it might be of interest to those descended from the Central Illinois family.

This section also touches on a location that was relevant to a number of Central Illinois families: the Glades. Before the advent of a uniform railroad system, many Amish Mennonite families arriving at New York or Philadelphia traveled by wagon to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; the Glades of Somerset County, Pennsylvania; Wooster, Ohio; and Butler County, Ohio. Belongings were then transferred to flatboats for a water journey on the Ohio River, then to steamboats for the transit up the Mississippi to the Illinois River.

The first immigrant ship that took Anabaptist passengers from the area of Salm to Pennsylvania was the Pink Plaisance. It sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1732. French genealogists have documented passenger Peter Bricker, who had lived in the area of le Ban de la Roche as Peter Bruecker; several Zimmerman families that had originated at Steffisburg, Canton Bern but had lived around La Broque for several generations, and Ulrich Stähli and Ann German, who had lived at Bambois de Plaine, the forest opening where Ropps and Ulrichs worked at a water-driven sawmill. They all went to Lancaster County. Other familiar surnames on the passenger list included Landsis, Lichtin [Liechti], Resser [Reusser], and Stauffer.

There were two and perhaps three Dellenbach brothers among the early Amish Mennonite arrivals in America. KING told the story of the voyage of the galley Muscliffe Galley. The ship sailed from Amsterdam in mid-September, 1744, during the War of the Austrian Succession. After a visit to the customs house at Cowes on the Isle of Wright, it was briefly pursued by a French privateer. It arrived at Philadelphia Dec. 22 with passengers Samuel, Christian, and Jacob König. The passenger list held other familiar surnames such as Albrecht, Bender, Ebi [Eby], Engel, Eyer, Jotter, Jützy [Jutzi], Höfling [Hoffli?], Krebil [Krayenbühl], Kurz, Lang, Maurer, Mosiman, Schawalter [Schowalter], Seiler, Souder [Sauder], Stauffer, Steiner, Wittmer, and Yotter [Yoder]. Another passenger was 'Vallentin Tallebach' - Valentine Dellenbach.

Four years later Valentine's brother Peter Dellenbach sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the Brotherhood. That ship arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 2, 1750. Although no passenger list could be identified, a list from the Oath of Abjuration (renouncing former country) administered by mayor William Plumsted was created at the Philadelphia Courthouse Nov. 3. The Oath of Abjuration was only administered to males over 16 years of age. Some of the surnames found on the list include Blauch [later Blough], Bürkh [Bürki], Farne and Fahrne [Farni], Frey [Frei], Holly [Hölli], Kauffman, König, Lugienbühl [Lugienbühl], Mihler [Müller], Naftziger [Nafziger], Nast [Mast], Rub
[Rüpp], Stucky [Stucki], and six Schowalters.\textsuperscript{201} The list also names 'Beder Dielebach' - Peter Dellenbach. We assume that Peter was accompanied on the \textbf{Brotherhood} by an unidentified wife, two sons, and a daughter.

Although some passengers were called 'Swiss,' those we could identify came from the border area between Lower Alsace and the Pfalz. Johannes Mast had been a resident of Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche; Johannes Holly was a son of Christian Holli/Holly, minister-leaseholder of the Bärbelsteinerhof; and Nicholas Müller came from Mühlhofen.

We can guess that the organizers behind the group journey were influential minister Johannes/Hans Na\f{z}iger of Essingen and Christian Schowalter. Although Na\f{z}iger once stated that he had plans to emigrate from Europe, he never did. Schowalter sailed from Rotterdam on the \textit{Phoenix} with his wife and two sons, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. From Earl Township, Lancaster County he kept up a Transatlantic correspondence with minister Johannes/Hans Na\f{z}iger that lasted from his arrival in 1749 until 1788.

In Pennsylvania at this time there were four steps to obtaining free land: 1) an individual obtained a 'warrant' for a parcel identified by its corner landmarks; 2) after the land was cleared and cultivated, a survey was made at the expense of the owner; 3) the warrant was returned to the county land office with the results of the survey; and 4) the owner requested a 'patent' stating that the process was completed. It was not unusual for a farm to remain in a family over a century before the last-step patent was obtained.

On May 1, 1751 a warrant for 50 acres in Derry Township, Lancaster County was created for 'Peter Dallebach' (Land Warrant #191).\textsuperscript{202} On Jan. 30, 1752 another warrant for 200 acres of adjoining property was created for 'Valentine Dellebach' (Land Warrant #199).

Valentine's warrant was returned Dec. 30, 1761, indicating a survey had been completed at his expense. The survey found that the 200 acres had grown to 352; this generally indicates that swamp had been drained to create more arable land.

Derry had been incorporated as a township in Lancaster County in August 1729. On Feb. 12, 1761 the Lancaster County \textit{Caveat Book} 2 recorded a challenge against Peter's warrant: "Peter Dellenback enters a caveat against the acceptance of a survey made for David McCord (who has since sold the same to William Sawyer) on a tract of land situated in Derry Township, Lancaster County. The said Delleback having, as he says, a prior warrant for the same land."

During the Revolutionary War, Amish Mennonite ministers assured the Lancaster County Militia Committee that their congregations were "willing to contribute money to assist the Common Cause otherwise than by taking up arms."

Derry Township became part of Dauphin County when that entity was carved out of Lancaster County March 4, 1785. A census in 1787 found 198 residents. In present day Derry Township is better known as the home of Hershey, the town and chocolate factory. The Dellenbach properties would be described as running along East Governor's Road in Derry Township. East Governor's Road leads west in the direction of the Hershey factory; it leads east into CampbellsTown, Lebanon County.

\textbf{THE QUESTION OF JACOB DALLEBAGH}

Lancaster County land records show two properties at Hanover Township warranted by Jacob Dallebagh. A warrant for 100 acres received on Jan. 17, 1754 was not returned until Jan. 3, 1838. Another warrant for 25 acres received March 14, 1755 was not returned until Dec. 8, 1869.

\textsuperscript{201} Among the Schowalters on the \textit{Brotherhood} was Jacob Mathias Schowalter, an older brother to Christian. Jacob was born in Canton St. Gallen in 1702, or at Schaftbusch near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace in 1696, and died at Whitehall, Northampton County, Pennsylvania April 28, 1773. He married Maria Elizabeth Sauter. In Pennsylvania he became a minister of the Siegfried Mennonite congregation. Nevertheless the family is thought to have had five sons who fought in the Revolutionary War. Jacob's will was probated at Whitehall March 7, 1767.

\textsuperscript{202} We found one instance of Peter's surname spelled 'Delebagh.' An article called \textit{Jacob N. to America in 1750 in The Na\f{z}iger Heritage News} Fall 1988 issue talks about Jacob Na\f{z}iger, who was a passenger with Peter on the \textit{Brotherhood}. His family connections could not be determined. He purchased land from Jacob Seiler (the brother of Catherine Seiler) in Londonderry Township in 1770. The Dellenbach's land in Derry Township bordered on this community. Jacob was an executor with Hans Knegi, and 'Peter Delebaghi' was a witness with Jacob 'Seiler,' on the will of Hans Zimmerman Sr. It was created in 1771, registered in 1777, and a final settlement was made by new executors Matthias Na\f{z}iger and Peter Hershberger in July 1784. Zimmerman had lived in Berks County, then in 1760 relocated to Paxton Township, Lebanon County. It is tempting to say that this was the Hans Zimmerman on the \textit{Pink Plaisance} in 1732, but there were several immigrants with that name in the area (we found Hans Zimmerman warrants in Berks County in 1747, 1749, and 1750). Hans Knegi was Johannes Gnage, who was born in 1695 and arrived on the \textit{Francis and Elizabeth} in 1742. He settled in Upper Bern Township, Berks County in 1747, sold that land in 1768, and relocated to Bethel Township (then in Dauphin County, now in Lebanon County).
The brothers Valentine and Peter had already warranted their properties. A look at a map of present day Dauphin County shows Londonderry and Conewago Townships at the south end abutting Lancaster County. Above them, touching both townships, is Derry Township. Above that are South Hanover, West Hanover, and East Hanover Townships. Thus Jacob may have warranted land very close to Valentine and Peter.

We searched immigration lists 1749-1754 and could not find a Jacob Dellenbach. He may have accompanied Valentine in 1744 or Peter in 1750 as a minor (less than 16 years of age), or it may simply be that a record of his voyage has been lost over time. One source says a Jacob Dellenbach died in Lancaster County in 1768.

We considered that Jacob Dallebagh of Hanover could have been a son of Peter, as one source suggested. Jacob would have been born in Europe no later than 1733, because he warranted land in 1754. Peter would then have been born no later than 1711. We know that Peter died in late 1796 or early 1797. In this timeframe, and given the circumstances, it would have been extremely unusual for a male head of household supporting at least nine children to live to the age of 85 without some mention in local histories. But it is remarkable to find the unusual surname coinciding so near in an area of such a small population.

This leaves the possibilities that Jacob was a brother or cousin to Valentine and Peter.

We could not identify Peter's first wife. He remarried in Pennsylvania some time between 1768 and 1787.

PETER DELLENBACH'S SECOND WIFE CATHARINE (SURNAME UNKNOWN)

Johannes/Hans Stauffer was born at Wartenberg, Hesse Aug. 6, 1715, a son of Daniel Stauffer and Veronica Schenk, and raised on Mückenhausens Hof farm near Ibersheim, Hesse. He sailed from Rotterdam with his widowed mother and brothers, arriving at Philadelphia on the Virtuous Grace Sept. 24, 1734. This was the same voyage that brought the Kaufmans, a family with earlier generations from Homberg (now Homberg bei Thun) near Steffisburg, Canton Bern. On Sept. 22, 1738 at Conestoga, Manor Township, Lancaster County Hans married Katharina/Katrina Schenk, a daughter of Michael Schenk and Anna Rassi. She had 13 children before her death Nov. 29, 1760.

Hans then remarried to Catharine, whose surname could not be identified. They had daughters Susanna Stauffer (1763) and Magdalena Stauffer (1765) at Warwick Township. Johannes/Hans Stauffer died at Warwick Township, Lancaster County in January 1767.

Catharine remarried to Hans Eyer (also known as John Oyer) of Earl Township. Hans/John had been a passenger with Valentine Dellenbach on the Muscliffe Galley in 1744. At the time of the marriage Hans/John already had eight children from his deceased first wife Barbara; two of them (Jacob and Barbara) married children of Christian Schowalter. Some sources say Hans/John was born at Dürrmenz, Baden-Durlach in 1714. Dürrmenz was about five miles east of the Karlshäuserhof at Dürrn, and nine miles northeast of Pforzheim. It was a destroyed village that was built up after 1698 by Waldensians who were absorbed as Lutherans in later generations. They came mainly from the Piedmont Region of northern Italy.

The evidence of Catharine's second marriage was provided by a record stating that on May 23, 1768 'John Oyer and Catherine of Earl Township' filed a quit-claim on land that she had inherited from Johannes/Hans Stauffer. Hans/John and Catharine had no children together.

Hans/John died at Warwick Township March 30, 1782.

The evidence of Catharine's third marriage, to Peter Dellenbach, comes from the records of the Lancaster County Orphan's Court (a probate court). A remark on Aug. 6, 1787 mentioned that John Eyer of Warwick Township was dead, and his widow Catharine had remarried to Peter Delabaugh.

Thus the marriage between Peter Dellenbach and Catharine was his second, and her third.

Valentine's death occurred in or before October 1792. Board of Property Minutes of Dauphin County documents a quit-claim on a parcel of property in Derry Township made by 'the heirs of Valentine Delabaugh' Oct. 26, 1792.

Valentine's heirs may have been his brother Peter and his family. We assume that Valentine did not leave a widow or children. No will has been found in Lancaster County or Dauphin County records; we found no references to a widow; and most importantly, it appears that after his death his land passed entirely into the possession of his brother.

The 1790 census of Dauphin County shows four of Peter's son-in-laws on four consecutive pages (as Loiter, Harshbager, Musser, and Branstater). On the same page as Loiter, where we might expect to find Peter as a head of household, we found the household of Christian Tollabaugh. The entry tallies 2 males in the 16 or over category; 2

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203 His will was created Oct. 27, 1776. The children listed included Jacob (1747), Mary (1748), Abraham (1749), Barbara (1750), Christiam, Catharina, Elizabeth, and John. He also left 20 pounds apiece for his stepchildren, Susanna and Magdalena Stauffer. An amendment created Feb. 17, 1777 specified that 70 pounds would go to his wife Catherine to be passed on to the smallest children Catherine, Elizabeth, and John when they came of age.

This generation is generally found as Eyerly. This follows the pattern of many other families, i.e. the first generation in the English colony was semi-literate, and simply accepted the way their surname was Anglicized by municipal clerks on land and tax entries.
males in the under 16 category; and 6 females. Christian was a son, managing the farm with Peter and Catharine in advanced years.

Peter probably died in late 1796. According to county land records, a survey of property was completed for his heirs Feb. 9, 1797. Although the warrant for Peter's land had not been turned in at that point, indicating it had never been surveyed before, it was turned in with this survey which was called a "re-survey." The estate was found to total 372 acres. Thus we assume that it represented Valentine's initial 352 acres (that had now been surveyed twice), plus Peter's initial 50 acres (not surveyed in his lifetime), minus 30 acres given away by the 1792 quit claim. Peter's will has failed to turn up in searches of Dauphin County records. Fortunately, some information on the probate process can be found in the Dauphin County Courthouse Mortgage Book. It stated that the will had been probated at Londonderry, and the estate was settled by son-in-law Jacob Krebill April 5, 1797.

No Dellenbachs and no sons-in-law appear on the 1800 census of Derry Township.

Presumably Peter's two sons and oldest daughter accompanied him from Europe on the Brotherhood in 1750. He had six more daughters in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, without the text of his will it is impossible to list them with certainty. Children of Peter Dellenbach and his unidentified first wife include:

1. Christian Dellenbach/Delebaugh was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Derry Township prior to 1799. In Notes and Queries, Chiefly related to the History of Dauphin County (1887) author William Henry Egley wrote: "Christian Delebaugh of Derry died prior to 1799, leaving a wife Anna and children.” Children of Christian Dellenbach and Anna born at Derry Township, as listed by Egley, include:
   a. Maria Delebaugh was born Nov. 11, 1771, and died Nov. 11, 1849. She married Henry Ober (also found as Over). He was born in 1781, and died March 3, 1839, a son of Jacob Ober Jr. and Elizabeth Stauffer. They are buried in Mt. Tunnel Cemetery at Elizabethtown Borough, Lancaster County.
   c. Peter Delebaugh. Though no Dellenbachs and no sons-in-law appear on the 1800 census of Derry Township, adjacent Londonderry Township shows a head of household named Peter Tollebaugh (presumably 21, thus born before 1780). The 1810 census of Juniata, Cumberland County shows a Peter Delebaugh. This location would now be described as Juniata Township, Bedford County, on the border of Somerset County in the southwest corner of the state. The household is tallied as one male under 10 years of age; one male 10-15; one male 26-44; two females under 10; one female 10-15; and one female 26-44. He may also be the Peter Dillabaugh listed on the 1820 census of Montgomery Township, Franklin County (at the center of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border) in 1820. That household held a dozen persons.
   d. Pevely Delebaugh.
   e. Catharine Delebaugh.
   f. Veronica 'Freeny' Delebaugh.
   g. Elizabeth Delebaugh.
   h. Christian 'Christly' Delebaugh.

2. Valentine Dellenbach/Delabaugh was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Quemahoning Township, Somerset County in the spring of 1813.

3. Barbara Dellenbach was born in Europe circa 1749. In 1773 in Chester County she married John Feick/Fike. He was born in Berks County circa 1750, and died at Selbyport, Maryland in September 1829, a son of Christian Fike and Barbara Bontreger. Bedford County records say that John Feick warranted 200 acres at Brothers Valley Township Feb. 21, 1785. This property was actually only 149 acres, according to Land Survey Abstracts, Somerset County. In present day the location of his land would be called Elk Lick Township, Somerset County. He erected a gristmill on Boggs Run; one source called him 'Windmill John.' They relocated to Selbyport, Allegany County, Maryland (in a part that is now in Garrett County) in 1800. This community is located in the extreme northwest corner of Maryland, about four miles south of the border with Somerset County, Pennsylvania. John Fike is found on the 1810 census of District 5, Allegany County, Maryland. John's will was probated at Selbyport Sept. 8, 1828; he left 10 children. Their graves at Selbyport have been plowed over, but their headstones were re-erected in Mercy Chapel Cemetery.

4. Magdalena Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1751, and died at Selbyport, Maryland. On Jan. 2, 1781 in the Zion Evangelical Church at Manheim, Lancaster County she married Nicholas Musser [Moser]. He was born at Corgémont in the Jura Mountains of Canton Bern Sept. 24, 1752, and died at Selbyport circa 1826, a son of Niklaus Moser and Catherine Schwartz. Nicholas, his father Niklaus, and grandfather Hans Jacob Moser had arrived at Philadelphia on the Phoenix Oct. 1, 1754. Nicholas can be found on the 1790 census of Dauphin County. They purchased 200 acres at Selbyport in 1804. Nicholas can be found as Nicholas Moserne on the 1810 census of District 5, Allegany County, Maryland, and on the 1820 census there. They joined the Brethen (Dunker) church. They were buried on their farm.

5. Veronica/Freni Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1751, and died circa 1797. She married John Hershberger. He was born in Pennsylvania circa 1750. His parents Christian Hershberger and Barbara Rupp had arrived at Philadelphia on the Charming Nancy Oct. 8, 1737. John was living at Lebanon Township, Dauphin
Christian Blauch/Blough was born in Europe July 7, 1743. He arrived with his parents Christian Blaugh and Barbara Stauffer. Jacob purchased land at Manheim in 1772. Barbara died at Mt. Hope in 1777, age 33, and Jacob remarried to Elizabeth. They sold their mill and 212 acres in 1784, then purchased 277 acres at East Donegal. This became the family homestead for three generations. In 1810 they donated land for a meeting house that was constructed in 1812. Jacob left three sons and six daughters; he has been called "the founder of the Kraybill family in North America." They are buried in the Kraybill Family Cemetery on the site of their farm at Donegal Springs. Kraybill family genealogies spell Elizabeth's surname 'Delabaugh.'

Valentine Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1759. Circa 1774 she married Georg Andreas/Andrew Brandstetter. He was born at Frischen in the Pfalz Jan. 13, 1752, a son of Johann Friedrich Brandstetter and Anna Barbara Mag. Andrew arrived at Philadelphia with his parents on the Sarah Sept. 20, 1764. He appears on the passenger list as George Andreas Brandstetter, 12. He is also found as Andrew Branstater on the 1790 census of Dauphin County. He may be the Andrew Branstater on the 1810 census of Jerusalem and Upper Antietam Hundreds, Washington County, Maryland.

Maria/Mary Dellenbach was born at Derry Township March 16, 1838. She married Joseph Leiter/Lytre. He was born in Lancaster County March 7, 1768, and died at Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County Nov. 15, 1854. He is found as Joseph Loiter on the 1790 census of Dauphin County, on the same page as Christian Tollabaugh. They are buried in the Lyter Family Cemetery at Lower Paxton Township.

Valentine Dellenbach (most often found as 'Delabaugh') was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Quemahoning Township, Somerset County in the spring of 1813. He married Anna Berkey. She was born in Upper Tulpheck Township, Berks County circa 1746, a daughter of Christian Berkey and Catherine Seiler.

Valentine is found as 'Felty Delabaugh' with brother-in-law John Hershberger on a tax list of temporary laborers at Cocalico Township, Lancaster County in 1771, indicating that they were at least 21 years old.

Delbert Gratz in Bernese Anabaptists: "Before the middle of the eighteenth century the best lands in southeastern Pennsylvania had been settled by the German and Scotch-Irish immigrants. The second generation of the immigrants who came later pushed west...small groups of Mennonites went up the Juniata River and crossed the Allegheny Mountains where colonies were established before the Revolutionary War in what are now Westmoreland, Fayette, and Somerset Counties. The first pioneer was Christian Blauch who went form Lancaster County to near the present site of Berlin, Somerset County, in 1767."

Christian Blauch/Blough was born in Europe July 7, 1743. He arrived with his parents Christian Blauch and Elizabeth Gastelli on the Brotherhood in 1750, the same voyage that brought Dellenbachs. Christian was married to Magdalena Elizabeth Bender. They went to the part of Bedford County that later became Somerset County in 1767, but did not obtain land until 1773. He died at Berlin in 1777. His actual grave in Blough Cemetery at Brothersvalley Township is marked with a worn headstone that says 'CB1777.' Nearby is a commemorative headstone with a brass plaque that recognizes him as a pioneer.

Valentine's wife Anna Berkey was a sister-in-law to Christian Blauch/Blough. Her brother Jacob Berkey was married to his sister Elizabeth Blauch/Blough.

204 Lebanon County was created in 1813 out of Dauphin and Lancaster Counties.
205 Eyer family genealogies confuse Catherine with her sister, calling her Elizabeth Catherine Krebiel.
206 Anna Berkey's father was Christian, who may have been a younger brother or cousin to Johannes/Hans Bürki of the Bärbelsteinerhof. See BIRKY/BIRKEY.
In 1773 Valentine and Anna resettled near Christian in the southwest corner of the state, in a location that changed names several times.

THE GLADES

The area where Valentine resettled was originally called the Turkeyfoot region or Stonycreek Glades. Later it was also known as the Cox's Creek Glades. Mineral-rich silt patches created by the patterns of stream runoff had created extensive glades or grassy openings in the forest there. Their thick, moist grass made them ideal for grazing. The Glades [Ger. Klöz] is mentioned in many family histories as the place where a family rested among friends before continuing a journey west to Wooster, Ohio or beyond.

When Valentine first went there he found land in Brothers Valley Township, an expansive area that had been incorporated in 1768. Many of its first settlers were German Baptists, or Dunkers. They called each other Junkers or Breuders Lide (Brethren), giving the township its name. At the time it was located in Cumberland County.

The area was first part of Cumberland County; it became part of the new Bedford County in 1771. Bedford County Land Records indicates that on Dec. 13, 1773 'Valentine Delebaugh of Londonderry Township' agreed to pay Philip Shever 225 pounds for 300 acres in Turkeyfoot Township, Bedford County. The indenture was recorded May 24, 1775. (An indenture indicated that Valentine intended to clear and work the land, sharing the income from his crops to make payments). Bedford County Warrant Records indicate that on May 25, 1774 'Valentine Dellebach' received a warrant for 300 acres in Bedford County. The warrant was not returned with a survey report until Feb. 22, 1814 (about nine months after his death).

The original boundaries of Brothers Valley Township were much more expansive than they are today, and took in what is now Elk Lick, Summit, and part of Stonycreek Townships. Brothers Valley Township is now a much smaller entity surrounding the town of Berlin. After 1775 Valentine's home was called Quemahoning Township. Below it Brothers Valley Township has contracted to an entity surrounding the town of Berlin. Both communities are located in Somerset County, which was created out of Bedford County in 1795. The two communities are located 6-8 miles south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike/Interstate Route 70.

In 1817 Hans Nussbaum, a traveling companion of Christian Augspurger, wrote a letter describing part of their journey from France to Ohio: "On the 16th of October we went 23 miles from Philadelphia to a settlement of five Amish families. On the 17th we then went to Pequea. Here we stayed a week to get de-loused. The brethren bestowed upon us food, including butter, meat, bread, and vegetables. From there they guided the way for us to the Kalchis [Kishacoquillas]. There is also an Amish community. We stayed another week. We were given very find treatment. They guided us to Somerset County which was a nine-day journey. In the Glades is another Amish Community. In all these places they gave us much to eat. They charged us nothing." While Nussbaum eventually found land at Wooster, Ohio, Augspurger continued on to Butler County.

Valentine appears as Vallintine Dilabaugh on the 1776 tax assessment of Brothers Valley Township. Brother-in-law Joseph 'Misheler' (married to Valentine's wife's sister Elizabeth Berkey) and brother-in-law John Hershberger (married to Valentine's sister Freni/Veronica) are also found on that list. In 1779 'Valentine Delabouch' owned 50 acres.

In the aftermath of the French and Indian War (1754-1763) ill feelings prevailed on the western frontier. The board of assessors for Bedford County sent a letter to the Pennsylvania General Assembly Feb. 16, 1779 to explain why tax revenues were so low:

"For eighteen months past the frontier inhabitants have almost entirely been deprived of the fruits of their labor by the incursions of the Indians. Many of them have gone entirely out of the county, and when that part of the petitioners whose duty it is to take the returns of property [taxes], went to the once cheerful abodes of humble industry & content[ment], the inhabitant had fled to preserve his life, and nothing presented to their view but forlorn habitations and untilled fields (in several of which the grave of the former owner, murdered by the Indians, was to be seen); and to levy taxes off those would be adding distress to the afflicted and taking from the poor that which he has not to give.

That part of the inhabitants who remained collected into forts - some formed into companies and ranged along the frontier in order to afford some small protection to the rest, who, at the hazard of their lives, returned out to save their scanty harvest and to prepare another; but they are so often driven in that there was little they could do.

The panic occasioned by one invasion was scarcely over till they were alarmed afresh by another. Many were deprived of sowing & planting, and not a few were prevented from reaping that whey they had put in; in consequence of which, famine stares us in the face..."

The part of Brothers Valley Township where Valentine lived became Quemahoning Township in 1775. The land records of a neighbor described Valentine as living "on the headwaters of Coxe Creek."

The first Amish Mennonite elder to take up residence at Quemahoning Township was 'Schweitzer Christian' Yoder. He was born in Canton Bern Oct. 28, 1728, and died at Stonycreek Nov. 20, 1816, a son of Christian Joder
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

and Barbara Gerber. He had arrived with his parents on the *Francis and Elizabeth* Sept. 21, 1742. 'Schweitzer Christian' sold land at Shartlesville, Berks County, then purchased 606 acres for $968 on Oct. 9, 1775. In the spring of 1776 he brought his family to Quemahoning Township. There he began to gather followers in a Glades congregation. The part of Quemahoning Township where he settled became Stonycreek Township when that entity was created in 1792.207

In 1781 Valentine sold land at Quemahoning Township to Joseph Mishler. In 1783 'Valentine Dillabaugh' paid 1 pound, 4 shillings, and 1 pence in federal tax on 300 acres there.

**NAFZIGER AND DELLENBACH**

Reiterating the story of Ulrich Nafziger, the estranged father of influential minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger, from NAFZIGER:

Leaving his wife and children behind, he [Ulrich Nafziger] sailed from Rotterdam through Cowes on the *Marlborough*, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1741. The passenger list shows him as 'Ulrich Nafzer.'

Though his wife Magdalena outlived him, Ulrich married again in Pennsylvania in 1746. Since his wife Magdalena had remained behind in their old congregation, this has been taken as proof that Ulrich must have been expelled, nullifying his Anabaptist marriage vows. The ceremony was conducted by a Lutheran minister. Marie Catherine Bischof was a widow with two children, and they had two children together.

Ulrich died at Green Garden, Leacock County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754. In the absence of a will, his estate was awarded to two of his American children. In a probate document created at Essingen in March 1760 his European children declined to claim a share."

Raymond L. Noffsger explained what became of the oldest American son John in his excellent article *The Nafzger Families of the Palatinate and Pennsylvania* in *The Nafzinger Heritage* Summer 1985 issue:

"In July 1774 'John Naftzger of the county of Lancaster' was given a warrant for 50 acres of land situated on Quemahoning Creek in Bedford County. [The warrant received July 12, 1774 was returned with a survey report March 20, 1855]. The deed was witnessed by Philip Cable and Johannes Farni. The latter signed in German script. However, the subsequent sale of this property to Peter Kimmel Jr. mentioned 'John Nafzeger of Berks County.' In 1778 Valentine Dellabach/Delabaugh sold a piece of land in Turkey Foot Township to John Nafzeger (now Upper and Lower Turkeyfoot Townships are adjacent on the west side of Somerset County). In 1792 John Naphziger and Henry Naphisger, a single farmer, paid taxes at Quemahoning Township."

'John Noffsinger' received a warrant for 400 acres at Quehamoning Township April 14, 1794; it was returned with a survey report Oct. 24, 1837. Nafziger also paid taxes at Quemahoning Township in 1796. John Noftsinger appears on the 1800 and 1810 census of Somerset County.

In 1791 Congress passed an act designed to balance the federal budget. It leveed a tax of four pence (then about nine cents, or $2 in modern buying power) on every gallon of distilled whiskey. At the time corn and rye were significant crops in western Pennsylvania, and about one-in-six farmers kept a still.

**THE WHISKEY REBELLION**

Frontier farmers were accustomed to bartering for goods. The currency that was printed by small local banks was not recognized elsewhere. Coins were generally in short supply. But when they traveled east to take their whiskey to larger markets, they were confronted by tax collectors demanding coins in payment and threatening confiscation. This seemed like piracy.

In what was later Somerset County, a number of scattered incidents caused injuries to tax inspectors. Then 500 armed farmers protested the tax by encircling the fancy, fortified home of a federal collector.

At first the new federal government under President George Washington sent representatives to bargain for time. Then on Aug. 4, 1794, Justice James Wilson delivered his opinion that western Pennsylvania was in a state of rebellion. In October General Harry 'Lighthorse' Lee of Virginia arrived with 14,950 militia drawn from four states.

As a consequence of the Whiskey Rebellion, 31 local farmers paid fines ranging from 5 shillings to 15 pounds.208 Only 20 farmers were arrested. 10 were tried for treason in federal court at Philadelphia, and two were convicted and given the death penalty. They were later pardoned.

At the same time as the Whiskey Rebellion, another significant event took place at Maumee, Ohio. On Aug. 20, 1794 General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne led troops in a victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. It ended Little Turtle's War (now called the Northwest Indian War). The resulting Treaty of Greenville brought a measure of comparative safety for Pennsylvania settlers.

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207 In present day, Stonycreek is better known as the place where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001.
208 $29.45 to $1,767 in modern buying power.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

The 1800 census of Quemahoning Township names 'Valentine Dellebaugh.' His household included one male 45 years of age or older; one male 10-16; one female 45 years of age or older; and one female 10-16.209

Valentine died in the spring of 1813. Probate papers dated April 28 and 29, 1813 named the executors of his estate as his brother-in-law Joseph Mischler and John Forny; witnesses included brother-in-law Jacob Berkey (he was an older brother to Anna Berkey) and Jacob Mischler. We have not seen the papers to identify his heirs.

Widow Anna resettled in Ontario. A probate statement prepared and notarized in York County, Ontario said that, "Anna Dillabaugh late of Mahona in the county of Somerset in the state of Pennsylvania names Joseph Mischler my nephew my formal attorney."

Delbert Gratz in Bernese Anabaptists: "By the close of the Revolutionary War the demand for cheap lands for the surplus population in the Older Pennsylvania communities became acute. The Mennonites had been made uncomfortable during the war by their refusal to support the army. This new government which had treated them with little respect and which seemed to crumble into anarchy when the war was over gave them little hope for toleration. When large tracts of good cheap land became available in Ontario it is not surprising that many Mennonites directed their steps to that area."

We could not identify Anna's place or date of death. It is probable that she left Somerset County to live with her nephew Jacob Berkey (a son of Anna's brother Joseph) and Veronica/Freeny/Fanny Blaugh/Blough at Markham Township, York County, Ontario (above Toronto).210

The land in Valentine's estate was ultimately transferred to Amish Mennonite Samuel Keim.211 A deed was created and notarized by justice of the peace Peter Berkey, and witnessed by Peter Mischler and Christian Miller.

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209 The boy on the 1800 census may have been Peter Dellabaugh (headstone spelling), who was born in Pennsylvania April 12, 1780, and died at Weller Township, Richland County, Ohio Jan. 21, 1850. He married Magdalena, who was born in Pennsylvania Jan. 5, 1780, and died at Weller Township Aug. 16, 1868. They are buried in Pavonia Cemetery (formerly Milton Cemetery) at Weller Township. His headstone calls him Peter Dellanbach and says he died June 21, 1850, age 69 years, 9 months, and 9 days. Magdalena's headstone says she died Aug. 16, 1868, age 88 years, 7 months, 11 days. The 1850 Mortality Schedule of Richland County shows Peter Dellabaugh, born in Pennsylvania in 1780, who died in June 1850. The 1850 census of Weller Township shows farmer Christian Dellabaugh, 46, Pennsylvania; Magdalena, 70, Pennsylvania; and John Fisher, 11, Pennsylvania. The 1860 census of Weller Township shows Magdalena Dellenbaugh, 60, Pennsylvania; son Christian Delenbaugh, 57, Pennsylvania; and his wife Ann [Haverfield], 44, Pennsylvania. Christian is also found as a 67-year-old on the 1870 census of Weller Township.

210 Jacob and Fanny had a daughter Elizabeth born in Somerset County Jan. 10, 1807. They went to Ontario that spring. These Berkeys are buried as 'Barkey' in Wideman Mennonite Cemetery at Markham.

211 Samuel Keim was born circa 1775, and died at Quemahoning in 1845, a son of Peter Keim and Susanna Eis (or Eyssin). After the death of his mother at Oley, Berks County, his father 'let him out' to neighboring Amish Mennonite families. Samuel married Anna Blaugh/Blough. They are buried in Covered Bridge Cemetery at Quemahoning.
Peter Eiman of Elm Grove

In Canton Bern an *ei* or *ey* is a meadow by a river. The same root that became Eyer or Eier is also found as Eiman or Eymann, describing a person who lived in such a meadow.

The spelling 'Eiman' was the first we found in early records from Steffisburg. The Heimatorte or legal places of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname are Fahrni bei Thun, Linden, and Langnau. Although the Eiman/Eymann family plays an extensive part in the history of the Amish Mennonites, we have only followed one family that came to Tazewell County after 1850. Their arrival date falls beyond our original guideline, but the information corrects a general misimpression that they arrived earlier and had other family connections.

Moses Ropp constructed his first saw mill in the wooded area south of Allentown Road at Elm Grove. His immediate neighbor and co-worker was Peter Eiman. Despite the coincidence, Peter was not a close relation to Elisabeth Eymann/Eiman, the wife of Andreas Ropp and mother to Moses Ropp.

Pierre Eymann was born at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace in 1735, and died on the farm Le Petit Rombach at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Feb. 25, 1807. In 1782 he married Margaret/Marguerite Maurer (this may have been Pierre's second marriage). She was born circa 1758, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 9, 1811. Their son miller Pierre Eymann was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 31, 1798 (according to his civil birth entry). One source says he died at South Easthope, Perth County, Ontario March 27, 1858.

On April 12, 1826 at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine (below Colmar) he married Madeleine Frutiger. She was a daughter of Daniel Frutiger and Vérène Ummel. Pierre and Madeleine's civil birth entry described the groom as farm operator Pierre Eymann, 27, who was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mine Aug. 2, 1798 (differing from the civil entry). The bride was described as Madelaine Frutiger, 29. The bride was given away by her uncle Chrétien Ummel, living at Pfaffstatt. Witnesses included shopkeeper Sebastien Peter Schmitt, 73, friend of the groom; and cultivator Joseph Peter Schmitt, 36, friend of the bride (he signed 'Joseph Petter Schmit').

Their son Pierre Eymann/Peter Eiman was the oldest of 10 children. He was born at Niederhergheim, Upper Alsace (eight miles south of Colmar) May 22, 1826.

On Sept. 8, 1849 at Soultz, Upper Alsace he married Barbe/Barbara Roth. She was born at Pfaffstatt (a suburb of Mulhouse) Aug. 19, 1824, and died in Oklahoma Nov. 28, 1902, a daughter of André Roth and Catherine Kauffmann. She is buried in Red Rock Cemetery at Calumet.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Pierre Eimen, 23, living at Soultz. He was a son of miller Pierre Eimen, 48, and Madeleine Freidiger [Frutiger], 46, living at Soultz. The bride was described as Barbe Roth, 25, stateless though born at Pfaffstatt and living at Pulversheim. Her parents were day laborer André Roth, 58, living at Jungholtz, Rimbach and the deceased Catherine Kauffmann. The groom signed his name 'Peter Eiman,' the bride or her father just signed 'Roth.'

In 1855 they were living at Châtenois. According to Dominique Dreyer's Emigrants Haut-Rhinois en Amérique 1800-1870, the passport application of Pierre Eiman stated that he was from Thann and Niederhergheim, and his intended destination was Indiana. The passport was obtained at Colmar July 4, 1855.

Peter's parents, three brothers, and a sister emigrated with his family. They sailed from Le Havre on the ship New York, arriving at New York Aug. 20, 1855.

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211 Daniel Frutiger was born at Silsheim, Upper Alsace circa 1777, and died at Pfaffstatt July 9, 1824. Vérène Verene/Freni Ummel was born circa 1778, and died at Pfaffstatt Sept. 6, 1812.

212 Passenger 74, François Joseph Eymann, was born at Niederhergheim April 3, 1828.

213 Passenger 75, Daniel Eymann, was born at Soultz Nov. 15, 1840, and died at Wayland, Iowa March 2, 1916. He married Barbara Zehr, the widow of Jacob Gingerich. She was born Dec. 10, 1837, and died at Wayland Nov. 5, 1886, a daughter of Peter Zehr and Barbara Roth. They also lived in Tazewell County. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove one page before his older brother: Daniel Eimen, 28, Bavaria; and Barbara, 32, New York. The same family is shown on the 1885 state census of Jefferson/Wayne, Henry County, Iowa as Daniel Eimen, 43, France; Barbra, 47, France; and nine children born in Canada, the oldest Barbara, 17. (ROTH explains how Barbara Roth was born in New York and then lived in Ontario). Herald of Truth, December 1886: "On the 5th of November in Wayland, Henry Co., Iowa, Barbara, wife of Daniel Eiman, aged 48 years, 11 months and 26 days. She leaves a husband and 11 children to mourn their loss. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite church and was buried on the 7th in the presence of many sorrowing friends and neighbors. Services by S. T. Miller and S. Gerg from 1 Cor. 15:55-58," Gospel Herald, March 1916: "Daniel Eiman was born in Germany, Oct. 15, 1842; died Feb. 27, 1916, aged 73 y. 4 m. 14 d. He was married to Barbara Zehr who preceded him to the great beyond in 1886. He leaves to mourn four sons, four daughters, 31 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In his youth he joined the Mennonite Church, later on he was reunited to the Amish Mennonite Church at Pigeon, Mich. Funeral services at the Sugar Creek Church, near Wayland, Iowa, by Daniel Graber and Simon Gingerich."
Passenger number

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<th>Relationship</th>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>Madeleine Frutiger</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>Daniel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Fronika</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(daughter)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jean</td>
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<td>(son)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Jean</td>
<td>5</td>
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The parents Pierre Eymann and Madeleine Frutiger may have settled at South Easthope, Ontario, but this could not be verified – Pierre would have arrived after the 1851 census and died before the 1861 census.

On the 1870 census of Elm Grove: farmer Peter Eimen, 44, France; Barbara, 45; John, 20; Barbra, 9; Catherine, 7; and Mary, 5. On the 1880 census of Elm Grove: farmer Peter Eiman, 55, France; Barbara, 55, France; Kate, 17, Illinois; and Mary, 13, Illinois. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Eimen, 55, parents born in France; Barbra, 55; Kate, 17; and Mary, 13.

The 1880 census of Olathe, Kansas shows Peter and Barbara's son John Eimen, 28, Alsace; Emily F, 27, Ohio; and two children born in Illinois.

Children of Pierre Eymann/Peter Eiman and Barbe/Barbara Roth include:

1. Jean/John Eiman was born at Soultz, Upper Alsace June 2, 1850, and died at El Reno, Oklahoma May 30, 1929. On Oct. 5, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Emily Frances Potts. She was born at Center, Ohio May 22, 1852, and died at El Reno Jan. 4, 1938, a daughter of Hanson Potts and Elizabeth Turner. They are buried in El Reno Cemetery (John's headstone says 'John Eimen').

2. Barbara Eiman was born in Illinois Dec. 3, 1860, and died at Fort Cobb, Oklahoma June 10, 1935. On March 13, 1878 in Tazewell County she married John G. Fisher. He was born in Missouri in January 1848. The 1900 census of Dillon shows them as John V. Fisher, 52, born in Missouri to parents from Maryland and Virginia; Barbara, 39, born in Illinois to parents from France; and six children born in Illinois.

3. Kate Eiman was born in Illinois Nov. 2, 1862, and died at Fremont, Iowa March 19, 1953. Although she was listed as a 17-year-old in the household of her parents in 1880, she may also be the 20-year-old 'Kate Eimen' listed as a housekeeper in the household of Tomas Leonard at Elm Grove the same year. She married Reuben Stam before 1903, and lived with him at Fremont. He can be found as a 26-year-old farmer, born in Pennsylvania, on the 1880 census of Elm Grove. In 1911 Kate remarried to Henry Storm. He was born in 1862, and died in 1941; he was buried with his first wife Lulu in Cedar Township Cemetery at Fremont.

4. Mary Eiman was born in Illinois Nov. 29, 1866, and died at Elm Grove July 22, 1881; she is buried in Railroad Cemetery.

Passenger 76, Veronica/Fronika Eymann, also known as Fanny Eiman, was born at Soultz March 5 or 15, 1843, and died Sept. 20, 1899; she is buried in Seward County, Nebraska. On March 6, 1866 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Maurer (also found as Murer and Mourer). He was born in Germany April 5, 1840, and died at Creston, Montana April 22, 1920.

Passenger 77, Jean/John Eymann, was born at Soultz Sept. 9, 1845.

Passenger 80, 11-year-old Christian, may have been brought to the marriage by Barbe/Barbara Roth, or may have been her younger brother.
Schantz of Lembach

The Schantzes, like Janzi/Jantzi and Jenni, is derived from Johannes – Jehovah’s gift. Schantz/Tschantz/Schantz families lived in Buchholterberg, Diessbach, and Schwarzenegg, all communities that fall within the administrative district of the Free Court of Steffisburg.

Many of the Schantzes who came to America originated from the vicinity of Lembach, Lower Alsace in the 18th century. They were closely associated with Güngerich and Nafziger families.

Amish Mennonites farmed on three estates at Lembach. Each estate was surrounded by a hamlet or forest subdivision. The French names of the hamlets and the German names of the estates were: Fleckenstein - Ger. Fleckensteinerhof; Froensbourg - Ger. Frönsburgerhof; and Katzenthal - Ger. Katzentalerhof.

GÜNGERICH AT LEMBACH

Recalling GINGERICH: Christian Güngerich was born at Heimberg and baptized at Steffisburg in 1648. In 1668 he married Barbara Rubi. Their descendants account for every known Amish Mennonite Güngerich or Gingerich.

Christian Güngerich was confined at Schwarzenegg in 1692. He escaped and went to Lower Alsace, within walking distance of the Alsatian border with the Pfalz. He is mentioned as a leaseholder at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace in 1698; on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach 1708-1712; and then on the castle estate Frönsburgerhof at Lembach. He finally leased an estate near Laasphe in the principality of Wittgenstein (now in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, on its border with Hesse) in 1713.

The Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach was so called because it fell into a hamlet or forest subdivision of Lembach called Froensbourg. It encompassed the grounds surrounding 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 its owners, the Fleckenstein family, were related to Pfalz-Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs.

Christian's son Hans 'Hans der alte' Güngerich was born at Heimberg, and baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 21, 1669. He lived at Echery from 1693 to 1695, then at La Petite Lièpvre in the same time frame that Jacob Amman was there (1695-1712).

In 1712 the son became leaseholder of the Frönsburgerhof. Over the years he became an extremely influential minister, hosting 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.

Hans 'Hans der alte' Güngerich had a sister Barbara who married Johann Schantz. This couple may have been grandparents of the first Schantz at Lembach.

Lembach would now be described as a village in the Sauer Valley, surrounded by the forests of the North Vosges Natural Park. The ruins of Froensbourg castle and Fleckenstein castle are accessible as tourist attractions.

Descendants of Michel Schantz born circa 1720

Michel Schantz was born circa 1720, and died on the Katzentalerhof estate at Lembach in 1787. Michel married Magdalena Güngerich. They lived on the Frönsbergerhof estate. Michel became a minister and represented the Froensbourg congregation at the assemblies of ministers at Essingen in 1759 and 1779, with Christian Joder and Isaac Hochstettler (it is likely that Isaac's third wife Catherine Schantz was closely related to Michel).

Their children include:

1. Peter/Pierre Schantz was born on the Frönsburgerhof estate circa 1747, and died at Neidersteinbach, Lower Alsace March 14, 1793.
2. Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz was born in 1746, and died at Lembach Oct. 3, 1807, age 61. Her civil death entry was signed by son Pierre Näfziger, 45. She married Peter Näfziger. He was born on the Fleckensteinerhof circa 1731, and died there May 3, 1807; his civil death entry was signed by sons Christian, 45, and Valentine, 21. Peter and Magdalena farmed on the Fleckensteinerhof estate. Their son Valentine Näfziger married his cousin, Jacobine/Jakobina Schantz (more to follow).
3. Christian Schantz was born in 1747 or 1751, and died at Rohrbach-les-Bitches, Moselle Jan. 3, 1817. He married Anna Rubi. She was born circa 1753, and died in 1816, a daughter of Pierre Ruby and Barbe Neuhauser. Their descendants made up the Lorraine branch of the Schantz family.
   a. Joseph Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen (now in Lower Alsace) Aug. 13, 1775, and died at Bitche, Moselle June 27, 1848. On Sept. 30, 1799 at Rohrbach-les-Bitches he married Catherine Risser. She was born on Janau farm at Rahling Feb. 13, 1778, a daughter of Joseph Risser and Anne Marie Kropf of Singling.
   b. Christian/Chrétien Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in 1776, and died at Blies-Ébersing, Moselle July 3, 1840. On March 17, 1807 at Gros-Réderching, Moselle he married Marie
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Güngerich. She was born at Altroff (now Francaltroff, Moselle) in 1786, and died at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace Nov. 23, 1856, a daughter of Joseph Güngerich and Anne Rubi.

c. Valentin Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorenzen circa 1777, and died at the hamlet Singling within Gros-Réderching Sept. 8, 1827. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching he married Barbe Risser, of the Singling family (a double wedding). She was born at Singling Jan. 20, 1793, and died at Diedendorf, Lower Alsace June 30, 1872. On Oct. 20, 1828 at Gros-Réderching Barbe remarried to laborer and cultivator Joseph Roggy. He was born on the Waderhof estate in 1797, and died at Enchenberg, Moselle Sept. 30, 1840, a son of Jean Roggy and Catherine Birk.

c. Madeleine Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorenzen in 1779, and died at Bettviller, Moselle Jan. 7, 1845. On March 30, 1799 at Rohrbach-les-Bitche she married Jean Riser. He was born on Janau farm at Rahling in 1771, a son of Jean Risser and Marie Schneider.

b. Andreas/André Schantz was born at Rohrbach-les-Bitsche in 1779, and died at Singling Sept. 30, 1816. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching he married Marie Risser, of the Singling family (a double wedding). She was born at Singling in 1789.

4. Katharina/Catherine Schantz was born circa 1765. She married Johannes/Jean Habecker. He was born at Hofstätten circa 1765, a son of Johannes Habecker and Veronika Imhof. For background on their descendant who came to Tazewell and McLean Counties see HABECKER.

Peter/Pierre Schantz was born on the Frönsburgerhof estate circa 1747, and died at Neidersteinbach, Lower Alsace March 14, 1793.

Peter/Pierre may have had a first wife named Catherine Naefizer. A civil death entry created at Dambach (adjacent to Windstein) Feb. 15, 1812 noted the death of Elizabetha Schantz, 32, born at Fischbach (Fischbach bei Dahn, four miles north of Dambach and Windstein), and living on the Wineckerthal estate at Neuholmen. Dambach. Her parents were described as day laborer Pierre Schantz and Catharina Nezfingen. The entry was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Kurtz, 40.

There is considerably more evidence that he married Magdalena Wagler, who died at Neidersteinbach June 1, 1794. They farmed on the Katzentalerhof estate at Lembach. In 1787 ministers at Katzenthal included Peter, Hans Güngerich, and Peter Naefizer.

Children of Peter/Pierre Schantz and Magdalena Wagler include:

1. Catherine Schantz was born March 8, 1783 at Katzenthal/Lembach, Lower Alsace; was baptized Jan. 25, 1804; and died in America Aug. 4, 1866. On March 28, 1804 at Puttellange-les-Farschviller, Moselle she married Christian Naefizer. He was born at St. Avold March 29, 1771, and died on the Diessburgerhof at Eiffel, Luxembourg April 25, 1849, a son of Johannes/Jean Naefizer and Catherine Schantz. They farmed on the Frönsburgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace. During the Napoleonic Wars Christian and Katharina relocated to live on the Mottenhof near Lebach in the Saar Region. The family fell into poverty, partly owing to the move. They later lived on the Reckeringhof near Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. Christian died in Luxembourg April 25, 1849. Catherine emigrated in 1849. The couple had nine children; one is particularly relevant to other parts of this text. Joseph Naefizer was born on the Mottenhof estate near Lebach in the Saar region 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. He and his wife Magdalena/Madeleine Weicz (this family is usually found in America as Wyse) sailed on the packet ship Erie in 1838 with Steckers and John Bachman (see NAFZIGER for more on Joseph Naefizer).

2. Jacobea/Jacobine Schantz was born Nov. 23, 1785, and died in Wayne County, Ohio Nov. 25, 1866. On June 10, 1808 at Lembach she married her cousin Valentine Naefizer. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Pierre Naefizer, 45, cultivator at Fleckenstein (a son of Peter Naefizer and Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz, likely the groom's older brother and bride's cousin). Valentine was born on the Fleckensteinerhof estate June 10, 1782, and died in Wayne County March 10, 1857, a son of Peter Naefizer and Magdalena Schantz. We found six civil entries for children born on the Fleckensteinerhof between 1809 and 1826. In 1833 they emigrated from Europe and settled in Canaan Township, Wayne County. Valentine was naturalized in Wayne County in 1836; the entry gives his age as 54, and said that he had immigrated in 1831. They are buried in Mount Zion Church of Christ Cemetery at Smithville. Herald of Truth, December 1866: "On the 25th of November, in Wayne Co., Ohio, near Smithville, of dropsy, Jacobina Naefizer, aged 81 years and 2 days. She was buried on the 7th at Hof's Meeting-house. She was a faithful member of the Omish Church. She leaves seven children and forty-six grand-children. A funeral address was delivered by the writer from Matt. 24:44 and by John Shumaker from John 11:25-29. Chr. K. Jotder."

3. Christian/Chrétien Schantz was born circa Oct. 2, 1788.

Sources that have this couple at Dahlem, Moselle may reflect confusion with Dalheim, a part of Grevenmacher, Luxembourg.
Funeral services were conducted by J.K. Yoder from I Peter 1:22-25.

Christian/Chrétien Schantz. One document to support his marriage announcement said that he was born at Neidersteinbach Oct. 7, 1778, a son of Jean Pierre Schantz and Madeleine Wagler. However, this document created in 1812 may have served the purpose of inflating his age to avoid military conscription for the Napoleonic wars. Later entries are inconsistent, but do not support such an early birth, which may have been off by a decade. His obituary gives Oct. 2, 1788.

On Nov. 14, 1812 at Riedseltz he married Catherine Roggi. The civil marriage entry described him as cultivator Chrétien Schantz, born at Niedersteinbach, Lower Alsace Oct. 7, 1778, and a resident there. His parents were the deceased Pierre Schantz, a cultivator who had died at Niedersteinbach March 14, 1793, and the deceased Madeleine Wagler, who had died there 13 prairial 2. The bride was described as Catherine Roggi, born May 3, 1793, a resident of Riedseltz. Her parents were cultivator Jean Roggi, who was present and consenting; and the deceased Elisabete Eyer, who had also been a resident of Riedseltz. Witnesses included cultivator Chrétien Roggi.

Within the year the Schantzes arrived in Wayne County, Ohio, where Christian's sister Jacobine was already settled. Christian was naturalized in Wayne County in 1836; the entry gives his age as 47.

Christian served as one of the first ministers at Smithville and Wooster. The 1850 census of Milton Township, Wayne County shows farmer Chriseon Shontz, 69, Germany; Catharine, 60, Germany; Jacop, 24, Ohio; Joseph, 15, Ohio; and Matty Gerrig, 23 [female].

Christian ordained Jacob Yoder as a minister of the Wooster (later Oak Grove) congregation in 1848, then appointed Yoder as elder before he departed to live in Butler County in 1850. Yoder was a horse and mule trader who spent liberally. He ran up significant debts and declared bankruptcy. Eventually he was expelled from the congregation for misconduct and later joined the Church of the Brethren.

Christian and Catherine resettled at Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio. The 1860 census of Madison Township, Trenton post office, Butler County, shows farmer Jacob Augsberger, 43, France; Elizabeth [Schantz], 38, France; Chris, 9, France; Catharine Augsberger, 17, Ohio; Mary, 15, Ohio; Magdalena, 13, Ohio; Anna, 11, Ohio; Frances, 9, Ohio; George, 5, Ohio; Chris. Schantz, 72, France; Catharina, 66, France; and three farm hands.

Catherine died before 1870. The 1870 census of Madison Township, Jacksonborough post office, Butler County shows Joseph Shantz, 34, Ohio; Catharine, 27, Ohio; three children born in Ohio; and Christian Schantz, 85, France, 'living with son.'

The Ohio Obituary Index states that Christian Schantz died at Milton, Wayne County Oct. 22, 1879, age 93. Herald of Truth, January 1880: "Schantz - Oct. 22nd [1879] in Wayne County, Ohio, of the infirmities of age; the aged father, and bishop in the Amish church, Christian Schantz; at the advanced age of 91 years and 20 days. He was born in Alsace, France, Oct. 2nd, 1878; he immigrated to America in 1833, and settled in Wayne County. Funeral services were conducted by J.K. Yoder from I Peter 1:22-25."

Children of Christian/Chrétien Schantz and Catherine Roggi include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz was born at Riedseltz Sept. 7, 1813. The civil birth entry listed her father's age as 32.
2. Jean Schantz was born at Riedseltz Oct. 29, 1815; his civil birth entry listed his father's age as 27. When Jean died at Riedseltz May 8, 1816, his death entry identified his parents as Dieffenbach laborer Chrétien Schantz, 27, and Catherine Roggi, 24. It was witnessed by maternal grandfather Jean Roggi, 62.
3. Christian/Chrétien Schantz was born at Riedseltz March 5, 1819, and died in Fulton County, Ohio May 14, 1907. The civil birth entry listed his father's age as 28. According to his obituary in the June 1907 issue of Herald of Truth, he first came to Wayne County in 1833. In 1837 he married Rebecca Grieser, and they had seven children together. They relocated from Wayne County to Fulton County in 1842. The 1850 census of German Township, Fulton County shows Christian Schantz, 33, Germany; Rebecca, 32, Pennsylvania; and six children born in Ohio. Rebecca
died Nov. 26, 1851. On Nov. 5, 1852 in Wayne County he remarried to Mary Gingerich. She was born near Smithville, Wayne County Aug. 18, 1827, and died at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio in the home of a daughter Jan. 25, 1913 or 1917. They had eight children together. The 1870 census of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio shows farmer Christian Schantz, 53, France; Mary, 43, Ohio; and six children born in Ohio. In 1870 the assembly of ministers [Ger. Diener Versammlung] was held on their farm, two miles from Archbold. The 1900 census of German Township shows Christian Schantz born in Germany in March 1817, immigrated in 1833; Mary, born in Ohio to German parents in August 1827; and two grown children born in Ohio. They are buried in Eckley Cemetery in Fulton County.

4. Peter/Pierre Schantz was born at Riedseltz Sept. 5, 1819, and died at Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa Aug. 21, 1884. The civil birth entry listed his father's age as 31. He married Anna Roth. She died in Lee County of lung disease Nov. 22, 1882. Her obituary in the January 1883 issue of Herald of Truth said she was age 67 years, 5 months, 19 days (yielding an approximate birth date of June 3, 1815), and had come to America at the age of 11 (circa 1826). They relocated from Ohio to Iowa in 1846. The 1860 census of Pleasant Ridge Township, Lee County shows them as farmer Peter Schantz, 40, France; Anne, 40, France; and four children born in Iowa. The 1870 census of Pleasant Ridge Township shows them as farmer Peter Schantz, 50, France; Anna, 49, France; and five children born in Iowa. The History of Lee County (1879) lists farmer Peter Shantz in Section 26, Post Office Denmark, Pleasant Ridge Township. On March 26, 1885 Peter remarried to widow Sara Miller Rees at Stiles, Davis County, Iowa. The application described the groom as a son of Christian Schantz and Marian Rougy, and the bride as a daughter of John Miller and Magdalena King. As a minister Peter led his congregations into the Central Conference Mennonite Church. Herald of Truth, September 1885: "On the 21st of August, in Davis County, Iowa, after a protracted illness of dropsy of the heart, Preacher Peter Schantz, aged 65 years and 11 months. Funeral services were held at the house on the same day, from Rev. 14:13, which text he himself had selected several days before he died. He died in a good hope and with a heart filled with joy. In accordance with his previously expressed wish, he was buried in Lee County, where had lived during the greater part of his life." Peter Schantz and Anna Roth are buried in Denmark, Lee County.

5. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Schantz was born at Riedseltz July 18, 1821. The civil birth entry listed her father's age as 29. She married Jacob Augspurger, a son of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. He was born at Strasbourg Feb. 4, 1817. They appear on the 1880 census of Madison Township, Butler County as farmer Jacob Augspurger, 63; Elizabeth, 58, France; with three grown children born in Ohio.

6. Jacob/Jacques Schantz was born at Riedselz Sept. 2, 1825, and died at Milton Township, Wayne County Aug. 16, 1898. His civil birth entry listed his father's age as 38. In Wayne County in 1858 he married Elizabeth Blough. She was born in Wayne County Aug. 5, 1834, and died there March 20, 1899, a daughter of Peter Blough and his first wife Leah Yoder (Peter Blough later remarried to Magdalena Nafziger, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Jacobine/Jakobina Schantz). A census of young men taken in June 1863 shows farmer Jacob Shantz, 37, France, as a resident of Milton. 'J. Schantz' is found on the 1897 Atlas of Wayne County as the owner of 240 acres in Milton Sections 27 and 28.

7. Joseph Schantz was born at Riedseltz Aug. 6, 1835, and died at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio in April 1931. On Sept. 9, 1862 at Trenton, Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born Dec. 1, 1843, and died Feb. 3, 1883, a daughter of Jean Augspurger and Jacobine Holly, and a granddaughter to Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger; it is listed in Grubb's History of the Amish Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as "Joseph Shanes and Katie Augspurger." They are found on the 1880 census of Madison Township, Butler County as farmer Joseph Shantz, 44, France; Catharine, 36, France; and seven children born in Ohio. The 1900 census of Trenton Village, Madison Township shows Joseph Schatz, 65, born in Ohio in August 1834; and Maria, 41, born in Germany in May 1859 (she immigrated in 1870). Joseph was buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton. His death entry said that he was a son of Christian Schantz and Katherine Rochey [Roggi], and the husband of Catherine Augspurger.

**Descendants of Peter Schantz born circa 1725**

While Michel Schantz remained in the area of the Frönsburgerhof estate, another Schantz who may have been his brother or cousin moved north. **Peter Schantz** was born circa 1725, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein, Nassau-Usingen Sept. 6, 1801. His first wife was Magdalena Ullman. We could not identify children from this marriage.²¹ He may have been a son of Peter Schantz and his first wife Magdalena Ullman. Johann George married Katharina Bürki and lived at Nehwiller, Lower Alsace. Their son **Christian Schantz** was born at Nehwiller Oct. 28, 1762, and died at Sinzing in the Pfälz Feb. 9, 1834. He married Marie Birki, then remarried to Anna Imhof. He is found on the Mehlingerhof estate at Bettwiler, Moselle, and on the Schoenhoef estate at Rimling, Moselle. Almost all of his many children went to Bavaria.

²¹ In Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth describes Johann Georg Schantz as "probably a nephew of Michel." He may have been a son of Peter Schantz and his first wife Magdalena Ullman. Johann George married Katharina Bürki and lived at Nehwiller, Lower Alsace. Their son Christian Schantz was born at Nehwiller Oct. 28, 1762, and died at Sinzing in the Pfälz Feb. 9, 1834. He married Marie Birki, then remarried to Anna Imhof. He is found on the Mehlingerhof estate at Bettwiler, Moselle, and on the Schoenhoef estate at Rimling, Moselle. Almost all of his many children went to Bavaria.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Nassau-Weilburg was a princely domain far north of Alsace. One reached it by traveling north (downstream) on the Rhine River, beyond the Upper and Lower Pfalz on the west bank and Hesse-Darmstadt on the east.

In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited a royal property, the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Pfalz. It was leased by Amish Mennonites. The chancellor was so impressed by their progressive methods that he commissioned farm manager David Holly to find families willing to come to Nassau-Weilburg. His proposal offered generous 12-year leases on princely estates, on the condition that the lessees cultivate underdeveloped acreage and share their knowledge with neighboring landowners.

Four family heads accepted the arrangement: Peter Unzicker of Wörth, Johannes Nafziger of Alsace, Peter Schantz of Alsace, and Peter Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztaub. Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Guth, Holly received a 200 gulden reward from the chancellor.

In 1775 Peter and Veronika accepted David Holly's offer of a lease on the Hofgut Merenberger at Merenberg, four miles above Weilburg. Two nearby locations were associated with Amish Mennonite Unzicker families: Gräveneck, four miles south of Weilburg, and later Heckolshauzen, adjacent to Merenberg.

Nassau-Weilburg was represented at the Essingen assembly of ministers in 1779 by Peter Schantz and Johannes Nafziger. In 1780 Peter Schantz, Hans Naffziger, and Peter Unsicker were noted to be ministers from Nassau-Weilburg on the Dutch Naamlijst. In 1781 Peter Schantz was among ministers placing his signature on a minister's manual made up from the letters of influential minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger of Essingen.

Their 12-year lease on Hofgut Merenberger expired in 1787. Then Peter and Veronika relocated to live with their son Caspar. Caspar had leased the Henriettental estate, in the village of Wörsdorf, in the township of Idstein.

Children of Peter Schantz and his second wife Veronika born at Lembach include:

1. Magdalena Schantz was born May 4, 1758. She married Peter Nafziger. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof estate at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg circa 1748, and died there Nov. 13, 1813. His first wife had been Katharina Nafziger; they had nine children together.

2. Peter Schantz was born circa 1762, and died on the Rotherhof at Dierdorf (10 miles north of Koblenz) Jan. 22, 1830. He married Elise Unzicker. She was born circa 1762, a daughter of Peter Unzicker of Gräveneck and Katharina Holly of Mühlhofen. Their son Peter Schantz was born on the Henriettental estate Feb. 24, 1797, and died on the Hofgut Langwiesen at Montabaur (20 miles west of Weilburg) Feb. 11, 1835. He married Elizabeth 'Barbara' Unzicker. She was born in 1800, and died on the Eichelscheiderhof near Waldmohr in the Pfalz April 6, 1873. On May 16, 1840 she remarried to Christian Heinemann. He was born at Gommerscheid, a neighborhood of Neuwied in 1805, and died on the Krayerhof at Andernach (next to Neuwied) in 1863, a son of Georg Heinemann and Christine Schlabach (this couple leased an estate in Gommerscheid at Neuwied on the north side of the Rhine River, then the Krayerhof at Andernach on the opposite side). The Heinemann family from the estate Langenau near Siegen became Mennonite through a marriage in 1771.

3. Caspar Schantz was born circa 1768, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein Dec. 24, 1813. Caspar Schantz was born at Lembach circa 1768, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein Dec. 24, 1813. His first wife was Magdalena/Madeleine Unzicker. His second wife was Elisabeth Unzicker. She was born circa 1780, and died in 1813, a daughter of Joseph Unzicker and Katharina Güngerich.

In 1807 at Trippstadt in the Pfalz, Jakob Unzicker of Gräveneck married Elizabeth Jordy of Wilenstein. They would become the parents of Morton settler Peter Unzicker. Three witnesses were described as uncle-of-the-bride farmer Christian Imhof, 50, living at Wilenstein; farmer Jean Imhof, 46, living at Wilenstein; and farmer 'Gaspard Schantz,' 39, living on the Wachenhof estate at Idstein.

Children of Caspar Schantz and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Unzicker include:

a. Caspar Schantz was born circa 1783. He married Maria Güngerich. She was born at Hunighausen, Waldeck Oct. 19, 1788, a daughter of Peter Güngerich and Katharina Algeyer. Their son Caspar/Kasper Schantz was born circa 1804. Circa 1822 he married Elisabeth Stähly. She was born on the Obertraisa estate in 1810, a daughter of Jakob Stähly and his second wife Elizabeth Brenneman (Jakob Stähly can be recalled from NAFZIGER as a step-grandfather to 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger). They lived at Lörzenbach in the Odenwald of Hesse-Darmstadt, 60 miles southeast of Idstein. After the early death of Caspar, his widow Elisabeth Stähly remarried to Daniel Unzicker of the Stoffersbergerhof estate near Landsberg am Lech.

216 Idstein was part of Nassau-Usingen from 1728 to 1806, then became part of the Duchy of Nassau. The Duchy of Nassau later became the middle portion of three parts of the state of Hesse.
b. Barbara Schantz was born circa 1784, and died on the Henriettental estate in 1813. She married Johannes Nafziger. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg June 24, 1781, and died on the Horderhof at Blessenbach Jan. 9, 1825, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Elisabeth Nafziger.  
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c. Christian Schantz was born circa 1790.  
d. Valentine Schantz was born circa 1790.  

**Christian Schantz** was born circa 1790. Schantz family notes suggest that he was the likely father of an Illinois settler born circa 1822. (Presumably Christian wins an elimination process: the children of Peter born in 1762 and Caspar born circa 1783 are documented, and Valentine born circa 1790 is thought to have died unmarried. However, genealogy assumptions like this are often wrong, when there are so many unknowns).

**Jacob Schantz** and Catherine Deissen sailed from Bremen on the *Oneco* Aug. 24, 1848, arriving at New Orleans Oct. 24, 1848.218 The passenger list shows Jacob Schantz, 23; then one name removed, Catherine Deis, 26. (The 1860 census would reflect an exact match to these ages; thus Jacob was born circa 1825, Catherine circa 1822). *The Daily Picayune* reported the arrival in its Oct. 25 issue, noting that the 147-foot ship carried 235 passengers in steerage.

The couple came into New Orleans at the peak of a cholera epidemic. See STEIDER for the story of a not-so-fortunate family that arrived in New Orleans only a month later, and background on the journey up the Mississippi River.

Details of the Schantzes' lives can be gleaned from an inaccurate rags-to-riches sketch of their well-known son, minister Peter Schantz. *History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church:* "...Jacob and Catherine Deissen Schantz came from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany to America on their wedding trip. Jacob Schantz was born about 1822, Catherine Deissen 1824. They came to America in about the year 1847, and settled on a farm near Congerville."

The Schantz family is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Jacob Chaunce, 31, Germany; Catharine, 28, Germany; and Barbara, 1, Illinois. They lived next door to Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Nafziger in what is now Congerville, Montgomery Township.

On Oct. 9, 1854 the Schantzes put in a formal claim on their land. The *Illinois Public Land Database* shows that 'Jacob Shantz' registered 40 acres in SESW Section 22 of Montgomery Township. The land was free because it was categorized 'RR' - in this case not 'railroad,' but 'Rock River.' The Rock Creek cut the lot evenly in half, running north to south. Their neighbors to the north were minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck; their neighbors to the east were Magdalena Naffziger (daughter of Peter and Barbara) and her husband minister Michael Kinsinger.

The 1860 census of Montgomery shows farmer Jacob Gants, 35, Hesse; Catherine, 38, Hesse; Barbara, 11, Illinois; Peter, 7, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; and an illegible name [Elizabeth], eight months, Illinois.  

*History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church:* "They lived in an old log cabin with two rooms until December 1863, when they built a new house." Jacob died that spring, in April 1864. Catherine died there in September 1866.

The 1873 Atlas of Woodford County shows that the land that had belonged to the Schantzes passed into the hands of Valentine Strubhar. Strubhar also owned 160 acres below it.

Children of Jacob Schantz and Catherine Deissen born at Congerville, Montgomery Township include:

1. Barbara Schantz was born Aug. 25, 1849, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 15, 1924. On Dec. 20, 1866 in McLean County she married minister Étienne/Stephen Stahley. He was born at Combe, Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland March 30, 1842, and died at Danvers Feb. 26, 1916, a son of Christian Stähli and Helena Ramseyer. He sailed from Le Havre on the *Helvetia*, arriving at New York May 10, 1861. He served as a minister for the Flanagan Mennonite Church from 1885 until his death. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

2. **Peter Schantz** was born April 14, 1853, and died at Normal, McLean County July 24, 1925.

3. Jacob Schantz was born April 1, 1856, and died at Pekin Jan. 28, 1836. On Dec. 24, 1879 he married Anna Lorenz. She was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Dec. 17, 1861, and died at Bloomington, McLean County April 12, 1879.

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217 A real estate document written by Count von Weid of Runkel says that when Johannes assumed the least on the Horderhof near Blessenbach in 1833, "...Co-leaseholders had an interest in the estate, namely the widow of the teacher Menk of Salzburg, jurisdiction of Rennerod; Johannes Unzicker, born on the estate Henrietental, jurisdiction of Idstein, and his wife, Barbara Nafziger; Caspar Schantz, estate owner of Lörzenbach, Duchy of Hesse; and Valentine Nafziger, leaseholder of the Schmiedhof [Schmitthof] near Kraft-Solms." Blessenbach is is adjacent to Aumenau, eight miles south of Weilburg.

218 *Oneco* was a character in Catherine Maria Sedgwick's romantic fiction *Hope Leslie, or Early Times in the Massachusetts*, published in 1827.
1929, a daughter of Charles F. Lorenz and Sophie Ernestine Roeder. Jacob is found as a widower on the 1930 census of Bloomington. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

4. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Schantz was born Sept. 10, 1859, and died at Bloomington Feb. 26, 1940. On Dec. 21, 1876 in McLean County she married George Sherman. He was born at St. Louis, Missouri Feb. 29, 1852, and died March 20, 1910, a son of Adam Sherman and Magdalena Basha. They are buried in Troyer Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

5. Louis Schantz was born Jan. 20, 1863, and died at Washington April 23, 1924. On Jan. 29, 1885 in Tazewell County he married Fannie Schick; the ceremony was performed by Peter Stuckey. She was born at Washington Jan. 18, 1864, and died Dec. 21, 1943, a daughter of Joseph Schick and Magdalene Augspurger. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church on Peter Schantz: "...In April 1864 Rev. Schantz's father died, and in September 1866 his mother, leaving him an orphan at the age of twelve. He was thrown upon his own resources to make his way in the life, because he was the second child in the family and so did not receive help from brothers and sisters."219 "His school advantages were very near nil, getting only a few months of school each year. After the death of his mother he was taken into the home of Rev. Christian Imhoff until he was twenty." (For more on Christian Imhoff Jr. see STRUBHAR in the Appendix).

Peter was baptized by minister Joseph Stuckey in 1872, and became a member of the North Danvers Mennonite Church. On Dec. 23, 1875 in McLean County he married Anna 'Annie' Kinsinger, in a ceremony performed by minister Stuckey. She was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (her headstone says March 3), a daughter of minister Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church: "After his marriage he moved on the farm of his father-in-law and lived there until 1877 when he bought the farm." "The outstanding leader of the Central Conference Mennonite Church for a quarter of a century (1896-1921) was Rev. Peter Schantz..." "...In 1882 Peter Schantz was called to the ministry in the North Danvers Church and was ordained by Bishop [elder] Joseph Stuckey. Up to this time the North Danvers Church had quite a few older men as ministers such as Rev. John Strubhar, Rev. Joseph Stuckey, Rev. John Stahley, Rev. Christian Imhoff, Rev. Joseph Stalter, Rev. Michael Miller, and Rev. Jacob Miller. By 1882 the following had died: Rev. Michael Miller, and Rev. Christian Imhoff. The rest of the ministers were getting very old, so Rev. Stuckey felt he needed younger men in the ministry. He appealed to the congregation and they elected two young men, Joash Stutzman and Peter Schantz..."

"In 1900 he was ordained as a bishop and thus had to deal more with the official matters of the church. In the later years of his ministry he devoted a great part of his time to extension work." "In the winter of 1892 he moved to the White Oak district. There he lived on a farm until August 15, 1910, when he moved to Normal, Illinois. He died at Normal at the home of his son, July 24, 1925."

Annie died at Normal June 8, 1906. Though her name and dates are inscribed on a joint headstone in Troyer Cemetery, where Peter is buried, she is actually buried in East White Oak Cemetery.

219 Widow Catherine Deissen Schantz may have remarried in McLean County Jan. 5, 1865. An entry for Catharine Schantz and Charles Wagner is found in the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.
Dettweiler of Diemeringen

In Bernese dialect a Dätwyler was someone who lived in a Dättwil or soldier's encampment. The Heimatorte or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with this surname are Oftringen and Vordemwald in Canton Aargau, once part of Canton Bern.

This is the story of a Peoria family with an Amish Mennonite background. It involves Woodford County by taking in Barbe/Barbara Dettweiler (1814-1874), who became the wife of John Engel of Metamora; and Magdalena Bachman (1826-1881), who was living at Roanoke at the time of her marriage. And it gives us a chance to tell the story of Henry Dettweiller, who took a wife from Woodford County. He rose from a shop assistant to become a riverboat captain and Civil War celebrity. His rags-to-riches adventures made him a hero to German-speaking boys in Central Illinois.

Jakob Detweiler was the progenitor of the Dettweiler family. Some sources say he was born at Zofingen (in a part of Canton Bern that became Canton Aargau) July 9, 1693. Others are reluctant to specify this birth because there were several Jakob Detweilers born in the area. It is thought that his wife was named Maria.

They obtained a lease on the Steinisch estate near Langensteinbach in Baden-Durlach in 1728. His co-leaseholder was Benedikt Eyer [Sr.]. Eyer became a representative of the Baden-Durlach congregations at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759.

Jakob died on the Storrwoog estate near Pirmasens in the Pfalz Sept. 26, 1763. Pirmasens was situated in an 'enclave' or island of land belonging to Darmstadt.

Jacob's son Jakob Dettweiler was born circa 1723. He married Maria Dettweiler. They leased the Haseneck estate near Pirmasens in 1750, and were living on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Epfenbrunn in the Pfalz in 1771. Eppenbrunn is two miles above the border with what is now the French department of Moselle.

In 1779 Jakob purchased the Stuppacherhof estate at Hornbach for 3,000 Gulden. Hornbach is located about six miles south of the city of Zweibrücken, on the border of the Pfalz (then called Pfalz-Zweibrücken) with Moselle, just north of Volmunster, Moselle.

In the same year Jakob attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen, representing the Zweibrücken congregation with Jakob Bachmann and Andreas Leyenberger. He became elder of the Zweibrücken Amish Mennonite congregation.

On Sept. 9, 1780 Jakob acted on behalf of Essingen minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger, who was involved in a dispute in the Principality of Speyer. Jakob sent a document endorsing Nafziger's good character to the ministry of the Pfalz. The ministry forwarded the endorsement with a notation describing Jakob as, "One of the most prominent Anabaptists in this region, without whom his fellow believers would undertake nothing of consequence."

Jakob died at the Spithalhof estate near Zweibrücken June 1, 1784. Despite the apparent prosperity of the family, it was headed toward financial ruin. Jakob may have believed that others were going to join him on the Stuppacherhof estate. Over several years he spent more than five times the value of the estate to remove old structures and construct new buildings. It is also possible that loans were made to friends and relatives in Alsace, where the economy was shaky. By 1787 the family was bankrupt and the Stuppacherhof estate was sold at auction.

Jakob and Maria had nine children. We believe that only two of their children had descendants who came to Tazewell County.

One was a daughter whose first name could not be identified. She married Daniel Eyer of Remchingen, Baden. They were the parents of Anna Maria Eyer, who married Andreas Zimmerman. They were the parents of sons Michael and Andreas/Andrew and a daughter Verena who came to Central Illinois via Butler County, Ohio (see ZIMMERMAN).

The other was a son Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler. He was born at Hornbach May 6, 1761, and died at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace Feb. 10, 1831. He is thought to have married a Burki before remarrying to Anna/Anne Wagler. Anna/Anne was born at Diemeringen circa 1768, and died there Sept. 11, 1810, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Wagler and Anna Bürki/Birki. Christian/Chrétien and Anna/Anne settled on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace at about the same time the Stuppacherhof estate was auctioned.

Children of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his second wife Anna/Anne Wagler born at Diemeringen include:

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220 When son Christian/Chrétien died at Dehlingen in 1831, the municipal clerk apparently misunderstood the form for a civil death entry. Rather than write the dates of the deaths of his parents, he wrote their ages at death. Father Jakob had died at age 61, and mother Maria at age 32. Thus, also knowing Jakob's date of death, we have a good idea when Jakob was born.
1. Jacob/Jacques Dettweiler was born Nov. 15, 1787, and died at Diemeringen Feb. 2, 1824. On June 8, 1813 at Pisdorf (now Bischhoff-sur-Sarre, five miles southwest of Diemeringen) he married Madeleine Sommer. She was born at Pisdorf Feb. 14, 1795, and died on the Lutterbacherhof estate at Voellerdingen May 14, 1859, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Anne Madeleine Mardy [Martin]. On Dec. 20, 1824 at Diemeringen she remarried to cultivator Valentin Roggy. He was born at Lorentzen Jan. 10, 1795, a son of Valentin Roggy and Barbara Schertz civil marriage entry described them both as residents of the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen. Witnesses included Christian Dettweiler, 65, of Dehlingen; and Joseph Roggy, 25, of Lorentzen.

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Dettweiler was born Aug. 5, 1789, and died at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio Sept. 19, 1871; she is buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Smithville. On Nov. 10, 1808 at Diemeringen she married Andreas Bürki/André Birký. He was born on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen Nov. 25, 1784, and died there April 30, 1826, a son of Valentin Bürki/Birký and Katharina Ehrismann. As a widow she came to America with her children. See BIRKEY for a list of her children and further details.

3. Jean Christian Dettweiler/John Detweiller was born Jan. 12, 1791, and died at St. Louis in 1842. He married Madeleine Schertz. She was born at Oberstinzel, Moselle July 16, 1800, and died at Dehlingen April 5, 1822, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Barbe Schertz. On June 14, 1824 at Dehlingen he remarried to Anna Halther. She was born at Hinsbourg, Lower Alsace March 25, 1786. They sailed from Le Havre on the De Rham, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830 (for details of the voyage see KENNEL). The passenger list shows John Detweiler, 36, France; Anna, 38; and Joseph, 2. They arrived at Peoria in 1833, where they operated the St. Croix Tavern on Water Street. 'John Detweiler' was naturalized in Peoria County Aug. 3, 1839.

4. Catherine Dettweiler was born April 16, 1792, and died in the city of Zweibrücken in 1814. On May 12, 1812 at Diemeringen she married miller Christian/Chrétien Hauter. He was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 30, 1788, and died there June 5, 1829, a son of miller Joseph Hauter and Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. In 1814 he remarried to Catherine Güngerich. She was born on the Monbijou estate at Dietrichingen in 1797, a daughter of Michel Güngerich and Barbe Hauter. Two sons from this second marriage, Jacob and Joseph, came to Tazewell County. See HAUTER for background on this family.

5. Anne/Anna Dettweiler was born Feb. 17, 1798, and died at Ixheim, Pfalz-Zweibrücken in 1826. On April 22, 1823 at Dehlingen she married Joseph Hauter. He was born at Ixheim Dec. 2, 1799, and died at Zweibrücken Feb. 12, 1858, a son of Andreas Hauter and Katharina Imhof.

6. Christian Dettweiler was born April 26, 1802, and died at Peoria in 1863. On Nov. 29, 1829 at Dehlingen he married Catherine Schwartz/Katharina Schwartz. She was born at Blies-Ebersing (within Moselle, on the border with the Saarland) Sept. 23, 1800, and died at Peoria in 1888, a daughter of Nicolas Schwarz/Schwartz and Marie Bertschi/Bertschy. They may be the family that sailed from Le Havre on the Sydney, and arrived at New Orleans Nov. 11, 1840, despite discrepancies on the passenger list. It shows farmer Christian Dettwill, 30; Catherine, 30; Christin, 12; Anna, 9; André, 5; and Christian, 3. They are found on the 1860 census of Peoria as Christian Dettweiler, 60, France; Kathrin, 59, France; Ann, 28, Illinois; and John, 8, Illinois. The 1880 census of Peoria shows Catharina Dettwiller, 79, as the mother-in-law in the household of 45-year-old Magdalena Dettwiller. They are buried in Springfield Cemetery at Peoria as 'Dettweiler.'

On Sept. 3, 1811 at Diemeringen Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler remarried to Katharina/Catherine Schertz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as merchant-trader [Fr. négociant] Chrétien Dettweiler, 50, a widower with children, born at Hornbach May 6, 1761, a son of merchant-trader Jacques Dettweiler and Marie Dettweiler. The bride was described as Catherine Scherz, 29, born at Keskastel, Lower Alsace March 15, 1782, a daughter of miller Joseph Scherz and Barbe Naßiger. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Barcky, 25, of Lorentzen. Signatures on the document included Christian Dettweiler, Joseph Schertz, and Johannes Birký.

Their son Jean Christian and his second wife Anna Halther sailed to America on the De Rham in 1830 (see KENNEL for an account of the voyage). If the remainder of the family intended to follow, their plans may have been disrupted by the death of the father only a few months later.

Though he did not emigrate from Europe, father Christian/Chrétien was described in The History of Peoria County, Illinois: "Mr. Detweiler, Sr., was engaged in farming and milling, and also the transfer business, in which he amassed quite a large fortune, but meeting with reverses during the war of 1812 and 1813, from which he never recovered, he died in 1832, in straightened circumstances." Actually he lost his fortune and died a debtor at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace (four miles north of Diemeringen) Feb. 10, 1831. His civil death entry created Feb. 11 described him as a 72-year-old shopkeeper [Fr. propriétaire] from Deuxpont, Bavière [Zweibrücken, Bavaria] living on the Klappach estate at Dehlingen.

Children of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his third wife Katharina/Catherine Schertz include:

7. Elisabeth Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen Oct. 3, 1812, and died at Peoria in March 1838.
8. Barbe/Barbara Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen March 26, 1814, and died at Metamora June 10, 1874. On July 16, 1839 in Tazewell County (the part that later became Woodford County) she married Jean/John Engel. He was born May 22, 1801, possibly at Lagarde, a son of Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner.

9. Catherine Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace Dec. 23, 1815, and died at McDonald Township, Missouri Aug. 27, 1871. On April 23, 1839 in Tazewell County she married Jean/John Vercler; the ceremony was performed by minister John Naftiger. Jean/John was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle June 24, 1813, and died at McDonald Township, Missouri Aug. 22, 1891, a son of Joseph Vercler/Verkler and Jacobine Engel. See VERCLER for background on this couple.

10. Joseph Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen May 28, 1817, and died there Aug. 21, 1817.

11. Joseph Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen May 23, 1818, and died at Dehlingen July 25, 1824.


13. A stillborn child was born at Dehlingen Jan. 4, 1822.

14. Henri Dettweiler or Henry Dettweiler was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace July 19, 1824, and died at Peoria April 2, 1903.

It is suspected that Catherine and her children Elisabeth, Barbe/Barbara, Catherine, and Henry sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Poland. The presence of one Amish Mennonite bound for Butler County makes it only slightly more likely that other Amish Mennonites bound for Illinois were among the illegible names. However, it is reasonable to leave open the possibility.

THE PACKET SHIP POLAND

The Poland departed from Le Havre, arriving at New York July 26, 1837. Recall from KENNEL that the voyage was unusual: "Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury endorsed the reliability of the packet ships when he chose them to transport the interest on a debt from the government of France to the government of the United States in 1837 and 1838. Gold bars and gold 20-franc pieces from the firm Messrs. de Rothschild, Freres were delivered to the Bank of America at New York by the Poland, Albany, Utica, Havre, Sally, and Burgundy. Their six shipments totaled $800,599. The modern equivalent in buying power would be approximately 21 million dollars; however, it has been calculated that the impact of a total loss at sea on the national economy in 1838 would have been equivalent to the loss of three billion dollars today."

The ship carried approximately 180 passengers and crew. However, much of the passenger list faded before it could be microfilmed by the National Archives. Only 18 or so names are legible on the seven-page reproduction.

One name that is visible is that of Johannes Kennel, 21. He was coming from Dreisen, Germany. He was bound for Butler County, Ohio, where he would spend the remainder of his life as 'Big John' Kennel (see KENNEL).

In this time frame widow Catherine Schertz Dettweiler and her four children are known to have immigrated with Michel Baltzli/Michael Belsley (1783-1848) and his wife, who was also named Catherine Schertz (circa 1793-1864). History of Peoria County, Illinois (1880): "In the spring of 1837, Mr. D. [Henri Dettweiler/Henry Dettweiler, then 12 years of age] traveled to the United States with his mother and three sisters, landing at New York after a voyage of sixty-eight days on the ocean. Through the instigation of an older brother, John, who had located in Peoria three years previously, only they came on to this city, consuming forty-two days on the route." Peoria City and County, Illinois, Volume Two (1912) also describes a 110-day journey, adding, "They traveled from New York to Rochester and thence to Buffalo by canal, from there by way of the lakes to Cleveland, and then to Cincinnati by canal. From there they went by boat down the Ohio River to the Mississippi and then up the Illinois to Peoria."

If the accounts of a lengthy 68-day voyage are strictly accurate, the party could not have sailed on the packet ship Poland. Its final records indicated that in seven years of making the transits it had averaged 35 days each way. The shortest crossing was 23 days, the longest 61.

However, in both accounts the story of a 110-day journey fails to account for 2-4 weeks travel from the Dettweiler's starting point in Moselle or Lower Alsace to the port of Le Havre. It is also possible that Henry had counted the days 'on the ocean' from the point when his family arrived at the port and boarded the vessel for the first time. The packet ships permitted fare-paying passengers to live onboard prior to their scheduled departure times.

Other Illinois immigrants who sailed in this time frame were Jean George Engel/John Engel (1788-1871) and Magdalena/Madeleine Frey (circa 1786-1864), described in ENGEL. Did the Engels accompany the Dettweilers and

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221 The packet ship Poland sailed to Le Havre and next returned to New York Oct. 20, 1837 - about 86 days for the remainder of the stay in New York, the Transatlantic voyage, time in port at Le Havre, and the return voyage.

Other immigrants who sailed from Le Havre to New York on this ship included Jacob Schoenbeck of Butler and McLean Counties (1838, see STAKER); Johannes/John Springer/John Spring of Tazewell County (1839, see SPRINGER); and Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb of Butler County and Tazewell County (1839, see ZIMMERMAN).

The Poland departed from New York on its last voyage May 11, 1840. On the 16th its main mast was struck by lightning 25 miles south of Nantucket. The embers ignited bales of raw cotton and flour sacks in the hold. The passengers and crew were evacuated into life boats that remained tethered to the hull. Though the cargo burned slowly, it melted the tar and caulking that sealed the boards in the hull. On the 18th everyone was able to board the Clifton, which was heading into New York from Liverpool. Two hours later the Poland's hull split, and it sank out of sight.
Belsleys? Engel and Belsley were both born at St. Jean-Kourtzerode, Moselle, and had belonged to the same congregation. Note the identical route described in Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County: "John Engel [Jean George Eng], was born in the same place [as his daughter Catherine], and was reared and married and lived there until 1837. In that year he came to America with his wife and three [two] children, setting sail from Havre, and landing in New York after a voyage of six weeks. He came directly to Illinois by the way of the Hudson River, Albany and Erie Canal to Buffalo, thence by Lake Erie to Cleveland, and from there on the canal to Cincinnati, and from there to his destination by the way of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois rivers. After his arrival at Peoria, he set out for this county and bought a tract of government land in Worth Township, and built a log house with home-made furniture."

Another immigrant from St. Jean-Kourtzerode who arrived in Illinois in this time frame was Catherine Bechler (1805-1860), a daughter of Jacob Bächler/Bechler and his second wife Anne Marie Gerber. On May 27, 1838 in Tazewell County she married Christian Schmitt/Smith; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Engel. See SMITH, THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING for background on this couple.

Minister Jean/John Nafziger and his family from Bourscheid (adjacent to St. Jean-Kourtzerode) followed. They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Marengo, arriving at New Orleans Nov. 25, 1837. See NAFZIGER, THE NAFZIGERS OF WASHINGTON for background on this family.

The Dettweilers reunited with Jean Christian Dettweiler (now just 'John Detweiler') at Peoria Sept. 15. He had settled at Peoria in 1833, where he was managing the St. Croix Tavern on Water Street. Catherine Schertz died at Peoria Feb. 19, 1838.

The story of youngest son Henri Dettweiler or Henry Detweiller (he signed his name 'Detweiller') is told in The History of Peoria County, Illinois, published in 1880, and the Old Settlers of Peoria County souvenir booklet, published in 1897.

He was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace July 19, 1824.

At Peoria he worked a year for his brother, John. Then he worked for the Samuel Voris & Co. clothing store, and clerked in Charles W. McClellan's shoe store on Main Street.

On April 15, 1841 he went aboard the steam boat Frontier for a transit from Peoria to Peru. One version of his story says that he held a position in a steam engine factory, and this gave him the idea to hire on as an apprentice pilot on steam boats. Another version says he was stocking the bar for his brother when he befriended the captain. Either way, at 3 a.m. on Sept. 2, 1842 he was piloting the boat near Little Detroit when the Panama crossed before him. He was forced to run the Frontier aground to avoid a collision. He was correct in saving the passengers, but the hull was destroyed.

Over the next six years he was second pilot on the Chicago and Raritan, and pilot on the Governor Briggs, the Domain, and the Danube. In 1847 he captained the Governor Briggs to transport Mexican War supplies between St. Louis and Alton.

Henry married Magdalena Bachman in Woodford County Nov. 5, 1848. Their names appear on the marriage entry as Henry Detweiler and Madaline Baughman. Magdalena was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia in 1826, and likely arrived at New Orleans in 1846 (see BACHMAN, BACHMAN OF ARNSTADT).

On May 17, 1849 Henry was on the bridge of the Danube when it came into St. Louis. At 9 p.m. that evening the boiler of the paddle-wheeled steamboat White Cloud exploded at moorage. The blast threw burning debris that lit 23 other steamboats and nine flatboats. They floated downstream, generating embers that ignited structures along the shore. By 8 a.m. the following morning, 200 homes and 230 other structures were consumed.

Later that year the Danube transported passengers fleeing a cholera epidemic in St. Louis. Henry contracted the disease, and took nine months to completely recover (see STEIDER for more on the St. Louis Cholera Epidemic of 1849).

During the 1850s he was captain of the Governor Briggs, captain/co-owner of the Mauvaisterre [Badlands], and captain/owner of the Minnesota. On Oct. 5, 1858 he struck up an acquaintance with a prominent Minnesota passenger, according to an article Speech at Pekin, Illinois, published in the Peoria Transcript the following day:

"Mr. Lincoln was welcomed to Tazewell County and introduced to the audience by Judge Bush in a short and eloquently delivered speech, and when he came forward, was greeted with hearty applause.

He commenced by alluding to the many years in which he had been intimately acquainted with most of the citizens of old Tazewell county, and expressed the pleasure which it gave him to see so many of them present. He then alluded to the fact that Judge Douglas, in a speech to them on Saturday, had, as he was credibly informed, made a variety of extraordinary statements concerning him. He had known Judge Douglas for twenty-five years, and was not now to be astonished by any statement which he might make, no matter what it might be.

He was surprised, however, that his old political enemy but personal friend, Mr. John Haynes - a gentleman whom he had always respected as a person of honor and veracity - should have made such statements about him as he was said to have made in a speech introducing Mr. Douglas to a Tazewell audience only three days before. He then rehearsed those
statements, the substance of which was that Mr. Lincoln, while a member of Congress, helped starve his brothers and friends in the Mexican war by voting against the bills appropriating to them money, provisions and medical attendance.

He was grieved and astonished that a man whom he had heretofore respected so highly, should have been guilty of such false statements, and he hoped Mr. Haynes was present that he might hear his denial of them. He was not a member of Congress, he said, until after the return of Mr. Haynes' brothers and friends from the Mexican war to their Tazewell county homes - was not a member of Congress until after the war had practically closed.

He then went into a detailed statement of his election to Congress, and of the votes he gave, while a member of that body, having any connection with the Mexican war. He showed that upon all occasions he voted for the supply bills for the army, and appealed to the official record for a confirmation of his statement.

Mr. Lincoln then proceeded to notice, successively, the charges made against him by Douglas in relation to the Illinois Central Railroad, in relation to an attempt to Abolitionize the Whig party, and in relation to negro equality.

After finishing his allusions to the special charges brought against him by his antagonist, Mr. Lincoln branched out into one of the most powerful and telling speeches he has made during the campaign. It was the most forcible argument against Mr. Douglas' Democracy, and the best vindication of and eloquent plea for Republicanism, that we ever listened to from any man.

...He returned to Peoria on the steamer Minnesota, which had stopped at Pekin so Capt. Detweiller and crew could hear the speech. Learning that Lincoln was bound for Peoria, the captain insisted on taking him. The steamer had no sooner left the dock than Lincoln was up on the hurricane deck with him, where they had a long and pleasant chat all the way to Peoria."

The 1860 census of Peoria shows pilot Henry Detweiler, 33, France; Madeline, 32, Darmstadt Gy.; Henry Jr., 11, Illinois; Amelia, 8, Illinois; Matilda, 6, Illinois; and Emma, 3, Illinois.

In 1862 Henry became master of the federal dispatch boat Jenny Lind. It accompanied a fleet of 30 steamers with 30,000 troops onboard being transported from Island No. 10 to Pittsburg Landing in southwestern Tennessee. The Jenny Lind became the first steamboat to arrive after the surprise Confederate attack that initiated the Battle of Shiloh at Pittsburg Landing April 6-7.

For the remainder of the war he was master of the steamboat Yankee as it moved troops and supplies. To discourage would-be attackers, the Yankee occasionally traveled downriver at night disguised as a gunboat. In October 1863 the Yankee sailed from St. Louis to New Orleans with cargo valued at more than $250,000.

In Henry's absence Magdalena served as a volunteer for the Women's Christian Home Mission and the Women's Relief Corps.

From the end of the war until 1873 Henry was captain of the Beaver. His household at 606 Hamilton Street in Peoria appears on the 1870 census as steamboat captain Henry Detwiler, 45, France; Madeline, 40, Hesse-Darmstadt; steamboat clerk Henry, 20; Amelia, 18; Tilla, 18; Thomas, 8; William, 4; and Matty, 3; all children born in Illinois.

Henry invested in the ice business in 1870. In 1874 he quit the river altogether, and established the Detweiller Ice Cream Company at 108 South Adams Street. He attended a Universalist church, invested in city properties, served five terms as Peoria city treasurer, belonged to the veterans organization Grand Army of the Republic, and served 13 years as president of the Old Settlers Organization.

Magdalena died at Peoria Dec. 10, 1888. Her headstone gives her year of birth as 1826, though censuses suggest 1828 or 1829.

The 1900 census of Peoria City, Ward 2: ice dealer Henry Detweiler, 74, born in France in June 1825 (he did not report his year of immigration); Amelia, 37, born in Illinois in November 1862; Tillie, 36, born in Illinois in March 1864; and Thomas, 31, born in Illinois in November 1868. On the same census page we find Emma Detweiler, 22, born in Illinois in April 1878; she was a domestic servant in the household of Henry Sandmeyer.

Henry died at Peoria April 2, 1903.

None of the children of Henry and Magdalena married.222 The family is buried together in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria surrounding an obelisk decorated with an anchor.

222 Their son Thomas donated Detweiller Park to the city in 1927.
Gascho: Cachot of Merlebach

This surname does not have a Swiss origin. To the French a 'cachot' is a prison cell or dungeon keep. In 1570 the Peace of St. Germain-en-Laye concluded three years of fighting between majority French Catholics and minority Protestants influenced by John Calvin and Martin Luther.223 The lull came to an abrupt end Aug. 22, 1572, when someone attempted to assassinate admiral Gaspard de Coligny, a Protestant member of the king's council. The following evening Charles IX decided to avert reprisals by closing the gates of Paris. He ordered his Swiss guards to kill at least two dozen Protestant leaders including de Coligny. Given the example of their king, the general population rose up on the day of the feast of St. Bartholomew. In Paris they killed Protestants for three days. Massacres on a smaller scale took place in a dozen other communities throughout France.

On April 13, 1598 the rights of French Protestants were formally protected from the Catholic majority by the Edict of Nantes. But in October 1685 the Edict of Fontainebleau reversed direction and declared Protestantism illegal. Many Protestants converted, but about 200,000 found havens in the Dutch Republic, Great Britain, Prussia, South Africa, Switzerland, and North America. Persecution of Protestants in France did not subside again until 1724.

A family story holds that Cachots left France in the era of Protestant persecution. 'The colorful and memorable 'Gascho' is the way a German-speaking person would write 'Cachot.'

Freedom to worship and civil rights were not restored until the Edict of Versailles Nov. 7, 1787. Protestants gained equal rights in France in 1789 under the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. A further law passed in 1790 invited the descendants of exiled Protestants to return to France: 'All persons born in a foreign country, and descending in any degree of a French man or woman expatriated for religious reasons, are declared French nationals, and will benefit from rights attached to that quality if they come back to France, establish their domicile there, and take the civic oath.' Gaschos may have returned from the Pfalz after protection was restored.

By the mid-1850s the surname Gascho could be found among Amish Mennonites in Moselle, the German states, Canada, and several American states that eventually included Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Our initial impression was that this must be a family with an old Anabaptist tradition. But we found the Amish Mennonite line descending from a single couple who died before 1797.224 François Gascho was born before 1750. He married Anne Chraque [Schrag]. She was likely born before 1750. They were millers at Merlebach [Ger. Freymingen-Merlenbach], seven miles northeast of St. Avold in Moselle.

A Roman road that determined the northern edge of the village is now part of the French national border with Germany.225 Merlebach was a transit point for Palatine Amish Mennonites seeking to travel to North America. They formed groups at Kaiserslautern, then traveled southwest to Forbach, Moselle to pay border tolls. As they passed through Merlebach and Freyming they joined French travelers and continued on through Metz, Paris, and Rouen to Le Havre.

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223 'Huguenot' is a catchall description of French Protestants in this era. It was meant to be derogatory. There was no Huguenot movement or organization. The origin of the word is uncertain.

224 As an example of a nearby family using similar spellings, we found a Gachot/Gascho/Gascho family at Sarre-Union, Lower Alsace, 30 miles southeast of Merlebach. Sarre-Union was created in 1794 when the villages of Bouquenom (Ger. Bockenheim) and Ville Neuve de Sarrewerden (Ger. Neu-Sarrewerden) on opposite sides of the Sarre River merged for administrative purposes. Paul Gascho was born at Courcelles-Chaussey (10 miles west of St. Avold, now in Moselle) Sept. 14, 1685. On Nov. 25, 1710 at Diedendorf, Lower Alsace he married Anne Marie Billard. Their son Jean Paul Gachot was born at Ville Neuve de Sarrewerden circa 1732. He married Marie Ester Gangloff. They were the parents of at least four sons: Heinrich (as he signed his own name)/Henry Gaschio born circa 1762; Ludwig/Louis Gascho born circa 1764; Samuel Gasho born circa 1765; and Jacob/Jacques Gascho born circa 1771. Heinrich's wife Sophie Charlotte Guth died at Sarre-Union Aug. 6, 1817. Louis Gascho's first wife Elisabeth Klein died at Rimsdorf (adjacent to Sarre-Union) Jan. 20, 1817. The civil death entry called him Louis Gacho, but was signed 'Lŭdwig Gascho.' It described him as a 53-year-old cultivator. At Rimsdorf on Sept. 25, 1817 he remarried to Caterine Brodt. She was born at Lixheim Oct. 17, 1770, a daughter of Paul Brodt and Marie Sophie Brodt. That entry called him Louis Gascho, and said that his father was the deceased Paul Gascho. When Samuel married Elisabeth Behr at Sarre-Union Sept. 7, 1794, the civil entry called him Samuel Gachot, but he signed 'Samŭell Gasho.' When Jacob/Jacques married Maria Elisabeth Frantz at Sarrewerden (adjacent to Sarre-Union) May 30, 1802, he signed their civil entry 'J. Gachot,' though the index spelled his surname 'Gascho.' When he remarried to Katherine/Katharina Fällma at Sarre-Union July 12, 1810, the text and index of the civil record called him Jacque Gascho, while he signed 'J. Gachot.'

225 It was administratively combined with adjacent Freyming [Ger. Freimengen] in 1971, and is now called Freyming-Merlebach in canton Forbach, France. The present population is approximately 670.
This geography suggests that the Cachot exodus into the Pfalz may have involved a move no farther than the village of Nassweiler (now in Saarbrücken, Germany) adjacent to Merlebach. We found mentions of Cachot marriages there in the 1720s.

We strongly suspect that Anna Chraque was a daughter of Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss (see SCHROCK).

François and Anne had two sons, André and Joseph, who married Zwalter sisters (See the Appendix, ZWALTER for background on the family). The broad dispersal of their children was the outcome of the depressed economy in Moselle following the Napoleonic wars.

ANDREAS/ANDRÉ GASCHO

Andreas (as he signed his own name)/André Gascho was born circa 1768, and died at Imling, Moselle April 24, 1812. He was employed as a miller at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle (20 miles south of Gondrexange), then as a day laborer and domestic servant at Imling.

Before 1794 he married Anne Zwalter, whose sister Catherine later became the wife of his older brother. She was born in 1769, and died at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 14, 1839 (where she had been living with her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Nicholas Augustin, who was minister of the congregation there circa 1829-1841). She was a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser.

The earliest mention of André we found in records came from the civil marriage entry of Magdalena Zwalter and Christian Neuhauser. They were married at Gondrexange April 20, 1794. He is listed as witness André Cachon, 26, brother-in-law of the bride.

Andreas/André and Anne lived at Desseling in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle from 1797 to 1805 or later. The tiny village, 11 miles northwest of Gondrexange, has a present population of approximately 110. It is situated on Le Neuf Etang (‘pond nine’).

His civil death entry created at Imling April 24, 1812 described him as servant [Fr. domestique] André Cachot, 47, husband of Anne Zwalter.

Children of Andreas/André Gascho and Anne Zwalter include:

1. Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho was born circa 1795. Circa 1815 she married Christian Birki. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple.
2. Chrétien/Christian Gascho was born circa 1796, and died May 8, 1871. He married Maria Güngerich. According to Helmut Gingerich, she was born Oct. 21, 1800. They farmed on the von Spreti estate at Arzbach bei Dachau.
3. Joseph Gascho's birth date is found in many sources as May 16, 1793 (perhaps figuring from his obituary or headstone count), but the Karlskron Familienbuch says that he was born at Desseling, Moselle (found as 'Dötzingen im Lothringen') Nov. 2, 1797. No civil birth entry was found there. When he died at Hay, Huron County, Ontario Jan. 17, 1882, his obituary said he was 89. In January of 1824 at Arzbach bei Dachau he married Magdalena Ingold. Magdalena was born on the Lindenbrunnerhof estate at Annweiler Nov. 1, 1803, and died at Zurich, Hay County, Ontario Feb. 21, 1891, a daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elizabeth Bachman. Joseph and Magdalena initially settled at Probfeld in the Donaumoos or Danube Marsh. The family’s passport was annulled by the Bavarian government Feb. 19, 1851 because their son Joseph had a military obligation. Medical certificates dated March 20, 1851 and March 31, 1851 declared him fit for service. He was prohibited from emigrating by a court order. The family departed without him. They probably took a coach to Donauworth, then a new rail line from there through Leipzig to Hamburg. We could not identify a passenger list or a date for their arrival in North America, though we found a note that the ship they sailed on was the Neptune. They initially settled at East Zorra, Ontario.

Note that they were in the area at the same time as Joseph’s cousin Christian Gascho, who had moved up from Pennsylvania.

226 Anne Chraque's proposed family relationship is based on circumstance. Though there may have been other Swiss Schrags in Lorraine that we have not identified, only one branch of one family has been identified as Amish Mennonite. Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss had a son Caspar (circa 1744-1794) who married Barbe Rouvenacht and Marie Blaser. He worked as a miller at Bischwald Mill and a cultivator on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff. Thus he was a business partner with the Engel family. Their son Joseph Schrag (1772-1830) was born on Belgrade Farm but lived at Gondrexange. He married Marie Engel (1774-circa 1800), and they had a number of children at Gondrexange. Note that Anne's son Joseph Cachot/Gascho also lived at Gondrexange. This is a coincidence in a tiny community (though the population has grown in two centuries to its present 490). Note also that Joseph Cachot/Gascho's immigration companions in 1831 included Peter Engel. If Anne was a sister to Caspar (circa 1744-1794), the only documented Amish Mennonite Schrag in her age bracket in the region, then her parents were Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss.

227 André signed that entry 'Andreas Gascho.' The bride and groom were described as Christian Neyhouser, 27, and Magdalene Swalter. 22. Another witness was Catherine Swalter, 26.

228 The website of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario says that, "Through old letters we know of Joseph's brothers John in Illinois, Christian and Andrew in Bavaria, and a sister Barbara Eigsti in Illinois."
She was buried Jan. 9. Funeral sermons by J. C. Birky, Simon Litwiller and Dan Nafziger, all of leaves 5 sons, 4 daughters, and a large number of grandchildren, to mourn their loss, which is her gain. 87 y. 6 m. She was a member of the A. M. Church since her youth and remained faithful to the end. She funeral of her grand-daughter, Emma Birky, and after an illness of two weeks she also went home; aged Hopedale, Ill."

Wittrig (maiden name Gascho), widow of Joseph Wittrig, died at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, C. H. Birkey, near Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 7, 1912, of pneumonia. She was taken sick on the day of the burial of her grand-daughter, Emma Birky, and after an illness of two weeks she also went home; aged 87 y. 6 m. She was a member of the A. M. Church since her youth and remained faithful to the end. She leaves 5 sons, 4 daughters, and a large number of grandchildren, to mourn their loss, which is her gain. She was buried Jan. 9. Funeral sermons by J. C. Birky, Simon Litwiller and Dan Nafziger, all of Hopedale, Ill."

a. Anna Gascho was born Nov. 8, 1824, and died at Hopedale Jan. 7, 1912. In 1849 in Ontario she married Joseph Wurtherich/Wittrig [Vitrich]. He was born at Grostenquin, Moselle Jan. 18, 1816, and died at Hopedale Sept. 17, 1902, a son of Nicolas Vitrich and Anne Ommel [Ummel]. He immigrated to New York State in 1838. In 1840 at Croghan, New York he had married Anna Ringenberg, and they went to Germany in 1846. She died in childbirth in 1847. He was ordained as a minister June 24, 1849, serving the Blake Amish Mennonite Church at Zurich, Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario. After his remarriage to Anna, they relocated to Iowa in 1855, remaining there until 1883. In 1883 they relocated to Tazewell County. They are found on the 1900 census of Boynton as Joseph Wittrig, 83, born in Germany in June 1816 to Swiss parents, married 49 years, immigrated in 1838; and Annie, 75, born in Germany to German parents in June 1824, immigrated in 1850. Gospel Herald, February 1912: "Anna Wittrig (maiden name Gascho), widow of Joseph Wittrig, died at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, C. H. Birkey, near Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 7, 1912, of pneumonia. She was taken sick on the day of the funeral of her grand-daughter, Emma Birky, and after an illness of two weeks she also went home; aged 87 y. 6 m. She was a member of the A. M. Church since her youth and remained faithful to the end. She leaves 5 sons, 4 daughters, and a large number of grandchildren, to mourn their loss, which is her gain. She was buried Jan. 9. Funeral sermons by J. C. Birky, Simon Litwiller and Dan Nafziger, all of Hopedale, Ill."

b. Magdalena Gascho is described in the Karlstorn Familienbuch as someone who was born at Probfeld Aug. 28, 1827, and died in 1829. However, her headstone at Hopedale says she was born June 24, 1826. She may have been in Canada at least 18 months before the arrival of her parents. On Feb. 10, 1850 she married Johannes/John Egl. Sources say he was born at Eisingen, Baden (below Hochberg) June 16, 1821. According to Duane L. Egel, descendant Mark Egl found an entry in Catholic records at Kirchdorf, Baden, serving adjacent Überauchen. The Mantelhof estate associated with the Egl family was located four miles north at Villingen-Schwenningen. He died at Minier Dec. 11, 1907, a son of Johannes/John Egl and Maria Geisert. See EGLI for background on this couple.

c. Joseph Gascho was born Jan. 28, 1830. According to an erroneous entry in the Karlstorn Familienbuch, he died in 1830. His first medical certificate saying that he was fit for military service was issued March 20, 1851; it said that he was 21 years old. According to a family story, he remained in Germany for military training while the remainder of the family emigrated. We could not determine whether he emigrated later.

d. Barbara Gascho was born Aug. 4, 1831 according to an entry in the Karlstorn Familienbuch (though her headstone count of 44 years, 10 months, and 27 days would suggest circa Dec. 20, 1830), and died at Zurich, Ontario Nov. 16, 1875. On Feb. 18, 1855 in Huron County she married John Oesch. He was born at Baden, Waterloo County, Ontario circa April 15, 1828 (his headstone gives the count 73 years, 10 months, and 8 days), and died at Hay Feb. 23, 1902, a son of Johannes/John Oesch and Barbara Schultz. They are buried in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery in Huron County.

e. Maria/Mary Gascho was born Dec. 25, 1833, and died in Lyon County, Kansas Nov. 13, 1893. She married Christian Steckley. He was born at Xouaxange, Moselle Feb. 8, 1829, and died in Nebraska Feb. 18, 1906, a son of Hans/John Steckley and his first wife Barbara Steinman. 229 They resettled in Kansas. He is buried in West Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Beaver Crossing, where his headstone says 'Steckley.' Herald of Truth, December 1893: "Steckley - On the 13th of November 1893, in Lyon Co., Kansas, Sister Maria, wife of Bro. Christian Steckley, aged 60 y., 10 m., 19 d. Buried on the 15th in J.J. Borntrager's grave-yard. Sister Steckley was a kind and loving mother who admonished her children and directed them to Christ. Nine children attended the funeral of their beloved mother. Sister Steckley had an abiding faith in her Redeemer, and had a desire to depart and be with Christ. Funeral services by J.P. Stuckey and J.J. Borntrager from Psa. 23 and 90 and Rev. 14:13.'

f. Christian Gascho was born July 20, 1836.

229 Barbara Steinman was born at Grostenquin, Moselle Feb. 8, 1799, and died at Wilmot in 1851, a daughter of Christian Steinman and Elizabeth Gingerich. Jean/John Steckley was born in France Jun 5, 1800, and died at Mornington Township, Perth County, Ontario March 12, 1879.
Johannes/John Gascho was born Oct. 27, 1838, and died May 28, 1919. He married Veronica 'Fanny' Steckly. She was born at Wilmot Sept. 19, 1840, and died during childbirth Feb. 28, 1882, a daughter of Hans/John Steckly and his first wife Barbara Steinman. She is buried with the child in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery. John remarried to Anna Baechler Schwartzentruber. He served as a minister for the Blake Amish Mennonite Church at Zurich, Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario 1876-1908. Gospel Herald, July 1919: “John Gascho was born Oct. 27, 1838; died May 28, 1919; aged 80 y. 7 m. 1 d. On July 25, 1858, he was married to Fannie Steckley who preceded him on Feb. 17, 1882. This union was blessed with 12 children of whom one died in infancy, the rest still living. On June 20, 1882, he was again married to Annie Schwartzendruber. This union was also blessed with seven children of whom one is dead. He leaves a wife, 18 children, 34 grandchildren, and 82 great-grandchildren. He was buried on May 31. Services in church at Zurich, Ont., conducted by Bro. Jonas Snider assisted by the writer. The departed brother served in the ministry for 43 years.”

Andreas/Andrew Gascho was born April 24, 1841, and died at Elkton, Michigan Aug. 31, 1927. In 1860 he married Lydia Gingerich. She was born Aug. 20, 1831, and died Feb. 10, 1906. They had children in Waterloo County, Ontario in the 1860s, then resettled at Elkton. They are found on the 1900 census of Elkton as farmer Andrew Gascho, 59, born in Germany in April 1841 to a father from France and a mother from Germany, immigrated in 1851; Lydia, 68, born in Germany in August 1831 to German parents, immigrated 1850; and adopted daughter Mary, 11, born in Michigan in October 1888 to German parents. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Elkton.

Johannes/John Gascho was born in France circa 1808, and died in Livingston County Sept. 7, 1870.  
John married Magdalena von Gund. She was born at Schwarzberg, Bavaria Jan. 13, 1810, and died in Livingston County April 21, 1881, according to her headstone at Waldo Cemetery. The Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois describes this couple as “the father born in France, the mother born in Bavaria, Germany.”

See ROPP for an explanation of the issues that created the spurious 'Fly Whisk Incident' resulting in the French occupation of Algeria. Military conscription to support the occupation did not exempt Amish Mennonites.

The Gaschos arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831 (see THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831 in the Appendix). Passengers included:

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230 To the best of our knowledge the French genealogist Jean François Lorentz was the first person to find her civil birth entry and understand the connection.

231 Sources that say he was born in France in 1810 are relying on census reports.
We suspect that Johannes/Jean/John Gascho was passenger 112. His wife Magdalena von Gund would have been passenger 114. His cousin Joseph Gascho was passenger 22; Joseph's father Joseph may have been passenger 111. The two Josephs would have immigrated to join their son and brother Christian, who had been in Lancaster County as early as 1825. Passenger 115 was Joseph Gascho's niece, Magdalena/Madeleine Neuhauser Kennel; she was the recent widow of Joseph Kennel.

Other surnames in the immigration group included Suisse, Engel, Roggi, Schertz, Zimmerman, Salzman, Gerrard (a pseudonym for Schrock), and Bach (a pseudonym for Belsley).

The Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database indicates that 'John Cacho' purchased 80 acres at $1.25 per acre in Section 5, Township 27N (in what is now Woodford County) Aug. 19, 1839.

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows John and Magdalena on the same page as Christian Smith, John Kennel (found as Kendle), Jacob Donner, and Joseph Belsley, indicating that they were farming at what is now Spring Bay: farmer John Cartshaw, 40, Germany; Madaline, 40, Germany; Anne, 11; Joseph, 9; John, 7; Andrew, 3; and Catharine, 2; all children born in Illinois.

232 On Dec. 14, 1820 at Imling Magdalena/Madeleine Neuhauser married Joseph Kennel. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as farm equipment operator Joseph Kaenel, born at Oberstinzel Nov. 29, 1799, the illegitimate son [Fr. fils naturel] of Barbara Kennel, who was present and consenting and residing on the farm Misel Ban. The bride was described as Magdelaine Neihauser, 21, born at Imling Sept. 2, 1799, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Christian Neihauser who had died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814, and the deceased Magdelaine Zwalter, who had died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814. Witnesses included Jean Neihauser, 43, uncle by marriage of the bride; and farm equipment operator Christiane Ebersol, 32, second cousin of the bride. Signatures included Joseph Kennel, Magtulena Nuthaiser, and Christian Ebersol. Joseph died within nine months of the voyage. Magdalena/Madeleine gave birth to her fifth child in Pennsylvania, only six days after her arrival in Baltimore. Their children include:

1. Barbara Kennel was born circa 1822.
2. Joseph Kennel was born at Bebing, Moselle June 17, 1823 (his obituary says June 24), and died at Atglen, Pennsylvania June 25, 1913. In 1845 in Pennsylvania he married Veronica 'Fanny' Petersheim. She was born in Lancaster County April 19, 1825, and died there July 19, 1906, a daughter of John Petersheim and Elizabeth Stoltzfus. They are found on the 1850 census of Lower Leacock, Lancaster County as farmer Joseph Kennel, 26, France; Faronica L., 25, Pennsylvania; John P. Kennel, 2, Pennsylvania; laborer William Parker, 15, Pennsylvania; carpenter Samuel Kennel [Joseph's brother], 18, Pennsylvania; and Christiana Petersheim, 12, Pennsylvania. Gospel Herald, July 1913: "Joseph Kennell was born in France June 24, 1823; died June 25, 1913, from infirmities of old age; aged 90 y. 1 d. His widowed mother and 5 children emigrated to America when he was 8 years old, crossing the Atlantic in a sail boat. They landed in Philadelphia and settled in Lancaster Co., Pa., where he lived the rest of his life (except 4-1/2 years in Fauquier Co., Va.) and the last 7 years near Atglen, Chester Co., Pa., where he spent his earlier years. He united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a consistent member all his life. In 1845 he was married to Fannie Petersheim. To this union were born 3 sons, all of whom preceded him to the spirit world. His companion died 13 years ago. He leaves to mourn his departure a widowed daughter-in-law, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Funeral June 27. Services at the house by Daniel Stoltzfus in German and John M. Stoltzfus in English. Text, Job 14:14. At the Millwood A. M. Church by Gideon Stoltzfus in German (Text II Tim. 4:7, 8) and by John S. Mast in English (Text, Heb. 11:9, 10). Buried in adjoining cemetery."
3. Christian Kennel was born at Dolving, Moselle March 19, 1825, and died in Baltimore County, Maryland Dec. 6, 1862. He married Anna 'Nancy' Mast. She was born in Lancaster County Dec. 20, 1832, a daughter of John Mast and Elizabeth Kurtz. Christian and his brother John purchased 33 acres at Hartley Mill in the Long Green Valley of Baltimore County, Maryland in 1851. Christian and Anna are buried in Long Green Mennonite Cemetery, where Anna's headstone is barely legible because of erosion.
4. Jean/John Kennel was born at Dolving, Moselle June 7, 1827, and died in Long Green Valley, Baltimore County, Maryland Jan. 21, 1876. On Nov. 13, 1851 he married Mary Mast. She was born in Lancaster County July 2, 1827, a daughter of John Mast and Elizabeth Kurtz. Their household appears on the 1860 census of the 11th District, Baltimore County, Maryland as John Kennel, 33, France; Mary, 33, Pennsylvania; John, 10; Susanna, 7; Emma, 5; and Elizabeth; all children born in Maryland. Herald of Truth, March 1876: "Jan. 21st, in Baltimore Co., Md., of inflammatory rheumatism, John Kennel, aged 48 years, 7 months and 14 days. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss. A very affecting sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by John P. Mast from 2 Cor. 5:1."
5. Samuel Kennel was born in Pennsylvania June 11, 1831, and died in Pennsylvania Nov. 14, 1912. He married Elizabeth Riehl. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania May 22, 1830, and died in Union County, Pennsylvania June 3, 1895; a daughter of John Riehl and Levina Yoder. Samuel is found as an 18-year-old carpenter born in Pennsylvania in the household of his brother Joseph at Lower Leacock, Lancaster County in 1850. In 1851 he purchased 36 acres at Long Green Valley from Isaac Hertzler. In 1868 he purchased another 63 acres, then relocated to Union County the following year. In 1870 his household is found at East Buffalo, Union County as carpenter Samuel Kennel, 40, Pennsylvania; Elisabeth, 40, Pennsylvania; Joel, 7, Maryland; Fanny, 5, Maryland; and Dana, 1, Maryland.
The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows them as farmer John Gasher, 50, France; Magdalene, 50, Bavaria; Joseph, 19; John, 16; Catherine, 12; and Barbara, 7; all children born in Illinois. John Gascho is found on an 1865 agricultural schedule of Worth, but by 1870 they were living at Waldo, Livingston County. They are found on that census as farmer John Gocho, 60, France; and Fanny, 60, France.

_Herald of Truth_, December 1870: "On the 7th of September, in Livingston county, Ill., John Gasho, aged 62 years. He was buried on the 8th, followed by a large concourse of friends and relatives. Funeral sermons were preached by John Egly, John P. Schmitt and Christian Schloegel [Schlegel] from I Cor. 15, and I Thess. 4:13-18. He was a pious man, beloved by all and a light in our Church. He observed daily prayer with his family, came regular to meeting and appreciated humility. He often complained about the pride prevailing among our young people. He also said before he expired that he had a desire to depart and to be with Christ. He was a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite Church." He is buried in Waldo Cemetery.

The 1880 census of Waldo shows Magdalena as a 70-year-old mother-in-law in the home of her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Joseph Schlegel. Her place of origin as well as that of her parents is given as Schwarzburg.233

_Herald of Truth_, August 1884: "On the 21st of April, in Livingston Co., Ill. Magdalene Gascho, aged 74 years, 3 months and 8 days. On the 23d the body was consigned to the grave, when many friends and relatives from far and near manifested their high respects and followed her to the grave. Services were held by Daniel Steinman, Christian Schlegel, and John P. Schmidt. Sister Gascho was a true and worthy member of the Amish Mennonite Church, and much beloved by all who knew her."

Children of Johannes/Jean/John Gascho and Magdalena von Gund born at Spring Bay include:

- The Gaschos may have had two sons named Christian who died as infants.
- 1. Anna Gascho was born Nov. 28, 1839, and died Dec. 25, 1873. On March 5, 1859 in Woodford County she married John Albrecht.234 He was born Nov. 20, 1833, and died Feb. 12, 1900, a son of Jacob Albrecht and Katharina Ackerman. They farmed at Waldo, and are buried in Waldo Cemetery. On Nov. 22, 1874 John remarried to Barbara Nafziger and had eight more children. _Herald of Truth_, April 1, 1900: "On the 12th of February, 1900, in Livingston Co., Ill., Pre. John Albrecht passed peacefully away at the age of 66 years, 2 months and 22 days. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, on the 20th of November 1833. When he was 4 years old his parents moved to Bureau Co., Ill. He was married to Anna Gascho in 1859. To this union were born six sons, of whom four preceded their parents, the mother dying fifteen years after marriage. Bro. Albrecht married again in 1874, his second wife being Barbara Nafziger. To this second union were born four sons and three daughters, all of whom followed their father to the grave. Although the words of Psalm 128 were fulfilled to Bro. Albrecht in temporal as well as in spiritual matters his heart was not set upon earthly things. He was afflicted for some time with heart and kidney trouble and seven days before his death he was rendered helpless by a slight stroke of paralysis. He remained conscious however to the end, and suffered no pain. Although not as eloquent or fluent a speaker as some, he was honest and earnest, and a faithful counsellor, and his loss in the church as well as in the family will be deeply felt. On the 15th of Feb. his remains were laid to rest, followed by a large concourse of relatives and friends. Funeral services at the M. H. by J.P. Schmitt in German from 2 Cor. 5, and by Joseph B. Zehr in German from 2 Tim. 4:7,8 and Matt. 25:23. Daniel Orendorff also spoke from 2 Cor. 4:17,18. Besides his wife and nine children, deceased leaves eight grandchildren, three brothers, four sisters and many other relatives and friends."
- 3. John Gascho was born Feb. 27, 1844, and died in Livingston March 18, 1883. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Livingston County he married Catherine Schlegel. She was born at what became Tremont on the 8th or 18th of April, 1843, and died at Washington May 5, 1916, a daughter of Christian Schlegel and Salome 'Sarah' Sommer. The 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows them one page apart from John's parents and brother Joseph: farmer John Gascho, 26, Illinois; Catharine, 26, Illinois; and Joseph, six months, Illinois. They can be found on the 1880 census of Chenoa, McLean County as laborer John N. Gascho, 36, Illinois; Catherine, 37, Illinois; and three children born in Illinois. _Herald of Truth_, April 1883: "March 18th, in Livingston Co., Ill., John Gascho, aged 39 years and 21 days. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th, followed by many relatives and friends, assembled from far and near to pay their last respects to their departed friend. Services were held in the house of Christian Schlegel by Peter Schantz, of Lee County, Iowa, who was in that vicinity on a visit. And at the meeting-house by Joseph Grieser and Peter Schantz, from 1 Cor. 15, and some words at the grave by J. Schmidt. Brother Gascho suffered much from phthisic for a number of years. Offentimes he spent the entire night in his chair. He suffered more than ordinarily about five days. A few minutes before he died, his wife asked him whether she should send for the doctor. He replied: No one can help me: the Lord has released many, he too can release me, and so he died. He was a member of the Amish Church, and leaves a sorrowing companion and four children, the youngest being only 2 weeks old. He also leaves

233 Schwarzburg is in Thuringia; we assume this was meant to be Schwarzberg, Bavaria.
234 Woodford County records list them as John Albright and Anna Gascho.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

4. Andrew Gascho is shown as a 2-year-old on the 1850 census, but does not appear on later censuses, suggesting he died young.

5. Catherine Gascho married Jacob Streid. He was born at Strasburg, Lower Alsace Oct. 2, 1842, and died Aug. 23, 1915, a son of Joseph Streid and Françoise Fordemwald. His family immigrated in 1843, settling in Holmes County, Ohio. His father farmed on 62 acres before coming to McLean County in 1864. At Chenoa he farmed 120 acres. After marriage Joseph rented land for four years, then purchased 80 acres at Pike Township; he served as Pike Township school director for 20 years. In 1894 they moved onto 160 acres in Section 8 of Chenoa, McLean County. They are buried in Pike Township Cemetery at Graymont, Livingston County.

6. Barbara Gascho was born Sept. 21, 1853, and died at Hydro, Oklahoma June 30, 1926. On Feb. 4, 1872 in Livingston County she married Joseph Schlegel. He was born in Tazewell County Dec. 8, 1847, and died July 12, 1914, a son of Christian Schlegel and Salome 'Sarah' Sommer. See SCHLEGEL for more on this couple including their obituaries.

Joseph Gascho was born at Spring Bay Dec. 14, 1841, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 3, 1902. He is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford as Rev. Joseph Gascho.

On March 14, 1868 in Woodford County he married Mary Birky/Birkey. She was born in Illinois Dec. 28, 1850, and died Dec. 25, 1938, a daughter of Joseph Birky/Birkey and Barbara Eigsti.

They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County living next to his parents: farmer Joseph Gasho, 28, Illinois; Mary, 21, Illinois; and John, eight months, Illinois. In 1878 they relocated to Precinct O (now Milford), Nebraska. The 1880 census of Precinct O shows them as farmer Joseph Gascho, 38, Illinois, parents France and Germany; Mary, 30, Illinois; John, 10, Illinois; Joseph, 9, Illinois; Maggie, 7, Illinois; Christopher, 5, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Benjamin, 2, Nebraska; and Barbra, less than one year, Nebraska.

The 1900 census of Precinct J (now Milford), Seward County, Nebraska has farmer Joseph Gascho, 58, born in Illinois in December 1841 to a French father and a Bavarian mother, married 32 years; Mary, 49, born in Illinois in November 1850 to Bavarian parents; farmer Christian, 25, born in Illinois in September 1874 to parents form Illinois; farm laborer Barbara, 20, born in Nebraska in March 1880 to parents from Illinois; farm laborer William, 16, born in Nebraska in February 1884 to parents form Illinois; Lydia, 11, born in Nebraska in August 1888 to parents from Illinois; Arthur, 9, born in Nebraska in July 1890 to parents from Illinois; and Mary, 7, born in Nebraska in April 1893 to parents form Illinois.

Herald of Truth, March 1902: "Pre. Joseph Gascho was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 14, 1841, died near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., Feb. 3, 1902, aged 60 years, 1 month and 20 days. He was married in 1868 to Maria Buery, with whom he lived in happy matrimony for 33 years, 10 months and 21 days. To this union were born seven sons and five daughters, two sons preceding him in death. He united with the Amish Mennonite church, and for thirty years he served the church as a minister of the gospel. His earnest admonitions to follow Jesus will not soon be forgotten. His affliction was cancer in the face. He suffered greatly, but patiently, and when it became evident that the malady was incurable he was resigned and said, "God's will be done." When the end drew near he called to his side his beloved companion who had so loyally and lovingly ministered to his needs and who had for so many years shared with him the joys and sorrows of life, and earnestly admonished her to remain faithful unto the Lord. He also called his children, one by one and gave them loving, fatherly counsel, entreating them to be faithful and obedient to their dear mother and to follow Jesus. May the admonitions of a loving father never be forgotten. His end was peace. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Nicholas Roth, of Milford, Neb., and at the M. H., by Chr. Rediger, of Hamilton, Neb., and P. P. Hershberger and Chr. Beller, of Shickley, Neb. May the God of all comfort sustain the bereaved ones in their affliction."

After Joseph's death, Mary lived with some of her children in Precinct O (now Milford), Nebraska. The 1910 census shows Benjamin Gascho, 27, Nebraska; Mary Gasho, 66, Illinois; Christian, 34, Nebraska; Barbara, 24, Nebraska; Arthur, 19, Nebraska; Mary, 17, Nebraska; and cousin Joseph Burkey, 20, Nebraska. The 1930 census of Township O, Nebraska shows her as mother-in-law Mary, 79, in the household of her daughter Lydia, 42, and Ammon Hershberger, 44.

Gospel Herald, January 1939: "Mary Gascho, daughter of Joseph and Barbara Burkey, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 28, 1850; died at the home of her daughter near Milford, Nebr., Dec. 25, 1938. She was united in
Children of Joseph Gascho and Mary Birky/Birkey include:

1. John Gascho was born in Illinois Sept. 17, 1869, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 20, 1885. He was buried in the Amish Mennonite graveyard. Funeral services were held by Joseph Shlegel and Joseph Rediger from 1 Cor 15:22.

2. Joseph Gascho was born near Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 11, 1871, and died at Cairo, Nebraska Aug. 22, 1954. In 1898 he married Jakobina 'Bena' 'Phoebe' Roth. She was born March 24, 1873, and died at Wood River, Nebraska March 3, 1945, a daughter of Jacob Roth and Marie Lauber. They are buried in Wood River Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, April 1945: "Gascho. - Jacobina, daughter of the late Jacob and Mary Roth, was born March 24, 1873, near Wilmendingen, Germany; left our family circle to join the heavenly hosts March 3, 1945; aged 71 y. 11 m. 7 d. She arrived in New York on her sixteenth birthday, accompanied by one brother and one sister. They came directly to Milford, Nebr., to the home of relatives. She worked out until 1898, when she was married to Joe Gascho. They lived near Milford until 1908, when they moved to their present home north of Wood River, Nebr. Two sons and five daughters were born to this union. She leaves to mourn her departure her loving husband, two sons (Alvin, Wood River; and Harry, Beltsville, Md., C.P.S. Camp), two daughters (Ida and Kathryn, at home), 18 grandchildren, one daughter-in-law, one step-granddaughter, one great grandchild, one brother (Ben Roth, of Milford), and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by three daughters (Mary-Mrs. Abe Roth, Minnie-Mrs. Sid Beckler, and Anna-Mrs. Royden Jantzi), one granddaughter, her parents, three sisters, and 11 brothers. At the death of her daughter Mary in 1930; she opened her home to four of her grandchildren (Robert, Delmar, Josephine, and Irene Roth), which is still home to them. Early in life she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church. When she came to America she transferred her membership to the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful until her death. In her many duties as mother and grandmother she served with a steady zeal and a quiet, consistent life. Her influence for good touched many lives. The last fourteen months of her life she patiently endured her illness, due to heart trouble and complications, and spent the last week of her life in a hospital. The end came without a struggle as she was beginning to eat her breakfast. Often during her illness she quoted the Saviour's invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Funeral services were conducted March 6 at the home by Peter Kennel and at the Wood River Church by W. R. Eicher. Text Job 21:23-26. Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery." Gospel Herald, October 1945: "Gascho, Joseph, son of Joseph and Mary (Birkey) Gascho, was born near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 11, 1871; passed away at his home in Cairo, Nebr., Aug. 22, 1954; aged 83 y. 6 m. 11 d. He had been in failing health, caused mainly by hardening of the arteries, for over two years and was confined to his home the last three months. He was married to Jacobina Roth in 1898. This union was blessed with two sons and five daughters. His wife preceded him in death in 1945. Three daughters also preceded him (Mrs. Mary Roth in 1930 and Mrs. Anna Jantzi and Mrs. Minnie Beckler in 1935). His parents, three sisters, four brothers and three grandchildren also preceded him. Surviving are two sons (Alvin and Harry, both of Wood River, Nebr.), two daughters (Ida and Kitty, at home), two sisters (Mrs. Mary Stutzman and Mrs. Lydia Hershberger, both of Corry, Pa.), two brothers (Ben and Chris both of Milford, Nebr.), 21 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren. In his youth he accepted Christ as his Saviour and became a member of the Mennonite Church at Milford. Later he and his wife transferred their membership to the newly organized Wood River Mennonite Church where he willingly lent a helping hand in erecting the building and establishing the congregation. Funeral services were held at the Wood River Church by W. R. Eicher and Sam Oswald. Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery."

3. Magdalena 'Maggie' 'Lena' Gascho was born at Gridley, McLean County Oct. 18, 1872, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas Sept. 18, 1939. On Oct. 27, 1892 she married Michael Roth. Gospel Herald, October 1839: "Roth. Magdalene, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Gascho, was born Oct. 13, 1872, at Gridley, Ill.; died at the Grace Hospital, Hutchinson, Kans., after a short illness of three days while visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Edward Kauffman; aged 66 y. 11 m. In her youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church. She was a faithful member of the East Fairview congregation of Milford, Nebr., at the time of her death, and had been making her home near Milford with a daughter (Mrs. Jonas Bontrager), at which place she will be greatly missed. On Oct. 27, 1892, she was united in marriage to Michael Roth who preceded her in death a little
7. Catherine 'Katie' Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 15, 1882, and died at Grand Inland, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1929, suffering from cancer. It was her desire to be anointed and on June 26 this ordinance was observed, at which time stepdaughter, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters preceded her in death. She was in failing health for the last five months, willing that the Lord's will might be done in her life. Funeral services were held at the Wellman Mennonite Church, near Milford, Nebraska, with whom he resided), 2 sisters (Lydia-Mrs. Ammon Hershberger and Mary-Mrs. Peter Stutzman, both of Corry, Pa.), and many nieces and nephews. His parents, 5 brothers, and 3 sisters preceded him in death. In his youth he accepted Christ as his Saviour and became a member of the East Fairview Mennonite Church, remaining faithful until death. Funeral services were held at the East Fairview Church in charge of Ammon Miller and Oliver Roth. Burial in the adjoining cemetery."

8. William Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska in Feb. 14, 1884, and died at Albany, Oregon June 21, 1941. In Youth he accepted Christ as His Saviour in youth, holding his membership with the East Fairview Mennonite Church near Milford. He leaves to mourn his sudden departure four brothers and three sisters (Joseph, and Barbara Stutzman, of Wood River; Ben, Chris, and Lydia Hershberger, of Milford; Art, of Broken Bow, and Mary Stutzman of Julesburg, Colo.). He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and two sisters. Funeral services were held at Fairview Mennonite Church near Albany, Oregon, on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Nick Birky and Melvin Schrock. The body was then sent to Milford, Nebr., to the home of his brother Ben, where services were held Wednesday afternoon,
conducted at the home by Ammon Miller, and at the East Fairview Church by Wm. R. Wicher and Jos. E. Zimmerman. Interment in adjoining cemetery.”

9. Lydia Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 20, 1888, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania Sept. 10, 1983. She married Ammon Hershberger. He was born at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 29, 1885, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania June 5, 1968, a son of Abner Hershberger and Sarah Stutzman. They lived at Milford, then at Union City, Pennsylvania. Gospel Herald, October 1963: “Hershberger, Lydia, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born in Milford, Neb., Aug. 20, 1888; died at Corry, Pa., Sept. 10, 1983; aged 95 y. She was married to Ammon Hershberger, who preceded her in death. Surviving are two daughters (Esther-Mrs. Irvin Roth and Ruth-Mrs. Clayton Troyer), two sons (Clyde and Willard), 20 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter (Arlene-Mrs. Cecil Reynolds). She was the oldest member of Beaverdam Mennonite Church, where funeral services were held on Sept. 13, in charge of James Hershberger; interment in Beaverdam Cemetery.”

10. Arthur Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska July 8, 1890, and died at Cairo, Nebraska Jan. 8, 1948. He is buried in Wood River Cemetery at Wood River Nebraska, where his headstone gives the dates 1891-1948. Gospel Herald, February 1948: “Arthur, son of the late Joseph and Mary (Berkey) Gascho, was born near Milford, Nebr., July 8, 1890; died at his home, Cairo, Nebr., Jan. 8, 1948; aged 57 y. 6 m. Death resulted from a stroke. In his youth he united with the Mennonite Church of which he remained a member until death. On Feb. 10, 1918, he was united in marriage to Barbara Stutzman, of Wood River, Nebr., who passed away April 18, 1942. To this union were born 5 children. He was united in marriage to Laura Stutzman on Sept. 19, 1943, since which time he resided at Cairo, Nebr. Surviving are his wife, 2 daughters (Mrs. Dean Veeder, Cairo, Nebr.; and Mary, Broken Bow, Nebr.), 2 sons (Glen A., of Broken Bow; and Chester W., at home), 2 grandchildren, 3 brothers (Joseph, Wood River, Nebr.; and Ben and Christ, Milford, Nebr.), and 2 sisters (Mrs. P. B. Stutzman, Spartansburg, Pa.; and Mrs. A. A. Hershberger, Union City, Pa.). One infant son, 3 brothers, and 3 sisters predeceased him. His pleasant smile and kind words lightened the burden of many sad hearts. Funeral services were conducted Jan. 11 at the home and at the Wood River Mennonite Church by W. R. Eicher, assisted by Ezra Roth. Burial was made in the Mennonite Cemetery adjacent to the church.”

11. Mary Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska April 23, 1893, and died at Titusville, Pennsylvania Oct. 12, 1976. On Oct. 18, 1911 she married Peter Stutzman. He was born at Milford March 30, 1888, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania June 9, 1969, a son of Aaron Stutzman and Barbara Beckler. They lived at Spartansburg, Pennsylvania. Gospel Herald, July 1969: “Stutzman, Peter B., son of Aaron and Barbara (Beckler) Stutzman, was born at Milford, Neb., Mar. 30, 1888; died at his home near Corry, Pa., June 9, 1969; aged 81 y. 2 m. 9 d. On Oct. 18, 1911, he was married to Mary Gascho, who survives. Also surviving are 7 children (Glady-Mrs. Lester Heliker, Frieda-Mrs. Frank Ehrhart, Dorthy-Mrs. Maynard Troyer, Frank B., Clifford L., Leonard J., and Walter C.), 20 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters (Mrs. Cora Boshart and Mrs. Barbara Stutzman). He was preceded in death by 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He was a member of the Beaverdam Church, Corry, Pa., where funeral services were held June 11, with Donald D. Noziger officiating.” They are buried in Lawn Cemetery at Beaverdam, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH GASCHO

Joseph Gascho was born circa 1773, and died in North America (likely Somerset County, Pennsylvania) after 1831.236

On Aug. 7, 1797 at Gondrexange he married Catherine Zwalter. She was born in 1768, a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser (see the Appendix, ZWALTER for background on the family). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farm hand Joseph Cachot, 24, living on La Canardiére, a son of Francois Cachot and Anne Chraque, "who in life had been millers at Meresbach, Moselle." The bride was described as Catherine Swalter [Zwalter], 28, a daughter of Christiane Swalter and Marie Richard [Risser]. Witnesses included Jean Chartz [Schertz], 40, and Christiane Chartz, 48. It was signed 'Joseph Gascho.'

The couple lived on La Canardiére ['the farm stock yard', Ger. Entenhof or Anetehof] at Gondrexange in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle. (The location La Canardiére has confused some researchers who placed the Gaschos at an estate with the same name near Strasbourg).


Catherine Zwalter presumably died before 1831. Joseph immigrated as a 58-year-old with his son Joseph, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831 (as noted earlier). They may have reunited with his oldest son Christian, who was in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania as early as 1824.

236 We found several sources that say he died at Imling, Feb. 24, 1812, the same place and year as his brother. Though there is a civil death entry there for his brother, there was none for him.  
237 Local records show Nafziger as 'Naxier', and Schertz and 'Chartz.'
Children of Joseph Gascho and Catherine Zwalter include:

1. Christian Gascho was born at Gondrexanger April 23, 1798 (he is found on a civil birth entry as Christianne Gachot), and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Nov. 23, 1870. In 18254 in Lancaster County he married Christina Petersheim. She was born at Lippe, Germany April 19, 1806, and died in Waterloo County July 27, 1882, a daughter of George Petersheim and Christina Nissley. Her family had immigrated before 1818. In 1837 they purchased her uncle's farm in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Christian Gascho is found on the 1840 census of Somerset, Somerset County. They relocated to Wilmot Township, Ontario in 1848. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Mennonite farmer Christian Gascho, 54, Luderinger [from Ger. Lothringen, or Lorraine]; Christiana, 45, Defermery [we viewed the script, but could not interpret this]; Magdalena, 24, Pennsylvania; John, 22, Pennsylvania; Christian, 12, Pennsylvania; David, 10, Pennsylvania; Susan, 5, Pennsylvania; and Jacob, 3, Pennsylvania. They were living next door to Christian Steinman and Veronika Eyer. They are also found on the 1881 census of Wilmot; in 1871 Christina is found as a 65-year-old widow with children David, Magdalena, and Susannah. Children of Christian Gascho and Christina Petersheim include:

   a. Veronica Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 9, 1825, and died there Feb. 17, 1827.
   b. Magdalena Gascho was born in Somerset County July 11, 1827, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Feb. 4, 1917. She is found on the 1901 census of Wellesley Township, Waterloo County as a 73-year-old Mennonite lodger born July 11, 1827, in the household of Barbara Gascho born Oct. 5, 1853 (Barbara Ramseyer, the widow of Magdalena's younger brother David Gascho). Gospel Herald, February 1917: "Magdalena Gascho was born July, 1827, near Johnstown, Pa., and died at Poole, Ont., Feb. 4, 1917; aged 89 y. 6 m. Buried Feb. 7, funeral services by Jacob Lichty and Nicholas Nafziger. Text, II Cor. 5:1-10; Luke 2:29-32."
   c. Johannes/John P. Gascho was born in Somerset County Feb. 21, 1830, and died of heart failure in Waterloo County Dec. 13, 1909. On Sept. 21, 1852 in Waterloo County he married Barbara Erb. She was born in Waterloo County July 13, 1831, and died at Wilmot Aug. 6, 1876, a daughter of John Erb and Veronica Svartzentruber. John was ordained as elder of the Steinmann Mennonite Church at Wilmot in 1872. On Nov. 6, 1877 John remarried to Barbara Erb. She was born at Baden, Ontario Feb. 2, 1835, and died there March 23, 1931, a daughter of Christian Erb and Elizabeth Schultz. Gospel Herald, May 1831: "Barbara Erb, widow of the late Bishop John Gascho, was born near Baden, Ont., Feb. 2, 1835; died at the home of one of her step-grandchildren (Mrs. Jacob B. Jutzi in Baden), March 23, 1931; aged 96 y. 1 m. 21 d. She was the second wife of the late Bishop John Gascho who proceeded her in death a little over 21 years ago. No children were born to this union. In her early years she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and united with the Amish Mennonite Church in Wilmot, of which she was a faithful member until death. She was the last member of a family of 11 children and died of infirmities from old age. She leaves the following children: Mrs. John Steinman, Christian, Jacob, Mrs. D.H. Steinman, David, Menno, Daniel, and many other friends and relatives. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Bro. Peter Boshart and at the Steinmann Church by Dan Lebold and Jacob R. Bender. Burial in the adjoining cemetery." They are buried in Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot.
   d. Barbara Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 17, 1832, and died there in 1836.
   e. Daniel Gascho was born in Somerset County March 21, 1836, and died there in 1838.
   f. Christian Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 1, 1838, and died in Waterloo County Oct. 22, 1872. He married Mary Schwartzentruber. She was born in Ontario Oct. 22, 1840, and died there Nov. 15, 1915, a daughter of John Schwartzentruber and Catherine Blank. Despite his relative youth he was ordained as elder of the Amish Mennonite congregation at Mornington. He is buried in the Rischer-Reschly Plot at Kingwood, adjacent to the Reformed Mennonite Cemetery. After his death Mary remarried to John Erb.
   g. David Gascho was born in Somerset County March 7, 1841, and died at Wellesley, Waterloo County Sept. 19, 1893. On Jan. 29, 1871 at Wilmot he married Barbara Ramseyer. She was born Oct. 3, 1853 (per death entry), and died at Wellesley Oct. 6, 1930, a daughter of Joseph Ramseyer and Barbara Klopfenstein. They are buried in Maple View Mennonite Cemetery at Wellesley.
   h. Samuel Gascho was born in Somerset County March 4, 1844, and died there Feb. 12, 1846.
   i. Susanna Gascho was born in Somerset County June 16, 1846, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Feb. 2, 1892.
   j. Jacob Gascho was born in Waterloo County, Ontario Aug. 26, 1848, and died there Dec. 5, 1852.

2. Joseph Gascho was born Dec. 2, 1801, and died as an infant.
3. Catherine Gascho was born Sept. 24, 1803, and may have died young.
4. Joseph Gascho/Gashow was born at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 1, 1808, and died in Lagrange County, Indiana July 30, 1866. His civil birth entry described his parents as miller Joseph Gaschog, 30, and Catherine Zwalter. His father signed 'Joseph Gacho.' Joseph is found as a 22-year-old on the Quarterly Abstract of passengers arriving at Baltimore May 21, 1831, as noted earlier. He went to Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where circa 1833

238 The Christian Gascho family Bible is now held by the Mennonite Archives of Ontario at Conrad Grebel College.
he married Susanna Stutzman. She was born at Berlin, Somerset County Feb. 17, 1806, and died in Somerset County Oct. 31, 1865, a daughter of John Stutzman and Anna Speicher. Joseph Gasho is found on the 1840 census of Somerset, Somerset County. Their household is found on the 1850 census of Somerset Township, Somerset County as farmer Joseph Gashow, 41, France; Susanna, 44, Penna.; Moses, 16; Nancy, 14; Henry, 9; Eli, 5; John 3; all children born in Pennsylvania; and Barbara Niely, 74, who died there Sept. 9, 1911. She was married to Eli Gashaw, 59 years, 8 mos., and 14 days. Her maiden name was Stutzman. She was buried on the 2nd day of Nov. A funeral discourse was delivered by the writer from 1 Thess. 4: 13-18. She was a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite Church, until called to the future world, where we hope she will meet the Savior, in mansions above, where all tears shall be wiped from her eyes, and where there shall be no more sorrow, nor pain, nor death. Ahner Yoder. "Herald of Truth," September 1866: "On the 30th of July, at the residence of Bro. Christian Yoder, in Lagrange County, Indiana, Joseph Gaisha, aged about 57 years. He came here from Somerset County, Pennsylvania, about three months ago. His wife died in Pennsylvania about seven months ago. He was buried on the 1st of August. Funeral sermon by Christian Miller from Jn. 5: 26-30 and 1 Thess 4: 13-18. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of people. He was a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite church. Daniel D. Miller. Descendants spell their surname 'Gashow' and 'Gashaw.' Their children born in Somerset County include:

a. Moses Gashow was born Feb. 27, 1834, and died at Rock Creek Township, Carroll County, Illinois July 30, 1880. He married Susanna Kimmel. She was born in Somerset County Sept. 29, 1836, and died at Rock Creek May 6, 1886. Before 1869 they relocated to Illinois. The 1880 census of Rock Creek shows them as farmer Moses Garshaw, 46, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Susan, 44, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; and four children born in Pennsylvania. They are buried in Dutchtown Brethren Cemetery at Milledgeville, Carroll County, Illinois. His headstone says he died July 31, 1880, age 46; hers that she died May 6, 1888, age 50.

b. Anna 'Nancy' Gashow was born Jan. 13, 1836, and died at Sunnyvale, California June 2, 1923. On April 20, 1854 in Somerset County she married Joseph Hunter. He was born in Somerset County Nov. 13, 1831, and died at Des Moines, Iowa July 16, 1887, a son of Alexander Hunter and Anna 'Nancy' Trent.

c. Henry Gashow was born circa 1841. He married Lucinda Long, a daughter of Levi Long and Catherine Walker. According to the newspaper Somerset Democrat, Henry Gashaw was drafted into military service at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania March 10, 1865, and was due to report between March 27 and 31. There may have been a child Elizabeth who was born in 1843 and died before 1849.

d. Elias Gashow was born June 24, 1844, and died at Boswell, Somerset County Feb. 7, 1929. On Oct. 27, 1867 at Conemaugh, Somerset County he married Catherine 'Katie' Kaufman. She was born in Somerset County Aug. 29, 1848, and died at Jenner March 16, 1928, a daughter of Jacob Kauffman and Elizabeth Yoder. Gospel Herald, April 1928: "Catherine Kauffman Gashaw, daughter of Jacob and Lizzie Kaufman, was born Aug. 29, 1848; died in Jenner Township, Somerset Co., Pa., Mar. 16, 1928; aged 79 y. 6 m. 16 d. She was united in marriage to Eli Gashaw over 60 years ago, and soon after their marriage she and her husband united with the Mennonite Church of which she remained a faithful member until death. She is survived by her husband, four daughters, and one son. One daughter preceded her in death seven years ago. She is also survived by one brother, thirty-six grandchildren, twenty-seven great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. Her husband has been afflicted for several years, and it was her very anxious desire to live longer than he in order to take care of him, but God saw better otherwise. Funeral services were conducted in the home by James Saylor. In the Thomas Church, L. A. Blough conducted the opening exercises, S. G. Shetler based the sermon on 'Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory' and James Saylor added some fitting remarks. A large concourse of people were assembled for the occasion. The remains were laid away in the Thomas cemetery."

e. John Gashow was born March 2, 1847, and died in Somerset County Dec. 7, 1935. He married Mary Keim. She was born in Somerset County June 6, 1846, and died there Sept. 9, 1911. They are found on the 1880 census of Jenner. John remarried to Elizabeth Zimmerman. She was born Jan. 16, 1846, and died in Somerset County March 2, 1934, a daughter of Henry Zimmerman and Sarah FOust.

f. Elizabet Gashaw, 11, is found on the 1860 census of Somerset Township.

There is a family story that the youngest child was named Valentin Gascho. Could he be the 'Gasho' who carried pocket knives to Lancaster County in 1834? According to Volume 19, Number 3 of Nafzger Heritage News, Daniel Guengerich (married to Elisabeth Schwartzentruber) of Freinsheim, Germany (12 miles southwest of Worms) sent a letter dated March 24, 1834 to Jakobina Nafziger in America. It was addressed care of John Lapp of Paradise,
Lancaster County. It stated that "...three of Imhoff's children are coming over." It added that they were bringing eight pocket knives, and "...Gasho also took along seven pocket knives for you." We can only guess that this was the elusive Valentin Gascho, whose father and two older brothers were already in Pennsylvania.

**Pennsylvania and Indiana Gaschos**

Everything we found pointed to all Amish Mennonites in Lorraine, the German states, Canada, and the United States being descendants of François Gascho and Anne Chraque [Schrag]. However, we also knew that there were and are many Mennonite Gaschos in the state of Indiana who we could not account for.

One source says that this family was descended from Huguenots who had fled from France and settled at Worms in the Pfalz. **Johannes Gasho** was born circa 1725. Circa 1765 he died at Dirmstein, about 9 miles southwest of Worms (the location Dirmstein has confused some researchers who found Darmstein, and assumed it meant Darmstadt).

His son **Henry Gasho** was born at Dirmstein July 15, 1752.

Henry had one sister, Barbara. After the death of father Johannes, their mother remarried to a Kraemer who had two daughters. Henry retained his birth surname.

In the fall of 1766 the combined family sailed on a 14-week voyage from Amsterdam or Rotterdam to Philadelphia. Henry's stepfather Kraemer died at sea.

Upon arrival Henry became a redemptioner. His services as an indentured servant or farmhand were auctioned off to John Kaufman of Lancaster County. Henry completed the term of indenture there, then made a living as a farmer and weaver.

One record shows that in 1777 Henry 'Gasha' served as a private in Capt. Conrad Korer's Company, Eighth Battalion, of the Lancaster County Militia. Another record shows that he served again in 1782 as a private in the Fourth Company, Fourth Battalion. He also appears on the *Proprietary and State Tax List of Lancaster County* for 1779.

On May 25, 1782 in Manor Township, Lancaster County Henry married Barbara Schenk. She was born in Manor Township March 7, 1760, a daughter of John Schenk and Barbara Gingerich. They had three children who lived to adulthood: John (born 1784), Barbara (born 1787), and Henry Jr. (born 1796).

John's household is found on the 1830 census of Manor Township.

Henry [Sr.] created a will in 1835 that was witnessed by neighbors Abraham Landes and Christian Habecker. He died in 1839 or 1840, and was buried on his farm on the east side of Charleston Road in Manor Township. His headstone was eventually plowed over. Years later it was found and set up in a nearby Mennonite cemetery. Barbara Schenk died in Lancaster County Oct. 11 or 16, 1844.

Henry [Sr.] had not been a Mennonite - he had taken up arms in the war of independence - but his children may have been influenced by their mother or neighbors. All three migrated farther west to the Noblesville area of Hamilton County, Indiana. There they practiced the Mennonite faith, and over time took on the German spelling of their surname: Gascho.

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239 The 'three' were likely children of Johannes Imhoff and Anna Maria Schwartzentruber. They lived on the Ormsheimer Hof near Frankenthal, seven miles east of Freinsheim (see IMHOFF). Hermann Guth wrote that Christian Imhof and two sisters immigrated in 1834.
Orendorff: Orndorf of Freudenberg

The farm Hof Ohrndorf was situated in the hamlet Büschergrund, adjoining the northern outskirts of Freudenberg in the district of Arnsberg, now in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Henne zu Orndorf was born there circa 1560. Circa 1584 he married Katharina. When he died on Hof Orndorf June 12, 1616 the event, like many to follow, was recorded by the Protestant Reformed Church at Freudenberg.240

Their son Stephen Ohrendorf was born on Hof Orndorf circa 1597, and died at Bocksiefen (now part of Büschergrund) circa 1632. On Aug. 26, 1625 at Freudenberg he married Gela Wagoner. She died July 6, 1634.

Their son Hermann 'Mannus' Ohrndorf was born at Bockseifen Jan. 1, 1632, and died in the hamlet of Halmenhof (now part of Büschergrund) Jan. 3, 1676. On March 9, 1656 he married Margaretha Dicke, and they farmed at Halmenhof. Hermann appeared as a court witness many times between 1661 and 1672. Margaretha died at Halmenhof three days after her husband.

Hermann and Margaretha had two sons: Johannes Henrik Ohrendorf (1661), and Christian Ohrendorf (1672). The descendants of the older son form the Orendorff family of Hopedale. Their first immigrant came over in 1741. The descendants of the younger son led to Daniel Orendorf, the Amish Mennonite immigrant of 1826.

The Hopedale Branch
(Reformed, Moravian)

The older son of Hermann and Margaretha was Johannes Henrik Ohrendorf. He was born at Halmenhof April 2, 1661, and baptized at Freudenberg 13 days later.

On Feb. 12, 1685 at Freudenberg Johannes Henrik married Agnes Gieseler. They later lived at Eichen (6 miles northeast of Freudenberg). There Agnes captured attention.

On Aug. 2, 1698 Rorich Waschenbach of Eichen complained to the local authorities that Agnes and his wife Maria were fighting. The struggle had ended up with his wife in a fish pond. Both were restricted to their own homes for a few days. Agnes had to be warned not to continue her feud. Their children would later marry.

Johannes Henrik Ohrendorf died at Eichen, and was buried at Freudenberg Jan. 2, 1708.

Their son Christian Ohrendorf was born at Eichen Aug. 15, 1693, and baptized at Freudenberg Aug. 20 (his uncle Christian born in 1672 was godfather).

On Jan. 29, 1714 at Freudenberg he married Agnes Waschenbach. She was born Oct. 19, 1697, and died circa 1751, a daughter of Rorich Waschenbach and Maria. They farmed at Kieselberg (a nearby hamlet that no longer exists).

Christian and Agnes, their son Johann Christian, daughter Louisa, and son-in-law Philip Musse sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the St. Mark, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 26, 1741.241 According to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, "Approximately seventy percent of German-speaking immigrants to Great Britain's American colonies came to Pennsylvania... Between 1727 and 1775, more than 70,000 arrived... The Commonwealth required an Oath of Allegiance to be administered to the non-British immigrants beginning in 1727. The Oaths of Fidelity and Abjuration were begun in 1729; the first specifically required the oath-taker to disavow any ties to other monarchs and embrace the British ruler; and the second to abjure, or renounce, any previous connection to the Pope...The Governor and the council required all foreign males age sixteen and over to take an oath of allegiance to the King of Great Britain, a requirement that remained in force until the end of the colonial period in 1776." The two lists describe 'Christian Orrentorff' or 'Christian Ohrndorf,' and his son as 'Johann Ohrendorf.' 'Philip Mees' [Musse] is also found.

240 The Protestant Reformed Church was introduced into German territory by Elector Frederick III. It spread outward from his capital, Heidelberg in the Pfalz. The elector sponsored the creation of a catechism that was published as a book. In 1566 he was called before the Diet of Germany at Augsburg to defend it. His personal presentation May 14, 1566 was accepted. In Germany today the Protestant Reformed Church [Ger. Evangelische Reformierte Kirche] is a combination of the beliefs and practices of this older church with Lutheran beliefs and practices.

241 The 1741 immigrant Christian Ohrndorf also had a third cousin who came to Pennsylvania 12 years later. Like Christian, Philip Heinrich Ohrndorf was a great-great-grandson of Henne zu Orndorf. He was baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Burbach (7 miles southeast of Siegen) Dec. 6, 1716, and married Anna Elizabeth Wuhl at Burbach Feb. 12, 1743. They sailed from Rotterdam on the Edinburgh with four children, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 2, 1753. He appears on the passenger list as Philip Heinrich Arndorff. Philip Heinrich died at Vincent, Chester County, Pennsylvania May 31, 1777. Their descendants make up an 'Orndorf' branch.
Circa 1746 they settled on Tulpehocken Creek in the Lebanon Valley of Lancaster County. There Agnes died. In 1749 widower Christian was living at Fredericksburg, Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County in the Swatara valley (between the Second and Blue Mountains). He is found on the Heidelberg tax list in 1753. There he joined a Moravian congregation. Their records called him Christian, and showed that he was from 'Kiselberg in Freudenberg.' His son-in-law Philip Musse is also found in their records. Christian remarried to Elizabeth Von Müller/Miller from the Moravian congregation.

The 1753 Assessment List of Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County shows Christian Orendorf as a taxable person. He was naturalized in 1758.

Christian died at Fredericksburg April 16, 1772, and may have been buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Bethel Township.

Johann Christian Orndorff/Christian Orendorff was born near Freudenberg Nov. 15, 1726. On April 2, 1749 in Lancaster County he married Elizabeth Ann Hoffman. She was born in 1732.

In America he was known simply as Christian Orendorff. A National Register of Historic Places nomination form describes, "Orndorff's Mill or Mumma's Mill...at Mount Pleasant located just north of Maryland Route 34 west of the Antietam Creek between Sharpsburg and Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland...a two-story three-bay log dwelling set on very low stone foundations...Accounts of the Orndorff family indicate that Christian Orndorff established a mill on the Antietam [Creek] shortly after he purchased 503 acres from James Smith for 654 pounds on Nov. 17, 1762...The Mount Pleasant property is also important for its association with significant military events in United States history. Several members of the Orndorff family were officers of the Maryland Militia. According to family history, the Orndorff house, during the Revolution, was the scene of many military and policymaking conferences hosted by Christian Orndorff, member of the Maryland Committee of Safety. General Horatio Gates is said to have been one of many military officers who stayed in the Orndorff home."

Other accounts say Johann Christian purchased 292 acres on the Antietam Creek and 11 acres on the Potomac River at Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland Dec. 9, 1762, and moved his family there.

On July 18, 1776 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Maryland Militia. Records describe him as a lieutenant in the 'Maryland Flying Camp' in 1776. The entire grouping was led by Brigadier General Rezin Beall; 'Christian Orendorf' is found in First Battalion under Colonel Charles G. Griffith.

He was captured circa November of 1776; we know this because he had been a prisoner for two-and-one-half years in May of 1779.

Brigadier General Rezin Beall (1723-1809) was elected captain of the First Independent Maryland Company by the Convention of Maryland Jan. 2, 1776. As a captain, he was struck in the shoulder by a rifle shot and in the hip by a cannon shot during an engagement at St. George's Island July 16, 1776. He was then elected brigadier general of the 'Flying Camp' of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, and served with them until Dec. 1, 1776. He only participated in two battles in this time frame. The Battle of Long Island Aug. 26, 1776 was a disaster for the Continental Army, but in the end, General Washington managed to evacuate everyone without a single loss.

Thus the most likely event for the capture of Johann Christian was the Battle of Fort Washington Nov. 16, 1776. Fort Washington was at the northern end of Manhattan Island. It was across the Hudson River from Fort Lee, New Jersey, named for General Charles Lee before he fell into disfavor.

This was a decisive British victory. After 59 troops were killed, another 2,837 from the garrison of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York were confined by the British.

The King of England did not recognize captured American patriots as prisoners of war. Many officers were held on old hulks in Wallabout Bay in the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn (now the location of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Williamsburg Bridge). Prisoners who could write were encouraged to correspond with their old officers or families, to request money for food and clothing. Nevertheless between 10,000 and 11,500 died of neglect.

A record survives of Johann Christian's correspondence with General Horatio Gates regarding a planned exchange of prisoners. Despite the Long Island address, he may have been in Wallabout Bay. A portion of the Battle of Long Island was fought in that vicinity, and Wallabout Bay was downriver from Fort Washington.

Christian Orendorff to Gates

Long Island, May 20, 1779

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242 This location has caused some confusion for descendants. Fredericksburg is above the town of Lebanon, and just below Swatara State Park. It is now in Lebanon County, but at the time he lived there it was in Lancaster County. Lebanon County was not established until 1813.

243 Fort Washington was at the northern end of Manhattan Island. It was across the Hudson River from Fort Lee, New Jersey, named for General Charles Lee before he fell into disfavor.
Sir:

From my former acquaintance with your excellency, I am induced to request your interest in my behalf, as it is believed a partial exchange is about to take place. My confinement here for upwards of two years and half, out of the line of serving myself or country, tenders time disagreeable. As it is natural for every officer to feel for another in a state of captivity, can I convince you to exert yourself on my behalf, which will be gratefully remembered. By your excellency, most obliged, Lieut. Christian Orndorff, 6th Maryland Regiment

His name appears as 'Christian Orendorff' on a list of prisoners exchanged Oct. 25, 1780. Of the 2,837 prisoners taken from Fort Washington, only 800 survived.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois,Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois erroneously embellished, "...Christian served in the Revolution, was taken prisoner, and while a captive fell in love with the daughter of an English officer, who he afterward married."

In Records of the Revolutionary War, Johann Christian is again found as 'Christian Orendorff' in retirement:

Hon. Secretary of War
Sir:

Lieutenant Christian Orendorff, of the sixth Maryland regiment, has made application at this office to know whether there is any charge against him on the books of the Treasury. I have examined the records of the Department, and cannot find that any settlement has taken place with him. He alludes to an arrearage of pay and rations due to him while he was a prisoner. If you can point out any particular reference which may be obtained in this office that will show light on the nature of his claim, it shall be attended to. Your obedient servant, Joseph Dawson

A number of family sources call him a major, and say that he returned to active service in the 'Indian wars.'

THE BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBERS

The Battle of Fallen Timbers climaxed the Northwest Indian War. It took place to settle the question of settlement rights in the Northwest Territory. This was bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, on the south by the Ohio River, and in the northeast by the Great Lakes. It effectively ended hostilities for another 16 years.

The federal government felt its citizens had a right to settle in the region because of concessions in the Treaty of Paris. Their nearsightedness denied civil rights to the only population that actually resided there.

In 1792 President George Washington ordered General 'Mad' Anthony Wayne to create a new army, the Legion of the United States, to crush resistance to settlement. In 1794 his force of 4,600 men marched west.

Blue Jacket had chosen the site of present day Maumee, Ohio as his battleground. There a stand of trees had been blown down by a recent storm. He positioned 1,500 of his warriors and a company of Canadian militia in among the timbers, considering this his best chance to offset Wayne's cavalry. (A modern strategist would have suggested that he not mass his warriors at all, and simply wait for winter, when the federal troops would have abandoned their mission for lack of shelter).

On Aug. 20, 1794 Wayne's men charged among the timbers with bayonets. The outnumbered defenders tried to escape, but were easily outflanked in the open by horsemen. Blue Jacket retreated to a fort held by Canadians. But the Canadian commander was unwilling to take on Wayne, and locked him out. Wayne freely burned crops and villages in the area and retreated. The remaining supporters of Blue Jacket dispersed.

Very few men were actually killed in the skirmishing - Blue Jacket may have lost 40, Wayne may have lost 33 - but the point was made. The Treaty of Greenville was signed at Fort Greenville, Ohio Aug. 3, 1795. In exchange for goods valued at $20,000 ($368,000 in modern buying power), the assembled tribal representatives signed away land reaching from Ohio to a site that became Chicago.

Johann Christian Orndorff/Christian Orendorff died at Sharpsburg, Maryland Dec. 10, 1796.244

On April 10, 1810 his heirs sold their farm and the adjoining graveyard where he was buried to Jacob Mumma. His widow Elizabeth Ann died at Hagerstown, Maryland July 19, 1829, and was buried beside him. During the Civil War the area became the site of the Battle of Antietam, and Mumma Graveyard is now incorporated into the Antietam National Battlefield Park.245

244 Some sources have erroneously taken his will, created Dec. 28, 1795, as evidence that he died in that year.
245 The Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, was fought Sept. 17, 1862. It was the culmination of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, the first invasion of the north by General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The twelve hours of fighting by 100,000 troops marked the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. By the end of the day the Army of Northern Virginia had lost over 15,000 dead or wounded, and the Union Army had lost 8,000. The following day Lee retreated back across the Potomac River.
Johann Christian/Christian Orendorff and Mary had a son Christian Orendorff who was also an officer in the Revolutionary War. He was born in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County (in a part that became Lebanon County in 1813), and baptized in the Trinity Tulpehocken Reformed Church at Millardsville Oct. 15, 1752.246 On March 21, 1775 in Washington County he married Mary Thomas. She was born in Frederick County (adjacent to Washington County) in 1754, a daughter of Hans Michael Thomas and Barbara Klotter. On April 1, 1778 'Christian Orendorf' was commissioned as a captain in the First Regiment, Maryland Continental Line, under Colonel Otho H. Williams.

SORTING HISTORY

Historic Shepherdstown published in 1910 stated: "...Capt. Christian Orndorff distinguished himself in the battles of Bennington and Skeenborough. He lived at Sharpsburg, Md., and did not move to the neighborhood of Shepherdstown until after the Revolution. He had a very beautiful daughter whom, it is said, General Horatio Gates wanted to marry. She refused him, and married Jonathan Hagar, who named his town Elizabeth Town in her honor. Afterwards the name was changed to Hagerstown."

Skeenborough is also found as Skeensborough or Skanesborough on the Hudson River (now Whitehall, New York). Before Benedict Arnold's arrest for treason, he was a Continental officer who built boats at Skanesborough for his surprise attack on Fort Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen. The Battle of Valcour Island resulted in the surrender of the fort.

The Battle of Bennington took place at Walloonsac, N.Y., about 10 miles from Bennington, Vermont, Aug. 16, 1777. It pitted militia against a detachment sent out by British General John Burgoyne. Burgoyne's army was reduced by 1,000 troops, a factor in his later loss at Saratoga. This success may have been a factor in Christian's commissioning seven months later.

The "beautiful daughter" Elizabeth was actually a daughter of Johann Christian Orndorff and a sister to Christian Orendorf. Mary Magdelena Orendorff was born at Sharpsburg Oct. 20, 1767, and died June 8, 1845. On Nov. 17, 1783 at what is now Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland the 16-year-old married a much older Jonathan Hager. He was born there Dec. 13, 1755, and died in December 1798, a son of the Hessian couple Jonathan Hager and Anna Elizabeth Kirschner. They are buried in Zion Reformed United Church of Christ Cemetery at Hagerstown, where Mary Magdalena's surname is spelled 'Ohrendorff.'

General Horatio Gates would have been astonished to know that his name would be linked in history with Mary Magdalena. When she was born in 1767, he was a married 39-year-old. Her father did know Gates, and when Gates's first wife died in the summer of 1783, he would have known Mary Magdalena. He would have been 56 years old. Perhaps the association with Gates grew out of humorous observations about the older man she would marry later that year, Jonathan Hager.

An affidavit for the pension application of Thomas Watson Sr., 79, was signed at Chariton County, Missouri Nov. 20, 1833. Though Christian Orendorff is mentioned only once, that portion gives an idea of his later service:

"...Again in the month of January 1778 into the service of the United States in Shepperds Town in Virginia by enlistment in the Continental Army of the United States, I enlisted for the term of five years with eight other persons, the names of some of whom I now recollect, to wit: George Waynes, Philip Sloan, John Houle, John Shepherd & George Wills. I enlisted under Captain Christian Orenduff under the command of the aforesaid William Darke, who had now a commission in the Continental Army of the United States. From Shepperdstown we marched to little York in Pennsylvania, and remained there about three months, and were then ordered to Fort Pitt [now Pittsburgh] where we arrived shortly after, and remained there until my time expired, and was discharged having served five years."

We have revised some of the writing below for the sake of clarity. It is a deposition taken in June 1781, from Letters to the Governor and Council of Maryland, regarding a conspiracy in Washington and Frederick Counties - written from the viewpoint of the recording clerk.

DEPOSITION OF CHRISTIAN ORENDOFF

About a fortnight ago, Henry Newcomer of Washington County came to him [Orendorff] in Shaftsbury [Sharpsburg], and called him out of his Father's House, and asked what he thought of these Times. He answered, "The Times were very bad & precarious."

He [Newcomer] then asked if he thought the King would overcome this Country. He [Orendorff] answered he thought he might. [Newcomer replied] "I'm sure he will overcome the Country, and Orendorff, if you will keep it a secret, I lead you into a Matter of great Importance. [When Orendorff replied that he would keep it in confidence] he said, "We

246 This church is now called the Tulpehocken Trinity Church, United Church of Christ.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois (1894) erroneously stated that he was born Nov. 23, 1752.
have raised a Body of Men for the Service of the King, and we thought proper to make application to you to go to New York for a Fleet." [To pick up arms and powder].

And asked how many Men they had raised, he [Newcomer] said: "Upwards of 6,000." Asked who was the Commanding officer of the Party, [Newcomer] answered "one Fritchy of Fredericktown, a Dutch Man, don't know his Christian Name." [Newcomer] ordered Orndorf to go to his House, and he would shew him the Man. [Orendorff] went to his House and rode with him to Fredericktown, but did not go to Fritchy's House. Newcomer informed him Fritchy would not see him in Town, but would meet him ten Miles from Town.

He [Fritchy] met him, and then took him aside and said he understood Orndorf was let in to a Matter that was carrying on now. Orendorf said to him, "I understood you are the commanding Officer." Fritchy said he was, and told Orendorf the Name of the Man in Virginia from whom he received Instructions to recruit, but [Orendorff] has forgot the name.

Asked why they picked him, [Orendorff] said, because he had been in New York so long they thought he was the fittest Person if he would undertake it--though they were not quite ready for a Thing of that sort. Orndorf desired him to get the Names of all the Officers which he promised to do. Before they parted, Fritchy told him not to disclose what he had communicated. Orndorf replied he would sooner sacrifice his Life than do it.

Orndorf told him to get ready as soon as he could, and let him know it [the list of names], and he said he would & as soon as he was [in possession of the list] Orndorf should be informed of it--and then he said some of his officers were so violent for it that he was afraid it would be made public. Asked who they were, he [Newcomer] said: one Kelly a Lawyer & an Irishman who lives in the mountains about twelve or fourteen miles from Fredericktown. [Orendorff] had no further Conversation with Fritchy.

After Orndorf rode four or five miles along the main Road, Newcomer said, "Orndorf you look so dead I'm afraid you ruin the matter; answered not at all Sir. [Newcomer] says, "Keep it a Secret whatever you do, for we will soon give these Fellows a damn Thrashing. [Newcomer] said as we are not ready, I must send my Boy up to the South Mountain and let them know We are not ready yet. Our Boys are so violent we can hardly keep them in. [Newcomer] said he sent an Express last week to Lancaster to hush them a little while longer.

He slapped Orndorf on the shoulder and said, "I am so glad, as if I had 10,000, [because] we have got you, Orndorf, for they could not get one so proper for the Expedition as you are. [Newcomer] said: "we have consulted one another a great while, and were afraid to mention the Matter on your Father's Account, as we knew him to be a violent Rebel" And then they parted, and Newcomer went towards Hagers Town. Newcomer lives within five or six Miles of Hager's Town.

Two or three Days after Orndorf got Home, Bleacher, one of the Captains, came to him and called him out aside and said: "I understand you are let into a Secret that is going on now." [Orendorff] answered he was, and said, "I suppose you are one of the Officers?" Bleacher said he was. Orndorf asked him what Rank he was. He answered, "A Captain." Orndorf asked how many men he had recruited; he said he had fifty men. Orndorf asked him to let him look at his Warrant. He said he had it not about him, and made it a Rule not to carry it about him. Orndorf asked him to put it in his pocket and bring it to his House and shew it to him. He said he would. And then Orndorf asked him how he managed to make known his Doings to those he wanted to join him. He said he had applied to twenty that had refused him, and asked Orndorf how he thought he must have felt after being refused.

He said to Orndorf, "You are acquainted with our Secrets, and if you expose them you must abide by the Consequences." Orndorf asked him how he thought they would do if he went & brought the Fleet to George Town, for you have no arms. Bleacher said they would mount on Horses and ride down there, and receive their arms, for the Troops in the State could not hinder them. And further said he could take the Magazine in Fredericktown with their Men. And then they parted.

Orndorf was at one Tinkles (who lives nigh to Kelly), who told him Jacob Young was informed of the Matter. [Orendorff] asked, "Why is Jacob Young informed of the Matter?" [Tinkles] said he was. Orndorf said: 'Why Jacob Young will certainly expose the Matter for he is a Magistrate'. He [Tinkles] said he would not.

At about this time Christian's father sent a letter to General Horatio Gates. The illegibility of his handwriting makes it difficult to interprete, but it is clear that he was aware of the conspiracy.

June 17, 1781
Sharpsburgh

Dear General:

General Lee was home last night. He is gone today to Hagers Town. He is strongly suspected by us for his friendships. We have catched six in Sharpsburgh today. [Illegible number] are suspected, which I hope by tomorrow evening to have. You will therefore keep yourself in readiness at a moment's warning, that is, you must be ready. I am much confused and in haste, therefore you will excuse me; and believe me, General, to be your sincere and humble friend.

Christian Orendorff

GENERAL CHARLES LEE

General Charles Lee was a mercenary soldier who came to the Colonies in 1773. He purchased an estate that he renamed Prato Rio in a part of Virginia that is now Leetown, West Virginia (13 miles southwest of Sharpsburg, 9 miles southwest of Shepherdstown).
When the Revolutionary War became imminent, he expected to be nominated as commander-in-chief. George Washington got the position, and Lee became a resentful major general. After losses in the early winter of 1776 (including Fort Washington) he lost faith in Washington and began to obstruct his efforts with delay. About this time one of his personal letters criticizing Washington was opened and read by Washington.

On Dec. 13, 1776, Lee was arrested by British troops in his dressing gown in White's Tavern at Basking Ridge, New Jersey, three miles from his own troops. 80 years later evidence turned up that while under arrest he was collaborating with his British captors. After providing them with a proposed plan of attack, he was returned to service with the Continental Army in a prisoner exchange.

At the Battle of Monmouth Lee declined an order to advance, and instead retreated. His troops ran back into General Washington's troops. Subsequently the two generals exchanged some choice words. Lee was later court-martialed and relieved of command. His appeal to the Continental Congress was turned down, and he began a letter-writing campaign against Washington. He was challenged to several duels by Washington's supporters, and was wounded in one. He was released from duty Jan. 10, 1780, and died at Philadelphia Oct. 2, 1782.

THE TORY CONSPIRATORS

Henry Newcomer came from a German Mennonite family, originally from Eggwil in Canton Bern. He was apparently wealthy, because in 1775 he and a brother had purchased 692 acres in Washington County, Maryland for 5,000 pounds (comparable to $678,000 in modern buying power). As a result of the deposition, he was tried for "enticing and persuading to return to and acknowledge dependence on the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain."

On July 6, 1781 Newcomer was convicted on two counts of treason. He spent two years in the Fredericktown jail. He apparently hid his money or divied it out among relatives; after pleading poverty his 1,000-pound fine was reduced to 75. His prosperity returned soon after his release, and he continued to construct mills and be an influential businessman in the community.

Seven men were sentenced to death. The three that actually had their sentences carried out included Caspar Frichtie. Judge Alexander Contee Harrison pronounced sentence July 25, 1781: "You shall be carried to the goal of Fredericktown, and be hanged therein; you shall be cut down to the earth alive, and your entrails shall be taken out and burnt while you are yet alive, your heads shall be cut off, your body shall be divided into four parts, and your heads and quarters shall be placed where his Excellency the Governor shall appoint."

Communication of news in the colonies was achingly slow, and the Tories engaged in this conspiracy were obviously unaware that the war was going disastrously for their side. Fighting would end with General Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown only four months later, in October 1781.

Christian resigned his commission May 15, 1782. The Revolutionary War technically ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris Sept. 3, 1783. Sometime after the war Christian and Mary farmed at Shepherds Town, a community southwest of Sharpsburg, 4 miles down the Sharpsburg Road. At the time it was in Virginia; it is now Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

In 1805 they resettled at Adairville, Logan County, Kentucky. Christian died at Russellville (the county seat) Sept. 14, 1823; his widow Mary Thomas died there 10 days later on Oct. 4, 1823. They are buried in Hummer Cemetery at Adairville. Christian's original stone says, "To the memory of Christopher Orendorff" with illegible dates. A modern headstone says, "Lt. Christopher Orndorff, a descendant of Christian Ohrendorf of Pennsylvania and Germany, and of Major Christian Orendorf of Maryland, bought land on this site in 1795. In 1805 he brought his family from Maryland, built a home at a nearby spring, and a mill on Red River. Orendorf Mills served Logan County for over one hundred years. He, his wife, and five of eleven children are buried on this site. - J.K. Orndorff, 1990." The other side of this stone says, "Christopher Orndorff, 1752-1923, In God alone do put your trust when you build a mill. - C.O."

Descendants in Logan County spell their surname 'Orndorff.' But four of their children born at Sharpsburg, Maryland came to Tazewell County:

- Aaron Orendorff was born Feb. 6, 1784, and died at what became Hopedale Feb. 18, 1846. On Sept. 2, 1813 at Adairville, Kentucky he married Martha McDowell. She was born at Cowpens, North Carolina Jan. 29, 1790, and died at Adair, Kentucky June 27, 1849. They are buried in Orendorff Cemetery at Hopedale.

- Absolom Orendorf was born Jan. 13, 1786, and died unmarried at what became Hopedale April 15, 1838. His headstone in Orendorf Cemetery at Hopedale reads, "Mr. Orndorff selected the site for this cemetery soon after coming to this country in 1827, and was afterwards the first person buried here. He gave as his reason for choosing this spot was that it was the highest point near the timber in this vicinity and a large and tall oak tree standing here at that time was a conspicuous landmark that could be seen for miles from any direction on the surrounding prairie."

- Esau Orendorff was born Jan. 17, 1790, and died in Tazewell County May 8, 1877. On May 18, 1815 in Logan County, Kentucky he married Mary 'Polly' Milliken. She was born in Guilford County, N.C. June 29, 1796, and died in Tazewell County Feb. 4, 1872.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Enoch Thomas Orendorff was born Nov. 29, 1799. On Dec. 6, 1827 in Tazewell County he married Rosanna Orendorff. She was born at Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1806, a daughter of Christopher Orendorff and Elizabeth Phillips. Enoch T. Orendorff is found on the 1830 census of Mackinaw, and Enoch J. Orendorf is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County. They appear on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Enoch T. Orendorff, 51, Pennsylvania; Romania, 42, South Carolina; Quintius, 21, Illinois; Charles, 17, Illinois; John, 15, Illinois; and Eliza, 12, Illinois. Enoch is last found in Tazewell County on the 1855 state census of Illinois, and may have died before 1860.

Aaron Orendorff was a civil engineer. He and his brother Enoch Orendorff came to Tazewell County to scout land in the fall of 1826. They returned to Kentucky, but Aaron came back to Illinois with his family in 1827. Aaron/Aron Orendorff is listed in the database "Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales." We found 39 purchases beginning on Oct. 27, 1829. He eventually owned 6,000 acres. He built the first brick house in Tazewell County, and was later acknowledged as the first settler of what later became Hopedale. His son Thomas Hogg Orendorff performed the plat survey that determined the boundaries of Hopedale in 1852, and served terms as supervisor (mayor) in 1855 and 1863.

Enoch, Absolom, and Esau Orendorf also settled in Tazewell County. Enoch is found with 14 land purchases under his name beginning Oct. 27, 1829. On May 18, 1835 Absolom purchased 40 acres. We found 11 purchases under Esau's name beginning Oct. 18, 1833. All of these purchases were public land selling for $1.25 per acre.

The Spring Bay Branch
(Reformed, Amish Mennonite, and Mennonite)

Christian Ohrendorf was the younger son of Hermann 'Mannus' Ohrndorf and Margaretha Dicke. He was born at the hamlet Helmenhof Dec. 4, 1672, and baptized at Freudenberg Aug. 20, 1672. He farmed in the vicinity of Siegen, a town 18 miles northwest of the university town of Giessen, Hesse. In 1731 Hermann 'Mannus' Bender leased the Homrighausen estate near Berleburg (now Bad Berleburg, 30 miles northeast of Siegen) with his wife Barbara Oswald Güngerich. After a number of disputes with underlings of Count Casimir of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg in 1737, Bender secretly departed from the estate with all his family members, servants, and possessions (see Hermann Guth's "Amish Mennonites in Germany" for more on the dispute). The two sons of Christian Ohrendorf took up the lease on the Homrighausen estate:

1. Johannes Ohrendorf. By 1749 he was a co-leaseholder of the Casimirthal estate at Wittgenstein (18 miles northeast of Siegen) with 'Mennes' Bender (thought to have been the son of Hermann 'Mannus' Bender) and Conrad Kniep.
2. Johann Heinrich Ohrendorf was born between 1693 and 1702. Just as Christian's older brother Johann Heinrich named a son after him, he named this son after Johann Heinrich.

Johann Heinrich Ohrendorf was born between 1693 and 1702. After his shared lease on the Homrighausen estate expired, he went to live on the Lohe estate at Ferndorf (9 miles north of Siegen) with a daughter Maria Barbara and her husband Michael Jutzi. He was there in 1749. Maria Barbara Ohrendorf was born at Freudenberg (12 miles northwest of Siegen) Sept. 30, 1723, and died in the hamlet of Sensenstein (near Escherode east of Kassel, Hesse, it no longer exists) Dec. 13, 1798. Her husband Michael Jutzi was born circa 1722, and died at Giflitz (adjacent to Edertal, then in the Principality of Waldeck) Dec. 11, 1772. Their descendants are tracked in Neil Ann Stuckey Levine's "Transplanted German Farmer," a narrative translation of the diaries of Butler County, Ohio settler Christian Iutzi. Michael and Maria Barbara were the progenitors of Jutzis/Iutzis who came to Butler County.

We suspect an unidentified forefather here - a brother to Maria Barbara who would have been the father of Johannes Ohrendorf. Johannes married Anna Risser/Reisser and held a lease on the Merzhausen estate at Rosenthal, Hesse (33 miles north of the university town of Giessen).

Children of Johannes Ohrendorf and Anna Risser/Reisser include:

1. Christian Ohrendorf was born at Rosenthal, Hesse April 15, 1793, and died in Garrett County, Maryland in 1858. Circa 1834 he married Barbara Schwartzzentuber, who brought a son Benjamin to the marriage. She was born in

247 These four brothers also had a cousin who arrived in Central Illinois as early as 1817 - Christopher Orendorff married to Elizabeth Phillips. When he died Dec. 18, 1829, his will was the first to be probated in Tazewell County (in a part that is now McLean County). Although he was known as Christopher, his will was signed 'Christian Orendorff.' Though he lived in Tazewell County, in a part that became Logan County, he is beyond our scope.
Waldeck (likely at Früenhagen) Aug. 31, 1803 (their headstone says 1804), and died in Garrett County in 1876, a daughter of Peter Schwartzentruber and Wilhelmina Oesch. 248 A family document states that, "Christian Orendorf, son of the Mennonite John Orendorf and his wife Anna, maiden name Reifer, was born April 15, 1793, in Merzhausen in the electorate of Hesse; and on the 12th of April, 1839, from the bailiwick of Frankenburg, in Hesse, received a pass to Bremen." 249 A quarterly abstract of passengers who arrived at Baltimore July-September 1839 lists an extended party that includes German farmer Christian Ohrendorf, 42; Barbara Schwartzentruber, 35; Benjamin, 13; Christian, 4; Jacob, 40; German farmer Christian Schwartzentrub [Barbara's older brother], 36; Barbara [Bender], 36; Helena, 5; Jacob, 5; Catherina Fulrner, 25; Anna Schonbeck, 8, and Barbara Schantz, 25. In America they first settled at Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. In 1847 they resettled near Grantsville, Allegany County, Maryland (now in Garrett County). 250 The 1850 census of Allegany County, Maryland shows German laborer Christian Orendorf, 55, Germany; Lana, 45, Germany; Benedict, 21, Germany; Christian, 14, Germany; Lana, 10, Germany; Eli, 8, Pennsylvania; and Joel, 3, Maryland; they are found on the same census page as minister Joel Beachy (1818-1894), who became the elder there; Elias Ohrendorf married his daughter Lydia Beachy. 251 In May of 1855 Christian and Barbara purchased 25 acres near the Forks in Allegany County. They are buried in Orendorf Cemetery at Bittinger, Garrett County.

2. Jakob/Jacob Ohrendorf was born circa 1799. We could not follow him after his arrival in America.

3. Daniel Ohrendorf was born on Grübenbach farm at Burg-Gemünden, Hesse-Darmstadt in 1803.

Daniel Ohrendorf on Grübenbach farm at Burg-Gemünden in 1803. Burg-Gemünden is in the valley of the Ohm River, 20 miles northeast of the university town of Giessen. In 1803 it was part of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt. According to Hermann Guth, another tenant on Grübenbach farm was Peter Güngerich/Jüngerich; a Bender family lived on Hof Sorge at Burg-Gemünden at the same time. 252 "Daniel Orndorff, 23" appears in a National Archives Abstract of passengers who sailed from Rotterdam on the Brig William, arriving at Baltimore March 12, 1826. 253 From Baltimore Daniel may have made his way to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. There he would have met ministers who made arrangements for him to continue on to Wilmot, Ontario. Its unique appeal to Amish Mennonite immigrants was its affordability. It was possible to claim a lot with no money out of pocket. He is found on the 1830 surveyor's plat map of Wilmot as the claimant on Lot 11 on the north side of Erb's Road.

248 Some sources say she died Dec. 15, 1864. However, this is was the date of death of her sister-in-law Barbara Bender Schwartzentruber, her immigration companion, who became a resident of Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

249 The information came from an appendix in the church book of Rosenthal.

250 Garrett County was formed from part of Allegany County in 1872.

251 In June of 1864 Joel Beachy and Moses Yoder of Somerset County made a train tour of the Midwest to scout farmland. They traveled via Chicago to Wisconsin, and then to St. Louis, before resting in Central Illinois on their return trip. They returned to Illinois in September, and Yoder purchased 160 acres at Arthur, on the boundary of Douglas and Moultrie Counties. Beachy purchased 320 acres, though he never resettled there. This was the origin of the present day Amish Mennonite congregation in the area of Arthur.

Letters from the time indicate that the two were searching for land that had a lower acidity level than the soil in Maryland. That soil had to be regularly treated with pulverized limestone and chalk, wood ash, and bone meal. It might take several years to neutralize the topsoil on a newly-cleared area. Population was growing, the price of land was increasing, and the Midwest offered a practical alternative for the resettlement of the next generation.

252 The Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt became the Grand Duchy of Hesse after the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. In 1971 Burg-Gemünden was administratively consolidated with six other villages into the community of Gemünden. The six villages were Ehringhausen, Elpenrod, Hainbach, Nieder-Gemünden, Otterbach, and Rülfenrod. They lay on the rivers Felda and Ohm. In the 18th and early 19th centuries Rülfenrod was the site of a noble property where Amish Mennonite services were held. Gemünden would now be described as a community in the district of Fulda, in the state of Hesse.

253 Other passengers on the same passenger list page include Peter Unzicker and Elizabeth [Elisabeth Schönbeck]; Daniel Brenneman and Maria [Bender] with their eight children (see BRENNEMAN); Christian Schwarzentraub [Schwartzentruber], 20; and John Schonbeck, 28.

An article by David I. Miller in the October 2012 issue of The Historian says that, "Onboard were Peter and Elizabeth [Scheenbeck] Unzicker, Magdalena Schwartzentruber, and three single young men, Daniel Ohrendorf, Christian Schwartzentruber, and John Schenbeck. Of this group, only Daniel and Maria, with their children, settled in the Casselman River area [in Maryland]. Magdalena Schwartzentruber died at sea. John Schoenbeck went to Holmes County, Ohio. The Unzickers, Daniel Ohrendorf, and Christian Schwartzentruber went to Wilmot Township, Ontario."

Peter Unzicker was born on the Windhof estate at Ahauen (28 miles east of Bremen) in 1786, a son of Josef Unzicker and Katharina Güngerich. Christian Schwartzentruber was born Dec. 22, 1805, and died at Petersburg, Ontario Dec. 7, 1874, a son of Johannes Schwartzentruber and Katharina Schlubach. He married Catherine Steinmann and Veronica Erb. John Schönbeck/Schoenbeck was born Oct. 29, 1798, and died in Adams County, Indiana March 24, 1865. He married Katharina Oesch. In 1830 Wilmot plats were held by Daniel Orendorf, Daniel Brenneman, Peter Unzicker, and Michael Schwartzentruber (Christian's uncle); only Schwartzentruber had completed his settlement duties by fully clearing his land and the facing road.
His traveling companions Peter Unzicker and Elisabeth Schönbeck may have accompanied him to Ontario. They appear on censuses of Waterloo Township (adjacent to Wilmot) from 1829 to 1831.

Daniel may have moved south to Butler county, Ohio in 1831-32 with others including Brennemans, Danner/Donners, Farni/Farnys, Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths, Naffzigers, Ropps, and Unzickers. The issues that led these families to leave Wilmot are explained in ROPP.

We could not determine whether Daniel lived in Butler County, or when he may have flat-boat ed down the Ohio River to the Illinois River. It was natural for someone approaching Tazewell County from the river to settle near the shore at Spring Bay on land that later became part of Woodford County. He is thought to have arrived in Illinois in 1842, and is found at Spring Bay in 1844.

Katharina Albrecht was born in Bavaria July 8, 1815, and died at Spring Bay in 1859, a daughter of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel. She had married a Heimer in Germany and had one son. They likely came to Spring Bay in 1837, at the same time the remainder of her family arrived. They had one son together, John born circa 1835. When Heimer died there before 1844, Katharina remarried to Daniel Orendorf.

Their household is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Daniel Orndoff, 49, Germany; Catharine, 40, Germany; Eliza, 6, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Daniel, 1, Illinois; and John Orndoff, 15, Germany (the son of Heimer).

The 1860 census of Spring Bay was so wildly inaccurate that it may have shown a completely different family: farmer Daniel Orendorf, 50, Bavaria; Barbara, 16, Bavaria; Peter, 14, Bavaria; William, 12, Illinois; Margaret, 10, Illinois; and John, 8, Illinois. This was exceptional, even in a census that was notorious for its purposeful inaccuracies.

Daniel is found on the 1870 census of Morton: Daniel Orendorff, 70, Hesse-Darmstadt; farm laborer Joseph, 18, Illinois; and farm laborer Christian, 13, Illinois. They were living in the household of daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Christian Eigsti.

On July 27, 1872 Daniel died at Morton, where he had been living with his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Christian Eigsti. His headstone in Landes Mennonite Cemetery calls him 'Daniel Orendorf,' the way he was known most of his life, and does not give a date of birth.

WHEN DID HE KNOW?

Daniel's surname was spelled 'Orendorff' on the 1870 census. This was the spelling used by the Hopedale family of early settlers. All of Daniel's children subsequently adopted the spelling as well.

When did Daniel realize that he was related to the Hopedale branch? When he arrived at Baltimore in 1826, did he realize that another branch of his family had arrived at Philadelphia in 1741, and had lived in Maryland since 1762? When he chose to settle at Spring Bay, was he aware that Orendorffs were living 30 miles to the south?

He may have been aware as early as 1858. On July 1, 1858 in Tazewell County Enoch Thomas Orendorf, a son of Esau Orendorff and Mary 'Polly' Milliken, married Helene (also known as Helen C.) Brenneman. She was born at Turtle Creek, Ohio March 21, 1836, and died at Whiting, Iowa Feb. 2, 1915, a daughter of Daniel Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi..

Enoch Thomas was born in Logan County, Kentucky Aug. 19, 1835, and died at Fergus Falls, Minnesota May 4, 1920. He served terms as supervisor (mayor) of Hopedale in 1879, 1882-85, and 1890-92. They are found on the 1860 census of Boynton as Thos. Orendorff, 25, Germany; Helen, 24, Germany; and Isabella, 5 months, Illinois; on the 1880 census of Hopedale; and on the 1900 census of Whiting, Iowa.

Daniel Orendorf of Spring Bay was only third cousin to the groom's grandfather, but any conversation with the Orendorffs of Hopedale would have brought up shared recognition of place names from Germany.

Children of Daniel Orendorf/Orendorf and Katharina Albrecht born at Spring Bay include:

1. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Orendorff was born July 21, 1844, and died of typhoid fever June 26, 1881. On Feb. 5, 1863 at Eureka, Woodford County she married Christian Eigsti.254 He was born at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 15, 1832, and died at Morton March 5, 1903, a son of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho. They are listed on the 1870 census of Morton as 'Christian Eigstein,' a 35-year-old farmer from Bern; Elizabeth, 26, born in Illinois; and four children. Elizabeth's 70-year-old father Daniel Orendorff of Hesse-Darmstadt and two younger brothers were living with them. They are listed on the 1880 census of Morton (at the same address) as 'Christ Eigstin,' 45, and Elizabeth, 36, with seven children. Elizabeth is buried at Landes Mennonite Cemetery, where her stone in the Eigsti grouping says, “Lizzie wife of C. died June 27, 1881 at 36 years, 11 months, nine days.” For a list of their children and details of Christian's other marriages see EIGSTI.

2. Jacob Orendorff was born June 19, 1846 (though the 1900 census erroneously reported July 1847), and died at Chenoa, McLean County Nov. 4, 1925. On March 19, 1872 he married Elizabeth Sommer in McLean County, the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Yates,

254 Woodford County records list them as Christian Eigstin and Elizabeth Orendorff.
McLean County as farmer Jacob Orandoff, 35, born in Illinois to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Bavaria; Catharine [Elizabeth], 33, born in France to French parents; Mary E., 7; Jacob E., 4; and Anna, 2; all children born in Illinois to a father from Illinois and a mother from France; and farm laborer Miky Hassanfratz, 24, France. They appear on the 1900 census of Yates as farmer Jacob Orendorf, 52, born in Illinois in July 1847 to German parents; Eliza B. [Sommer], 52, born in France in December 1847 to French parents; Mary Ella, 25, born in Illinois in May 1875 to parents from Illinois and France; Edward J., 23, born in Illinois in July 1876 to parents from Illinois and France; and Matilda, 20, born in Illinois in November 1879 to parents from Illinois and France. Eliza B. [Sommer] Orendorf is buried in Chenoa Cemetery at Chenoa, McLean County as Eliza B. Orendorf, 1845-1917. Jacob is buried in there as Jacob Orendorf, 1846-1925.

3. Daniel Orendorff was born Nov. 8, 1848, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 14, 1918.

4. Joseph Orendorff was born Bay July 4, 1852, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 25, 1884. On Feb. 28, 1876 in Livingston County he married Barbara Steinman. She was born Sept. 22, 1857, and died at Flanagan March 19, 1937, a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Catherine Birky. For the details of her second and third marriages to Joseph Yoder and Daniel Eigsti and her obituary see STEINMAN. Herald of Truth, August 1884: "On the 25th of June, in Livingston Co., Ill., of consumption, Joseph Orendorff, aged 32 years, less 10 days. Funeral services were held by Christian Schlegel, Joseph Gascho, and John P. Schmidt. Many friends and acquaintances near by and from a distance attended the funeral to follow him to the grave. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church. His seat in the church was seldom vacant so long as he was able to attend the church services." They are buried under a joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

5. Christian Orendorff was born at Spring Bay Oct. 22, 1856, and died at Wayland, Iowa April 30, 1943. On Sept. 19, 1878 at Flanagan he married Magdalena ' Lena' Steinman. She was born at Tremont Feb. 27, 1861, and died at Wayland, Iowa Jan. 29, 1943, a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Catherine Birky. They are found on the 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Christ Orrendorf, 43, born in Illinois in October 1856 to German parents; Lena, 40, born in Illinois in February 1860 to German parents; Liddy, 16, born in Illinois in February 1884 to parents from Illinois; John, 14, born in Illinois in September 1895 to parents from Illinois; and Alice, 4, born in Illinois in July 1895 to parents from Illinois. They lived next door to Joseph Yoder, 77, and Barbara [Barbara Steinman who had been married to Joseph Orendorff], 42; they had one child Joseph Orendorf, 12, and one Ida Yoder, 10. Christian and Magdalena relocated to Jefferson, Iowa in 1902, where they appear on the 1910 census. Gospel Herald, May 1943: "Christian Orendorff, son of Daniel and Catharine (Albright) Orendorff, was born near Spring Bay, Ill., Oct. 22, 1856, and passed away at the home of his son, D.W. Orendorff, Wayland, Ia., April 30, 1943, at the age of 86 y. 6 m. 8 d. He was left motherless at the age of two years, and was taken into the home of an only sister, Mrs. Chris Eigsti. Other members of his family included three brothers - Jacob, Daniel and Joseph - all of whom preceded him in death. He was received into the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth by water baptism, and remained a faithful member until death. He was united in marriage with Lena Steinman, Sept. 19, 1878. They lived on a farm near Flanagan, Ill. Here their family of six children were born; one son Samuel passed away at the age of two years. In the spring of 1902 they moved to a farm near Wayland, Ia., in which community he spend the remainder of his life. His quiet and unassuming disposition won for him many friends. He was always much concerned about the welfare of his wife and children. Together he and his wife shared the joys and sorrows of wedded life more than 64 years. Those left to mourn are his wife, five children [Daniel W., Wayland, Ia.; Amelia, wife of P.H. Conrad, Peoria, Ill.; Lydia K., wife of P.H. Roth, Wayland, Ia.; John R., Spencer, Ia.; Alice M., wife of E.F. Gingerich, Iowa City, Ia.], 18 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and a large number of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Sugar Creek Church, conducted by Bro. Simon Gingerich and assisted by Bro. Willard Leichty. Interment in adjoining cemetery." See STEINMAN for Magdalena's obituary.

Daniel Orendorff was born at Spring Bay Nov. 8, 1848, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 14, 1918.

On Feb. 15, 1872 at Roanoke, Woodford County he married Mary Yordy. She was born at Elm Grove Oct. 19, 1849, and died at Flanagan Feb. 8, 1823, a daughter of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. They are found on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County.

He was ordained as a minister in 1890, and served the Waldo Mennonite Church until his death.

They are shown on the 1800 census of Nebraska Township; then on the 1900 census of Flanagan Village, Nebraska Township, Livingston County as farmer Daniel Orendorff, 51, born in Illinois in November 1848 to German parents; Mary, 50, born in Illinois in October 1849 to German parents; Ada, 10, born in Illinois in 1890 to parents from Illinois; and Katie, 25, born in Illinois in June 1874 to parents from Illinois. They lived next door to Daniel Steinman.

Gospel Herald, January 1918: "Daniel Orendorff was born near Spring Bay, Ill., Nov. 8, 1848; died at his late home near Flanagan, Ill., Jan. 14, 1918, where he resided since 1873; aged 69y. 2m. 6d. He united with the A.M. Church in his youth. He served as Sunday school superintendent for a number of years, and in June, 1890, was ordained to the ministry. He performed his duties faithfully. He was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mary Yordy near Roanoke, Ill., Feb 15, 1872. They lived together happily for nearly 46 years. To this union were
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

born five daughters and two sons. One daughter, two sons and one grandson preceded him to the spirit world. He leaves his faithful companion, four daughters (Lizzie Roeschley, Katie Conrad, Emma Conrad, and Ada), two brothers (Jacob and Christian), 27 grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed by the family, neighbors, and by the whole congregation, where his seat was seldom vacant. He was on time and with a kind word and smile for everyone. Funeral services at the house by A.H. Leaman and at the church by D.W. Slagell, A.H. Leaman, and Geo. Summer. He chose his own funeral text, *II Tim. 4:7,8*. Buried at Waldo Cemetery. Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord, from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.*

An excerpt from the *Flanagan Home Times*: "The following are those from out of town who were at the obsequies: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Orendorff, Mrs. P. H. Conrad, Mrs. Lydia Roth and Mr. Daniel Orendorff, Wayland, Iowa; Mr. Ray Zehr and Misses Olive and Ella Zehr, Manson, Iowa; Mrs. Fannie Yeackley, Milford, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Jake Eigsti, Mr. John Eigsti, Mr. Joe Eigsti, Mrs. Jonas Litwiller, Mr. Alvin Bachman, Morton, Ill.; Mr. Henry V. Albrecht, Mr. Chris Albrecht, Mr. J. J. Albrecht, Mrs. Nafzinger and Miss Hoffart, Tiskilwa, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burcky and Mr. John Schrock, Fisher, Ill.; Miss Anna Yordy, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yordy and Mr. Aaron Yordy, Secor, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Jake Yordy, Eureka, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Yordy, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Yordy, Roanoke, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bachman, Cazenovia, Ill.*

*Gospel Herald*, March 1923: "Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., Oct. 19, 1848; died at her home near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 8, 1923; aged 73 y. 3 m. 20 d. She was united in matrimony with Daniel Orendorff, Feb. 15, 1872. He preceded her to the life beyond, Jan. 14, 1918. To this union were born 7 children, 5 daughters and 2 sons. Two sons and 3 grandchildren preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her loss 4 daughters (Mrs. C. M. Conrad and Mrs. J. D. Conrad of Sterling, Ill.; Mrs. J. D. Roeschley and Miss Ada Orendorff of Flanagan, Ill.), 25 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, and many relatives and friends. Bro. and Sister Orendorff moved to their late home in 1872, at which place they resided until the Lord was pleased to call them to their long home. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until death. Sister Orendorff was a kind and loving wife, mother, and neighbor and was loved and respected by all who knew her. Short services were held at the home Feb. 11, by Bro. D. W. Slagel (*Text, Psa. 16*), and at the church by Bros. J. D. Hartzler and Samuel Gerber. *Texts, I Cor. 15:35-38; Phil 1:21*. Interment in the Waldo cemetery."
Male descendants of Anabaptist Schlegels are haplogroup R-M269, subgroup U152. See HELVETII in the Appendix for background on this genetic identification.

A Schlegel is a blacksmith. The surname Schlegel originates from several locations in Switzerland, notably Riggisberg, Guggisberg, and Grindelwald. 255

Some older sources link this family to the baptism entry of Christen Schlegel created in Sankt Petrus Kirche [Saint Peter's Church] at Thierachern, Canton Bern Nov. 10, 1667. His parents were Christen Schlegel and Maria Stoller. In the 17th century this parish (which included Uetendorf) was home to Nafzigers, Joders, and Eichers. Niglaus 'Nigi' Schlegel may have been born at Bretten April 2, 1750. We could not identify the original source of this widely-copied place and date, or identify his parents with certainty. 256 The village of Bretten is located in Dannemarie parish of the eastern Sundgau Region, at the southern end of Upper Alsace bordering Switzerland.

He signed his name 'Niglaus' (pronounced Niklows), but 'Nicolas' describes him on French documents. Among friends he would have been known as 'Nigi' (pronounced Nikky). The German and English form 'Nicholas' only appears in this family after descendants migrated from Europe to North America.

In the area of Nigi's birth, Anabaptist meetings were led by Niglaus Engel of Montreux [Ger. Münsterol, about seven miles south of Bretten] and Michel Müller of Chavannatte (about 10 miles south). 257

Gratz: "Meetings of the Anabaptists of this region were first held in the Montreux community as far as is known...About 1750 the Montreux church divided into two groups because of the great distance that many had to travel to go to meetings. The northern region formed what was known as the La Maie church [Ger. Lamaenergemeinde], named after the main farm where they met near Belfort, and the other called the Florimont church, or in German Blumbergerwald. 258 Meetings of the latter group were most frequently held at the farms of Chalembert [in the commune of Grandvillars] and Beuchat in the commune of Boron, some four kilometers away from the Normanvillars settlement."

255 The surname Schlegel is generally associated with the village of Guggisberg. Rüschegg-Graben was once part of Guggisberg. We could not determine whether or not Winterkraut was part of Guggisberg or its parish as well, but it is usually associated with nearby Schwarzenburg.

The surname Schlegel appears once in the early Ropp generations. Christian/Chrétien Ropp was likely a great-grand-uncle to Andreas Ropp. He married Anna/Anne Schlegel (found as 'Schlaigle'). See ROPP.

Grindelwald is also a Heimat for the surname Schlegel. It is located about 11 miles southeast of Lake Thun, and 3,390 feet above sea level, at the foot of the Eiger in the Alps. Gratz associates it with the families Aeschlimann, Gfeller, Osch, Rubi, Schlunegger, Stoller [later Stoll], and Wyss. We found a number of Schlegel immigrants to North America from Grindelwald in the 1700s.

We found only one mention of an Anabaptist Schlegel in Canton Bern. Paul Hostettler's About the Anabaptists in the Land of Schwarzenburg 1580-1750 was published in 1996. It contains a list of residents at Winterkraut, Canton Bern in 1715. They include Lisbeth Schlegel, the widow of Anabaptist minister Peter Hostettler. Winterkraut is a hamlet just above Rüschegg-Graben, and west of Riggisberg in the parish of Mühltheumern.

256 One source says his parents were Jean Schlegel and Marguerite Grandidier, who were married at Porcelette (now in the department of Moselle) May 10, 1740. However, their son Nicolas Schlegel died at Porcelette April 8, 1809. Another source says his parents were Christen Schlegel and Lisbeth Hochburger. This sounds like a garbled description of his wife's parents.

257 Montreux is now Montreux-Château [castle], Montreux-Vieux [old], and Montreux-Neuve [young]. We found one mention of 'Glaus Engel' specifically from 'Montreux aux Gouttes' – from the drop, cliff, or waterfall at Montreux. The Cassini map shows 'La Grand Goutte' just south of Montreux-Château.

258 The notion that the meetings on Chalembert and Beuchat farms formed a 'Florimont Church' is misleading. The Amish Mennonite families Kauffman and Luginbühl did live in Florimont, and did travel to these meetings to keep their ties intact. However, most of the Anabaptist families at Florimont were from the Reist (Mennonite) faction. These included the Amstutz, Büsiger/Basinger, Hilti, Steiner, and Thüler families.
On May 24, 1768 Nigi Schlegel married Madeleine Ummel on Chalembert farm. The bride and groom were both 18 years of age. Her birthday had taken place only four days earlier. Madeleine was born at Reppe on May 20, 1750. Her 1827 death entry named her parents as the deceased Christ Hummel [Ummel] and Elisabeth Hoescheleikler [Hochstetter/Hostetler].

Before the French Revolution of 1789, foreign nationals or stateless persons could not purchase French land. A family had to prove two previous generations on French soil to begin the naturalization process. Anabaptists generally felt that this was unnecessary and undesirable, because citizenship came with a greater obligation for military service. They leased properties, often for many decades. Nigi and Madeleine may have had numerous addresses over the years. However, their activities seem to have revolved around Chalembert farm, where Madeleine had relatives.

Grandvillars is 10 miles south of Reppe. Both communities are in the Territoire de Belfort (this translates to 'district of Belfort'), though Reppe is on the departmental border with Upper Alsace. The Territoire de Belfort centers on the fortified town of Belfort at the Belfort Gap. The gap is a passage between the French Vosges Mountains on the north and the Swiss Jura Mountains on the south. The Territoire de Belfort became a possession of France under the Treaty of Westphalia that ended the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). It is now the smallest département in France, located in the Franche-Comté Region, with the town of Belfort as its capital.

A 1779 census of Grandvillars shows 559 residents, including 22 Anabaptists from five families living on Chalembert farm. By 1804 there were 40 Anabaptists there. Families included Ernst, Joder, Klopfenstein, Luginbühl, Schad, Stucki, and Wyse/Weiss.

Some time in the 1780s the tolerant congregations east of Belfort fell into disagreement with their parent congregation at Montbéliard. This has been seen as a natural rivalry between two families from the same Bernese village – the Richen and Klopfenstein families of Frutigen. Montbéliard elder and prosperous farmer Hans Richen (1730-1798) had been ordained as a minister in 1760. He may have felt that his authority was being challenged by prosperous farmer Peter Klopfenstein (1733-1801), who was ordained as a minister at Montbéliard in 1777.

Johannes/Hans Nafziger of Essingen, Germany was the leading minister of his day. He visited many of the European congregations, traveling as far as Holland to advise on doctrine and participate in the ordination of new ministers and deacons. In 1787 or 1788 he wrote a letter to his friend Christian Schowalter of Earl, Pennsylvania describing recent events: "...In southern Alsace they have had great unrest for years; the ministers of Montbéliard and Belfort have come into great disunity with each other, so much so that they called for help, and when we had made several trips to them and could not bring them to peace, we also came into disunity with them because both parties had a following, so much so that for a while we feared a division. The congregations in the Basel district and in Welzelsneuberg [Neuchâtel] also got involved in it. Finally the ministers from Markirch interceded and sought to settle the matter but with distress of mind and much deliberation." He later recollected, "...I went often to southern Alsace to Hans Rychen [Montbéliard] and Peter Klopfenstein [Territoire de Belfort] because of their disunity, yet we hope for improvement."

An entry in the congregational record of Montbéliard created Jan. 6, 1788 mentions events "in der Blumbärger Gemeinde." Montbéliard minister Hans Richen had baptized three persons at the Stauffer residence on Chalembert farm. An additional note on the visit says that "Nicolas Schlegel a été réadmis par Hans Roth" – Nigi Schlegel was readmitted by Montbéliard minister Hans Roth. Apparently Nigi had been placed under the ban, then retracted or corrected his transgression to the satisfaction of the ministers.

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259 Some confusion has been caused by a typed transcript of Montbéliard records that mistakenly says Niklaus married Madeleine Kennel rather than Madeleine Ummel (FHL microfilm 1809847). This was a misreading of very difficult handwriting.

260 Reppe was a village of less than 400 people in 1800. Reppe was also known by the German name 'Riesbach,' or its variant 'Riespach'; this made it easy to confuse with the Alsatian village Riesbach (about 20 miles southeast of Reppe). It is also easily confused with Roppe, a village that is only 3 miles northeast of the town of Belfort.

261 Grandvillars has also been spelled 'Grandvialart' by French speakers, and 'Grandweiler' by German speakers. This has been a point of confusion for family genealogists who could not locate a modern day Grandweiler. They have often settled for 'Belfort,' the district, and further confused that with the town.

In present day a hiker can leave Grandvillars and walk only three miles south across fields to reach the Swiss border.

262 The Rychen/Richen family left Frutigen in 1711. Hans Rychen/Jean Rieche was born on Des Gouttes farm at Exincourt May 30, 1730, and died at Villars-sous-Écot, Montbéliard Feb. 20, 1798, a son of Daniel Rychen and Anneli Roth. On Oct. 28, 1760 he married Barbara Kauffman. Hans was ordained as a minister in 1760 and became elder in 1765. He traveled to the Netherlands to settle congregational disputes in 1766; an uncle and cousins who were church leaders there. He represented the Montbéliard congregation at the assemblies of ministers at Essingen May 1, 1759 (with Hans Roth) and Nov. 2, 1779 (alone). Peter Klopfenstein and Michel Müller represented the Münsterol/Blumbergerwald congregation at both assemblies.
The next note in the register may pertain to Nigi’s transgression. As it appears in Pierre Widmer’s typewritten transcript: “So hat man such den Beschluss mit samt Dienner und der versammelten Bruderschaft gemacht von wägen denen Bartschärer, wann sie das nit wollen untersägen lassen und der Bart lassen wachsen wie uns Gott erschaffen hat nach seinem äbenbilt so sollen sie mit dem Bann gestaft würdten als ungehorsame wider steinige münschten nach lust Gottes Wortd unde seiner heiligen Ordnung ohme alsächten der Persohn ich Hans Richen bezügen.” “Thus, the decision has been made with the agreement of the servants/servers [the ministers] and the assembled brotherhood [congregation] concerning those who cut their beards, because they [the congregation] want to forbid this and let their beards grow the way God created us, after His image. They [those who trim their beards] should be punished with the ban as disobedient or obstinate persons according to the word of God and his holy order, regardless of the person involved. I, Hans Richen, witness in agreement.”

Three political changes between 1789 and 1792 meant that Anabaptists in the Territoire de Belfort would not avoid the effects of the Napoleonic wars:

► Montbéliard was taken from Württemberg and absorbed into France. General uncertainty over this event led 36 families to leave Montbéliard and the Territoire de Belfort and migrate to what is now Poland. Those that remained petitioned the new government over the issue of military training. They obtained a temporary exemption from service in the French National Guard that was superceded in 1798 by the Jourdan Law. This law mandated universal conscription but conceded that Anabaptists could serve in noncombatant roles.

► The Territoire de Belfort became part of Upper Alsace [Fr. Haut Rhin]. It would remain in Upper Alsace until the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), when the older portion of the department was annexed by Germany.

► A third change took away a place of political refuge. In 1792 the Prince-Bishopric of Basel became part of the Republic of France as Département Mont Terrible. An Anabaptist petition requesting exemption from military training was denied there.

After Napoleon became emperor in 1804, he reformed the tax system. The welfare of the average farmer gradually improved. But the Schlegel family may not have shared in this relative prosperity.

Nigi and Madeleine had 10 children between 1769 and 1792. Their son Joseph was born in 1782. A civil judgment at Belfort Nov. 22, 1805 cited Joseph for being a ‘conscrit réfractaire’ – a military conscript who refused to perform service. He was in violation of the Jourdan Law of 1798, which made every single and childless male on French property between the ages 20-25 liable for military service. The 2,000-10,000 franc cost of a substitute was out of reach for anyone but the upper classes.

Joseph was subject to arrest. His name and those of his parents, ‘Nicolas Schlegel et Magdaleine Homel,’ were placed on a public list with draft evaders and deserters. It was posted in the communities of the Territoire de Belfort throughout the war years.263

A typical annual income for a servant, laborer, or farmer was 1,000 francs. A conscrit réfractaire and his parents were obligated to share a fine of up to 1,500 francs. Administrators also punished relatives of insurgents and deserters with the garnisaire system. The relatives became responsible for the expenses of one soldier. In some cases on the frontiers they were required to actually billet a soldier in their home.

We do not know how the situation was ultimately resolved. Joseph may have served a term of imprisonment before his death at Reppe in 1829. Nigi did not survive a siege of the fortress of Belfort in 1814. The hardship and ill feelings from these events may explain the dispersal of the next generation into neighboring areas and abroad.

Most of the communities already mentioned were to the east or southeast of the town and fortress of Belfort. The fortress was built to protect the main road leading west. Thus the Schlegels’ living places were in the path of armies allied against France as they approached it.

THE FIRST SIEGE OF BELFORT, 1813-14

On Dec. 23, 1813, an infantry column, 600 cavalrymen, and 16 cannon from the 1st Bavarian Division reached Belfort. The fortress protected the only road that was passable for heavy supply wagons and artillery caissons.

The following morning the commandant of the fortress was offered surrender terms. He declined. The French not only held back the initial attack, but sent out sorties to harass small detachments that had bypassed them.

A prolonged artillery bombardment took place on the night of Dec. 29. However, on the following day an allied commander heard rumors that the French were about to receive relief troops. A number of Bavarian troops were diverted

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263 A copy of the list was found by Philippe Tovena of Belfort in Dossier 2 R 39 at the departmental archives of the Territoire de Belfort. He was also kind enough to direct us to information on the French system of military conscription.
to patrol lines of approach. As weeks went by, Bavarian soldiers outside the gate gave way to Austrian soldiers, and they gave way to Russian soldiers and snow.

The French defense tied up Allied resources until an armistice finally came March 24. The French commandant refused to open the gates until the last Russian soldier had withdrawn. Finally, on April 12, he yielded to the requests of hungry troops and villagers and re-opened the city.

We do not know if the family was permitted to take refuge in the fortress, and suffered from the intermittent bombardments, or if they remained outside and died from typhus, starvation, or harassment. Typhus was carried by the flea and lice-infested uniforms of troops. Farmers who chose to flee south into the Jura Mountains abandoned their property to hungry looters, both friend and foe. The contents of root cellars were confiscated in mid-winter.

Some sources say that Nigi Schlegel died March 14, 1814, age 63. At the time the area was occupied by Russian troops attempting to storm the fortress. Records of the Montbéliard congregation signed by minister Hans Lugbüll [Luginbühl] say that 'Nigi Slngnl' was buried in the Burgerwald forest at Montbéliard March 23, 1814.264 The armistice came the following day.

THE SECOND SIEGE OF BELFORT, 1815

In the 1790s Claude Jacques Lecourbe led a French division in the occupation of the Swiss cantons. He attained the rank of general, but in 1805 he resigned his commission over a political argument.

When Napoleon abdicated, the restored royal family rewarded Lecourbe by making him a count and restoring his commission.

Napoleon returned from exile on Elba March 15, 1815. Surprisingly, General Lecourbe offered his services and took command of the Army of the Jura. Perhaps he knew he was approaching the end of his life.

Lecourbe took a different view of the fortress at Belfort than his predecessors. They had simply withdrawn to the fortress and returned artillery fire. Instead of waiting for an enemy to set up cannons below the walls of the fortress, Lecourbe prepared for their return by arranging mobile batteries of cannons outside the fortress walls. His placements overlooked approach roads. The idea was to use the walled area as an 'entrenched encampment,' providing support to an outer ring.

On June 18 Napoleon was forced to retreat from the battlefield at Waterloo. About a week later 40,000 Austrian troops arrived in the Territoire de Belfort to press an attack on the fortress.

Lecourbe's 8,000 troops put up a stiff resistance. The allies were naturally reluctant to march down a main road into a funnel of crossfire, and moved forward cautiously.

The effects of occupation were felt by local farm families. On July 1, Austrian soldiers pillaged the area around La Maie farm, burning two homes at Menoncourt, 60 of 64 homes at Phaffans, 94 of 114 homes at Bessoncourt, and 39 of 53 homes at Denney.

On July 8 King Louis XVIII arrived in Paris to usher in the Second Restoration. Napoleon's return has lasted just 111 days. On July 11 Lecourbe and Von Colloredo-Mansfeld agreed to a ceasefire, after 15 days of fighting.

Lecourbe retired from the Army. He remained at Belfort and died only a few months later, on Oct. 22, 1815.

A formal peace came with the second Treaty of Paris Nov. 20, 1815. The French National Guard at Belfort was released to return home in July 1816, and the cavalry dispersed in November 1816.

Widow Madeleine Ummel died at Reppe Feb. 16, 1827. Her civil death entry gave her age as 80, named her deceased husband as 'Nicolas Schegel,' and named her parents as the deceased Christ Ummel and Elisabethe Hoescheleikler. It was witnessed by grandsons Joseph and Jean Wagner.

Children of Niglaus 'Nigi' Schlegel and Madeleine Ummel include:

1. Elisabeth/Lisbeth/Lisi Schlegel was born at Grand Charmont (eight miles west of Grandvillars, above Montbéliard) April 10, 1769, and died in the Territoire de Belfort July 9, 1807. On April 8, 1792 she married Isaac Conrad. He

264 When Anabaptists were expelled from Alsace in 1712, Duke Leopold-Eberhard invited numerous families to settle on his properties near Montbéliard, located 7 miles west of Grandvillars. They joined others who had resettled from the Jura Mountains or the Prince-Bishopric of Basel.

From 1397 to 1796 the city was not French, but was the capital of the gravure of Montbéliard, a political island/enclave possessed by Württemberg. It was once a principality, but passed into the hands of descendants who did not bear that title, becoming a gravure. Amish Mennonites in Montbéliard began to keep a congregational register in 1750. This may have been the first place in Europe where Anabaptists felt safe to keep written records.

Anabaptists were buried in the Burgerwald forest after 1760, in an area that is now the Mont Chevis Cemetery. The Rue du Mont Chevis is on the northwest outskirts of the city.

After 1796 the congregations had the same language disputes as those in America, as the older generations struggled to maintain the German language against the wishes of the younger, more assimilated French-speaking generations.

Montbéliard is now best known as the home of the Peugeot Motor Company.
was born near the town of Belfort circa 1765. Their marriage was entered in records of the Monthéliard congregation April 17, 1792, where he was described as Isaac Kunradt, the son of the deceased Rudy Kunradt. Isaac was accidentally killed when a wall of stacked bricks fell at a brick kiln at Belfort July 29, 1798. The same accident killed his brother-in-law Pierre Schlegel. The death entries gave their residences as the street Faubourg des Barres at Belfort.265

a. Barbe Conrad was born at Belfort circa 1793, and died there Aug. 25, 1804. Her death entry gave her age as ten-and-one-half years, and described her parents as the deceased Isaac Conrad, who in life had been a cultivator at Belfort, and Elisabeth Schlegel, 36, living at Belfort. The death was reported by Elisabeth.

b. Freni/Verene/Véronique Conrad was born at Belfort March 5, 1794. Her birth entry named her parents as Isaac Conrad and 23-year-old 'Lisi Schelagre.' On Nov. 7, 1827 at Walheim, Upper Alsace she married her cousin Michel Schlegel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer and local resident Michel Schlegel, born at Chavannatte March 21, 1796; a son of the deceased Jean Schlegel, who had been a farmer at Jeavnild and died March 12, 1827, and Marie Anne Müller, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Verene Conrad, born at Belfort March 9, 1794, an employee of farmer Jean Joder on Barthly Hütten at Largeitzen (see ROPP for more on this location); and a daughter of deceased farmer Isaac Conrad, who had died at Belfort July 19, 1798, and Elisabeth Schlegel, who had died at Belfort April 7, 1808. The bride was given away by cultivator Joseph Bossart [Boshart] of Luemschwiller, 37, her brother-in-law who was present and consenting. One witness was brother-of-the-groom cultivator Christian Schlegel, 22, a resident of Walheim.

c. Jean Conrad was born at Belfort Jan. 3, 1795. On March 12 or 15, 1821 at Pfastatt (a suburb of Mulhouse) he married Véronique Kauffman. She was born at Ferrette in 1795, a daughter of Nicholas Kauffman and Barbe Kauffman. They lived at Pfastatt.

d. Catherine Conrad was born in the Territoire de Belfort Feb. 2, 1797, and died at Welllesley, Ontario Oct. 3, 1869. On Sept. 6, 1823 at Luemschwiller she married Joseph Boshart. He was born circa 1790, and died at Welllesley Nov. 6, 1866, a son of Jean Boshart and Anne Marie Müller of Wittenheim (above Mulhouse, which is above Altkirch). Witnesses included brother-of-the-groom and farmer Jean Boshard (found as Bosard), 35; and cousin-of-the-bride Jean Schlegel, 50. The groom's older brother was Christian Boshart (1786-1850), who married Catherine Litwiller (daughter of Jacob/Jacques Litwiller and Anne Marie/Anna Maria Maurer) and migrated to Ontario. The two brothers were close friends of the Ropps of Luemschwiller (the uncle, aunt and cousins of Andreas Ropp). Christian Boshart and Catherine Litwiller went to Wilmot, Ontario in 1826, the same year that Andreas Ropp went there. Joseph Boshart and Catherine Conrad departed from Le Havre on the Rhone, arriving at New York Sept. 7, 1840. They appear on the passenger list as Joseph Boshart, 50; Catharina, 45; Pierre, 10; Barbara, 8; Catharina, 6; and Anna, 2. They settled at Welllesley, Ontario.

e. Marie Conrad was born at Belfort Feb. 7, 1799. On the birth entry her parent was described as Elisabeth Schlegue, 30, wife of the deceased Isaac Conrad. Witnesses included Elisabeth's aunt Barbe Schlegue (mistakenly described as Elisabeth Schlegue, 26) and Barbe's husband Christ Wagner (described as Christian Vagler, 36). On June 27, 1822 at Pfastatt Marie married Johannes/Jean Joder. He was born at Steinbach (12 miles northwest of Mulhouse) March 11, 1795; and died at Hartford, Indiana April 28, 1878, a son of Joseph Joder and Marie Stucky. See YODER for background on this couple.

2. Barbe Schlegel was born at Grandvillars Nov. 12, 1773 (also found as Jan. 13, 1772), and died at Reppe Sept. 5, 1845. On April 27, 1792 at Hercicourt (five miles southwest of the town of Belfort) she married Jacob Bocler. The marriage entry described her as a 20-year-old resident of Grandvillars and a daughter of 'Nicolas Schlegel' and 'Madeleine Hummel.' The groom was a resident of Belfort born at Diessbach, Canton Bern Dec. 12, 1749, a son of Jean Boeler and Lacticia Schwertz. The bride and groom were illiterate. Barbe likely remarried to Christ Wagner before 1798, the year their first child was born. Christ was born circa 1762, died at Riespach Upper Alsace Feb. 17, 1827, and was buried at Reppe, a son of Jean Wagner and Elisabeth Murry. Christ died one day after his mother-in-law, Madeleine Ummel. For more on this family including their son immigrant Joseph Wagner see WAGNER.

3. Peter/Pierre Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort circa 1774. He was accidentally killed by falling bricks with his brother-in-law Isaac Conrad at Belfort July 29, 1798. The death entry called him 'Pierre Schlige,' son of 'Nicolas Schlige.'

4. Johannes/Hans/Jean Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort June 8, 1776, and died at Wahlheim March 12, 1827. He married Anne Marie Müller. They resided at Froeningen, Upper Alsace. On Sept. 6, 1823 at Luemschwiller Joseph Boshart married Catherine Conrad, Hans's niece. Hans Schlegel appears on the marriage entry as witness Jean Schlägel, 50. The ceremony was almost certainly attended by the Ropps of Luemschwiller. Unfortunately, it is difficult to discern the later lives of this generation. The father Hans was literate enough to sign his name on many entries – not always the same, and often 'Johannes Schlegue.' His death entry described him as a

265 This was a street on an elevation at the edge of town. It was reconstructed as Les Barres Fort 1865-70.

266 Joseph Boshart's older sister Catherine Boshart had remarried to Christ Joder at Luemschwiller April 19, 1824 (see YODER). Witnesses on that occasion had included Jean Ropp and Joseph Ropp of Luemschwiller, sons of Joseph Ropp and Elisabeth Maurer and cousins to Andreas Ropp.
62-year-old Anabaptist cultivator and farmer of the maison herties; it stated that his widow Anne Müller was a resident of Wahlheim, and was witnessed by his son Chrétien Schlegel, 22.

a. Michel Schlegel was born at Chavannatte, Territoire de Belfort March 21, 1796, and died at Reiningue, Upper Alsace (five miles above Froeningen) June 1, 1860. On Nov. 7, 1827 at Wahlheim, Upper Alsace he married his cousin Freni/Verene/Véronique Conrad. (See her earlier note).

b. Jean Schlegel was born at Vézeloi (seven miles northwest of Grandvillars) Sept. 24, 1798; his civil birth entry calls him 'Jean Schelegue.'

c. Elisabeth Schlegel was born at Vézeloi April 5, 1801 (found as 'Elizabeth Schelegue') and died there Aug. 13, 1801. A death entry created at Belfort described the father as a domestic living at Belfort. It was signed by grandfather 'Niklaus Schlegel,' age 53.

d. Christian Schlegel was born at Belfort Feb. 8, 1805. He was likely the 22-year-old witness at the marriage of his older brother Michel Schlegel and Freni/Verene/Véronique Conrad at Wahlheim in 1827, when he was described on their civil marriage entry as a cultivator and resident of Wahlheim.

e. Maria Schlegel was born at Belfort Oct. 26, 1807.

f. Anne Marie Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort in 1809, and died at Reiningue, Upper Alsace Feb. 11, 1860.

g. Nicolas Schlegel was born at Froeningen, Upper Alsace June 13, 1810, and died there Sept. 13, 1810.

h. Jacques Schlegel was born at Froeningen July 22, 1811.

i. Barbara Schlegel was born at Burg, Canton Aargau May 15, 1814, and died Oct. 9, 1856. On March 16, 1838 at Hirtzbach she married Michel Kaufmann. He was born on Montigo farm at Levoncourt, Upper Alsace Dec. 11, 1811, a son of Michel Kaufmann and Anna Ummel, and resided at Carspach. Their ceremony was witnessed by her brother Chrétien Schlegel, 31.

5. Joseph Schlegel was born on Chalembre farm at Grandvillars circa 1779 (the location and age 50 are indicated on his death entry), and died at Reppe April 23, 1829. He was considered to be a disobedient or resistant military conscript in a civil judgment in 1806. His civil death entry created at Reppe also described him as a bachelor day laborer, named his parents, and was witnessed by cultivator Joseph Wagner, 25.

6. Maria/Marie Schlegel was born at Belfort Jan. 8, 1780. On Oct. 28, 1807 at Couthenans (10 miles northwest of the town of Belfort) she married Johannes/Jean Drösch/Trasch. He was born at Frédéric-Fontaine in 1777, and died Nov. 15, 1840, a son of Hans Jacob Trosh and Catherine Hochstetter. The marriage entry described Marie as a 28-year-old. Her parents were 'present and consenting,' and were named in the entry as Nicolas Schlegel, 57, and 'Catherine Humler,' 56, of Belfort. The groom 'Jean Trech' was described as a native of Frédéric-Fontaine who was living at Couthenans. Witnesses included cousin-of-the-groom Pierre Graber, 56, of Couthenans; cousin-of-the-bride Jean Stauffer (found as 'Jean Chetaoufre'), a 38-year-old resident of Belfort (his relationship will be explained later); and brother-of-the-bride Michel Schlegel, 23. Their children born at Belfort include:

   a. 'Magdaline Treusche' (triplet) was born July 6, 1814. One source says she died there Dec. 24, 1814 (during a siege of the fortress). We did not find a civil death entry.

   b. 'Joseph Treusche' (triplet) was born July 6, 1814. One source says he died there Dec. 26, 1814.

   c. 'Christophe Treusche' (triplet) was born July 6, 1814.

   d. 'Marie Treusche' was born Nov. 19, 1816.

   e. 'Catherine Treusche' was born March 20, 1820.

7. Magdalena/Madlena/Madeleine Schlegel was born at Belfort March 2, 1793 according to her marriage entry (the date is also found as April 16, 1781). On April 24, 1803 at Couthenans she married Daniel Drösch/Trasch. He was born at Frédéric-Fontaine April 30, 1773, a son of Hans Jacob Trosh and Catherine Hochstetter. The marriage entry described 'Daniel Teusch' as a laborer living at Couthenans but native to Frédéric-Fontaine. Witnesses included cousin-of-the-groom Pierre Graber, 56, of Couthenans; cousin-of-the-bride Jean Stauffer (found as 'Jean Chetaoufre'), a 38-year-old resident of Belfort (his relationship will be explained later); and brother-of-the-bride Michel Schlegel, 23. The parents of the 20-year-old bride were described as 'consenting but absent.'

267 Catherine Hochstetter was descended from Christ Hochstetter and Elisabeth Ulrich who came to Clairegoutte before 1723.

268 Montbéliard records say that Jacob Trosh and Catherine Hochstetter were married im Schwahhof/Nov. 29, 1762. The death of the father Hans Jacob Trosh of Neudorf is noted in Montbéliard congregation records. He died at Magny d’Amignon (now called Magny-Danigon) adjacent to Frédéric-Fontaine and Clairegoutte Dec. 18, 1779, and the register noted that he left three sons. All three sons were members of this congregation and their marriages were recorded.

A Troxell family was living in Canton Bern before 1100. Circa 1100 a village near Sumiswald (16 miles south of Thunstetten) was called Trachselwald. The castle-prison Trachseldwald (Ger. Schloss Trachseldwald) which was used to confine Anabaptists still stands there. The form Trachsel was found in Frutigen and Steffisburg, Canton Bern in the 1600s. It is also found as Trachsel and Trasch.

Since the 1500s the form 'Trösch' has also been found at Thunstetten, Canton Bern. It may be derived from Dreschler or 'wood turner.' Variations include Drösch and Trasch.

269 The entry described the absent father of the bride as Nicolas Schlegel, 'Suisse,' and the mother mistakenly as Elisabeth Stauffer, 54, of Belfort.
a. 'Christophe Trasch' was born March 26, 1804 and died at Belfort April 14, 1804. The death entry created at Belfort described his father as Daniel Tresch, day laborer at Montbéliard, and his mother as Madeleine Schlegel. It was signed by grandfather-of-the-deceased Niglaus Schlegel, age 54, day laborer at Belfort.

b. 'Elisabeth Treusch' was born at Belfort April 10, 1805. The birth entry was witnessed by Jacques Joder, 47.

c. 'Christophe Treusch' was born at Belfort Sept. 12, 1807.

d. 'Anne Treuche' was born at Belfort April 16, 1814.

e. 'Pierre Treuche' was born at Belfort March 6, 1816. His birth entry was witnessed by his uncle, cultivator Christ Wagner, 54.

f. 'Nicolas Treusch' was born at Belfort March 20, 1820.

8. Nicolas Schlegel was born April 20, 1783, and died at Mulhouse April 4, 1842. When he married at Pfäff (near Mulhouse) April 24, 1803, the entry described him as 22-year-old 'Nicolas Schlegel, domestique,' born at Rougemont April 20, 1783 to Nicolas Schlegel and Madelaine Aumler [Ummel] living at Belfort.270 The bride was 22-year-old Madeleine Amel [Ummel], born at Grandvillars [other sources say she was born at Florimont] Oct. 19, 1783, a resident of Pfäff and daughter of the deceased Chrétien Homel [Ummel] and Madeleine Stuky [Stucki] of [illegible, looks like 'Pologne', the country of Poland, but is more likely Bourgogne, a village near Grandvillars]. Witnesses were cultivator Chrétien Ummel, 29, brother of the bride; farmer Daniel Frutiger, brother-in-law of the bride and employer of the groom; Christian Brechbuhl, 47, cousin of the bride; and Jacques Hochstetter, 38, propriétaire and uncle of the bride.271 They resided at Froeningen, Upper Alsace, then relocated to Mulhouse in 1809-10. Nicholas was described as a 48-year-old resident of Mulhouse when he witnessed the marriage of Joseph Kaufman and Anne Marie Goldschmitt at Michelbach le Haut, Upper Alsace May 9, 1830. He died at Mulhouse April 4, 1842, and Magdalena died there Aug. 17, 1849. Their children include:

a. Madeleine Schlegel was born at Froeningen Jan. 22, 1807, and died the following day. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Baptiste vasal et cultivateur Nicolas Schlegel, 26, living at Froeningen, and Madelain Omel.

b. Nicolas/Nicholas Schlegel was born at Froeningen Jan. 17, 1808, and died at East Zorra, Ontario June 10, 1877. He married Barbara Roth. She was born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace Nov. 7, 1804, and died at East Zorra, Ontario Dec. 5, 1877, a daughter of Nicolas Roth and Anna Schantz. Nicolas/Nicholas obtained his travel documents March 4, 1839. He was described as a 30-year-old cultivator destined for New York. They departed from Le Havre on the packet ship Charles Carroll, and arrived at New York April 4, 1839. The passenger list shows Nicolas Schlalegel, 30. Barbara Roth and her children are found farther down the list as Barbara Schel, 34; Catharine, 9; Nicolas, 6; Matter [Magdalena], 4; and Charlene, 1/3 [Christena, presumably four months of age]. They settled in Ontario, where they became early members of the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Church. Nicolas purchased 128 acres Aug. 5, 1843. The farm is still held by Schlegel descendants (see Mennonite FamilyHistory, July 1994, The Amish Schlegel Immigrants).

c. Joseph Schlegel was born at Froeningen April 30, 1809, and died in Davis County, Iowa in 1866. On Nov. 26, 1830 at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine, Upper Alsace he married Madeleine Peter Schmitt. Their ceremony was witnessed by miller Jean Peter Schmitt, 36, an uncle of the bride. She was born at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine May 17, 1814, and died at Edna Mills, Indiana Sept. 16, 1878, a daughter of François Joseph Peter Schmitt and Magdalena Bäecher.272 Joseph may have made a preliminary voyage to America with his brother Nicolas/Nicholas in 1839 - 'Joseph Schlehgel, 27,' is found immediately after 'Nicholas Schlaelegel, 30' on the passenger list of the packet ship Charles Carroll. If so, Joseph returned to Europe very soon afterward; a son Chrétien was born at Raedersheim, Upper Alsace Sept. 8, 1839. According to History of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, in a brief biography of John Zimmerman (who married Joseph and Madeleine's daughter Magdalena), in a reference to Joseph Schlegel: "...The father, also a native of Alsace, was a prosperous farmer, and in 1853 he and his family accompanied John Zimmerman to America. Mr. Slagel settling in Davis County, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres of

270 It is a tossup whether or not Nicolas was actually born at Rougemont. It seems more likely that he was born at Grandvillars. Because Nicolas was born before the establishment of the état civil system of record keeping, a statement from a reliable source was required to prove where and when he was born. 

Note the later case of his younger brother Christian Schlegel (born in 1792, married 1816) where Michel Klopfenstein of Rougemont provided a statement to his village mayor, which was then sent to the official at the site of the marriage. The statement said only that Christian was born in Belfort (town or district).

In 1893 Rougemont and some smaller localities were merged to become Rougemont-le-Château.

271 Christian Brechbühl was born May 28, 1759, a son of Martin Brechbühl and Anna Bachman. [ed: He married Elizabeth Roup, becoming an uncle to Andreas Ropp. Christian and Elizabeth lived at Soultz, 12 miles north of Pfäaff. See ROPP. Daniel Frutiger is mentioned in EYMANN.]
land which he developed. He died when about 62 years old.\textsuperscript{9} They obtained their travel documents June 19, 1854. Joseph was described as a 45-year-old accompanied by his wife and two children, destined for New York. A copy of the Ausbund hymnal that he brought to America, given to him by his parents, is still held by descendants. They purchased their farm Aug. 21, 1856. They are found on the 1860 census of Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa as Joseph Slagle, 51, France; Malinda, 46, France; Joseph, 23, France; and Anna, 18, France. Their son Joseph became a minister and elder with responsibilities in the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, and Colorado.\textsuperscript{273}

d. Christian/Chrétien Schlegel was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace Nov. 6, 1810, and died at Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa April 13, 1884. His birth entry describes his father as a 36-year-old domestic servant living at Belfort; one witness was cultivator Christ Wagner, 29. On May 31, 1838 at Mulhouse he married Vérène Ummel. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as dairymen [Fr. laitier] Chrétien Schlegel, 27, a resident of Mulhouse, and a son of Nicolas Schlegel and Madeleine Ummel who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Vérène Kummle, 17, a resident of Mulhouse, born at Mulhouse June 15, 1821, a daughter of shopkeeper Étienne Kummule and Vérène Jenni, who were present and consenting.\textsuperscript{274} One witness was shopkeeper Jean Georges Huglin, 26, a brother-in-law of the groom. Vérène died at Mulhouse April 16, 1841. The civil death entry for 'Vérène Hummlé' describes her husband as Chrétien Schlegel, 30, porter [Fr. cartier]. On May 9, 1843 at Heimbrunn, Upper Alsace Christian remarried to Elisabeth Goldschmitt. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as dairymen Chrétien Schlegen, born at Mulhouse Nov. 6, 1810, the widower of Vérène Hummlé, and the son of cultivator Nicolas Schlegel, who had died at Mulhouse April 4, 1842.

\textsuperscript{273} Joseph Schlegel was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace Nov. 11, 1837, and died at Milford, Nebraska on Christmas Day 1913. According to his obituary, "While a youth he moved with his parents to Ontario, Canada, lived there a few years, then with his parents moved to Davis Co., Iowa." On Aug. 25, 1864 at Davis, Iowa he married Marie/Mary Miller. She was born at Hamburg, Ontario (now encompassed by Wilmot) Feb. 14, 1847, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 25, 1923, a daughter of Peter Miller and Margretha Anna Metzen or Mason (see NAFZIGER for background on this couple).

Joseph was ordained a minister at Wayland, Iowa in 1867. In 1868 he was asked to take on the duties of minister Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith (see STAKER) as elder. He moved to Milford, Nebraska in 1879. His household is found on the 1880 census of Precinct O, Seward County, Nebraska (now Milford, Grover East Milford, West Mill, and Canden) as farmer Joseph Schlagle, 42, born in Prussia to Prussian parents (Alsace was occupied after the Franco-Prussian War); Mary 33, born in Canada to Prussian parents; seven children born in Iowa, and one 4-month-old born in Nebraska. The 1900 census of Milford shows them as clergyman Joseph Schlegel, 62, born in Germany in November 1837 to German parents (Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918), immigrated in 1852; and Mary, 53, born in Canada in February 1847 to German parents, immigrated in 1854.

Joseph traveled widely by train. He was moderator or assistant moderator of the Western District Amish Mennonite Conference 10 times between 1890 and 1904. The recollections of Christian E. Martin of Hopedale, from the August 1974 issue of Mennonite Heritage: "In the afternoon the old moderator [Joseph Schlegel] of the Conference had M.S. Steiner give a report of the mission work in Chicago which was something very new in the Mennonite church. I don't think the Mission had been going over three or four years. He started giving the report in English. The moderator, old Joe Schlegel from Nebraska, had a voice like a bear, and he says, 'Swiss Deutsch!' It means speak German. M.S. Steiner got a big smile on his face. He said, 'Brother Schlegel has got the gift to bestow the gift of tongues on me,' and then he started talking German... ...Joe Schlegel was an outstanding leader in his day. Now he wouldn't rate very high. He was a big man with a big voice and a dominating personality and he was a good administrator. Then the other one was Sebastian Gerig of Nebraska. They took turn about. They were the two men in the Western AM [Conference] as far as administration were concerned."

\textit{Gospel Herald}, January 1914: "Bish. Joseph Schlegel was born Nov. 11, 1837, near Mulhausen, Alsace, Germany; died of cirrhosis of the liver and arteriosclerosis, near Milford, Neb., Dec. 25, 1913; aged 76 y. 1 m. 14 d. While a youth he moved with his parents to Ontario, Canada, lived there a few years, then with his parents moved to Davis Co., Iowa." He was married to Mary Miller, Aug. 25, 1863, lived in matrimony 50 y. 4 m. To this union were born 13 children, eight sons and five daughters. Two daughters, 13 grandchildren, one great-grandchild preceded him to the spirit-world. He leaves to mourn his departure his beloved companion, eight sons, three daughters, 37 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, one brother, Mike Miller of Pulaski, Iowa, and a host of other relatives and friends."

\textsuperscript{274} Her birth is recorded in the 10-year index of civil entries under the surname 'Kummle.'
and Madeleine Ummel, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Elisabeth Goldschmitt, 25, a resident of Heimsbrunn who was born at Issenheim, Upper Alsace July 13, 1817. She was a daughter of Heimsbrunn farmer Jacques Goldschmitt, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Schlatter, who had died at Rougemont Feb. 21, 1943. Witnesses included brother-of-the-groom Benjamin Schlegel, 27, tailor; and brother-of-the-bride Jean Goldschmidt, 35, cultivator. They resided at Mulhouse, where they had four children. The family obtained ravel documents Feb. 11, 1857. The father was described as a 39-year-old cultivator from Mulhouse, accompanied by his 39-year-old wife, three daughters, and a son, as well as bachelor brother-in-law Jean Goldschmitt, 48. They sailed from Le Havre on the brig Tornado, arriving at New York April 15, 1857. The passenger list shows farmer Christian Schlegel, 46; Elisabeth, 39; Madeleine, 11; Catherine, 9; Caroline, 7; Benjamin, 3; and farmer Jean Goldschmidt, 46; all from France. They settled at Grove Township, which had been the home of Christian's older brother Joseph Schlegel (Joseph lived there from 1856 until his death in 1866). The 1880 census of Grove Township shows farmer C. Schlegel, 75; E., 62; Katie, 29; Caroline, 27; farmer B., 25; and teacher Mary, 21; all born in France. 

Herald of Truth, May 1884: "On the 13th of April, at Pulaski, Davis Co., Iowa, of lung and bilious fever, Christ. Schlegel, aged 73 years and 4 months. He was buried on the 15th. Services by Ph. Roulet from 1 Thess. 4:13-15.”

A joint headstone in Union Cemetery in Davis County holds three names: "Christian Schlegel, d. April 13, 1884, age 74; Elizabeth G., wife, d. Jan. 13, 1899, age 91; and uncle John Goldsmith, d. March 7, 1879, age 70."

e. Jean Schlegel was born at Mulhouse July 1, 1812. On April 22, 1847 at Mulhouse he married Caroline Baer. Their civil marriage entry said that his mother Madeleine Ummel was present and consenting. Caroline was 17 years of age, born July 23, 1829; her parents were Jean Baer, 54, and Catherine [illegible], 54.
f. Nicolas Benjamin Schlegel was born at Mulhouse Oct. 24, 1813. He was described as a 27-year-old tailor on the civil entry for the 1843 remarriage of his older brother Christian/Chrétien. He married Marie Thérèse Heitz. She was born at Hombourg, Upper Alsace Jan. 14, 1826, a daughter of Marie Heitz.
g. Barbe Schlegel was born at Mulhouse Dec. 21, 1814. On Jan. 5, 1843 at Mulhouse she married Jean Klein. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Klein, born at Mulhouse April 13, 1810, a son of the deceased Jean Georges Klein, who had died at Mulhouse Nov. 25, 1841, and Madeleine Bricker, 38, who was present and consenting. The bride was born at Mulhouse Dec. 21, 1814, a daughter of the deceased Nicolas Schlegel and Madeleine Ummel, 64, who was present and consenting. Two illegitimate children were adopted by the groom: Madeleine Schlegel, born at Walheim in 1830, and Nicolas Schlegel, born at Mulhouse in 1832.
h. Catherine Schlegel was born at Mulhouse March 20, 1817. Before May 1838 she married Jean George Huglin, who was described on the 1838 marriage entry of her older brother Christian/Chrétien as a 26-year-old shopkeeper.

9. Michael/Michel Schlegel was born at Belfort Sept. 12, 1785. He was a witness at the weddings of his sisters Magdalena (Couthenans1803) and Maria (Couthenans 1807).

10. Christian Schlegel was born at Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. He died in Tazewell County in 1863 or later.

**Christian Schlegel** was born in the town of Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. His birth was not recorded in the état civil system of record keeping because the system was not instituted until Sept. 20. This created a problem when Christian requested the civil marriage required by law after 1792.

In 1816 Christian was farming at Chavannatte. A *ban* posted at Froidefontaine and Chavannatte June 22, 1816 announced that he had visited the mayor's office at Chavannatte to request marriage to Catherine Ernst. The ceremony would take place at Froidefontaine July 3, 1816.

Christian had no record of his birth, which was required by marriage laws. Fortunately, a document from the mayor of Rougemont dated June 14, 1816 was sent to the officials who would preside. The Rougemont mayor attested that Michel Klopfenstein (1740-1817), an 'anna à Baptiste,' was born at Rougemont and still living there. Michel was the minister and elder who led the congregation at La Maie farm. He vouched that 'Christ Sleglere,' son of 'Nicolas Sleglere' and 'Madelene Hommele,' was born at Belfort in 1792 in the presence of David Stoll [Stoll] and Jacques Joder, residents of Belfort.275

275 Jacob/Jacques Joder was born at Brevilliers Sept. 16, 1761, and died at St. Ulrich Oct. 21, 1838, a son of Christ Joder and Anne Hochstetter. He married Anneli Graber and Marie Ann Guemann. In later life he farmed at Hochstetten, Upper Alsace.

On Jan. 24, 1779 David Stoll married Jacob/Jacques Joder's sister Barbara 'Babi' Joder. She was born in 1753, and died at Danjoutin April 22, 1822.
The marriage entry created at Froidefontaine stated that 'Christ Schelegue' was born at Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. His father was 'Nicolas Schelegue.' The entry did not mention that Nigi had died two years earlier – that would have required a copy of a civil death record (we could not find one in local civil records, perhaps because the family was still at odds with civil authorities). His mother was 'Magdalena Ommelet' [Ummel], described as a day laborer at Chavannatte. The bride was 'Catherine Erneste' [Ernst] born at Boron Sept. 8, 1794, daughter of 44-year-old weaver 'Simon Erneste' and 'Cathrine Rode' [Catherine Roth] living at Froidefontaine. Witnesses included Jean Joder, 53, a weaver from Froidefontaine. The entry was signed 'Hans Joder,' and it was indicated that the groom, bride, and bride's father were illiterate. At the time of the marriage Catherine Ernst was seven months pregnant with their first child.

The first few years of their married lives must have been extremely arduous. While the farmers of the region tried to recover and amend damage caused by the occupations of the Napoleonic wars, they suffered from an extended natural disaster that affected all of Europe.

ROPP told the story of European weather changes resulting from the explosion of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia and other atmospheric disturbances. They caused three successive extended winters in 1816, 1817, and 1819, later called a 'Little Ice Age.' Although the weather changes slowed travel throughout Europe, and emigration as well, the seed was created that led to later emigration.

Anabaptists in the Territoire de Belfort were encouraged to emigrate. Many followed the example of an Anabaptist exodus from the Münterteral valley in the Jura Mountains to Wayne County, Ohio.

When Christian and Catherine chose to emigrate in 1825, they followed the path of Catherine's aunt Anna Ernst, whose husband had once lived in the Müntertal valley. See ERNST for background on this couple.

Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst boarded the Superior at Le Havre in the spring of 1825.276 Their traveling companions included Johannes Neuenschwander, a cousin to Michel Neuenschwander.277 Their collective luggage consisted of "1 bag bed and bedding."278

From the passenger list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passenger number</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Belfort</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Superior arrived at New York City June 18, 1825. While Johannes Neuenschwander traveled directly to Ohio, the Schlegels remained in New York City.

Why did the family 'drop out' of the westward migration? The Schlegels were certainly aware that Michel Neuenschwander and Anna Ernst had lost a child on the arduous overland journey from New York to Wayne County, Ohio. And in the summer of 1825 handbills advertised the impending opening of a water route to Ohio - the Erie Canal from Albany on the Hudson River to Buffalo on Lake Erie. A formal opening would take place Oct. 26. We can only speculate that the Schlegel family chose to wait out winter ice. They may have remained in the city because of the poor health of a child or the relative prosperity they found there.

In 1825 the most famous Frenchman in America was the Marquis de Lafayette. The 67-year-old Revolutionary War hero had been invited by President James Monroe to tour all 21 states as a celebration of the approaching 50th anniversary of the founding of the country. The Marquis left France on a merchant vessel and arrived at New York City in August 1824. By the time of the Schlegel arrival he had completed his tour and was

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276 This was the same ship that would take Oyers and Mosimans to New Orleans in 1830 under the same master, Benjamin F. Harrod (see OYER).

277 Johannes Neuenschwander (found on the passenger list as 'Jean Neuschander' origin Langnau) was born at Souboz in the Müntertal valley of the Jura Mountains April 7 or 8, 1776, a son of Benedikt Neuenschwander and Elisabeth Lehmann. On Dec. 2, 1806 he married Katharine Furimann of Rohrbach. They went to Holmes County and then Wayne County, Ohio. In 1836 they resettled near Bluffton to live near Anna Ernst and Michel Neuenschwander.

278 "One bag, bed, and bedding." A family bed often meant an 8-by-16-foot sheet of canvas. Half was covered with straw. The other half was then folded over it, providing a relatively flea-free surface that was insulated from the cold deck. A bag was a sea bag full of clothing and personal items. The bedding consisted of linens and quilts. Metal cooking utensils were not inventoried because they were not considered salable items.
back in New York State, anticipating a September departure. Christian Schlegel would later describe seeing the Marquis in the city.

For nine years the Schlegels lived on the Lower East Side of the borough of Manhattan. 'Christian Slagle' can be found in the Manhattan New York City Directory of 1829-30. He was described as a milkman living at 81 Sheriff Street. Later, in Illinois, the Schlegels would recall seeing the top-hatted mayor of New York City traveling to work each day in his carriage. It is probable that they were describing Cornelius Van Wyck Lawrence, who was in office at the time of their departure.

From New York Christian may have corresponded with Andreas Ropp in Illinois; recall that two of Christian's brothers resided at Froeningen, Upper Alsace, the home of Andreas's sister Catherine.

In the summer of 1835 the Schlegels resettled at Ten Mile Creek in Tazewell County. In retrospect their move was fortunately timed. On Dec. 16-17, 1835, during two nights of below-zero temperatures, the Great New York Fire destroyed 600 buildings on 17 blocks of the Lower East Side.

They may have made the trip to Illinois with André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine Ackerman, who arrived at New York that year, and whose son Joseph Burcky married their daughter Catherine 'Katie' Schlegel that year.

Lydia Slagle Smith wrote:

"They had a long, tiresome journey, partly by boat and partly by wagon pulled with oxen. They were in peril of robbers, and had to keep a close watch over their possessions. They came through Fort Dearborn (Chicago) when there were only five houses there.

A grandson thought they came to Illinois after a 'stopover in Canada,' so it is probable that they spent some time in Waterloo County, Ontario, where they had relatives. They may have intended to locate there, deciding later to go on to Illinois as many others did."

On Nov. 26, 1840 'Christian Slagle' purchased 40 acres of public land on Ten Mile Creek at $1.25 per acre. In Early History of Washington, Ill. and Vicinity, resident Simon Thomas recalled, "The Slagle family lived on the bluff west of Washington. He [Christian] used to say he settled in the timber there because the prairie land east of Washington was full of sloughs, and the green head flies were so bad the stock could not stand it."

In Illinois the Schlegels worshipped with the Partridge Creek meeting.

'Christopher Slagle' appears on the 1845 census of Tazewell County. The entry shows one adult male, one adult female, and two sons. The family can be found on the 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County as Christian Slagel, 59, born in France; Catharina, 60, born in France; Nicolas, 21, born in New York; and Benjamin, 19, born in New York. Head of household Christian Schlegel is listed at Washington on a state census of 1855. The place and date of Catherine Ernst's death is entirely unknown. It is often cited as Ten Mile Creek/ Washington circa 1855 (that is, at her known home after the 1850 census and before the 1860 census). The 1860 census of Washington shows a household containing Christian Slagle, 67, France; his son Benjamin, 29, New York; and daughter-in-law Ann, 29 [Marie Anne Klopfenstein]. Christian transferred the title on his farm to son Benjamin in 1863 and died shortly afterward.

Children of Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst include:

1. Catherine 'Katie' Schlegel was born at Chavannatte Sept. 5, 1816, died in 1894, and is buried at Flanagan, Livingston County. Her birth was recorded at Froidefontaine. The civil birth entry described her parents as Criste Schleque, an anabatiste day laborer living at Chavannatte, and Catherine Ernest. In 1835 she married Joseph Burcky. He was born at Söcking, Bavaria in March 1810, a son of André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine Ackerman. Joseph sailed from Hamburg with his older brother John on the brig Montano, arriving at New York Sept. 5, 1833. The passenger list identified the brothers as distillers; gave Joseph's age as 23 years, 3 months, 29 years, 2 months; and said they were coming from 'Seking' in Bavaria bound for Kentucky. Joseph then returned to Europe, and sailed again with his parents and younger sister in 1835. In the same year Joseph married Katie, either in New York or Illinois. The household of Joseph and Katie appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Joseph Berkey, 40, Germany; Catharine, 34, France; and Joseph, 13, Illinois. They appear on the 1870 census of

279 Sheriff Street ran between Columbia and Pitt Streets, and extended from Houston to Grand Streets. Within a decade its cottages gave way to large brick buildings. In the mid-1800s the area was known as Little Germany, or Kleindeutschland. A book called 81 Sheriff Street was published by Gertrude Ford in 1981. It describes the tenement life of Jewish immigrants around the turn of the century. One block of Sheriff Street still remains, just south of Houston Street.

280 The Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database shows this purchase as SESW, Section 4, Township 26 N (Washington), Range 03W, Meridian 3, Christian Slagle of Social Status A, Tazewell County, Volume 790, page 60. The tract is now the proving grounds of the Caterpillar Tractor Company.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Roanoke as farmer Joseph Burkie, 60; Catharine, 54; Theodor, 26; John, 19; Andrew, 16; and Peter, 12; all stated to be born in Bavaria.

2. **Christian Schlegel [Jr.]** was born Jan. 17, 1819, and died in Livingston County Nov. 26, 1884. The 1880 census gave his birthplace as Switzerland.

3. Barbara Schlegel was born at Froidefontaine Aug. 2, 1820. Her civil birth entry calls her Elizabetheth, and describes her parents as day laborer Christe Schleugeu, 27, and Catherine Erneste. The *Superior* passenger list gave her age as 4 in 1825.

4. Elisabeth Schlegel was born at Bourougne Jan. 13, 1823, and died March 21, 1901 (also found as March 17, 1902). Her civil birth entry describes her parents as 'Christe Schlägele,' 30, valet and laborer living at Bourougne, and 'Catherine Herste.' On June 10, 1842 at Washington she married Jacob Ropp, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann (see ROPP). The European connection between the two families: Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann came to North America in 1826 from the communal farm Barthel Hutte at Largitzen, Upper Alsace. They shared that farm with the couple Johannes/Jean Joder and Marie Conrad. Marie was a niece to Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst.

5. Pierre Schlegel was born at Bourougne Sept. 12, 1824. His birth entry names his parents as 'Crétien Schlegle,' 37 [he was 32], a valet and laborer living at Bourougne, and 'Catherine Hernest.' Pierre appears on the *Superior* passenger list from 1825 as a 1-year-old.

6. Nicholas Schlegel/Slagle was born in New York City June 10, 1828, and died Feb. 15, 1908. On Feb. 12, 1851 he married Sophia Trimmer. She was born Sept. 7, 1832, and died in 1916, a daughter of Wilhelm/William Trimmer and Anna Margaretha Eckert. They are found on the 1870 census of Fon du Lac as miller Nicholas Slagel, 42, born in New York; Sophia, 38, born in Germany; and four children born in Illinois: Julia, 12; Charles, 11; George, 2; and Henry, 2. Nicholas served two terms as supervisor of Fon du Lac and was the first mayor of East Peoria. They are buried under the surname 'Slagle' in Fond du Lac Township Cemetery.

7. Benjamin Schlegel/Slagle was born in New York City in May of 1831, and died Feb. 14, 1906. On April 20, 1852 in Tazewell County he married Marie Anne Klopfenstein; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. She was born in the *Territoire de Belfort* May 11, 1831, and died Nov. 7, 1875, a daughter of Johannes/John Klopfenstein and Catherine Klopfenstein. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Benjamin Slagle, 49, N.Y.; Eanna, 39, France; Benj., 17; Caty, 14; John, 12; Josephine, 8; Lena, 7; and Marg., 3; all children born in Illinois. Benjamin appears on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer 'Benjamin Slagle,' a 49-year-old widower born in New York to parents from France, with six children born in Illinois: John, 22; Josephine, 18; Lena, 17; Mary, 13; Emanuel, 10; and Anna, 6.

**Christian Schlegel [Jr.]** was born Jan. 17, 1819. On May 16, 1842 in Tazewell County he married Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer. She was born on Sommerhof at Neuviller-la-Roche, Lower Alsace July 1, 1819, a daughter of Ulrich Sommer and Barbe Görig/Guérich. See SOMMER for the story of her family.

After marriage the couple settled at what are now Elm Grove and Tremont, villages that were established in 1849-50. They worshipped with the Dillon Creek meeting, a group that met in homes and evolved into the Pleasant Grove congregation (the 'Ropp church').

Their household is shown on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Christian Slagel Jr., 35, France; Sally, 30, France; Eliza, 8; Catharine, 7; Christian, 5; Madaline, 4; Joseph, 3; Nicholas, 1; all children born in Illinois. The 1855 state census of Tazewell County shows the household of 'Christ Slagel': one male 30-40 years of age, one male 10-19, one male 30-39, one female under 10, two females 10-19, and one female 30-39. They must have been living along Allentown Road at Elm Grove near the Gerber farms, as their neighbors include Peter Ropp, John Ropp, P. Gerber, and John Forney.

Christian was ordained as a minister in 1855. According to Harry F. Weber's *Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929*, 'Christ Slagel' began to minister at Hopedale in 1857. This later became known as the Delavan Prairie Church.

They appear on the 1860 census of Tremont as farmer Christian Slagle, 41, Germany; Sarah, 41, Germany; Catharine, 17; Christian, 15; Magdalene, 14; Joseph, 12; Nicholas, 10; Benj., 9; Sarah, 5; and Mary, 2, all children born in Illinois. The family moved onto a farm at Pike, Livingston County in 1863.

*Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929* lists Christ Schlegel as an attendee at the *Dienner Versammlung* assembly of ministers hosted by the Rock Creek congregation at Danvers in 1866.

In 1867 the Waldo Mennonite Church was constructed four miles south of Flanagan.

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281 It is odd that an Amish Mennonite chose to name his child after the Biblical Salomé, the temptress who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist. In Catholic France it was more common to find Marie Salomé, who witnessed the crucifixion and discovered the rock rolled away from the tomb of Christ.

Ulrich signed his daughter's birth entry Ulric Sümmer.
In 1870 the family appears on the census of Pike as farmer Chris Slagle, 57, France; Sarah, 57, France; Benjamin, 19, Illinois; Sarah, 14, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; Lydia, 9, Illinois; and Daniel, 6, Illinois. They appear again on the 1880 census of Pike as farmer Christian Slagle, 61, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents; Sara, 61, born in France to French parents; Lydia, 19, Illinois; and farm laborer Daniel, 16, Illinois.

Christian died at Pike Nov. 26, 1884, and Salomé died there July 20, 1890. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery.

_Herald of Truth_, December 1884: “On the 26th of November, in Livingston Co., Ill., of cancer of the stomach, Bishop Christian Schlegel, aged 65 years and 9 months. The funeral was very largely attended. Services were held by Joseph Griester, Andrew Rhodes of Tazewell Co., John P. Schmitt and Christian Rhodes. Bro. Schlegel bore his sufferings with much patience. He leaves a widow and eleven children to mourn his departure. The deceased was a bishop in the Amish Mennonite Church. He administered with the gift he had received from God.”

_Herald of Truth_, August 1890: “On the 20th of July, in Livingston Co., Ill., of infirmities, Salome, widow of the late Bishop Christian Schlegel, aged 71 years, 1 month and 3 days. Buried on the 22d. A large number of friends and acquaintances from near and far assembled at her burial. Services at the house of her son-in-law, August Albrecht, where she had spent the last days of her life, by Daniel Orendorff from _Psa. 90_, and at the meetinghouse by Joseph Ackermann, Daniel Orendorff and John P. Schmitt from _1 Cor. 15: 120_. In the last week of her life Sister Schlegel became weaker and weaker in body and mind, and at last the Lord took her home, thus fulfilling a wish she had often expressed. At the close of the funeral services the beautiful hymn was sung, ‘I'm going home to die no more.’ She was a faithful member of the Old Amish Mennonite church, and leaves 11 children, 46 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren. Four children preceded her.”

Their children include:

1. Elizabeth 'Eliza' Schlegel was born at Ten Mile Creek/Washington March 7, 1842, and died at Eureka, Woodford County June 8, 1925. On April 5, 1870 in Livingston County she married Joseph H. King; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born in Ohio circa 1842, and may have died in 1898. A marker for Joseph H. King in the East Bend Mennonite Cemetery at Fisher, Champaign County gives only his age, 56. They appear on the 1870 census of Pike as carpenter Joseph King, 27, Ohio; Elizabeth, 28, Illinois; and farm laborer Nicholas Slagel, 21, Illinois (Elizabeth's younger brother). They can be found on the 1880 census of Gridley, McLean County as carpenter Joseph H. King, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Württemberg; Elizabeth, 38, born in Illinois to parents from France; five children born in Illinois; and Peter Kauffman, 25, born in Illinois to parents from Anhalt and Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1925: "Elizabeth King (nee Slagel) was born near Washington, Ill., March 7, 1842; died at the Home for the Aged near Eureka, Ill., June 6, 1925; aged 83 y. 2 m. 29 d. In her youth she moved with her parents to near Meadows, Ill. There she was married to Jos. H. King. To this union were born six children, of whom five are living. Her husband died while they were living on a farm in Champaign Co., Ill., after which she went to live with her children in Minnesota [Heron Lake], where she remained until she came to the Home at Eureka, Aug. 8, 1922, where she resided until death. Funeral services at the Home in charge of Brethren Ezra Yordy, Samuel Gerber, and A. A. Schrock. Her death was due to old age. She leaves five children, one brother, and two sisters."

2. Catherine Schlegel was born at what became Tremont on the 8th or 18th of April, 1843, and died at Washington May 5, 1916. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Livingston County she married John Gascho. He was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County Feb. 27, 1844, and died in Livingston County March 18, 1883, a son of Johannes/John Gascho and Magdalena Gundy. See GASCHO for his obituary. On Oct. 15, 1895 Catherine remarried to widower John Guth of Washington. He was born May 10, 1840, and died Oct. 8, 1896, a son of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. He married his first wife Maria/Mary Ehresman May 5, 1861. She was born in Ohio Nov. 10, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894. John Guth and his first wife are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

3. Christian Schlegel/Slagell [Jr.] was born at what became Tremont Dec. 8, 1844, and died at Normal, McLean County Feb. 26, 1913. He is buried as 'Christian S. Slagell' in Gridley Cemetery. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Turck; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. She was born in France in January 1845, a daughter of Peter Tuck and his wife Anna, who were living at Morton. They settled at Gridley, McLean County. She is also buried there as 'Magdalena Slagell 1845-1922.' Gospel Herald, April 1913: "Christian S. Slagell was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., on Dec. 8, 1845, married to Magdalena Turck on Feb. 8, 1869. To this union was born one daughter. He died at Brokaw Hospital in Normal, Ill., where he underwent an operation for stone.
in the bladder Feb. 27, 1913. Short services were held at his home in Gridley, from which place they took him to the Ness Amish Church of which he was a member. He leaves besides his wife, one daughter and 10 grandchildren. Buried at the cemetery nearby.

4. Magdalena 'Malinda' Schlegel/Slegell was born at what became Tremont May 3, 1846, and died July 3, 1914. On Feb. 26, 1865 at Gridley she married minister Peter Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. He was born in Ohio Dec. 15, 1842 or 1844, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 5, 1931, a son of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb (see ZIMMERMAN for his obituary). They can be found on the 1870 census of Pike, Livingston County living next door to Magdalena's parents as farmer Peter Zimmerman, 28, Ohio; Melinda, 24, Illinois; and three young children born in Illinois. Peter was ordained as a minister of the Roanoke Church in 1878. In 1886 they moved to Larned, Kansas. He was later elder of the Shelbyville, Illinois congregation. Gospel Herald, August 1921. "Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Saloma Slagle, was born in Tazewell County, Ill., May 3, 1846, where she resided with her parents until her marriage with Peter Zimmerman which occurred on February 26, 1865. To this union were born four children: William of Carthage, Ill.; Edward of Garden City, Mo.; Jonathan of Columne, S. Dak., and Mrs. Lydia Helmuth of Roanoke. All were present with the bereaved husband and father when she passed to her reward on July 3 at her home in Roanoke, aged 75 y. and 2 m. Deceased united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until her death. She leaves to mourn her loss besides her husband and children, nineteen grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two brothers: Benjamin of Wayland, Iowa, and Daniel of Flanagan, Ill.; three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth King of Heron Lake, Minn., Mrs. Salome Yordy of Roanoke, and Mrs. Lydia Smith of Flanagan. The funeral was held July 5 from the Harmony Mennonite Church. Bro. Joseph Reber of Shelbyville and Bro. Peter Gerber of Cazenovia conducted the services. Interment was made in the Metamora township Mennonite cemetery five miles west and two miles north of Roanoke." Excerpt from Peter's obituary in the Gospel Herald, July 1931: "...He united with the A. M. Church in his young manhood and was a member of the same at the time of his death. He was ordained to the ministry in 1878 at the Roanoke Church, in which capacity he served for over fifty-one years--including the congregations at Larned, Kans.; Garden City, Mo.; Dethylaine, Ark.; and later returning to Roanoke, Ill., where he remained until the last six years which were spent with his children in their different homes." They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

5. Joseph Schlegel was born at what became Tremont Dec. 8, 1847, and died at Long Bow, Oklahoma July 12, 1914. On Feb. 14, 1862 in Livingston County he married Barbara Gascho. She was born near Spring Bay Sept. 21, 1853, and died at Hydro, Oklahoma June 30, 1926, a daughter of Johannes/John Gascho and Magdalena Gunden. They can be found on the 1900 census of Jackson, Lyon County, Kansas; and on the 1910 census of Long Bow, Blaine County, Oklahoma. Gospel Herald, July 1914: "Joseph Slagell was the son of Bishop Christian and Saloma Slagell. He was born Dec. 8, 1847, in Tazewell Co., Ill.; died July 12, 1914, near Hydro, Okla; aged 64 y. 7 m. 4 d. He was married to Barbara Gascho, Feb. 4, 1872. This union was blessed with 12 children, two of whom preceded him to the spirit world. The living are: Saloma Rich, Katie Detweiler, Anna Smith, Chris P., Joe. G., Ben, Dan, John, and Barbara. He also leaves two brothers and five sisters, eight of the family preceding him to the spirit world. At the age of 18 he united with the A. M. Church, was ordained to the ministry in 1889, ordained bishop in 1891. He had been sick with a complication of diseases, suffering much in the last few months, but expressed himself ready and willing to go if it was the Lord's will. Funeral services at the house conducted by Brethren Eyster, Gish, Yoder, and Johns. Text, Amos 4:12 (latter clause) and Matt. 24:44. Peace to his ashes." Gospel Herald, July 1926: "Barbara Schlegel, daughter of John and Magdalena Gascho, was born near Spring Bay, Ill., Sept. 21, 1853; died at her home north of Hydro, Okla., June 30, 1926; aged 72 y. 10 m. 28 d. She accepted Christ and united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful member to the end. She was married to Joseph Schlegel near Chenoa, Ill., Feb. 14, 1872, where they lived for 17 years. They then moved to Thurman, Colo., at which place Bro. Schlegel was ordained a minister and later ordained bishop. They remained there seven years, when they moved to Lyon Co., Kans., and remained there until they moved to their present home, where Bro. Schlegel preceded her almost 12 years ago. To this union were born twelve children, ten of whom are living: (Lena Swartzendruber, Salome Rich, Katie Detweiler, Annie Smith, Christian, Joseph, Benjamin, Daniel, John, and Barbara Stutzman). She also leaves 44 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Sister Schlegel was in her usual health, took sick after ten o'clock Tuesday night, suffered only several hours where she peacefully fell asleep at 2 a. m." They are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery at Hydro.

6. Nicholas Schlegel/Slegell /Slagell was born at what became Tremont (the village was established later that year) in 1849, and died at Flanagan June 28, 1913. He is found on the 1870 census of Pike as a farm laborer in the household of his brother-in-law Joseph H. King and sister Elizabith Schlagel. On Sept. 7, 1873 in Livingston County he married Mary Steinman. She was born at Tremont Dec. 13, 1855, and died at Flanagan Oct. 23, 1932, a daughter of Johannes/John Gascho and Magdalena Gunden. They can be found on the 1900 census of Jackson, Lyon County, Kansas;  and on the 1910 census of Long Bow, Blaine County, Oklahoma. Gospel Herald, August 1921. "Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Salome Slagle, was born in Tazewell County, Ill., March 3, 1846, and died July 3, 1921. On Feb. 26, 1865 at Gridley she married minister Peter Zimmerman; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. He was born in Ohio Dec. 15, 1842 or 1844, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 5, 1931, a son of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb (see ZIMMERMAN for his obituary). They can be found on the 1870 census of Pike, Livingston County living next door to Magdalena's parents as farmer Peter Zimmerman, 28, Ohio; Melinda, 24, Illinois; and three young children born in Illinois. Peter was ordained as a minister of the Roanoke Church in 1878. In 1886 they moved to Larned, Kansas. He was later elder of the Shelbyville, Illinois congregation. Gospel Herald, August 1921. "Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Salome Slagle, was born in Tazewell County, Ill., March 3, 1846, where she resided with her parents until her marriage with Peter Zimmerman which occurred on February 26, 1865. To this union were born four children: William of Carthage, Ill.; Edward of Garden City, Mo.; Jonathan of Columne, S. Dak., and Mrs. Lydia Helmuth of Roanoke. All were present with the bereaved husband and father when she passed to her reward on July 3 at her home in Roanoke, aged 75 y. and 2 m. Deceased united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until her death. She leaves to mourn her loss besides her husband and children, nineteen grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two brothers: Benjamin of Wayland, Iowa, and Daniel of Flanagan, Ill.; three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth King of Heron Lake, Minn., Mrs. Salome Yordy of Roanoke, and Mrs. Lydia Smith of Flanagan. The funeral was held July 5 from the Harmony Mennonite Church. Bro. Joseph Reber of Shelbyville and Bro. Peter Gerber of Cazenovia conducted the services. Interment was made in the Metamora township Mennonite cemetery five miles west and two miles north of Roanoke." Excerpt from Peter's obituary in the Gospel Herald, July 1931: "...He united with the A. M. Church in his young manhood and was a member of the same at the time of his death. He was ordained to the ministry in 1878 at the Roanoke Church, in which capacity he served for over fifty-one years--including the congregations at Larned, Kans.; Garden City, Mo.; Dethylaine, Ark.; and later returning to Roanoke, Ill., where he remained until the last six years which were spent with his children in their different homes." They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.
of his death with the exception of one daughter. He also leaves seven grandchildren, one adopted grandchild, three brothers and five sisters and many friends to mourn his departure. He was ready and willing to go. Funeral services were held at the house by Bro. Dan Orendorff from Prov. 39:5, and at the church by Bro. Peter Zehr in German and Bro. Geo. Sommers in English from II Cor. 5:1. Interment in the Waldo Cemetery. 'For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.’” Gospel Herald, April 1932: “Mary Slagell, daughter of Bishop Daniel and Katharine (Burcky) Steinman, was born Dec. 13, 1855, in Tazewell Co., Ill. At the age of 10 she moved with her parents to Livingston Co. near what is now Flanagan. On Sept. 7, 1873, she was united in marriage to Nicholas H. Slagell of near Chenoa, Ill. They resided in Ford and Livingston counties most their married life, which was nearly 40 years. In March, 1913, they moved to a farm near Flanagan where he died June 28 of the same year. After his death, she and her two sons remained on the farm for several years. Later she made her home with her oldest son, Aaron and family near Flanagan, where she suffered a stroke of paralysis on April 13, 1929. She has been ill since that time. Oct. 23, 1932, she went to her daughter Katie’s home where she peacefully and quietly fell asleep after being entirely speechless for 3 days. Age 76 y. 3 m. 12 d. She leaves five sons (Aaron, Daniel, Samuel, Ray, and Roy), three daughters (Sallie, Katie, and Alice). One infant preceded her in death. Also surviving are 27 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In her youth she united with the Mennonite Church and remained a consistent member. She also leaves one brother, four sisters, and one step-sister. She was always much concerned about her family, always willing to do everything and sacrificing for them in many ways. Her children should indeed arise and call her blessed. May they follow her peaceful example. Funeral services were conducted by J. D. Hartzler and J.W. Davis at the Waldo Church.

7. Benjamin Franklin Schlegel/Slagell/Slagel was born at Tremont Feb. 8, 1851, and died at Wayland, Iowa Nov. 10, 1922. On Aug. 31, 1876 at Flanagan he married Catherine Steinman. She was born at Tremont Feb. 23, 1859, and died at Wayland, Iowa Sept. 18, 1923, a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Catherine Birky. They lived at Panola, Woodford County in 1900, and Jefferson, Henry County, Iowa in 1910. Gospel Herald, November 1922: "Benjamin F. Slagel was born near Pekin, Ill., Feb. 8, 1851, died at his home near Wayland, Ia., Nov. 10, 1922; aged 71 y. 9 m. 2 d. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior when a young man, uniting with the Amish Mennonite Church and remaining a faithful member until called by death. On Aug. 31, 1876, he was married to Catharine Steinman. This union was blest with nine children, four sons and five daughters. One son preceded him in death. Some six years ago it was discovered that he was afflicted with diabetes. For a time he seemed to battle with the disease successfully but a few weeks ago his condition became worse and in spite of all that loving hands could do he passed away. While he still had full control of his mind he realized that his end was near, and gave instructions for the funeral and admonitions and warnings to the immediate members of his family. He leaves his wife, 3 sons, 5 daughters, 1 brother, 3 sisters, 19 grandchildren, and a large concourse of relatives, friends and neighbors to mourn his loss. The funeral was held at the Sugar Creek Church near Wayland, Iowa, on Sunday afternoon conducted by the home minister. Text, I Sam. 20:18 the latter clause. Interment in the cemetery near by.” Gospel Herald, October 1923: " Catharena (Steinman) Slagel was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Feb. 23, 1859; died at her home near Wayland, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1923; aged 64 y. 6 m. 25 d. She accepted Christ as her Savior while in her teens, uniting with the Amish Mennonite Church, and was a devoted and loyal member until called by death. On Aug. 31, 1876, she was married to Benjamin F. Slagel. To this union were born five daughters and four sons. They lived in Illinois until the spring of 1906 when they moved to a farm near Wayland, Iowa. Sister Slagel was a devoted and loving mother. Her gentle, unassuming disposition won for her many friends. Her strong Christian character and undaunted loyalty made her a very desirable member of the Church. Her husband, who died Nov. 10, 1922, and one son preceded her in death. She leaves five daughters, three sons, eighteen grandchildren, two foster-grandchildren, five sisters, one brother, and a large number of friends and neighbors to mourn their loss. The funeral was held on Thursday afternoon at the Sugar Creek church near Wayland, Iowa, conducted by the home ministers. Texts used, II Tim. 4:7, 8; II Cor. 4:16, 17. Interment in the cemetery nearby.

8. Simon Schlegel was born at Tremont Jan. 5, 1853, and died May 3, 1854.
9. Barbara Schlegel was born at Tremont Sept. 19, 1854, and died Oct. 15, 1854.
10. Salome 'Sally' Schlegel was born at Tremont Sept. 6, 1855, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Feb. 21, 1938. On Oct. 15, 1874 at Livingston county she married Christian Yordy. He was born July 29, 1848, and died at Roanoke July 10, 1922, a son of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. Gospel Herald, October 1922: " Christian Yordy, son of Peter and Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., July 29, 1848; died at his home near Roanoke, Ill., July 10, 1922; aged 73 y. 11 m. 11 d. Oct. 4, 1874, he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Salome Slagel of Livingston Co., Ill. Ten children were born to them, of whom four died in infancy. He leaves his sorrowing companion, two sons, and four daughters (Amos, Joel, Salome Woodward, Leah Armstrong, Laura Bryant, and Lizzie). All were present at his death except Salome. He also leaves 18 grandchildren, two brothers, three sisters and many nieces and nephews. At the age of 19 he united with the A. M. Church and remained faithful to the end. In his younger years he was active in church work. Funeral services were held at the home by Bro. Peter Garber and at the Roanoke Church by Bros. C. S. Shertz and A. A. Schrock. Interment in the cemetery nearby.” Gospel Herald, March 1938: “Yordy. - Salome, daughter of Christian and Salome (Somer) Slagel, was born Sept. 6, 1855, near Pekin, Ill.; died at her home east of Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 21, 1938; aged 82 y. 5 m. 16 d. In her girlhood her parents moved to north of Chenoa, Ill. She united with the Mennonite Church in October, 1870, in which faith she remained until death. Oct. 4, 1874, she was married to Christian Yordy. To this union were born 10 children, four dying in
infancy and Laura Bryant on June 1, 1929. Those living are Salome Burchey, Tiskilwa; Leah Armstrong, Secor; Joel of Heyworth; Amos of Roanoke; and Lizzie at home. There are 24 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one brother (D. W. Slagel, Flanagan, Ill.), one sister (Lydia Smith, Goshen, Ind.), many nephews and nieces and friends to mourn her death. Funeral services were held at the home and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, conducted by John L. Harnish and Ezra B. Yordy. Text, Job 14:14. Interment in the adjoining cemetery."

11. Mary Schlegel was born at Tremont June 18, 1857, and died at East Peoria June 27, 1911. On Nov. 6, 1875 in Livingston County she married Joseph R. King. He was born at Hudson, McLean County May 25, 1854, and died at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 18, 1943, a son of Christian King and Marie Bechler. Gospel Herald, July 1911: "King. - Mary A. Slagel was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., June 18, 1857; died at East Peoria, Ill., June 27, 1911; aged 54 y. 9 d. On Nov. 7, 1895, she was united in marriage with Joseph King, which union was blessed with 12 children; four of whom preceding their mother to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, five sons, three daughters, 10 grandchildren, five brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held at the Free Methodist Church by Bro. Val Stubbar. Her remains were laid to rest in the East Peoria cemetery."

12. Jacob Schlegel/Slegell was born at Tremont Sept. 16, 1858. He died before the 1860 census.

13. Lydia Schlegel was born at Tremont Sept. 25, 1860, and died at Goshen, Indiana Oct. 20, 1941. However, she is buried with her first husband in Waldo Cemetery as 'Lydia Slagell Smith.' On Jan. 13, 1887 she married August Albrecht. He was born at Waldo June 16, 1861, and died Feb. 16, 1892, a son of John Albrecht and Anna Gascho. She remarried to widower John Smith in Nov. 16, 1899. He was born at Hanover (later Metamora) Nov. 27, 1843, and died there July 6, 1906, a son of Christian Smith and Catherine Bechler (see SMITH for his obituary). Gospel Herald, November 1941: "Smith. - Lydia H., daughter of Christian and Salome Slagel, born Sept. 25, 1860, in Tazewell Co., Ill., the thirteenth in a family of fifteen children, peacefully fell asleep at her home near Goshen, Ind., Oct. 20, 1941; aged 81 y. 25 d. On Jan. 13, 1887, she was united in marriage to August Albrecht. To this union one daughter, Agnes, was born. Four years later he departed this life, after which she made her home with her brother Dan until her marriage to Bishop John Smith of Metamora, Ill., Nov. 1899. After living together six and one-half years, he was suddenly called to his reward. In 1912 she moved with her daughter, Mrs. C. J. Gunden at Flanagan, Ill., where she lived for eighteen years, after which she moved with the family to Goshen, Ind. She leaves to mourn her departure her daughter, Mrs. Agnes Gunden of Goshen; also J. D. and S. E. Smith and Mrs. Ella Oyer of Eureka, Ill., Mrs. Emma Schertz of Goshen, C. Henry Smith of Bluffton, Ohio, 30 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, a brother, Dan, of Flanagan, a host of nieces and nephews, and many more relatives and friends. At an early age she united with the Mennonite Church to which she remained faithful until death. She was much interested in the work of the Church and one of her greatest pleasures was that of giving to a needy cause. She taught in the Sunday school for a period of about fifty years, having been one of the first teachers at the Waldo Church near Flanagan. In the last number of years she often expressed her desire to be at home with her Lord. All of her family was able to be present at the services with the exception of a granddaughter, Lois Gunden, who sailed for France on Oct. 4 to do relief work. Funeral services, conducted by Bro. S. C. Yoder, were held at the home where she stayed at Goshen, Ind., and at the Waldo Mennonite Church near Gridley, Ill., conducted by Bro. Ezra Yordy of Eureka, Ill., and Bro. J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill. Burial took place in the cemetery near by."

14. Daniel Webster Schlegel/Slegell/Slagel was born at Pike March 26, 1864, and died at Flanagan Jan. 1947, the last of his generation. On Feb. 2, 1889 he married Mary Catherine Roeschley. She was born at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 9, 1869, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Oct. 19, 1928, a daughter of John Roeschley and his wife Elizabeth. They lived at Nebraska Township, Livingston County. Gospel Herald, November 1928: "Mary Roeschley Slagel, youngest daughter of John and Elizabeth Roeschley, was born in Eureka, Ill., Aug. 9, 1869; died Oct. 19, 1928 at the Mennonite Hospital, Bloomington, Ill.; aged 59 y. 2 m. 10 d. At the age of 15 she united with the Mennonite Church and maintained this fellowship until the time of her death. In 1888 she was united in marriage to D. W. Slagel, and since then for a little over 40 years they have lived in the vicinity of Flanagan, Ill. She is survived by her husband, 7 sons (Arthur, Amos, George, Willis, Edwin, Gilbert, Milton), 4 daughters, Alma, Emma, Edna, Irene), 15 grandchildren, 1 brother (John, Flanagan, Ill.), 1 sister (Mrs. Joe. Yordy, Eureka, Ill.), one daughter, Mrs. John Nenhauser, preceded her to the spirit world in 1923. About two weeks previous to her death, she underwent an operation which seemed to be successful. She was getting along well and expected to go home soon. On the evening of her death after eating supper and going to bed as usual, she suddenly felt faint. Her daughter Edna, a senior nurse at the hospital, was called from duty. Mother told her she was dying and asked that the rest of the family be sent for, but death came very shortly afterward, the immediate cause being a blood clot in the blood stream. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Mennonite Church on Oct. 22, 1928, conducted by Bros. A. C. Good of Sterling, Ill., and J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill. Interment in the Waldo Cemetery. Among the things for which she will be remembered by those who loved her and knew her best are her patience, even temper and sympathy, her trust in an abiding Heavenly Father, her confidence in those about her, and her sacrifices for others." Gospel Herald, January 1947. "Slagel, Daniel W., youngest son of the late Christian and Salome Slagel, was born near Meadows, Ill., March 26, 1864; passed away at the home of his daughter (Mrs. Edward Eigsti), Flanagan, Ill., after several years of failing health, Jan. 4, 1947; aged 82 y. 9 m. 9 d. In 1888 he was married to Mary Roeschley, Eureka, Ill., who preceded him in death on Oct. 19, 1928. One son (Arthur), 2 daughters (Laura and Emma), and one grandson also predeceased him. Surviving are 6 sons (Amos, La Belle, Mo.; George, Willis, Edwin, and Gilbert of Flanagan; and Milton, Chicago, Ill.), 3 daughters (Alma-Mrs. Edward Eigsti, of Flanagan; Edna-Mrs. Ray Dillman, Fisher, Ill.; and
Irene-Mrs. Elmer Byler, Freeport, Ill.), 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. In his youth he became a member of the Mennonite Church and on July 3, 1909 he was ordained to the ministry, in which capacity he served faithfully as long as his health permitted. Funeral services were held Jan. 6 at the Waldo Mennonite Church, Flanagan, in charge of A. H. Leaman, of Chicago. Text: II Tim. 4:6, 7. Interment was made in the Waldo Cemetery.

15. Sophia Schlegel was born at Pike Dec. 4, 1865, and died 10 days later.
Ernst of Bois Lachat

See the preface to ZIMMERMAN for new information about the genetic background of the Ernst family.

The Ernst family was associated with Dättlikon, a village 15 miles northeast of Zürich. The earliest Ernst found there was Heini Ernst, in 1416.

Whether it was illiteracy, or the way it refused to roll off the French tongue, or simply the disinterest of municipal clerks, it is readily apparent that the surname 'Ernst' suffered under the état civil system of record keeping.

Civil entries in the Territoire de Belfort show Ernst as Aistre, Haiestre, Hernst, Herst, Haiste, Hernert, Hernest, Herneste, Hairnest, Hernets, Hernetz, and even Hairchetz.

Our account of the family of Tazewell County settler Catherine Ernst starts with two Anabaptist brothers, thought to have been born in 1731 and circa 1734.

OLDER BROTHER CHRISTIAN ERNST

Christian Ernst was born at Rougemont Dec. 16, 1730 [per Lorentz], and died on La Maie farm at Menoncourt Aug. 16, 1811. His death entry created at Eguenigue described him as 'Christe Herneste,' an Anabaptist cultivator on La Maie Farm at Menoncourt and the widower of 'Babely Nafsere.' He was 79 years, nine months old. The entry was witnessed by his son-in-law Joseph Gerig.

Christian married Barbara Nafziger. She was born at Wangen June 4, 1737, and died on La Maie farm (possibly on May 25, 1800, though it is not found in civil records). She was a daughter of Christ Nafziger and Barbara Hochstettler.

Their children include:

1. Barbe Ernst was born circa 1757, and died at Grandvillars Aug. 5, 1841, age 84. Circa 1776 she married Jost/Juste Joder. He was born at Fontaine (next to Reppe) circa 1755, and died at Grandvillars Oct. 5, 1852, a son of Christen/Christ Joder and his first wife Barbe Gerig. See JODER for background on this couple.

2. Marie Anne Ernst was born on La Maie farm at Menoncourt Jan. 11, 1758, and died there April 10, 1830. On April 20, 1782 at Courtelevant (on the east side of Florimont) she married Joseph Görig/Gerig. He was born at Sevenans (five miles below the town of Belfort) Aug. 15, 1758, and died at Eguenigue Dec. 28, 1813. Her death entry created at Eguenigue described her as the widow of Joseph Gérige, and a daughter of 'Christe Ernst' and 'Barbe Anflatrel' who died on La Maie farm. It was witnessed by son Christe Gérigue, 36, and son-in-law Christe Klopfenstein, 44. All three were residents of La Maie farm.

3. Madeleine Erste,' 90 (thus born circa 1762), died in the home of Christe Klopfenstein on La Maie farm at Menoncourt March 10, 1852. She was described as the widow of Andre Gérique, and the mother of witness Christ Gérique, 55, a cultivator.

YOUNGER BROTHER JACOB/JACQUES ERNST

Jacob/Jacques Ernst was born circa 1734. He married Catherine Lemann [the same surname as the German form 'Lehman'], who was born circa 1749. They were laborers in the forest of Normanvillars at Florimont, then farmers and weavers at Boron.

Jacob died on Beuchat farm at Boron May 14, 1794. The Boron death entry of 'Jochit Aistre' [Jacob Ernst] was witnessed by his son 'Simon Aistre,' 24, and 'Christe Chalbairt,' 50, of the dairy on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars. It said that Jacob died in his home on Beauchat farm, age 60. Catherine died at Froidefontaine July 3, 1809, age 60. Her death was reported by Jean Joder anabaptiste,' a 50-year-old weaver. It does not mention that Jean Joder had once been married to her sister Elisabeth.

Their children include:

1. Simon Ernst was born circa 1772.

2. Anna Ernst was born in 1780 (according to her headstone), and died at Bluffton, Ohio Feb. 13, 1846. She is buried in the Old Swiss Cemetery of the Reformed Mennonite Church, between Pandora and Bluffton on the Putnam County-Allen County line. On July 15, 1809 at Florimont she married cooper/barrelmaker Michael/Michel Neuenschwander. He was born at Boron March 9, 1778, and died at Bluffton, Ohio March 10, 1852, a son of Michel Neuenschwander and Barbe Steiner. Their marriage entry says that he was born at Langnau, Canton Bern (his family's Heimat, but not his actual birthplace). It described 'Anne Hernst' as a 30-year-old servant at Montigny, Sonnenberg (now Montignez, on the opposite side of the French-Swiss border from Florimont). It also noted that her mother had died only two days earlier. One witness was Anna's younger brother 'Jean Hernest,' who was described as a 28-year-old weaver living at Froidefontaine. Both Anna and Jean signed the entry with a mark, indicating that they were illiterate. In his diary Michel Neuenschwander described his wife's family as "Sigmund [the German equivalent of 'Simon'], Anna my
wife, Marie, Hans, and Verena who was the youngest." When he was six weeks old Michel's family relocated to the Münstertal valley. However, in 1798 Michel had returned to French territory to work as a cooper. In 1823 the couple decided to emigrate. On May 15 Michel, a pregnant Anna, and three children left their home at Favorois. They passed through Montbéliard, and spent the night in Paris May 30. The following morning they headed north to the port of Le Havre. The family arrived at the port June 5. They purchased passage on the ship Aeolus, and moved aboard to prepare for the journey. On June 11 Anna gave birth to a son onboard the Aeolus. The Aeolus departed Le Havre June 12, and arrived at New London, Connecticut July 25. After replenishing water and supplies it sailed south. It passed New York City July 28, and arrived at Perth Amboy, New Jersey July 29. The Neuenschwanders disembarked at Perth Amboy and traveled 18 miles overland to New York City. From there they began their journey west. A 6-year-old son contracted dysentery and died at Pittsburgh Sept. 16. On Oct. 4 the remaining family arrived at Green, Wayne County, Ohio. On March 29, 1823, less than six months after arriving in Wayne County, the Neuenschwander family spent $90.55 to purchase 74.75 acres at Green. The seller was Jacob Schrag, a son of Bendicht Schrag. In 1833 they resettled near Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio, becoming the 'pioneer family' there. Anna died there in 1846. Michel, now known as Michael, died there in 1852.

3. Marie Ernst was born circa 1782. Because of a number of coincidences – name, range of birth year, family connections, geography – it is likely that she is the Maria Ernst who had an illegitimate child named Anna Ernst Oct. 13, 1806.
   a. Anna Ernst was born Oct. 13, 1806, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Aug. 12, 1871. She presumably accompanied one of her cousins Jean/John or Christe/Christian when they sailed to New York in 1827 and 1828. The brothers went to Ontario in 1828, where they claimed lots at Wilmot. She married Nicholas Leichty/Lichti at Wilmot Nov. 2, 1832, and died there Aug. 12, 1871. Nicholas was born at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace June 5, 1811, and died at Wilmot Jan. 28, 1907, a son of Johannes Lichty and Magdalena Joder. Nicholas can be found as a 13-year-old on the passenger list of the Elizabeth as it sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York July 9, 1825 with passengers named Neuenschwander, Steiner, Luginbühl, and Amstutz. Nicholas and Anna can be found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Nicholas Lichti, 41, France, Amish yeoman; Anna, 48, France, Amish; with seven children born in Steiner, Luginbühl, and Amstutz. The marriage entry described Jean as the widower of Anne Klopfenstein, and a weaver living at Boron, a son of the deceased 'Jacques Haimez' (a second generation embellishment on the misspelling 'Hernetz') and 'Anne Klopstein.'
   b. Unidentified.
   c. Barbara Schmidt was born circa 1813, and died at North Easthope, Ontario June 2, 1897. Circa 1834 at Wilmot she married Christian Kuepfer. He was born at Valangin, Neuchâtel June 12, 1791, and died in August or September 1842.
   d. Magdalena Schmidt was born circa 1816, and died Aug. 27, 1869. She married Peter Kuepfer. He was born in Switzerland June 29, 1803, and died in August 1855.

4. Johannes/Hans/Jean Ernst was born on Chalembert farm Aug. 26, 1783, and died at the nearby farm Les Grabeussets at Boron Jan. 12, 1860. On Feb. 18, 1810 at Grandvillars he married Anneli/Ane Klopfenstein. She was born on Chalembert farm Oct. 17, 1785, and died at Grandvillars Feb. 12, 1819, a daughter of Peter Klopfenstein and Freni Joder. The marriage entry called them Jean Haimchez (a second generation embellishment on the misspelling 'Hermetz') and 'Anne Klopfstein.'
   a. Freni Ernst was born at Grandvillars Dec. 22, 1810. Her birth entry described her as 'Fresne,' and her parents as day laborer 'Jean Haimeste' and Anne Klopfenstein.
   b. Anne Ernst was born at Grandvillars Sept. 13, 1812, and died at Boron Aug. 21, 1871. Her birth entry described father Jean as an 'anabaptiste' laborer. Her death entry described her as 'Marie Ann Ernst,' giving her residence as Grandvillars, and was signed by brother Jean, 49.
   c. Unidentified.
   d. Anna Ernst was born Oct. 13, 1806, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Aug. 12, 1871. She presumably accompanied one of her cousins Jean/John or Christe/Christian when they sailed to New York in 1827 and 1828. The brothers went to Ontario in 1828, where they claimed lots at Wilmot. She married Nicholas Leichty/Lichti at Wilmot Nov. 2, 1832, and died there Aug. 12, 1871. Nicholas was born at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace June 5, 1811, and died at Wilmot Jan. 28, 1907, a son of Johannes Lichty and Magdalena Joder. Nicholas can be found as a 13-year-old on the passenger list of the Elizabeth as it sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York July 9, 1825 with passengers named Neuenschwander, Steiner, Luginbühl, and Amstutz. Nicholas and Anna can be found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Nicholas Lichti, 41, France, Amish yeoman; Anna, 48, France, Amish; with seven children born in Canada and mother-in-law Magdalena (Joder) Lichti, 79, France, Amish.

Marie later married a Schmidt and had three more daughters.283 Diane Beller has identified the two youngest daughters:
   a. Unidentified.
   b. Barbara Schmidt was born circa 1813, and died at North Easthope, Ontario June 2, 1897. Circa 1834 at Wilmot she married Christian Kuepfer. He was born at Valangin, Neuchâtel June 12, 1791, and died in August or September 1842.
   c. Magdalena Schmidt was born circa 1816, and died Aug. 27, 1869. She married Peter Kuepfer. He was born in Switzerland June 29, 1803, and died in August 1855.

283 The Kuepfers were sons of Johann Peter Kuepfer of Le Locle, Neuchâtel and Barbara Streit of Lauterbrunnen, Canton Bern (five miles south of Lake Thun). They were married at Simiswald Feb. 26, 1786. Descendants spell the surname 'Kipfer.' Another Kuepfer son, Jacob Kuepfer, was born in Switzerland May 3, 1798, and died at Wilmot Aug. 23, 1862. On July 22, 1827 at Wilmot he married Maria Liechty/Lichti, a sister of Nicholas Liechty/Lichti.

284 Anna's birth entry actually calls her 'Jeanne Hosteller.' Peter/Pierre Hochstetler was born in 1769, and died at Coin du Bois in 1811. He was a farmer at Chagey. His parents were Peter Hochstetler (born at Clairegoutte in 1722 and died at Chagey Feb. 18, 1798, age 76) and Anna Roth. Peter was a son of Christ Hochstetler and Elisabeth Ulrich, who came from Ste. Marieaux-Mines to live at Clairegoutte by 1723. Christ Hochstetler was born in 1673, and died at Magny d'Anignon (adjacent to Clairegoutte) Jan. 11, 1759.
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c. Jean Ernst was born at Boron Aug. 4, 1821. The entry names his father 'Jean Hernets,' 38, weaver at Boron, and his mother 'Catherine Hastanteler.' He was a 38-year-old witness on his father's death entry in 1860. He was living on Beauchat farm in 1865.

d. Christian/Criste Ernst was born on Beuchat farm at Boron Aug. 30, 1823 (civil entry; headstone Aug. 31), and died at Noble, Iowa April 5, 1891. His birth entry names his parents as 'Jean Hernst,' a 40-year-old weaver, and 'Anne Hostenteleur.' He applied for a passport at Florimont Oct. 5, 1846. The application described him as 23-year-old weaver Christ Ernst of Boron, and gave his destination as New York. He sailed from Le Havre on the Art Union, arriving at New York May 5, 1854. Circa 1858 in Washington County, Iowa he married Magdalena Wenger. She was born in Ontario Jan. 24, 1842, and died at Noble, Washington Co., Iowa, of liver complaint, 41 years and 2 months. She lived in a firm trust in Jesus, and a hope of an eternal home in heaven. Three children went before her to the eternal world. Funeral services were held by S. Gehrig and Benj. Eicher. "On the 5th of April, 1891, near Noble, Washington Co., Iowa, Bro. Christian Ernst, aged 67 years, 8 months and 4 days. Buried on the 7th, in the Sommer graveyard in the presence of many friends and relatives, who wished to show the last tribute of respect to the departed brother. Eight children remain to mourn the loss of a beloved father. Services by S. Gerig and Benj. Eicher, from Ps. 39:5-9."

e. Elisabeth Ernst was born at Boron Oct. 20, 1825.

f. Pierre Ernst was born at Boron July 7, 1828.

g. Catherine Ernst was born at Boron Nov. 3, 1830.

h. Marie/Mary Ernst was born at Boron June 25, 1833. The entry named her 'Marie Ertz,' and described her parents as 'Jean Ertz,' a 50-year-old weaver from Boron, and Anne Hosteren, 36. She married Jean Wenger, born in 1832, an older brother of Magdalena Wenger. Their household appears on the 1880 census of New Philadelphia, Ohio as wagon maker John Wenger, 49, Switzerland; Mary, 48, Switzerland; and five children ages 11-21 born in Ohio.

5. Verena 'Freni' Ernst was born circa 1783, and died at Grandvillars Jan. 6, 1814, during a siege of the fortress. Her death entry clearly names her parents as Jacques Ernst and Catherine Lemann, and describes them as laborers in the forest of Normanvillars. It described her as a farm operator [Fr. manoeuvre], and was signed by her cousin Jost Joder.

a. Catherine Ernst. On May 21, 1810 Freni gave birth to an illegitimate daughter Catherine on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars. The entry described the mother as 'Frenÿ Hairneste,' day laborer and native of Boron. Catherine Ernst married Pierre Mueller at Belfort May 31, 1837. He was born March 20, 1790, a son of Michael Mueller and Barbara Rich. On March 30, 1815 at Rougemont he had married Elizabeth Barbara Klopfenstein, a daughter of Jacques Klopfenstein and Anna Becher. She died Dec. 2, 1835, leaving 11 children below the age of 18. Pierre and Catherine had four more children between 1838 and 1848.

Simon Ernst was born circa 1772. He signed his father's death entry with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate.

Simon married Catherine Roth at Boron Jan. 7, 1794. Simon and Catherine were weavers. They lived in the Bois Lachat – the forest west and north of Grandvillars.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Ernst was born at Boron Sept. 8, 1794. She married Christian Schlegel at Froidefontaine July 3, 1816, and they emigrated in 1825. See SCHLEGEL for background on this couple.

2. Marie Ernst was born at Boron March 10, 1796. Her birth entry named her parents as 'Simon Haistre' and 'Catherine Rote.' She was 20 when she married her 52-year-old grand-uncle Jean/Hans Joder at Froidefontaine Feb. 2, 1816. See JODER for background on this couple.

3. Marie-Anne Ernst was born circa 1798, and died at Grandvillars May 19, 1809. Her death entry described her parents as 'Simon Hairnchetz' and 'Catherine Rode,' weavers living at Grandvillars, and stated that Marie-Anne was 11 years old. Though the Ernst were living at Boron in 1798, no birth entry was found there. It is possible that Marie-Anne was adopted into this family. Only one Marie-Anne was born at Boron in 1798: Marie-Anne Dorian, a

285 Two versions of indexes made by the Boron municipal clerk are shown on FHL microfilm, but the actual entry is not given. The first index page gives only the name of the bride and groom and the date, but every item is lined out. The date is Jan. 7, 1794. One wonders what the actual entry looked like, because the index is incorrect. The name of the groom is given as 'Simon Hernest,' and the date under the Republican calendar was '18 Nivose an 2.' But the bride was named as 'Cathrine Lemans' – the name of the groom's mother. The index page was rewritten, this time with the incorrect date '18 Nivose 3' (Jan. 7, 1795) and the groom as 'Hersint Simon' and the bride as 'Catherine Lement.'
daughter of farm equipment operator François Dorian and Marie Bermon. François Dorian died at Boron Nov. 5, 1808.

4. Christe Ernst was born at Boron Jan. 11, 1799. We found an état civil birth entry, but none for his death, though he presumably died before December 1800.

5. Christian/Christe Ernst was born at Boron Dec. 10, 1800, according to a civil birth entry. The barely legible entry names him 'Criste Herste.'

6. Anne Ernst was born at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1805, and died at Froidefontaine July 31, 1810. Her birth entry names her parents as 'Simon Ernst anabaptiste' and Catherine Rodt tisserant [weaver], living in the Bois Lachat. The witness was Juste Joder, 50, a cultivator and Anabaptist living at Grandvillars. Her death entry described her father as 'Simon Hemetz,' 42.

7. Johannes/Jean/John Ernst was born at Grandvillars Dec. 4, 1806, and died at New Hamburg, Ontario Feb. 1, 1886. He married Maria Lugebiehl [Luginbühl]. She was born at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1805, an illegitimate daughter of 'Catherine Luquebil,' and died at Wilmot Sept. 28, 1840. John Ernst appears on the Feb. 11, 1830 report of surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot as someone who purchased a lot on the south side of Bleams Road "under the terms of Christian Naffzig." The document Wilmot Township Land Registry Records held in the Archives of Ontario notes a transaction where John Ernst acted as a go-between for German and French speakers. There is also a letter to Pierre Robinson in French written by 'Jean Ernst de Wilmot' with the note 'says he cannot write in English.' He became the first postmaster of Petersburg in 1840; chairman of the Wilmot Township Board of Commissioners in 1843; councillor with the Wellington District Council 1842-50; Township Deputy Reeve in 1850; and Township Reeve (administrator) in 1851-53 and 1857-59. On June 17, 1841 he remarried to Juliana Zöger/Zoeger. She was born at Sinsheim (now in Baden-Württemberg) March 10, 1823, and died at Petersburg, Ontario Oct. 21, 1869, a daughter of Leonard Zöger and Margaretha Schmitt. In 1848 he established the Blue Moon, an inn that is now on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Its brick shell was not completed until 1855. When a new railroad line diverted traffic, Ernst sold it and moved on to other business interests. The inn is still operating as the Blue Moon Restaurant. It is located at 1677 Snyder's Road, in the village of Petersburg in the township of Wilmot. John's household appears on the 1851 census of Wilmot (the township that included Petersburg) as John Ernst, 45, France, Protestant merchant; Juliane, Germany, Protestant; Christian, 19; Marie, 17; Peter, 16; Katherine, 9; Barbara, 7; Henry, 5; all children born in Ontario. The 1861 census of Wilmot shows John Ernst, 53, and Julia, 38. The 1871 census of Wilmot shows John as a widower, 64. The 1881 census of Wilmot shows John Ernst, 74, France, Lutheran, no profession. He was living in the household of Frederick Holwell, the man who purchased the Blue Moon Inn from him. John, Maria, and Juliane are buried in the Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery at Petersburg. New Hamburg Independent, Feb. 11, 1886: "John Ernst, Sr., who died at New Hamburg on the 1st inst., was born at Grand Village, near Belford, Lorraine, France, on the 4th of Dec., 1807[1806]. He emigrated to America in the year 1827, landing in New York in the same year, where he remained but one year, long enough to enable him to learn the English language somewhat. He came to Wilmot township in 1828 where he took up land, cleared his lot, and remained on the same for a long time. During his time there (1837) the cholera broke out once, and while the sad epidemic lasted he helped to bury many of his neighbours, even making coffins from rough lumber and taking them to the burying ground with his ox team, and attending to the burial all by himself. After that he removed to Petersburg, where he engaged in the general store business and hotel keeping. Some time after that he owned and ran the New Dundee mills, also the tannery at Petersburg. He was a man of good judgment, and a man on whose word you could rely. Any appointment he made was sure to fulfill; he was a man of temperate habits although a hotel keeper for over 40 years. Some years ago he withdrew from actual business pursuits, but was always ready to enter into conversation on the topics of the day, as well as render any assistance where needed if at all in his power to do so. About six weeks ago he was attacked with bronchitis, then heart trouble set in from which he never rallied. Although far advanced in years he bore his sufferings with Christian fortitude and was prepared to meet his Maker. In years gone by he held different municipal offices, was Justice of the Peace and also issuer of marriage licences. He was postmaster at Petersburg for 44 years, and was one of the first postmasters in the County of Waterloo. In politics he was a staunch Conservative, and was ever ready to do a good turn for his party. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and was an old member of that body. His remains were taken to Petersburg, for internment on Wednesday Feb. 3rd. He leaves one daughter and three sons to mourn his loss; his wife preceded him some fifteen years ago." Children of Jean/Johann/John Ernst and his first wife Maria Luquebil/Lugebiehl [Luginbühl] include:


286 The mother lived with her brother 'Christ Luquebil' on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars. She was described as an Anabaptist servant, a daughter of the deceased 'Christ Luquebil.' The birth was witnessed by Jost/Juste Joder, 50, Anabaptist cultivator, who signed 'Jost Joder.'
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in Germany, with seven children between the ages 7-21 all born in Ontario. John and Sophia are buried in Riverside Cemetery at New Hamburg.

b. Christian Ernst was born at Wilmot circa 1832. His household appears on the 1881 census of New Hamburg as Christian Ernst, 49, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, hardware merchant, Lutheran; Catharine, 46, ethnic origin German, born in Ontario, Lutheran; John B. Ernst, 19, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, deputy post master, Lutheran; Henry Allan Ernst, 12, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario; and Caroline Horn, 25, ethnic origin 25, born in Ontario, servant, Lutheran. They are found in the same location in 1891 as postmaster Christian Ernst, 58, France, ethnic origin Swiss; Catherine 55, Germany; and grocer Henry Ernst, 22, born in Ontario, Lutheran. The Cemetery Index for Riverside Cemetery lists a Christian Ernst born in 1832, who died May 3, 1898.

c. Marie Ernst was born at Wilmot circa 1834, and died at Preston, Ontario March 3, 1861. Circa 1852 she married furniture manufacturer Friedrich/Frederick Guggisberg. He was born at Uetendorf, Canton Bern Sept. 19, 1818, and died at Preston Feb. 29, 1888, a son of Christian Guggisberg and Magdalena Mosher. On Oct. 4, 1880 he remarried to Veronika Anna Maria Hagenbuch.

d. Peter Ernst was born at Wilmot Sept. 11, 1836. On May 24, 1862 in Waterloo County he married Elisabeth Schaefer. She was born in Germany Jan. 14, 1842. Peter was alive in 1886, according to his father's obituary.

Children of Johannes/Jean/John Ernst and his second wife Juliane Zöger include:
e. Catherine Ernst was born at Petersburg circa 1841. On Oct. 25, 1861 at Wellesley in 1861 she married John William Walden, a son of William Walden and Susannah Rudd. He was 24, she was 19; the ceremony was performed by a Presbyterian minister. They are found on the 1881 census of Waterloo as physician John W. Walden, 43, ethnic origin English, Presbyterian; Catherine, 38, ethnic origin French, Presbyterian; and five children, with the entire family born in Ontario.

f. Barbara Ernst was born at Petersburg circa 1844, and appears on the 1851 census. She died before 1886.

g. Henry Ernst was born at Petersburg Sept. 14, 1846, and died Dec. 6, 1895. On May 22, 1873 at New Hamburg he married Yetta Merner. She was born in Waterloo County Nov. 24, 1853, and died June 29, 1927. The 1881 census of New Hamburg shows their household as Henry Ernst, 34, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, book keeper, Lutheran; Jedidah, 24, ethnic origin Swiss, born in Ontario, Evangelical Association; Louisa Henrietta Ernst, 6, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario; and Herbert Walter Ernst, 4, born in Ontario. Henry and Yetta are buried in Riverside Cemetery at New Hamburg.

On Oct. 4, 1821 at Grandvillars Christian/Christe Ernst married Madeleine Jebach [only two generations earlier this surname was 'Schlabach']. The marriage entry described 'Christe Hernets' as a weaver born at Boron, living at Grandvillars, age 20 years, nine months, and 24 days. His parents were identified as 'Simon Hernets,' weaver, and 'Catherine Roote.'

Madeleine was described as 28 years, three months, and four days old, suggesting a rough birth date of July 31, 1793. She was a daughter of the deceased Christian Jebach, who died at Le Vermont Sept. 16, 1801, and the deceased Elizabeth Hertigre [Hertig], who died at Le Vermont Sept. 16, 1802. Later entries for the births of her children call her 'Chepach'; the family Bible of her son Christian calls her 'Magdalena Chepas.'

She was two months pregnant at the time of her marriage.

In the spring of 1828 Christian/Christe and a very pregnant Madeleine (possibly accompanied by his cousin Anna/Anne Ernst) embarked on a journey to North America. A clue to their path is found in the état civil index of births for Foulaine, Haut Marne – about 100 miles west of Belfort. 'Christian Hernest' and 'Madeleine Chepas' had a son Christian born there April 11, 1828.

In New York Christian and Madeleine may have reunited with his younger brother Johannes/Jean/John, who had arrived there a year earlier. He may have stayed with his older sister Catherine Ernst and her husband Christian Schlegel, who had lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan since 1825. His obituary says that he arrived at New York in 1827, and did not settle in Ontario until the following year. So it is probable that the two brothers traveled together to the German Block at Wilmot, Ontario.

The following is taken from ROPP, where more information on this Amish Mennonite settlement may be found.

287 Le Vermont in the département of Vosges, 90 miles north of Grandvillars. There were no entries there for the 1801 and 1802 deaths. Information from other sources suggests that 'Elizabeth Hertigre' was a daughter or niece of Christian Hertig and Marie Stibi (see ROESCHLEY for more on this couple). It is also probable that 'Christian Jebach' was a son of Ulrich Schlabach of La Petite Fosse (born circa 1744) and Marie Adam (born circa 1743, widow of Christe Müller), who were married at Urbeis, Lower Alsace in 1769 and lived in the Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche. Ulrich Schlabach was a son of Jean Schlabach, born at Urbeis in 1711, and Catherine Reber, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1715.
"Christian Nafziger's agreement provided 50 acres of land for each settler. The stakeholder could apply for free ownership rights after seven years, provided a substantial dwelling was constructed and adjacent roads were cleared. Every 50-acre parcel had a 150-acre parcel behind it; many settlers assumed they would later purchase the 150 acres at discounted prices.

But the progress of settlement in Waterloo County was upset in 1828. 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."

At Wilmot the Ernst brothers claimed lots on adjacent parallel streets. Among their neighbors were many other figures from these genealogies, such as Andreas Ropp, Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmit, Peter Donner, Christian Farny, Peter Farny, and Peter Naffziger. 289

On the 1830 survey map of Wilmot 'Christian Ernst' is found as the claimant on a lot on the north side of Snyder’s Road. His family is also found on the 1851 census of Wellesley (eight miles northwest of Wilmot) as Christian Ernst, 53, France, Mennonite farmer; Magdalene, 60, France, Mennonite; John, 24, France, Mennonite laborer; Barbara, 18, Canada, Mennonite; and Joseph, 14, Canada, Mennonite. 289

And there we might conclude, except for an odd twist. In later life Christe/Christian Ernst resided with a son and a daughter in Central Illinois.

At the time of his death he was living at Pike, Livingston County with his daughter Barbara and son-in-law Joseph Ingold. They were neighbors to Christe/Christian's nephew Christian Sehlegel [Jr.] and Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer.

Herald of Truth, June 1874: "April 25th, in Livingston Co., Ill., Christian Ernst, aged 73 years. Five years ago he had a stroke of the palsy, since which time he has not been able to help himself, and most of the time he spent in the chair. Yet with patience the aged brother bore his Cross, until death released him from his trials. Sermon by Noah Augspurger, and Christian Nafziger, from 1 Cor. 15."

Children of Christe/Christian Ernst and Madelaine Chepach [Schlabach] include:

1. Catherine Ernst was born at Grandvillars May 14, 1822, and died there Dec. 22, 1823. The birth entry names her parents as 'Christ Hernets' and 'Madelaine Chopack.'

2. Catherine Ernst was born at Grandvillars Aug. 21, 1824, and died in Perth County, Ontario July 8, 1886. Her birth entry describes her parents as weaver 'Christ Hernetz,' 24, and 'Madeleine Chepak.' Circa 1843 she married Peter Brunk. He was born in 1811, and died in Perth County in 1895. They are found on the 1851 census of Wellesley as farmer Peter Brunc, 37, France, Roman Catholic; Catherine, 24, Canada, Mennonite; Christian, 7; Ellen, 6; Barbara, 5; Catherine, 3; and Margaret, 2; all children born in Canada and Mennonite.

3. Jean/John Ernst was born at Grandvillars May 15, 1826. His birth entry incorrectly names his uncle Jean Ernst as his father, but correctly names his mother as 'Madelaine Chepach' (fortunately uncle Jean had a son John in 1830, removing all doubt on this point).

4. Christian E. Ernst was born at Foulaine, Haut Marne April 11, 1828, and died at Shields, Holt County, Nebraska Nov. 9, 1900. On Feb. 21, 1854 at Wellesley, Ontario he married Susanna Kennel. She was born on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle Jan. 14, 1833, and died at Shields May 3, 1906, a daughter of Christophe Kennel and Magdalena Jantzi. They appear on the 1861 census of Wellesley, Ontario as Christian Ernst, 33, France, Mennonite carpenter; Susan, 28, France, Mennonite; and John, 1, Ontario, Mennonite. They are also found at Wellesley in 1871 and 1881. The 1900 census of Shields shows them as Christian E. Ernst, born in Germany in April 1828, and Susanna, born in

289 Schmidtsville was surveyed in 1842, 7 miles northwest of Wilmot. It was renamed Wellesley Township with the census of 1851, and incorporated in 1852. Waterloo County was established in 1852, and took in both Wellesley and Wilmot.
Germany in January 1832, both naturalized in 1884. (In 1900 Susanna's birthplace was occupied by Germany, but
Christian's was not). They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska.
5. Barbara Ernst was born at Wilmot, Ontario circa 1832, and died in Livingston County Dec. 8, 1887. She is found on
the 1851 census of Wellesley. On Jan. 14, 1872 in Tazewell County she married widower Joseph Ingold. He was
born in Bavaria Jan. 24, 1826, an illegitimate child of Barbara Ingold (who later married Daniel Zehr). His first wife
had been Barbara Unzicker (1844-1871), who he married in Tazewell County Nov. 8, 1863; the ceremony was
performed by minister Michael Mosiman. See ZEHR for background on her marriage to Ingold.
6. Joseph Ernst was born at Petersburg/Wilmot, Ontario circa 1837. He is found on the 1851 census of Wellesley.

The 1861 census of Ellice, Perth County, Ontario (14 miles southwest of Wellesley or 14 miles west of New
Hamburg) shows Christian's son John Ernst, 35, a laborer from France; Catherine, 27, France; and Joseph, 5,
Ontario.

However, another odd turn finds John in the wooded land south of Allentown Road at Elm Grove. On the
1870 census of Elm Grove, the next door neighbors of Moses Ropp and Lydia Garber appear as John Ernst, 44,
laborer, France; Catherine, 38, France; and Joseph, 14, Canada. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John
Ernst, 54, France, and his wife Kathrena, 46, France. Their neighbors still included Moses Ropp, who would leave
within a few years to re-establish his saw mill business in Kentucky.

We could not find dates of death or burial places for John and Magdalena, but these may turn up when his
father Christian's place of burial in Livingston County is determined.

Joseph Ernst was born in Ontario May 26, 1856, and died June 16, 1933. He married Ella Berry in Tazewell
County Dec. 22, 1875. She was born Aug. 31, 1858, and died March 13, 1913. They are buried in Highland
Cemetery, Ottawa, Franklin County, Kansas.

Their household is found on the 1880 federal census of Spring Hill, Kansas, and on the 1895 state census of
Appanoose, Kansas. At Appanoose they appear as Joseph Ernst, 38, born in Canada; Ellen, 36, born in Illinois;
Blanche, 15; Maggie E., 13; J.A. (male), 11; Clara W., 9; Anna V., 7; Benjamin E., 5; Bessie A., 3 (all children born
in Kansas); and mother-in-law Nancy Berry, 61, born in Kentucky.

290 Minister Christian Schlegel [Jr.] delivered a eulogy at the funeral of Joseph Ingold's first wife Barbara Unzicker. Gospel
Herald, June 1871: "On the 7th of April, in Livingston county, Illinois, Barbara Ingold, wife of Joseph Ingold, aged 27 years, 3
months and 10 days. Funeral discourses were delivered Christian Schlegel and John P. Schmitt, from I Cor. 15th and 1
Thessalonians. She was buried on the 8th. She was a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite church. She was a pious and
faithful sister. She was always anxious to attend divine services, and when she could not do so she spent her time in reading and
prayer. On the day she died, she was washing, and while engaged at her work she sang the hymn: 'Was mich auf dieser Welt
betrüebt, Das wahrhaft kurze Zeit.' She had determined to commit this hymn to memory and had mastered several verses of it.
She eat dinner with a good relish. At half past one o'clock, she went out before the house and stooped down to the earth; her
husband saw her from a distance and thought she was looking for something, but seeing her fall, he hastened to her, but she said
not a single word, and died instantly. Let us take warning and be also ready when the messenger comes. J.P. Schmitt."

291 Ellice Township was established in 1830. It is mainly farm land. The township includes a corner of the city of Stratford
(population 30,000), the county seat of Perth County. Stratford is 3 miles northwest of South Easthope, where there was a large
Amish Mennonite congregation.

292 Ella's family is found on the 1860 census of Downs, McLean County as William Berry, 37, Virginia; Nancy, 30,
Kentucky; Albert, 4, Illinois; and Ellen, 2, Illinois. Albert and his family were living with Joseph and Ella/Ellen on the 1880
census.
Roeschley: A Variation of Röschli

The surname Röschi appears at least once in the religious history of Switzerland. In 1522, a Röschli was one of the two curates of the city of Zurich who sided with Ulrich Zwingli and acceded to the transition from a Catholic to a Protestant Reformed Church. But the surname is not found among Anabaptists.

In Alsace one branch begins with a Swiss émigré, Jean Roeschly. He was named as the father of the groom at a wedding that took place in Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Sept. 19, 1724. The name appears in the online database Une genealogie Sainte-Marienne, compiled by French genealogist Jean Jacques Malaisé.

We searched entries created by the Protestant Reformed Church there. The groom was Mathias Roeschly. We can assume that he was born before 1704. He died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 20, 1746. His bride was Anne Marie Redelsperger. She was born circa July 21, 1702, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 4, 1766, a daughter of Michel Redelsperger.

Their children included:

2. Anne Marie Roeschly was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 17, 1729, and died there Sept. 20, 1776. She married Jean Jacques Eichelsberger. He was born at Reinach, Canton Bern (in a part that became Canton Aargau) circa 1717, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 19, 1796. He remarried twice, in 1776 to an Antenat and in 1787 to a Hotz.
4. Elisabeth Roeschly was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 31, 1736. She married Jean Linder.
5. Anne Vérelle Roeschly was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 21, 1739, and died Sept. 29, 1800. She married Jean Jacques Mathis.
7. Elisabeth Barbe Roeschly was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 19, 1746. She married Jean Ernest Uhlenhuth.

Independently from all this, we found a Jean Richely (as written by a French clerk) in French civil records. He was likely born before 1722 (considering he had a son circa 1742). He married Magdalena/Madeleine Eichelsperger. Taken altogether - the coincidence of surnames in a small area population - it is fair to assume that Johannes/Jean was related in some way to Mathias, perhaps as a brother or cousin.

Jean Richely and Magdalena/Madeleine Eichelsperger had a son Johannes/Jean Röschli. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1742.

He married Elisabeth Hertig. It is likely that she was born at Echery circa 1739, a daughter of Christian Hertig and Magdalena/Madeleine Schörtz.

Johannes/Jean died in the home of his son David at La Croix-aux-Mines (six miles southeast of Le Saulcy) Dec. 28, 1812. His civil death entry provides a wealth of information. It described him as a 70-year-old native of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. He was the husband of Elisabeth Hertique, and they worked on Harcholet farm (now the

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293 We found Hertihs at Hilterfingen and Steffisburg, Canton Bern in the 16th century, but the family is most often found at Rüderswil (22 miles north of Steffisburg). The association of the Hertig family with the Eymann family goes back at least as far as a marriage of Peter Eymann and Verena Hertig at Steffisburg April 23, 1680. Eymann was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 3, 1656, and died at Aubure, Upper Alsace Feb. 13, 1729. Verena may be the same Frena Hertig who appears on a list of Anabaptist heads of households created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1708; perhaps the list was created in the absence of her husband.

Christe Hertig is found as a head of household on a list of Anabaptists in the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732. Christe's children may include these three known to be Anabaptists:  ■ Cecile Hertique [Hertig], born circa 1728, who died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines May 26, 1809. Her civil death entry stated that she was 81 years old, and was born at Echery, a daughter of Chrétien Hertique and Magdalaine Shart [likely Schörtz/ Schertz]; she was the widow of the deceased Nicolas Eymann. The entry was witnessed by cultivator Chrétien Eymann, 54, and cousin Jean Rebere, 60. Chrétien was their son, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1755. ■ Christian Hertig was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1731, and died at Le Vermont, Vosges May 10, 1803. He married Marie Stibi/Stiby. She was born circa 1742, and died at Le Vermont Jan. 18, 1806, a daughter of Pierre Stibi/Stiby and Barbe Gerber. The April 17, 1795 marriage entry of a daughter Marie to Pierre Erb described parents-of-the-bride Christian and Marie as Anabaptists living on Genèvre farm at Le Vermont. Christian signed with his initials. ■ Elisabeth Hertig, born circa 1739, who married Johannes/Jean Röschli.
village Le Harcholet in the hamlet of Quieux above Le Saulcy, Vesges) at Le Saulcy. 294 His parents were named as the deceased Jean Richely and Madeleine Eichelberger. Madeleine was living at Echri [Echery, the hamlet below Ste. Marie-aux-Mines that had once been home to Jacob Amman]. The entry was witnessed by his son David Richely, 26; and Nicolas Roth, 54 (Roth had come to La Croix-aux-Mines from Echery in 1780; see WAGLER for more on him).

One source says Elisabeth Hertig died in the home of her son Daniel at Lafrimbolle, Moselle in 1816, age 77. However, at the second marriage of her son Jean Crétien in 1809 the civil entry described her as deceased.

Children of Johannes/Jean Röschli and Elisabeth Hertig born on Harcholet farm (now Le Harcholet) at Le Saulcy (in what became Vesges) include:

1. **Johannes/Hans/Jean Röschli** was born Aug. 15, 1761, and died at Marckolsheim, Upper Alsace Dec. 17, 1828.
2. Jean Crétien Roeschly was born May 17, 1763, and died at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace March 26, 1832. Circa 1790 he married Véronique Hyser. She was born circa 1763, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 2, 1808, a daughter of Nicolas Hyser and Anne Schmucker. On Sept. 16, 1809 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he remarried to widow Madeleine Liechti. She was born at St. Amarin, Upper Alsace May 15, 1776, and died at La Croix-aux-Mines Sept. 6 or 10, 1833, a daughter of Friedrich Liechti and Barbara Frey. Her first husband François Miller had died in 1805. Their marriage entry said that the groom had been living at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines for 20 years, and was a son of cultivator Jean Reschely from Saucy and the deceased Elisabeth Hertigue. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Reschely, 45, brother-of-the-groom; and Barbe Frey, 73, mother of the bride. Jean Crétien's civil death entry described him as weaver Chretien Räschli, 74; gave his birthplace; and said that his widow was Madeleine Leichti. It was witnessed by his son weaver Jacques Räschli, 23, a resident of Ribeauvillé; and Jean Wagler, 68, living at Muesberg [Muesbach]. It was signed Jacob Reschlin, and marked 'x' by 'Chretien Roschli' (presumably another son of Crétien).
3. Anne Marie Richely was born circa 1764, and died in 1828. On Oct. 21, 1798 at Le Puid, Vesges she married Jacob/Jacques Erb. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jacque Erb, 26, living at Breitenbach, a son of Daniel Erb and Marie Stoký. The bride was described as Anne Marie Reicheli, 25, living at Vermont [Le Vermont, Vesges], a daughter of cultivator Jean Reicheli and Elisabeth Herdick living at Harcholet, commune de Saucy. They were accompanied by father and son Christian Herdick, 66, and Christian Herdick, 31, maternal uncle and cousin of the bride, living at Vermont. Witnesses included cultivator Pierre Erb of Vermont, 30, brother of the groom. It was signed Jacob Erb and Anne Roschli.
4. Daniel Richely was born circa 1777, and died at Le Frimbolle, Moselle Oct. 5, 1851. He lived at La-Croix-aux-Mines, Vesges in 1812. On Sept. 26, 1819 at St. Quirin Metaires, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married widow Barbe Schmitt. She was born at Lafrimbolle Aug. 2, 1793, and died there July 3, 1847, a daughter of Sébastien Schmitt and Anne Stroubar. She had been married to Michel Salzmann, who died in 1818. After the marriage Daniel and Barbe lived at LaFrimboll.
5. Joseph Richely was born circa 1780, and died at Le Saulcy, Vesges Dec. 25, 1812. He married Marie Barbe Wagler. She was born circa 1776, and died in 1836. She may have been a daughter of Isaac Wagler and Barbe Eyman. Joseph's death entry is not included in the online departmental archives, perhaps because it was too faint or damaged to reproduce. The marriage entry of their daughter Madeleine created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 4, 1822 says she was born at La Croix-aux-Mines, Vesges Dec. 23, 1803 (no civil entry is found there), a daughter of the deceased Joseph Reschely, who had died at Saucy Dec. 25, 1812, and Marie Barbe Wagler, 46, who was present. Madeleine's

294 Le Saulcy is found on many older documents as Saucy. In medieval times the abbey of Senones owned a parish that included Le Saulcy, Belval, Le Mont (now St. Jean du Mont), St. Stail, Le Puid, and Le Vermont. Its administration was assumed by the Protestant count of Salm in 1571. All of these communities now fall in the department of Vesges.

295 Their son Joseph Richely (also found as Richely, Roeschly, Reschly, and Reschly) was born at St. Quirin Metaires Nov. 17, 1819, and died at Wellesley, Ontario March 5, 1903. In 1847 Joseph was living on La Haute Gueisse farm at Le Harcholet, Moselle. On Dec. 25, 1847 at Lafrimbolle, Moselle he married Anne/Anna Suisse; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Maurer. She was born at Anglemont March 21, 1819, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Oct. 19, 1865 (her headstone says Oct. 21), a daughter of Joseph Suisse [Schweizer] and his first wife Barbara Hodler. She was buried in the Riser/Reschly Burial Plot Cemetery at Wellesley, which was later plowed over. They may have immigrated on separate ships. Joseph sailed from Le Havre on the *Flora MacDonald*, arriving at New York Oct. 14, 1854. The passenger list shows him as Joseph Roscheli, 42, France. However, Joseph Reschly and Anna Schweitzer Family History and Genealogy by Irwin Steckly and Elizabeth Bast (2003) says that ‘the family’ (presumably Anne Suisse and their three daughters) left their home or Le Havre Oct. 23, 1854 and sailed six weeks. It is certain from one of Joseph’s letters that the husband, wife, and children arrived at the Wilmot home of minister Peter Litwiller Dec. 16, 1854. They leased a farm at Musselburg in 1855, which they later purchased. Joseph Roeschly was later ordained as a minister, and farmed at Mornington, South Easthope, and Wellesley. Joseph was one of the few North American immigrants who made a return trip to Europe. The *France* sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York June 16, 1875. The passenger list shows farmer Joseph Roeschly, 55, coming from France, destination Canada. That list also shows farmer Pierre Leichty, 57, coming from France, destination Ohio; and Christ Leichty, 48, coming from France, destination Ohio.
new husband was Joseph Miller, a son from Madeleine Lichti's first marriage; Madeleine was the second wife of Jean Crétien Roeschly. Jean Crétien and Madeleine both witnessed the entry.

6. Madeleine Röschli was born Dec. 10, 1782. On Feb. 27, 1803 at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace she married Daniel Erb. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Daniel Erb, 23, born at Breitenbach in 1780, a son of cultivator Daniel Erb and Marie Stockÿ of Breitenbach. The bride was described as Magdelon Röschli, 22, born at Sassir in 1781. Witnesses included cultivator Nicola Stibi, 44, an uncle; cultivator George Gerber, 46, a brother-in-law; cultivator Nicolas Erb, 36, the bride's brother; and cultivator Joseph Gerber, 30, a friend. It was signed by Daniel Erb. Madeleine signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate. Though the actual marriage entry neglects to name the parents of the bride, the prior ban announcement names them as laborer Jean Röschli and Elisabeth Hertique living at Sasire. Erb died at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines June 14, 1809. His civil death entry stated that his widow Magdelaine Richely was left with three children; it was witnessed by cultivator Chrétien Eyman, 53, and cultivator Jean Gerber, 36 (he signed 'Hans Graber'). On Oct. 25, 1810 she remarried at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines. The groom was described as farm operator Jean Jacob Küpfner, 28, born at Altheim July 29, 1782, a son of the deceased Jean Jacob Küpfner and Salomé Breechbühl who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Magdelaine Richely, 27, born at Saucy Dec. 10, 1782, the widow of Daniel Erb, and a daughter of cultivators Jean Richely and Elisabeth Hertique of Saucy.

7. David Richely was born Jan. 7, 1786. On April 12, 1803 at La Croix-aux-Mines he married Magdelaine Berse. She was born circa 1768, a daughter of Abraham Berse and Catherine Küpferschmidt. She was 35 years old at her marriage; he was 17 (though perhaps his age should be taken with a grain of salt). The civil entry describes Richely as a 17-year-old weaver's assistant born on Harcholet farm at Le Saulcy Jan. 7, 1786; it is possible that his age was adjusted downward to help him avoid military service, though at this time the marriage alone would have been sufficient as a disqualifier. His age remained consistent on all subsequent La Croix-aux-Mines entries. He was described as a son of Jean Richely, a cultivator on Harcholet farm, and Elisabeth Hertique. Magdalena Berse was described as de la secte annabatiste, and a daughter of the deceased Abraham Berse, who had been a cultivator at La Croix-aux-Mines, and 'Catherine Copfrechmett.' The groom signed 'David Richeli.' Witnesses included the bride's brother 'Isac Berse,' 42; and her brother-in-law cultivator 'Jean Grapiel,' 50.

8. Catherine Reschly was born on Harcholet farm at Le Saulcy June 2, 1790, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 31, 1818. On Feb. 4, 1816 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines she married widower Nicolas Ulrich. He was born at Rosheim, Lower Alsace March 7, 1761, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 11, 1833, a son of Jean Ulrich and Elisabeth Murer. Their civil marriage entry noted that he was 55, she was 25; her parents were named as the deceased Jean Richly and his widow Elisabeth Hertique who was present. Nicolas's first wife Marguerite Eymann had died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 5, 1811. The entry was witnessed by weaver David Richely, 28. Catherine's death entry was not witnessed by her husband, and erroneously described her parents as the deceased Christian Reschly and Catherine Hertig.

Johannes/Hans/Jean Röschli was born at Le Saulcy (now in Vosges) Aug. 15, 1761, and died at Marckolsheim, Upper Alsace Dec. 17, 1828.

On Dec. 30, 1801 at Bindernheim, Lower Alsace he married Elisabeth Wagler. Their civil marriage entry written in German described the groom as Johannes Reshl, age 44 years and four months, born at Le Saulcy Aug. 15, 1661, a son of Johannes Reshl and Elisabeth Hertig. The bride was described as Ellisabethe Wagler, age 25 years and nine months, born at Zellenberg (below Ribeauvillé) March 25, 1777, a daughter of Johannes Wagler, a plowman and resident of Bindernheim, and Elisabetha Mürer. It was signed with Hans's almost illegible signature, while Elisabeth signed an 'x', indicating she was illiterate. It was witnessed by Michael Ulrich, Elisabeth's father, and Joseph Conrath.

Hans's characteristic signature appears on a number of Alsatian état civil administrative entries for births and marriages. It actually looked like 'hansrmschli' (the short 'e' sound written to look like an 'm' in the old German style). Nevertheless, the signatures of his children and his death entry show the Swiss surname Röschli. Hans was generally called 'Jean' in the text of these entries, despite his signature below.

The couple lived at Mussig for the births of daughters in 1803, 1806, 1807, and 1808. During the height of the Napoleonic wars, or perhaps because of the death of Hans's father in 1812, they relocated to live near Hans's birthplace in the Vosges Mountains (38 miles northwest of Mussig). The births of sons were recorded at adjacent Moussey, Vosges in 1812 and 1813. The family relocated to Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace (5 miles southeast of Mussig) some time between 1814 and 1826.

Hans died at Marckolsheim Dec. 17, 1828. His civil death entry created the following day described him as Jean Roschli, 69, husband of Elisabeth Wagler, born in a place that could not be identified, and last living in the house at Marckolsheim called La Hueb. His deceased parents were identified as laborer Jean Roschli and Elisabeth Hertig. It was witnessed by laborer Jacques Wagler, 22, and signed 'Jacob Wagler.'
Elisabeth Wagler died at Marckolsheim Dec. 1, 1842. She was identified on her civil death entry as Elisabethe Wagler, 70, the widow of Jean Röschli. Her place of birth was given as Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and her deceased parents were identified as Jean Wagler and Elisabeth Murer.

Their children Magdalena (wife of Jacob Wagler), Elisabeth (wife of Jacob Wagner), Johannes, and Barbe sailed from Le Havre on the *Mercury*, arriving at New York May 20, 1854.

Children of Johannes/Hans/Jean Röschli and Elisabeth Wagler include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Röschli was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace Nov. 4, 1803, and died at Waldo Nov. 30, 1877. Her civil birth entry called her Madeleine Roschelé. On April 11, 1830 at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace (five miles south of Mussig) she married Jacob Wagler. He was born at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace April 29, 1806, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Feb. 13, 1872, a son of Jacob/Jacques Wagler and Anne Marie Sommer. For more on this couple see WAGLER.

2. Anne Marie Röschli was born at Mussig April 19, 1806, and died on the Rheinfelderhof estate at Rustenhart, Upper Alsace April 23, 1890. On April 17, 1827 at Marckolsheim she married Johannes/Jean Risser. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Jean Risser, born at St. Hippolyte, Upper Alsace (above Ribeauvillé) Jan. 15, 1798 but living at Fraize, Vosges (adjacent to La-Croix-aux-Mines, six miles southeast of Le Sauley). He was a son of miller Jean George Risser and Ann Ropp, who had both died at St. Hippolyte. The bride was described as Anne Marie Röschlé, born at Mussig April 19, 1806 but living at Marckolsheim, a daughter of Jean Röschlé, living at Marckolsheim and present and consenting, and the deceased Elisabeth Wagner [interchangeable with Wagler]. Witnesses included second cousin of the groom Jean Lehman, 26; and second cousin of the bride Joseph Wagner, 24. It was clearly signed 'Jean Risser' and 'Anna Röschli.' Jean died at St. Hippolyte April 16, 1865. Anne Marie's death entry describes her as Anna Roschli, and also says that her mother was a Wagner.

3. Elisabeth Röschli was born at Mussig July 19, 1807. On May 23, 1830 at Reppe in the Territory of Belfort she married Christian Schlegel's nephew Joseph Wagner. For more on this couple see WAGNER.

4. Barbe/Barbara Röschli was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace Nov. 4, 1808. Her civil birth entry called her 'Barbe Röschlé.' It described her parents as cultivator Jean Roschlé, 39, and Elisabeth Wagler, and was witnessed by weaver Jean Wagler, 69, living at Mussig (Elisabeth's father). The *Mercury* passenger list shows her as Barbe Roschle, 44. On Oct. 8, 1854 in Tazewell County she married widower Pierre/Peter; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger, and his register entry spells her surname 'Reschly.' Pierre/Peter was born on Berfang farm at Folschviller, Moselle June 20, 1800, a son of Pierre Beller and Barbe Hirschi. For more on this couple see BELLER.

5. Joseph/Johannes Röschli was born at Moussey, Vosges June 7, 1812, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County May 19, 1881.

6. David Röschli was born at Moussey, Vosges Dec. 10, 1813. His civil birth entry called him 'David Richely,' and described his parents as cultivator Jean Rechely, 40, and Elisabeth Vargler.

**Joseph/Johannes Röschli** was born at Moussey, Vosges June 7, 1812, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County May 19, 1881. His civil birth entry was created at Moussey June 8. The name of the newborn was given as 'Joseph Richely' in the entry and the index. His parents were described as cultivator Jean Rechely, 45, and Elizabeth Vocker. Joseph's name may have changed after the death of his grandfather only six months later, or after the death of his father in 1828. He sailed from Le Havre on the *Mercury* with family members, and arrived at New York May 20, 1853. The passenger list showed him as Joh. Roschli, 43. Excerpts from the list are given in the Appendix.

In America Joseph/Johannes became John, and settled at Spring Bay.

On Jan. 28, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Saltzmann. She was born at Neufmaisons, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 11, 1826, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Saltzmann and Catherine Sommer. Her civil birth entry called her Elisabeth Salsmann, and described her parents as anabaptiste farmer Jacob Salsmann, 25, and Catherine Sommer. It was witnessed by farmer Uherlihe Sommer, 56. Signatures looked like Jacob Saltzmann and Úlli Sümmer. She sailed from Le Havre on the ship *Havre*, and arrived at New York July 9, 1855.

They are found on the 1860 census of Washington.

The *Atlas of Woodford County* (1873) shows John Roeschley as a farmer on 160 acres in Section 31 of Roanoke, Worth Township, Woodford County. The 1880 census of Roanoke shows the family as retired farmer John Roschelz, 68, France; Elisabeth, 53, France; Jacob, 23; Lena, 22; John, 20; Elisabeth, 18; and Mary, 10; all children born in Illinois.

John died May 19, 1881. His headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery says, "John Roeschley, starb. May 19, 1881, 69 Jahre, 5 Monat, und 11 Tag alt." This would yield a birth date Dec. 8, 1811. The longevity stated on the headstone must have been an incorrect guess made from the best available information. Someone who did not know his true date of birth simply took the date of his arrival in America (May 20, 1854) and deducted 43 years (the passenger list age) to guess his birth date, then calculated the longevity.
Elizabeth's headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery says, "Elizabeth Roeschley, gest. d. 7 Jan. 1891, 60 Jahre alt."

Their children include:

1. Jacob D. Roeschley was born at Washington, Tazewell County in March 1857, and died in 1909. On July 22, 1880 in Tazewell County he married Lydia A. Zehr. She was born at Deer Creek March 29, 1863, and died there Oct. 9, 1835, a daughter of Christian Zehr and his second wife Marie/Mary Oyer. They are found on the 1900 census of Montgomery as Jacob Roeschley, 42, born in Illinois in March 1859 to French parents; Lydia, 38, born in Illinois in March 1862 to parents from Germany and France; and six children born in Illinois. They are found on the 1900 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County. They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

2. Magdalena 'Malinda' Roeschley was born at Washington, Tazewell County March 29, 1858, and died at Bloomington, McLean County April 17, 1899. On Feb. 5, 1878 at Roanoke, Woodford County she married Christian Zehr. He was born at Deer Creek March 12, 1857, and died at Olio, Woodford County Oct. 12, 1926, a son of Christian Zehr and his second wife Marie/Mary Oyer. Christian and Malinda are found next door to his parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as Christian Zehr, 23, Bavaria; and Malinda, 22, Alsace. On April 29, 1900 in McLean County he remarried to Mary Almeda Imhoff Miller. She was born at Washburn, Woodford County Oct. 17, 1874, and died at Peoria Oct. 10, 1940, a daughter of Joseph Imhoff and Emma Jane Webber. She is buried in Parkview Cemetery at Peoria.

3. John Roeschley was born in Woodford County Aug. 25, 1859, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Nov. 24, 1947. On Jan. 18, 1891 at Eureka, Woodford County he married Elizabeth Orendorff. She was born Dec. 24, 1872, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Feb. 26, 1960, a daughter of Daniel Orendorff and Mary Yordy. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

4. Elizabeth Roeschley was born at Spring Bay July 20, 1862, and died Feb. 3, 1953. On Jan. 1, 1882 at Roanoke she married Joseph P. Yordy. He was born at Elm Grove Nov. 7, 1857, and died at Eureka Feb. 19, 1925, a son of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. See YORDY for their obituaries.

5. Mary Roeschley was born at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 9, 1869, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Oct. 19, 1928. In 1888 she married Daniel Webster Schlegel/Slagel. He was born at Pike, Livingston County March 26, 1864, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 4, 1947. See SCHLEGEL for more on this couple including their obituaries.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

According to genealogist Delbert Gratz, the Bernese surname 'Wagler' was derived from 'Wagner,' and described a wagon maker. The English equivalent would be 'wainwright' or 'cartwright.'

Muesbach [Ger. Muesberg] is a pocket valley in mountains between Ribeauvillé and Aubure, Upper Alsace. It has a creek running through it, but the dryness of the surrounding soil prevented habitation by more than a few families. Waglers, Sommers, and Eymanns lived there up to 1850. Only overgrown stone foundations remain. No vital records were kept there.

There is no surviving documents that might tell us when Waglers first came to Muesbach. Hans Wagler was the leaseholder in 1764, and turned the lease over to his son.

Isaac Wagler was born circa 1729, and died at Muesbach April 18, 1804. In 1760 he married Barbe Eymann. She was born at Ribeauvillé circa 1731, and died there Jan. 21, 1811, a daughter of Nicolas Eymann and Frena Kropf. Isaac and Barbe passed the lease on to their sons Jacob and Christian.

Children of Isaac Wagler and Barbe Eymann born at Muesbach include:

1. Johannes/Jean Wagler was born in 1764, and died at Muesbach Oct. 15, 1846. On June 4, 1794 at Ribeauvillé he married Anne Catherine Liechti. She was born at St. Amarin (now in Upper Alsace) in 1769, and died at Muesbach Nov. 3, 1833, a daughter of Friedrich Liechti and Barbarn Frey. They were living at Ribeauvillé in 1823, where Johannes/Jean was a weaver. He was described as Jean Wagler, 68, a weaver from Muesberg, on the death entry of Christien Röschi created at Ribeauvillé March 27, 1832.

2. Nicolas Wagler was born in 1767, and died at Muesbach July 26, 1803. On April 16, 1795 at Lièpvre, Upper Alsace he married Barbe Sommer. She was born at St. Stail (now in Vosges) Aug. 21, 1769, and died at Senones, Vosges March 1, 1820, a daughter of Jean Sommer and Barbe Hässer.

3. Jacob/Jacques Wagler was born Feb. 25, 1769, and died at Muesbach Jan. 16, 1846.

4. Barbe Wagler was born circa 1770, and died after July 1829. On Sept. 6, 1799 at Ribeauvillé she married Jacob/Jacques Haas. He was born at St. Stail (now in Vosges) Aug. 21, 1769, and died at Muesbach July 25, 1829.

5. Christian Wagler was born in 1775, and died in 1851. On May 13, 1807 at Ribeauvillé he married Anne Marie Sommer. She was born at Bambois de Plaine (now in Lower Alsace) in June 1783, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbe Hässer. The Waglers of Ontario are their descendants.

Marie Barbe Wagler may belong here. She was born circa 1776, and died in 1836. She married Joseph Richely Röschi. He was born on Harcholet farm (now Le Harcholet in the department of Vosges) at Le Sauley circa 1780, and died there Dec. 25, 1812. See ROESCHLEY for more on this couple.

6. Elisabeth Wagler was born in 1778, and died at Muesbach June 13, 1848. On April 20, 1805 at Ribeauvillé she married Christian Sommer. She was born at Bambois de Plaine in March 1775, and died at Ribeauvillé Sept. 15, 1815, a son of Christian Sommer and Barbe Hässer.

Jacob/Jacques Wagler was born at Muesbach Feb. 25, 1769, and died there Jan. 16, 1846. On Nov. 14, 1804 at Ribeauvillé he married Anne Marie Sommer. She was born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace Sept. 4, 1779, and died at Muesbach Nov. 17, 1839, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Anna Maurer.

Their son Jacob Wagler was born at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace April 29, 1806, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Feb. 13, 1872.296

On April 11, 1830 at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace he married Magdalena Röschi (found as Roeschli, Rechely, and Reschly). She was born at Mussig (five miles north of Marckolsheim) Nov. 4, 1803, and died at Waldo Nov. 30, 1877, a daughter of Hans/Jean Röschi and Elisabeth Wagler. Their marriage entry described the groom Jacques Wagler as a 24-year-old laborer born at Muesbach, and the bride Madelaine Röschly as a 25-year-old. Witnesses included miller Jean Risser, 30, a brother-in-law of the groom; weaver Jean Wagler, 25, a cousin; laborer Joseph Wagler, 26, a second cousin; and laborer Jean Wagler, 24, a cousin.

Marckolsheim is on the Rhine River, on the intersection of two borders. First, it is on the Lower Alsace side of the departmental border with Upper Alsace. Then, it is on the French side (the west bank) of the border with Baden, Germany (the east bank). Jacob and Magdalena were residents of Marckolsheim at the time of their marriage, and

296 Jacob's brother Jean Baptiste Wagler was born at Ribeauvillé June 20, 1810, and died in Ontario in 1869 or 1887. On Oct. 5, 1837 at Ribeauvillé he married his cousin Barbe Wagler. She was born at Muesbach July 6, 1815, a daughter of Christian Wagler and Anne Marie Sommer. They sailed from Le Havre on the Louis Philippe, and arrived at New York May 13, 1842. The passenger list names Jean Wagler, 32, France; Barbara, 26; and Barbara, 2. They can be found on the 1861 census of South Easthope, Ontario as Mennonite farmer John Wagler, 50, France; Barbara, 45, France; Magdalena, 16, Ontario; Anna, 11, Ontario; and John, 6, Ontario.
resided there for the births of seven daughters 1831-44. The birth entries describe the father as a farmer or cultivator. He signed each one legibly.

About a month after their marriage, Jacob and Magdalena journeled 59 miles southwest for another wedding. On May 23, 1830 Magdalena's sister Elisabeth became the wife of Christian Schlegel's nephew Joseph Wagner. The ceremony took place at Reppe in the Territoire de Belfort (on the departmental border with Upper Alsace). The marriage entry lists witness Jacques Wagler of Marckolsheim, 23.

After marriage Joseph and Elisabeth came to live with or near Jacob and Magdalena at Marckolsheim.

Both couples sailed from Le Havre on the Mercury, arriving at New York May 20, 1854. The passenger list shows farmer Jac. Wagner, 48; Magd., 49; Magd., 23; Barbe, 21; Marie, 19; Elisab., 17; Cath., 17; Anna, 13; Reg., 9; and Joh., 9. More of the list is given in the Appendix.

The 1855 state census of Washington, Tazewell County shows the household of Jacob Wagler as two males under 10 years of age; one male 10-19; one male 20-29; one male 50-59; one female under 10 years of age; five females 10-19; and one female 30-39. The household of Christian Schlegel appears on the same census page.

The Jacob Wagler household is found on an 1865 state census of Waldo, Livingston County as one male under 10 years of age; one male 50-59; one female 10-16; and one female 50-59. The next names on the census page are their sons-in-law Jacob Sutter and Christian Springer.

Jacob was ordained as a minister for the Gridley Prairie (now Waldo) congregation before 1866. He attended the assembly of ministers at Danvers in 1866, and hosted an assembly at Gridley Prairie in 1871.

Jacob and Magdalena are found twice on the 1870 federal census. They appear in the Metamora household of son-in-law John Steider and their daughter Elizabeth: John Stider, 34, France; Elizabeth, 34, France; Catharine, 6, Illinois; Sara, 5, Illinois; Phoebea, 3, Illinois; Mary, 1, Illinois; Jacob Wagler, 65, Bavaria (Alsace was annexed by Germany 1870-1919); Madalade, 68, Bavaria; and Catherine Stider, 67, France. They are also found in the household of daughter Reine/Regina at Waldo: farmer John Deerberger, 26, Bavaria; Rachel [Reine/Regina], 25, Bavaria; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Malinda, 3, Illinois; John, 2, Illinois; Catherine, six months, Illinois; Malinda Resley, 66, Bavaria; and Jacob Wagler, 64, Bavaria.

Herald of Truth, April 1872: "On the 13th of Febr., in Livingston co., Ill., Pre. Jacob Wagler, of the Amish church, aged 65 yrs., and 10 months. He bore his suffering with Christian patience. Three weeks before his death, his wife was so sick that she was not expected to live; at this he was very much grieved, and frequently expressed a desire to go first, saying that he was ready, and had a desire to be with Jesus. After an illness of nine days he went to his Savior, who will wipe all tears from his eyes. 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.' He was buried the 15th, in the presence of many friends and acquaintances. Services by Chr. Schloegel, and John P. Schmidt." (The minister Christian Schlegel was a son of the immigrant).

Gospel Herald, January 1878: "Nov. 30th, in Livingston co., Ill., very suddenly, Magdalena Wagler, aged 74 years and 20 days. Her disease was bronchial consumption. Buried Dec. 2nd, followed to the grave by many to pay the last tribute of respect. She was a beloved sister of the Amish Mennonite Church. She was at communion on Sunday previous, and said, that would be the last time she would partake. Services by Joseph Gascho and J. P. Schmidt."

Children of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli born at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace include:

1. Madelaine/Magdalena Wagler was born Jan. 13, 1831, and died at Pike, Livingston County Dec. 7, 1870. She had an illegitimate child born at Marckolsheim; it died as a three-month-old Feb. 2, 1849. On Aug. 30, 1857 in Tazewell County she married Christian Ehresman [Jr.]; the ceremony was performed by minister Christian Ropp. He was born Oct. 18, 1832, and died Feb. 14, 1893, a son of Christian Ehresman and his first wife Magdalena Barnett. For background on this couple and his second wife see EHRESMAN.

2. Barbe/Barbara Wagler was born March 13, 1833.

3. Anne Marie/Mary Wagler was born Nov. 28, 1834 (her birth entry called her Anne Marie Wagner), and died Feb. 14, 1894. On Dec. 13, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Daniel Zehr; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. He was born at Söcking, Bavaria May 3, 1828, a son of Daniel Zehr and his first wife Barbara Ingold. For background on this couple see ZEHR.

4. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Wagler was born June 7, 1836, and died in Nebraska Dec. 26, 1907. On July 1, 1863 in Woodford County she married Jean/John Steider. He was born at Diane-Capelle in March 1837, and died at Milford, Nebraska circa 1900, a son of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller. Herald of Truth, January 1908: "Elizabeth Steider was born in Markirk, Alsace, France, on June 15, 1836, and died Dec. 26, 1907; aged 71 Y., 6 M., 11 D. Her maiden name was Wagler. She was married to John Steider. To this union were born nine children, four sons, five daughters, 38 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her husband and one son preceded her to the eternal world. The Lord comfort the mourning friends with the rich promises of his word.” See STEIDER for more on this couple.
5. Catherine Wagler was born March 23, 1838, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 30, 1908. On Feb. 18, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Sutter; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born at Probefeld, Bavaria Nov. 27, 1833, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1923, a son of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch. See SUTTER for background on this couple.

6. Anne/Anna Wagler was born Oct. 28, 1839, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Sept. 10, 1906. She was admitted to Jacksonville State Hospital Aug. 18, 1861 after suffering seizures, and discharged Jan. 8, 1862. In Peoria County May 10, 1862 she married Christian Springer. He was born in 1834, and died at Aurora Aug. 12, 1907. They are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery there. On Sept. 30, 1871 Christian purchased 40 acres of public land for $440 in Section 14 of what is now Rook's Creek (adjacent to Waldo). They are found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Christian Springer, 46, France; Anna, 40, France; and seven children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Precinct G, Seward County, Nebraska (now the city of Seward) shows them as farmer Chris Springer, 64, born in France to a German father and French mother in September 1834, immigrated 1856; Anna, born in 60, born in France in October 1839, immigrated 1854; and two children born in Illinois. *Gospel Witness*, October 1906: "Anna, beloved wife of Christian Springer, was born in Lorraine, Germany; died at the home of her son, B. W. Springer, near Aurora, Neb., Sept. 10, 1906; aged 67y., 10m., 18d. She was sick only a few hours. She united with the A. M. church at the age of fourteen and remained a faithful member until death. She leaves a sorrowing husband, with whom she lived in happy union, in joy and sorrow, for 41 years. To them were born ten children, two having preceded her to the spirit world. Besides a husband, she is survived by eight children, twenty-seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two sisters and a host of relatives and friends. She was a good loving mother and we sadly miss her, but our loss is her gain, and we pray to meet her in that heavenly home where she awaits our coming. Funeral services were held at the Mennonite church conducted by Chr. Rediger in German and Andrew Oesch in English. Interment in the Fairview cemetery. A daughter." *Gospel Witness*, September 1907: "Christian Springer was born near Nance, France, Apr. 1834; died at the home of his son Benjanim, of Aurora, Neb., Aug. 12, 1907; aged 73 y. 4 m. He suffered for some time with cancer of the stomach. He united with the A. M. Church in his youth and was a faithful member until his death. His prayer during his suffering was that Christ should take him home, so we feel that we need not mourn as those who have no hope. There remain to mourn the loss of a kind and loving father, three sons, five daughters, thirty grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His wife died about eleven months ago and two children died in their youth. Funeral services at the Mennonite Church on Aug. 14, by Pre. A. Oesch in English and Pre. C. Rediger in German. By a daughter."

7. Reine/Regina Wagler was born April 4, 1844, and died in Livingston County Aug. 13, 1871. On April 22, 1866 in Livingston County she married John Dierberger. He was born at Neuding, Baden May 10, 1840, a son of Valentin Dierberger and Veronika Kammerer. The 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows them as farmer John Deerbinger, 26, Bavaria; Rachel, 25, Bavaria; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Malinda, 3, Illinois; John, 2, Illinois; Catherine, six months, Illinois; Malinda Resley, 66, Bavaria; and Jacob Wagler, 64, Bavaria. *Gospel Herald*, November 1871: "On the 13th of August, in the same county, also of sore throat, Regina Dierberger, daughter of Jacob Wagler, aged 27 years, 4 months and 9 days. On the 14th her remains were buried, followed to the grave by a large concourse of friends and relatives. Funeral discourses were preached by the same as the above. She bore her suffering with patience, was willing to die, and desired to be with Christ. A few minutes before she died, she was asked if she wanted water. 'No,' she replied, 'I have now better water to drink than that.' She leaves a husband and 4 children. She was a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite church." On March 17, 1872 in Tazewell County John remarried to Mary Neuhauser. She was born near Nance, France, Apr. 1834; died at the home of his son Benjamin, of Aurora, Neb., Aug. 12, 1907; aged 73 y. 4 m. He suffered for some time with cancer of the stomach. He united with the A. M. Church in his youth and was a faithful member until his death. His prayer during his suffering was that Christ should take him home, so we feel that we need not mourn as those who have no hope. There remain to mourn the loss of a kind and loving father, three sons, five daughters, thirty grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His wife died about eleven months ago and two children died in their youth. Funeral services at the Mennonite Church on Aug. 14, by Pre. A. Oesch in English and Pre. C. Rediger in German. By a daughter."

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Jacob Berse becomes Christian Wagler

'Wagler' may not be the true original surname of the family that came to America in 1833 and settled at Elm Grove in 1844. However, we have only recently discovered how complicated this question can be.

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297 She was described as Anna Wagler, 21; her father as Jacob Wagler of Washington, Tazewell County.
Of the locations mentioned below, Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, and Aubure are now situated in the Department Haut-Rhin or Upper Alsace; La Croix-aux-Mines is situated in Department Vosges. However, all these locations are within a 6-mile area.

**Abraham Berze or Berse** was born at Aubure circa 1720.

He married Catherine Küpferschmidt (found as 'Cofechemette'). She was born at Walbach, Upper Alsace circa 1727, and died in the home of son-in-law David Richely at La Croix-aux-Mines Nov. 29, 1813.

The couple farmed at Chipal, a valley hamlet near La Croix-aux-Mines. The earliest Berze/Berse civil entry we found there documented Abraham's death at age 75 on Dec. 28, 1795. It names Catherine Coffechemette as his widow, and was witnessed by two neighbors and a son-in-law, 'Jean Grapierre' (later found as 'Jean Crabel').

Catherine’s civil death entry described her as Catherine Copfrechemeth, 86, the widow of the cultivator Abraham Berse. It was witnessed by farm equipment operators David Richely, 26, and Nicolas Roth, 54, both sons-in-law, and gave her birthplace as Valpach, Upper Alsace.

Children of Abraham Berze or Berse and Catherine Küpferschmidt include:

1. Marie Berse was born at Aubure Aug. 21, 1754, and died at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace Feb. 5, 1799. She married Peter/Pierre Ulrich (also found in French entries as 'Voilrich'). He was born at Mortzwiller circa 1739, and died at Heimersdorf (next to Hirtzbach) Sept. 13, 1807, a son of Johannes Ulrich and Rosina Bächler. When their son Pierre Ulrich married Catherine Lauber at Bourg-Bruche Aug. 24, 1794, the parents of the groom were noted as Pierre Voilrich ['Ulrich'] and Marie Wagler. (Note that Marie's younger brother Isaac would later take on the surname Wagler as well).

2. **Isaac Berse** was born circa 1760. He is found in civil documentation at La Croix-aux-Mines as 'Isac Berse.'

3. Elisabeth Berse was born circa 1761, and died at Chipal Feb. 9, 1786. On Jan. 25, 1780 at La Croix-aux-Mines she married weaver Nicolas Roth (1760-1840) of Echery. Roth remarried twice again, to Anne Müller and Anne Munier. A La Croix-aux-Mines marriage entry created Aug. 21, 1797 celebrated the third marriage of Nicolas Roth, 36, *annabatiste* born at Echery. He was described as the widower of Elisabet Berze and Anne Müller, both *annabatiste*. He married Anne Munier, 33, born on the farm Dorveize in the Val de Villé of Lower Alsace, a daughter of the deceased Christianne Munier and Marie Adam. He continued to live at La Croix-aux-Mines and acted as a witness on several Berse civil entries.

4. Anne Berse married cultivator Johannes/Hans Krayenbühl, who signed his own name 'Krahenbuhl' and is also found as Jean Crabel. He was born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines circa 1752, but resided at Chipal and appears as a witness on many Berse family entries created at La Croix-aux-Mines. A civil entry for his death created at La Croix-aux-Mines April 18, 1810 was witnessed by brother-in-law Nicolas Roth, 51, and brother-in-law David Richely [Rüschli], 23. It stated that he was 58, the son of cultivator Pierre Craipiel [Krayenbühl] and Anne Aousboure [Augspurger], cultivators at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

5. Jacob/Jacques Berse was born before 1668, and died at Colroy-la-Grande, Vosges Jan. 6, 1795. The year of his civil death entry is missing from their records. He married Catherine Reber. She was born at Urbeis, Lower Alsace circa 1761, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 11, 1823, a daughter of Chrétien Reber and Catherine Bachmann. On April 13, 1798 at Colroy-la-Grande she remarried to widower Chrétien Maurer. He was born at Rosheim circa 1746, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Jan. 4, 1830, a son of Nicolas Maurer and Barbe Robi [Rubi]. His first wife had been Anne Sommer of Ban de la Roche. At the time of his second marriage he was a laborer on the Nickyhof at Rosheim. They relocated eight miles east to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in May of 1815. Her civil death entry described her as the 62-year-old wife of cultivator Crethien Muhrer, born at Urbeiss; and a daughter of the deceased Cristhan Reber and Catherine Bachmann, residents of Urbeiss. Witnesses included Jean Goerig, 43, described as her son-in-law [he married one of Chrétien's earlier children]; and Jacques Goldschmidt, 39. Their children include:

   a. Barbe Berse was born circa 1788, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 31, 1823. On July 16, 1805 at Rosheim, Lower Alsace she married Chrétien Maurer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as *annabatiste* laborer Chrétien Maurer, 31, born at Struthoff, Schirmeck, Vosges. He was a son of laborer Chrétien Maurer, 59, a resident of the Nickyhoff at Rosheim, who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Sommer [his second wife would be Barbe’s widowed mother Catherine Reber]. The bride was described as Barbe Wagler [crossed out] Wackler, 17, a resident of Nickyhoff. Her parents were the deceased Jacques Wagler, who had died at Colroy-la-Grande, and Catherine Reberin, who was consenting. Signatures looked like Christian Mäùrer and Barbara Wagler.

   b. Catherine Berse was born at Chipal, La Croix-aux-Mines Feb. 12, 1789, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 18, 1840. On Nov. 16, 1816 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines she married Joseph Haury. He was

298 Chipal's homes were destroyed in the summer of 1914, leaving only a church standing. The site was plowed under to establish a farm in 1919. Its administrative records were kept at nearby La Croix-aux-Mines, and the farm is now called Le Chipal and is part of that community in Vosges.

299 Colroy-la-Grande was administratively merged into Provencheres-et-Colroy Jan. 1, 2016.
born at Senones, Vosges Nov. 6, 1789, and died at Fertrupt (below Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) Feb. 3, 1859, a son of Chrétien Haury and Marie Barbe Hertig/Hertique. Their civil marriage entry described her as Catherine Berse, 27, born at Chipal Feb. 12, 1789; a daughter of the deceased Jaques Berse and his widow Catherine Raiber, who had been living at St. Marie-aux-Mines for 18 months. It was witnessed by mother-of-the-bride Catherine Raiber, 50, who was consenting; brother-in-law Jean Fortenwald, 34; brother-in-law Chrétien Maurer, 41; Joseph Bacher, 57; and Michel Maurer, 50. Signatures looked like Joseph Haury and Catharina Wagler. On April 12, 1841 at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Haury remarried to Marie Wagler. She was born at Walscheid, Moselle Oct. 19, 1819, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 12, 1861, a daughter of Jean Wagler and Marie Barbe Eymann.

c. Madeleine Berse was born at La Croix-aux-Mines Sept. 25, 1790. On Dec. 21, 1812 at Rosheim she married Joseph Eimann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as weaver Joseph Eimann, born at Pres du Chien [Près du Chêne or Meadows of the Oak, a farm at Lubine, Vosges] March 19, 1780. He was a son of the deceased cultvator Voily Eimann, who had died at Lubine April 14, 1796; and Regine Proqueria, a resident of Pres du Chien. The bride was described as ‘Madelaine Berse appelée Wacklaire’ [called Wagler]. She was born at La Croix-aux-Mines Sept. 25, 1790, and was a resident in the communal forest at Rosheim. Her parents were the deceased Jacques Vacklaire, who had died at Coroy-la-Grande Jan. 6, 1795; and Catherine Reber, living in the communal forest, now the wife of Chrétien Maurer, present and consenting. One witness was her stepfather, annabaptiste cultvator Chrétien Maurer, 69. Madelaine and her mother Catherine both signed ‘x’, indicating they were illiterate. On Nov. 28, 1843 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines ‘Madeleine Wagler’ remarried to cultvator Jean Schilt. He was born at Moussy, Vosges in May of 1798, a son of Pierre Schilt and Anne Riss. Their civil marriage entry noted that the bride had been born Madeleine Berse, and identified her father as Jacob Berse.

6. Madeleine Berse was born in 1768. She was 35 years old at the time of her marriage to David Richely at La Croix-aux-Mines April 12, 1803. The groom was 17 (though perhaps this should be taken with a grain of salt). The civil entry describes Richely as a 17-year-old weaver's assistant born on Le Harcholet farm at Le Saulcy, Vosges Jan. 7, 1786; it is possible that his age was adjusted downward to help him avoid military service. It remained consistent on all La Croix-aux-Mines entries. He was a son of Jean Richely [Röschli], a cultvator at Harcholet farm, and Elisabeth Hertigue [Hertig]. Magdalena Berse was described as de la secte annabaptiste, and it was explained that her birth date had not been recorded and was not known. She was the daughter of the deceased Abraham Berse, who had been a cultvator at La Croix-aux-Mines, and 'Catherine Cophrechmetre' [Küpfereschmidt]. Witnesses included the bride's brother 'Isac Berse,' 42; and her brother-in-law cultvator 'Jean Grapiel,' 50.

7. Abraham Berse was born circa 1770. He lived at Aubure and Chipal, and married Barbe Hone [Hoen?]. They are only known to us from an entry documenting the stillbirth of a child at Chipal Dec. 17, 1807. The entry was witnessed by paternal uncles Johannes/Hans Krahenbühl and David Richely. At Last!...That Elusive 1819 Ship 'List Surfaces' was the name of an article by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine and Joe Springer in the July 2004 issue of Mennonite Family History. The wealth of varied information in this excellent article is astounding. The colorful title celebrates the discovery of a previously unknown typewritten passenger list documenting the voyage of the Montgomery. The ship departed from Le Havre April 30, 1819, and arrived at Philadelphia June 18 or 19, 1819. It brought passengers named Augspurger, Erb, Frey, Goldschmidt, Grieser, Güngerich, Kropf, Müller, Rothacker, Schwarri, Sommer, and Stücki. The most complete record of the passengers on the voyage is a typewritten transcript page kept at Le Havre. According to Levine and Springer, one of the parties was Berse, 50, Croix-aux-Mines, with his wife and four children. By surname and age alone, it is likely this was Abraham Berse.

8. Marie Barbe Wagler was born at La Croix-aux-Mines circa 1776, and died there Nov. 26, 1836. On Oct. 3, 1814 at Le Saulcy, Vosges she married Pierre Jantzy. He was born in 1775, and died at La Croix-aux-Mines Feb. 23, 1851, a son of Jean Jantzy and Anne Gasser. Their marriage is listed in the 10-year civil index of Le Saulcy as Pierre Yeanesy and Barbe Bresse; the actual text of the entry has been lost. Marie Barbe’s civil death entry described her as Marie Barbe Berse, 60, the wife of farm equipment operator Jean Pierre Jasqué, 60; she was a daughter of the deceased Abraham Berse and Catherine Cofter[illlegible]. The widower’s signature is barely legible but appears to say Jonnyse.

Cultivator Isaac Berse was born circa 1760, and died at Chipal Dec. 2, 1826. He married Anna Krahenbühl, who died before 1798. She was a daughter of Jean Krayenbühl/Krahenbühl and Anne Augspurger (a daughter of Jacob Augspurger and Elisabeth Ummel; Augspurger is found as 'Augsbourger' in French entries related to this family); she was also a stepsister of Noé Augspurger, who married Julie Diebler, starting the chain of Augspurgers who later lived at Hanfeld, Bavaria and came to Tazewell County (where their surname is spelled 'Augsburger'). The child of Isaac Berse and Anne Krahenbühl was:

1. Joseph Berse (1) was born at Chipal in 1788, and died there Feb. 23, 1798. A civil entry for his death was created at La Croix-aux-Mines Feb. 23, 1798. It states that he was 10 years old, mentions that his mother Anne Krahenbühl was deceased, and was witnessed by his uncle Jean Crapierre (presumably Johannes/Hans Krahenbühl).
Isaac remarried to Elisabeth Marchal in 1799. Children born at Chipal include:

2. Barbe Berse (1) was born in March 1800, and died at Chipal Nov. 12, 1805 age five years, eight months.
3. Joseph Berse (2) was born April 15, 1802. On Feb. 13, 1826 at Bruebach, Upper Alsace he married Barbe Hodler. The civil marriage entry described him as a 23-year-old weaver from La Croix-aux-Mines, and correctly identified his parents. It described her as 'Barbe Hedler,' 30 years and 11 months old, born at Biesheim, Upper Alsace. Her parents were Jacques Hedler [Jacob Hodler], a day laborer living at Bruebach, and the deceased Elisabeth Roth. Three neighbors of the bride signed as witnesses.
4. Jacob Berse was born Nov. 30, 1803, and died at Pekin as Christian Wagler Dec. 22, 1877.
5. Isaac Berse was born in August 1805, and died at Chipal Nov. 25, 1805.
6. Barbe Berse (2) was born July 2, 1807, and died at Chipal March 21, 1816, age 9.

In 1826 two events prompted the family to relocate in the Sundgau region of Upper Alsace. On Feb. 13, oldest son Joseph Berse married Barbe Hodler at Bruebach, a village just below Mulhouse. On Dec. 2, father Isaac Berse died at Chipal. Widowed mother Elisabeth Marchal and her younger son Jacob presumably relocated to join Joseph and Barbe, though Bruebach was more than 55 miles to the south.

On April 7, 1831 at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace Jacob Berse married his cousin Catherine Ulrich. He appears on the civil entry as Jacques Berse, a 28-year-old finishing carpenter born at La Croix-aux-Mines but living at Bruebach. His parents were described as the deceased cultivator Isaac Berse and the widow Elisabeth Marchal, who was living at Bruebach.

Though her age is given as 31 on her 1831 marriage entry, bringing it closer to the groom's, Catherine Ulrich was actually born at Hirtzbach (next to Hirsingue) March 2, 1797, a daughter of Hirsingue weaver Peter/Pierre Ulrich and Catherine Lauber.

Catherine Ulrich had been baptized as a 15-year-old on the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Nov. 27, 1812. The farm was associated with the Rich and Hirschi families. Before 1826, Andreas Ropp had lived only three miles away at Lartiguen.

On the civil entry for the marriage ceremony of Jacob Berse and Catherine Ulrich, two of the witnesses were described as Chrétien Hirschý [Christian Hirschi], a 41-year-old cultivator, and Jacques Hirschý, a 35-year-old cultivator, both from the Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach. Christian Hirschi was born at Sigolsheim March 3, 1793, and died on the Birkenhof at Ruederbach May 19, 1864. His father, minister Jacob Hirschi, had been a co-worker with Johannes Ropp at Sigolsheim and later lived at Bollwiller. On Sept. 8, 1813 Christian married Anne Marie Ropp, a cousin to Andreas Ropp. She was born Feb. 18, 1792, and died on the Birkenhof Aug. 23, 1864.

Catherine Ulrich's younger brother Peter/Pierre and younger sister Barbara/Barbe sailed from Le Havre to New York in May-July 1831. Jacob and Catherine soon joined the exodus caused by military conscription for the French occupation of Algeria. Their ship France sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York July 12, 1833. As Gary L. Yordy first discovered, it is probable that Jacob traveled on the passport obtained much earlier by his younger brother-in-law.

THE FRANCE PASSENGER LIST
Page 2 lists Jacob Augspurger, 18, France. Farther down the page is a family that would be residents of Wayne County, Ohio: Christian Schantz, 46, France; Catharine [Raggi], 40; Magdelina, 19; Christian, 19; Christian, 16; Peter, 14; Peter, 14; Elizabeth, 11; Jacob, 8; and Barbara Sommer [Sommer], 21.

On page 5 is a couple that would be residents of Spring Bay, Woodford County in 1850: Bendict Stucky, 25, France; Elizabeth [Elisabeth Liechti], 40; Peter [Pierre Kauffman, Elisabeth’s nephew],10; and Joseph, 5 [a son from Elisabeth’s first marriage to Pierre Kauffmann]. Farther down that page is a family that would be residents of Butler County, Ohio, and Elm Grove: carpenter Peter Ulrich, 30, France [actually Jacob Berse, who would later be known as Isaac Wagler]; Catharine [Catherine Ulrich, his wife and cousin], 33; and Peter, 2 [Peter Jacob Berse]. One line later Catherine’s parents Peter Ulrich, 60, France, and Catharine Lowbers [Lauber], 55.

Just as Jacob Berse had become 'Peter Ulrich' aboard ship, he became Christian Wagler in Ohio. In an earlier version of the text we wrote, "It has been proposed that the Berse family was a Wagler family several generations

300 Fr. menuisier denotes a finishing carpenter, usually an all-round craftsmen who might also make furniture (a joiner) or carve wooden ornamentation.
301 Jacob Berse, Catherine Ulrich, Peter Ulrich, Catherine Lauber, and Elisabeth Marchal all signed the civil marriage entry with an 'x', indicating they were illiterate.
earlier; however, to the best of our knowledge this has not been demonstrated." It has also been suggested that the
name change was a prudent precaution for an emigrant evading military conscription. More on this a little later.

The 'Christian Wogler' household appears on the 1840 census of Ross, Butler County. It is checked off as two
males under 5 [Christian H. and Joseph]; one male 5-10 [Peter]; one male 10-15; one male 30-40 [Christian]; one
female under 5 [Barbara]; one female 5-10 [Katharina/Catherine]; and one female 30-40 [Catherine Ulrich].
Christian worked as a finishing carpenter in Ohio.

The family came to Tazewell County in 1844. The household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County
as farmer Christian Wagler, 51, France; Catharine, 54, France; Peter, 17, France; Catharine, 16, Ohio; Christian, 14,
Ohio; Barbara, 13, Ohio; Joseph, 12, Ohio; and Isaac, 10, Ohio. From the names of their next door neighbors, it is
apparent that they were already living on Allentown Road at Elm Grove: Valentine, Andrew, and Joseph Birky were
holding land awaiting the arrival of their father Valentine from Bavaria. The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows
farmer Christian 'Wagner,' 58, France; Catharine, 60, Switzerland; Christian, 23, Ohio; Barbara, 20, Ohio; Joseph,
19, Ohio; and Isaac, 18, Ohio. The household of the oldest son appears as Peter Wagler, 27, France; Catherine, 21;
Illinois; and Christian, 7 months, Illinois. On the 1870 census Peter's family has moved to Morton, while the parents
and two sons remain on the Elm Grove farm: farmer Christian Wagler, 67, France; Catharine, 71; Joseph, 35; and
Christian, 34.

Christian Wagler died at Pekin Dec. 22, 1877, and was buried in Railroad Cemetery.302
The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows widow Catherine, 83, living with her son Joseph Wagler, 42. She died
at Pekin May 21, 1887, and was buried beside her husband.

Children of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich include:

1. Pierre Jacques Berse (later Peter Wagler) was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace Nov. 28, 1831, and died at Morton
Aug. 28, 1903. His civil birth entry described his parents as day laborer Jacques Berse, 28, Annabaptiste, and
Catherine Ulrich, 32. His father’s nearly illegible signature looks like ‘Jakob Berse.’ On Dec. 28, 1858 in Tazewell
County he married Catherine Rediger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at
Washburn, Woodford County Oct. 4, 1839, and died at Morton Oct. 10, 1915, a daughter of Joseph Rediger and
Anna Schmidt. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Peter Wagler, 48, born in France to
French parents; Catherine, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from France; and nine children.
They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

2. Catherine Wagler was born in Butler County, Ohio June 8, 1834, and died Sept. 2, 1910. On Oct. 5, 1850 in
Tazewell County she married Jacob Heiser; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. Jacob was born
at Arzbach bei Dachau, Bavaria Feb. 20, 1816, according to a birth entry recorded at nearby Pellheim Feb. 15, 1817,
and died at Morton Dec. 24, 1877, a son of Jacob Heiser and his first wife Katharina Oesch. See HEISER for
background on this couple.

3. Christian H. Wagler was born in Butler County July 9, 1836, and died in Seward County, Nebraska Jan. 6, 1917; he
is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. On May 14, 1875 in Tazewell County he married
Barbara Oyer. She was born in December of 1838, and died at Milford, Nebraska, a daughter of David Oyer and
Susan Farney. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer C. Wagler,42, born in Ohio to French
parents; Barbara, 23, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Canada; and John, 2 born in Illinois.
They can be found on the 1900 census of District 49, Precinct J., Seward County, Nebraska (now the town of Ruby)
as Christian Wagler, 61, born in Ohio in July 1838 to a father from France and a mother from Germany; and Barbara,
41, born in Illinois in December 1858 to a father from Germany and a mother from Canada. They had a son John
born in 1878, but he died in 1881; in Nebraska they adopted a daughter, Zola May.

4. Barbara Wagler was born in Butler County Feb. 19, 1837, and died at Tremont Oct. 9, 1902 (though her headstone
says November 1839-October 1902). On March 10, 1861 at Groveland she became the second wife of Johannes/John
Kinsinger. He was born on the Heckenbachhof estate at Contwig, Pfalz-Zweibrücken Oct. 21, 1815, and
died at Tremont in October 1900, a son of Christian Kinsinger and Magdalena Schrag. See KINSINGER for more on
this couple.

5. Joseph 'Bachelor Joe' Wagler was born in Butler County in 1838, and died at Tremont Feb. 20, 1909.

6. Isaac Wagler was born at Hamilton, Butler County Oct. 15, 1840, and died at Groveland March 30, 1920. On April
29, 1866 in Tazewell County he married Frances 'Fannie' Rediger. She was born at Washburn, Woodford County
March 13, 1846, and died at Pekin Nov. 19, 1934, a daughter of Joseph Rediger and Anna Schmidt. They are buried
in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

302 According to Tazewell County, Illinois Cemeteries Volume Two, Christian Wagler's headstone says he was born Jan. 30,
1803; that he lived 73 years, 10 months, and 22 days; and that he died Dec. 22, 1877. However, there have been several
interpretations of the headstone, and in November of 2007 we found it impossible to read. The white stone is located midway
along the north rail (on the side of the abandoned railroad way), amid the lower branches of a small tree. Many of the graves in
Railroad Cemetery have been completely overgrown and headstones buried. The cemetery was once completely enclosed by the
Gerber farm, within sight of Railroad Schoolhouse.
Revisiting the question of Jacob Berse's name change...

To *berse* an infant is to rock it in its cradle. Perhaps its similarity to *berce* made the surname undesirable. *Berce* is the French name for an invasive herb found throughout the northern hemisphere. Its toxic sap causes immediate burns and blistering of the skin. A giant form can grow up to 14 feet tall. This would have presented a hazard to day laborers clearing land for cultivation, or someone collecting specimens for herbal remedies. In North America the plant is called hogweed or cow parsnip.

Jacob was born in 1803, and married in 1831 under his own name. He sailed in 1833 under the name of, and presumably carrying a passport in the name of his brother-in-law Peter Ulrich, who was already in America. It was only after arriving in Ohio that he became 'Christian Wagler.' At first this seemed straightforward. However, we have recently come across an illiterate Berse who openly used both surnames - Berse and Wagler - when Jacob was only nine years old.

On July 16, 1805 at Rosheim, Lower Alsace 31-year-old Anabaptist Christian Maurer of the Struthof at Schirmeck married Barbe Wagler (actually found on the civil marriage entry as 'Wackler'). She was described as a 17-year-old daughter of the deceased Jacques Wagler, who had lived at Colroy-la-Grande, Vosges, and Catherine Reberen [Reber], who was present and consenting.

On June 24, 1812 Napoleon and his armies crossed the Neman River to begin a disastrous invasion of Russia. On Sept. 7, they won a victory at the Battle of Borodino. But as the months wore on, they suffered with inadequate clothing, food, and transport in the severe winter. The campaign turned into a brutal route and a wholesale retreat. At the height of their misery another wedding ceremony took place at Rosheim, Lower Alsace.

A marriage entry dated Dec. 12, 1812 describes the groom as Joseph Eimann, who was born on Prés du Chêne farm at Lubine, Vosges March 19, 1780 (this was also the birthplace of Elisabeth Eymann, the wife of Andreas Ropp), and was living at Liépvre near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. His parents were named as cultivator Voily [Ulrich] Eimann, who had died on Pré du Chêne farm April 14, 1795; and Regine Proquerin, who was still living there.

The bride was described as Madeleine Berse appelé Vacklaire, or 'Magdalena Berse called Wagler.' She was born at La Croix-aux-Mines Sept. 25, 1790, and was living at Rosheim. Her father was named as Jacques Vaklaire [Wagler], who died at Colroy-la-Grande, Vosges Jan. 6, 1795.

Thus the bride at the second Rosheim wedding (1812) was the younger sister of the bride at the first Rosheim wedding (1805). However, while the first bride was described as a 'Wackler,' the second was described as a 'Berse appelé Vacklaire' — when we might have expected the surname of her stepfather, Maurer.

With all this in hand, we lose one question and gain another. When Jacob Berse took on the name Christian Wagler, it may have been a prudent precaution after evading military conscription. Wagler was a familiar Anabaptist surname. We now know that the surname Berse had been used by a Wagler several years earlier. Was there a deeper connection between the two families?

Conjecture: perhaps after Jacob Wagler's death in 1794 his widow Catherine Reber brought her two daughters to live with the Berses at La-Croix-aux-Mines. Jacob Berse later assumed the 'other name' from his blended family.

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303 What surname did the Jacques who died at Colroy-la-Grande in 1794 have on his death entry? The Republican calendar year III (1794) is the only year missing from the town's état civil death records.

304 Two days after the 1812 wedding the first French troops retreating from Moscow managed to reach the border of what is now Poland. The news reached Alsace about two weeks later.
Wagner of Belfort

While Wagner is very well known and widespread, the equivalent surname Wagler is found relatively rarely among Amish Mennonites. However, to a German-speaking Alsatian, Wagler, Wagner, Vagler, and Vagner were equivalent - a description of a wagon maker.

In the text below we show the surnames as they are found in civil entries. In some instances a signature could be identified to show the spelling chosen by the individual.

Laborer Jean Wagner was the father of weaver Johannes/Jean Wagner/Wagler. The son was born at Altwiller, Lower Alsace circa 1735, and died at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace Dec. 6, 1819. His civil death entry describes him as an 84-year-old born at Altwilry, a son of the deceased laborer Jean Wagner and an unknown mother. It was witnessed by his laborer son-in-law Jean Roeschly, 54.

He married Elisabeth Mürer/Mury/Mourer/Maurer[Mûrer]. Their children include:

1. Christ Wagner was born circa 1762.
2. Jacob Wagner was born circa 1768. On June 28, 1795 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Barbe Schlatter. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farm hand Jacob Wagner, 27, a son of Anabaptist cultivator Jacob Wagner and Elisabeth Murer, who were local residents. The bride was described as Barbe Schlatter, 26, a resident of Woglinshoffen [Voeglinshoffen], Upper Alsace; a daughter of the deceased Anabaptist cultivator Daniel Schlatter and Catherine Hunsinger. It was witnessed by father-of-the-groom and Anabaptist cultivator Jean Wagner, 60; Cristiane Goldschmitt, 22; brother-in-law Michel Ulrich, 35; and cultivator Joseph Formevald, 43, of Liépvre.
5. Joseph Wagner married Madeleine Haury [Hauri] at Grandfosse, Vosges March 2, 1826. His civil marriage entry is partially illegible. The lefthand margin erroneously says that it is an entry for Jean Wagner and Magdelaine Haoery. In the text is says 'Joseph Vagner' was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and gives an age that appears to be 46, suggesting a birth year of 1780. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Marckolsheim resident Joseph Vagner, a son of the deceased Jean Vagner, who died at Marckolsheim Dec. 9, 1819, and Elisabeth Maurer. The bride was described as Grandfosse resident Magdelaine Haoery, 28, born at Saulxures March 1, 1797, a daughter of Jean Hauery and Barbe Nayhauser. Witnesses included brother-of-the-bride Jean Haoery, 36. The signatures of the groom and bride looked like 'Joseph Vagner' and Magdeline Hary.'

Christ Wagner was born circa 1762.

Christ's future wife Barbe Schlegel was born at Grandvillars in the Territoire de Belfort Nov. 12, 1773 (also found as Jan. 13, 1772), and died at Reppe Sept. 5, 1845. She was a daughter of Niglaus 'Nigi' Schlegel and Magdalena Ummel, and an older sister of Ten Mile Creek settler Christian Schlegel. See SCHLEGEL for more on her family.

On April 27, 1792 at Hericourt (eight miles southwest of the town of Belfort) she married Jacob Bocler. The marriage entry described her as a 20-year-old resident of Grandvillars and a daughter of 'Nicolas Schlegel' and 'Madeleine Hummel.' The groom was born at Diessbach, Canton Bern Dec. 12, 1749, and living at Belfort, a son of Jean Bocler and Laeticia Schwartz. The bride and groom were illiterate.

We presume that Barbe remarried to Christ Wagner before 1798, the year their first child was born. Civil entries described them as cultivators at Reppe in the Territoire de Belfort.

They were at Belfort for the births of their children, then worked as cultivators at Reppe after 1813. Christ Wagner died at Reppe Feb. 2, 1827. His death entry described him as a 63-year-old cultivator, and named his parents and widow. It was witnessed by his sons Joseph and Jean. Christ died one day after his mother-in-law, suggesting a common illness.

Barbe Schlegel died at Reppe Nov. 5, 1845. Her death entry described her as an 86-year-old resident of Reppe, the widow of Christe Wagner; and that she was born at Grandvillars to parents Nichly Schlegel and Magdelene Hummel (see SCHLEGEL). It was witnessed by her son Christ Wagner, 37, a resident of Fontaine; and her son-in-law George Bairet, 43.

Children born at Belfort include:
1. Barbara/Barbe Wagner was born Sept. 13, 1798. On March 1, 1824 at Reppe she gave birth to an illegitimate son named Pierre Wagner. The birth entry described her as a daughter of Christ Wagler, 62, a farmer and resident of Reppe. It was witnessed by her brother, Joseph Wagner, described as a 21-year-old cultivator at Reppe. On Sept. 26, 1826 at Reppe she married day laborer George Bairet. He was born at Reppe July 26, 1802, a son of Joseph Bairet and Marie Cousin. This legitimized the son Pierre, and his birth entry was amended.

2. Joseph Wagner was born Oct. 29, 1800, and died at Belfort May 26, 1801.

3. Joseph Wagner was born March 26, 1802. His civil birth entry named his parents as cultivator Christ Wagner and Barbe Schlegel. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Schlegel, 27, a resident of Vezeois [Christ's younger brother, who was literate and signed numerous entries]; and Elizabeth Schlegel, 33, the widow of Paul Conrad living at Belfort [actually she was Christ's older sister, the widow of Isaac Conrad who had died in 1798]. Because Christ was illiterate, Jean signed for him. The signature actually says 'Johannes Schlegel.'

4. Jean Wagner was born April 11, 1804, and died at Reppe May 29, 1868.

5. Pierre Wagner was born April 18, 1806. On Aug. 20, 1834 at Reppe he married coutourier Marie Rose Nidelisse. She was born at Reppe Sept. 6, 1806, a daughter of day laborers Jacques Nidelisse and Jeanne Marie Petit. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by his brother day laborer Joseph Wagner, whose age was given as 38.

6. Christ Wagner was born Sept. 2, 1808. He was living at Fontaine (adjacent to Reppe) in 1845, and witnessed the death entry of his mother.

7. Jacob/Jacques Wagner was born April 16, 1811, and died at Bourgogne, Territoire de Belfort Oct. 4, 1855. Circa 1837 he married Barbe Eicher. She was born at Aspach, Upper Alsace March 14, 1814, and died at Cedar Valley, Wayne County, Ohio Nov. 14, 1904, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Eicher and Catherine Klopfenstein. She is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery there.

8. Nicolas Wagner was born Jan. 13, 1813.

Joseph Wagner was born at Belfort Feb. 19, 1802. The two sieges of the fortress of Belfort in 1813-14 and 1815 must have had a significant impact on his early life. See SCHLEGEL for background.

On May 23, 1830 at Reppe he married Elisabethe Röschli [the original form of this surname]. At the time of the marriage she was a cultivator at Marckolsheim. The ceremony was witnessed by brother-of-the-groom Jean Wagner, 26; Jacques Wagler of Marckolsheim [originally from Muesbach], 23, brother-in-law of the bride [he married her sister Madeleine]; and the groom's brother-in-law George Bairet.

Elisabethe Röschli was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace July 18, 1807. Her civil birth entry calls her Elisabeth Röschlé. It described her parents as laborer Jean Röschlé, 38, and Elisabeth Wagler. It was witnessed by weaver Jean Wagler, 64. Two signatures said Hans Reshl and Hans Wogler.

Civil entries at Marckolsheim variously describe Joseph Wagner as a laborer, farmer, or cultivator. They show nine births attributed to Joseph Wagner and Elisabethe Roeschly. Only two survived childhood. Two more children were born elsewhere before emigration.

Jacques/Jacob Wagler and Madeleine Röschli also had children at Marckolsheim in this time frame.

The Wagners sailed from Le Havre on the Mercury, arriving at New York May 20, 1854. They appear on the passenger list as Joseph Wagner, 26; Jacques Wagler of Marckolsheim [originally from Muesbach], 23, brother-in-law of the bride [he married her sister Madeleine]; and the groom's brother-in-law George Bairet.

Children of Joseph Wagner and Elisabethe Röschli (found as Roeschly at Marckolsheim) include:

1. Christ Wagner was born at Marckolsheim Oct. 5, 1831, and died Oct. 7, 1831. Like several of the other entries, this one shows that the father was born at Belfort and the mother was born at Mutssig.

2. Elisabeth Wagner was born at Marckolsheim Oct. 26, 1833, and died Oct. 28, 1833.

3. Joseph Wagner was born at Marckolsheim July 17, 1834, and died after one hour.

4. Joseph Wagner was born at Marckolsheim July 17, 1835 (exactly one year after his older brother of the same name).

5. Anne/Anna Wagner was born at Marckolsheim Feb. 25, 1837, and died in June 1885; she is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. On July 8, 1855 in Tazewell County she married André/Andrew Oyer. He was born at Lagarde, Moselle June 23, 1829, and died in Reno County, Kansas in 1916, a son of Johannes/Hans/Jean Oyer and Catherine Kennel. See OYER for more on this couple.

6. A daughter was stillborn at Marckolsheim Oct. 8, 1838. Her civil death entry named the father as Joseph Wagler.

7. Jean Wagner died at Marckolsheim at 6 a.m. April 29, 1841, age 10 hours.

8. Christen Wagner was born at Marckolsheim July 16, 1843, and died there Dec. 24, 1843. His birth entry called the family Wagler, while his death entry correctly used Wagner.

9. Elisabeth Wagner was born at Marckolsheim Nov. 30, 1844, and died April 1, 1845.
10. Barbe/Barbara Wagner was born in Switzerland March 15, 1846 (per her death certificate), and died at Van Buren, Missouri Sept. 2, 1923 (despite Sept. 3 on her headstone); she is buried in Sarcoxie Cemetery at Sarcoxie, Missouri. On April 5, 1866 in McLean County she married Michel/Michael Kempf. He was born at Brouville, Meurthe-et-Moselle July 18, 1835, and died at Ritchey, Missouri June 6, 1905, a son of miller Michel Kempf and Marguerite Abresol. As a widow with three sons Marguerite had sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York in 1847. The Kempfs settled at New Bremen, Lewis County, New York. Michel/Michael and Barbara farmed at Bloomington, Eureka, Roanoke, and East Lynn. Circa 1889 they resettled at Ritchey (15 miles southeast of Joplin). Barbe/Barbara's death certificate erroneously states that her parents were Joseph Wagner of France and a Schlegel (her grandmother was a Schlegel). 305

11. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Wagner was born in Switzerland (1895 Kansas state census and 1900 census) in 1849 (headstone) or May 1851 (1900 census). She may have married Peter Hahr in McLean County Feb. 25, 1870. After 1885 she married widower Andrew Oyer, whose first wife had been her older sister Anne/Anna. See OYER for more on this couple.

Joseph Wagner was born at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace July 17, 1835, and died in Woodford County Feb. 7, 1894.

On May 2, 1859 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Schertz. She was born at Aingeville, Vosges Sept. 2, 1836, and died at Eureka Nov. 2, 1899, a daughter of David Schertz of Oberstinzel and Catherine Schrag of Aingeville. For more on this family see SCHERTZ.

The 1860 census of Metamora shows farm laborer Joseph Wagoner, 24, France; and Madeline, 23, France.

Joseph's father-in-law David Schertz and Christian Ropp were the first ministers of the Roanoke meeting. Joseph was ordained as a minister for the Mackinaw congregation in 1866, and served the Roanoke congregation after 1873. He attended the national assemblies of ministers in 1871, 1875, and 1878.

The 1870 census of Roanoke has farmer Lewis Wagner, 35; Magdalene, 34; farm laborer Peter, 11; Joseph 4; David, 4; Christian, six months; all born in Illinois; and domestic servant Mary Bates, 13, Hanover. The name 'Lewis,' an obvious error, has been repeated in some genealogies. They lived one household removed from Christian Schertz, 28 [son of Daniel 'David' Schertz and Catharine Bachman], Madaline, 26 [daughter of Christian Schertz and Katharine/Catherine Engel; and David, 2; all born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Roanoke has farmer Joseph Wagner, 45, Elsance [Ger. Eltsasse, Alsace]; Magdaleine, 44, Lodering [Ger. Lothringen, Lorraine]; farmer Peter, 19; Joseph, 14; David, 14; Christ, 10; and mother-in-law Catherine Schertz [born Catherine Schrag], 73. On the same census page was Swiss Benedict Weyeneth (who brought the Apostolic Christian movement to Illinois) and Diedbold Householder (see HOUSEHOLDER).

Herald of Truth, March 1894: "On the 7th of February 1894, in Woodford Co., Ill., from the effects of la grippe, died Bro. Joseph Wagner, aged 58 years, 5 months, 8 days. Bro. Wagner suffered for several months. He was a minister in the Amish Mennonite congregation at Roanoke. He was beloved and esteemed by all, a kind and affectionate husband and father, and charitable never closing his hand from the poor or the door against the beggar. He is sadly missed in his family, consisting of his widow and four sons, as well as in the church, but we believe that our loss is his gain. The remains were interred on the 9th in the Roanoke cemetery. Funeral services by D. Orendorf, Christian Reasor and John Smith, J.S."

Note that the age count given in this obituary by minister John Smith would equate to a birth date of Aug. 30, 1835. Joseph was actually born July 17 according to his civil birth entry.

Metamora Herald Nov. 9, 1899: "Saturday afternoon at the Amish Church five miles northeast of town, funeral services were held for Mrs. Magdalena Wagner, who died Thursday of dropsy of the heart at her home near Eureka. Mrs Wagner was an esteemed German lady sixty three years of age, and had been a widow for several years. Four married sons, Peter, Joseph, David, and Christian survive her."

Children of Joseph Wagner and Magdalena Schertz include:

1. Peter Wagner was born in Woodford County March 28, 1861, and died at Eureka Nov. 27, 1939. On May 27, 1886 in Woodford County he married Lena Schrock. She was born in Alsace Sept. 17, 1866, and died at Eureka Aug. 2, 1916. Woodford County Farmers and Breeders 1917 shows Peter Wagner on 240 acres in Section 9, Olio. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Metamora Herald, Dec. 1, 1939: "Peter Wagner, 78, retired farmer died at 2 o'clock Monday morning at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Garber, east of Eureka. His death was due to a paralytic stroke, which he suffered some time during the evening. When the family returned from attending church he was found slumped over in a chair. He had been in his usual health until stricken. Mr.

305 The background information on Barbara Wagner has been revised since the last version of this text, working from a death certificate provided by Jeannine Wormington. The certificate also indicates that she died from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1923 at 77 years of age, after having lived in the United States for 69 years - thus, her arrival matches the 1854 passenger list.
Wagner, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wagner, was born on a farm four miles east of Eureka March 28, 1861, and all his life had been spent in the vicinity of Eureka. He was united in marriage May 27, 1881, with Miss Lena Schrock. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1916, and three sons and two daughters also preceded him. Surviving are his daughter, Mrs. Matilda Garber, and three brothers, Christian and Joseph Wagner of Eureka, and David Wagner of Metamora.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m. at the residence and at 2 o’clock at the Roanoke township Mennonite church, with the Rev. Ezra Yordy in charge. Interment was in the church cemetery.

2. David Wagner (twin) was born at Roanoke Feb. 10, 1866, and died at Eureka Aug. 7, 1946. On Jan. 24, 1888 in Woodford County he married Emma Lydia Steider. She was born at Metamora June 18, 1868, and died at Peoria Dec. 25, 1911 (headstone date), a daughter of Joseph Steider and Anna Stauffer. Gospel Herald January 1912.

"Emma Wagner (nee Steider) was born near Metamora, Ill., June 18, 1868. She was taken to the St. Frances Hospital in Peoria, Ill., where she underwent an operation on Thursday and Sunday morning she fell asleep never to awaken this side of eternity, making her age 43 y. 6 m. 6 d. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church at the age of 18 years, being a faithful member till death. Jan. 24, 1888, she was united in marriage with David Wagner. This union was blessed with two sons and five daughters, who with their father survive the death of one whom they loved. She also leaves her father, one brother, one sister and many friends to mourn her departure. Funeral services Dec. 27, 1911, conducted at the home by Bro. A. A. Schrock (text, Psa. 39), and at the Roanoke Church by Bro. P. D. Schertz from Matt. 11:26-30, and by Bro. A. A. Schrock from II Cor. 4:16-18. Interment in nearby cemetery." On Sept. 15, 1914 in Woodford County David remarried to Emma Dellenbach and Peter Steider.

Woodford County Farmers and Breeders 1917 shows David Wagner and Emma Dellenbach on one acre of Section 12, Metamora. David married his third wife Catherine Plank Oct. 2, 1945. Gospel Herald September 1946: "David, son of Joseph and Magdalena Wagner, was born near Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 10, 1866; passed away at his home in Eureka, Ill., after a short illness, Aug. 7, 1946; aged 80 y. 5 m. 27 d. On Jan. 24, 1888, he was married to Emma Steider, who preceded him in death Dec. 24, 1911. On Sept. 15, 1914, he was married to Emma Dellenbach, who predeceased him on Aug. 9, 1920. On Oct. 2, he was married to Kathryn Plank, who survives. Also surviving are seven children (Clara, Battle Creek, Mich.; Anna, of Eureka; Henry, of Roanoke; Mrs. Laura Donze and Mrs. Rose Donze, both of El Paso, Ill.; Elmer, Twin Falls, Idaho; and Mrs. Beulah Bachman, of Eureka), two brothers (Joseph—a twin and Chris), 19 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. One brother (Peter) preceded him in death. In his youth he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful unto death. He was of a cheerful disposition and will be greatly missed in the home, church, and community. Funeral services were in charge of Ezra B. Yordy, assisted by John L. Harnish. Burial was made in the church cemetery.

3. Joseph Wagner (twin) was born at Roanoke Feb. 10, 1866, and died at Morton Dec. 30, 1946. On Feb. 5, 1889 at Metamora he married Lena L. Steider. She was born at Metamora Dec. 24, 1869, and died at Morton Oct. 23, 1946, a daughter of Peter Steider and Catherine Gerber/Garber. Woodford County Farmers and Breeders 1917 shows Joe Wagner and Lena Steider on 200 acres of Section 28, Roanoke. Gospel Herald, November 1946: "Wagner - Lena, daughter of Peter and Katherine Steider, was born near Metamora, Ill., Dec. 24, 1869; passed away at her late home, Morton, Ill., Oct. 23, 1946; aged 76 y. 9 m. 29 d. On Feb. 5, 1889, she was united in marriage to Joseph Wagner, who survives. For one month before her death they made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Roth, Morton, Ill. In her youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful to her baptismal vow until death. Surviving, besides her widowed husband, are four children (Nora Ulrich, Eureka, Ill.; Sadie Roth, of Morton; Walter, Peoria, Ill.; and Lucile Dixon, Chicago, Ill.), seven grand children, two great-grandchildren, seven brothers and sisters (Joseph, Samuel, Sara, Chris, Barbara, Henry and Peter). One infant son, two daughters, one sister (Martha) and one brother (Andrew) predeceased her. Funeral services were held Oct. 26 at her late home, in charge of Roy Roth, and at the Roanoke Church, Eureka, in charge of Ezra Yordy and John Harnish." Metamora Herald, Jan. 3, 1947: "Joseph Wagner, 88 [80], died at noon Monday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alvin Roth, 529 South Main street, Morton. Funeral services were held at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Allen Roth residence and at 2 p.m. at the Roanoke Mennonite church. Burial was in the church cemetery. He was born at Eureka Feb. 10, 1866, a son of Joseph and Magdalina Schertz Wagner. Feb. 5, 1889 he married Miss Lena Steider of Metamora. She died two months ago. Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Nora Ulrich of Eureka, Mrs. Sadie Roth of Morton, Walter of Peoria, Mrs. Lucile Dixon of Chicago; seven grandchildren and a brother, Chris Wagner of Eureka. He was a member of the Roanoke Mennonite church and was a farmer until his retirement 23 years ago. He made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Roth, for the past three months."

4. Christian Wagner was born in Woodford County March 13, 1870, and died at Eureka July 2, 1958. On Dec. 27, 1894 at Metamora he married Barbara Sauder. She was born at Washington, Tazewell County March 3, 1874, and died at Eureka March 19, 1954, a daughter of Henry Sauder and Katherine Zeicet. Woodford County Farmers and Breeders 1917 shows Chris Wagner and Barbara Sander on 240 acres of Section 29, Roanoke. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Gospel Herald, April 1954: "Wagner, Barbara, daughter of Henry and Katherine (Zeicet) Sauder, was born March 3, 1874, near Washington, Ill.; passed away after a prolonged illness on March 19, 1954, at her home in Eureka, Ill.; aged 80 y. 16 d. She accepted Christ at an early age and united with the Mennonite Church where she served the Lord faithful until He called her home. On Dec. 27, 1894, she was united in marriage to Christian Wagner. To this union were born eight children (Freida-Mrs. Joseph J. Wagner, Chicago; Alvina-Mrs.
Walter Zook; Pearl-Mrs. Forrest Yoder; Celesta-Mrs. Lloyd Stalter, all of Eureka; Rose-Mrs. Chris Schertz, Washington, Ill.; Ezra C., Chenoa, Ill.; and E. Sanford, San Mateo, Calif.). One son (Noah), one brother, and four sisters preceded her in death. She was the last remaining member of the Henry Sauder family. A number of college students made their home with the Wagners and to these she was both a counselor and friends. During the latter days of her illness she enjoyed hearing passages read from her well-marked Bible by her grandson (Larry Stalter), who lived next door. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, March 21, in charge of Sanford C. Yoder, with Ezra B. Yordy assisting. Burial was made in the church cemetery. "Gospel Herald, September 1958: "Wagner, Christian, youngest son of Joseph and Magdaline (Schertz) Wagner, as born near Eureka, Ill., Mary 13, 1870; passed away July 2, 1958; aged 88 y. 3 m. 19 d. He had been in failing health for the past year. He accepted Christ at an early age, united with the Roanoke Church and was very faithful in church activities. On Dec. 27, 1894, he was married to Barbara Sauder. Surviving are seven children (Frieda, Chicago; Alvina Zook, Rose Schertz, Pearl Yoder; Celesta Stalter, all of Eureka; Ezra C., Chenoa; and E. Sanford, San Mateo, Calif.), 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. His wife, one son (Noah), and three brothers preceded him in death. He was the last remaining member of the Joseph Wagner family. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke Church, July 4, in charge of Wesley E. Jantz, with burial in the church cemetery."

For background information on the Wagners who came to Cazenovia and Partridge, see IMHOFF.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Steider of Kerprich-aux-Bois

As Swiss emigrants dispersed in the early and mid-1700s, it occasionally happened that a young woman from an Anabaptist family found a husband who was a lapsed Catholic, Protestant Reformed, or Lutheran congregant. In the rare instances where their children chose adult baptism, it brought a new surname into the fold. That may be the case with the Steider family that came to Woodford County in 1849.

Johann Niklaus Steiter had a son Albert Steiter. Albert was born circa 1726, and died at Altwiller (now in Lower Alsace, on the boundary with Moselle) Oct. 2, 1778.

On July 5, 1751 at Altwiller Albert married Marie Madeleine/Magdalena Schultz. She was born at Altwiller Feb. 22, 1728, a daughter of Jean Pierre Schultz and Marie Barbara Textor. The marriage entry says Albert was from 'Luderfingen.' It is likely this was the village Loudrefing (now in Moselle), about nine miles southwest of Altwiller.

Their son Georges/George Steiter/Steider was born circa 1761, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle April 3, 1807. His death entry described him as a 46-year-old Lutheran.

On Feb. 22, 1780 at Altwiller George married Catharina Klein, a dependent of Johann Nicklaus Klein. The Protestant marriage entry described George as a son of Albert.

The marriage yielded only one child, who died young:

1. Christine Steiter. A death entry (#536) created in the Protestant parish register at Altwiller July 2, 1789 names Christine Steiterin, a daughter of Georg Steiter. On the opposing page is an entry for her mother.

Catharina died at Cappel (now Diane-Capelle) Dec. 2, 1789. Her birthplace was described as 'Mievens' or 'Miedens,' and her age was given as 27 years, 4 months, and 16 days. George Steiter was described as a 'burger von Miedens' in the parish of Kappel.

On July 25, 1790 at Altwiller George remarried to Christine Abresol [Aebersold]. She was born at Rhodes circa 1767, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois Nov. 25, 1851, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Christine Schertz. The Protestant marriage entry describes the couple as 'Georg Steiter' and 'Christina Abersohlinn einen Täuferinn' (an Anabaptist).


Diane-Capelle and Kerprich-aux-Bois were also home to the couples Johannes/Jean Litwiller and Freni Zehr, and Johannes/Jean Suisse and Véronique Neuhauser/Neyhauser (the parents of Litwiller, Kempf, and Suisse/Schweizer generations that came to Central Illinois).

The first mention of cultivator 'George Teyder' that we found in Kerprich-aux-Bois records was a death entry created Oct. 26, 1801. He reported the death of Catherine Litwiller, a daughter of Jean Litwiller and Françoise/Freni Zehr. His signature suggests that he was illiterate, and he may not have known that the municipal clerk was spelling his surname 'Teyder,' 'Theirder,' and 'Teider' on civil entries.

The area was occupied by Russian cavalrmen in 1814 (see FARNY for the impact on nearby Bispeng). Approximately 150,000 English, Prussian, Austrian and Russian troops occupied Lorraine between 1815 and 1818. Children of Georges/George Steiter/Steider and his second wife Christine Abresohl include:

1. Christine Steider was born circa 1793, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois June 22, 1815 (her death entry gives age 22).
2. Jean Baptiste Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Nov. 1, 1794. On Oct. 28, 1844 Barbe 'Habressol,' 80, died at Kerprich-aux-Bois. The death entry described her as a daughter of Joseph Habresol [Abresohl] and Christine Chatz [Schertz] and the widow of Joseph Kelbert [Gerber]; thus she was a sister to Christine Abresohl. It described the witness who reported the death as 50-year-old Jean Steider, Barbe's nephew. He signed the entry 'Hans Steider.'
3. Madeleine Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 12, 1796, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois Nov. 14, 1801.
5. Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle in 1799, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois April 2, 1804.

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7. **Joseph Steider** was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Dec. 31, 1804, and died at St. Louis, Missouri Jan. 21, 1849.

The unusual mortality rate in the area owed not so much to deprivation caused by war, but to the nature of its geography. Drinking water was drawn from ponds. The ponds were also used to raise carp as food. They accumulated waste from feed grain and the excrement of water foul. This led to a high incidence of waterborne disease. In the next few decades the problem was alleviated by canals connecting the ponds to rivers.

**Joseph Steider** was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Dec. 31, 1804. On May 7, 1825 he married Catherine Miller/Müller there. She was born circa 1803. The marriage entry described the groom as shoemaker [Fr. cordonnier] Joseph Steider, a son of 'Christine Abressole' (his father was deceased). It described the bride as an illegitimate daughter [Fr. enfant naturelle] of Elisabeth Muller of Toupet (a farm and mill) at Azoudange, Moselle. The signatures read 'J. Steider,' 'C. Miller,' and 'Christine Abresohl.'

According to *The Past and Present of Woodford County*, Joseph Steider, Catherine Miller, and their children Joseph, Jean/John, Peter, and Barbe/Barbara sailed from Le Havre in September 1848. They arrived at New Orleans 48 days later.

They likely arrived at New Orleans on the brig *Vesta* Nov. 27, 1848. A single entry on its passenger list shows 'Steider, 40.'

It is obvious that the timing of their arrival and the length of their stay in New Orleans was unfortunate. The *Swanton* had also departed from Le Havre, on Oct. 31. After 27 days at sea cholera was detected onboard, and 16 passengers died. The ship arrived at New Orleans Dec. 11, 1848. It was not put into quarantine, and on the day of its arrival only one passenger was sent to a hospital. Another passenger fell ill two days after disembarking. The ensuing epidemic peaked in June, when 2,500 lives were lost. (In contrast, the ship *New York* sailed from Le Havre Nov. 9, 1848. Cholera was detected onboard after 16 days, and seven passengers died; but the ship was quarantined at New York, and the disease did not spread).

After spending time in New Orleans, the Steiders traveled up the Mississippi River as far as St. Louis. We do not know which steamboat carried them. Poet Walt Whitman made the trip in the same time frame. His recollections did not mention the epidemic.

"Our voyage up the Mississippi was after the same sort as the voyage, some months before, down it. The shores of this great river are very monotonous and dull—one continuous and rank flat, with the exception of a meagre stretch of bluff, about the neighborhood of Natchez, Memphis, etc. Fortunately we had good weather, and not a great crowd of passengers, though the berths were all full. The *Pride* jogg'd along pretty well, and put us into St. Louis about noon Saturday."

Whitman stopped over at St. Louis less than a day:

"After looking around a little I secured passage on the steamer *Prairie Bird* (to leave late in the afternoon) bound up the Illinois River to La Salle, where we were to take the canal for Chicago...* Our *Prairie Bird* started out at dark, and a couple of hours after there was quite a rain and blow, which made them haul in along shore and tie fast. We made but thirty miles the whole night. The boat was excessively crowded with passengers, and had withal so much freight that we could hardly turn around. I slept on the floor, and the night was uncomfortable enough. The Illinois River is spotted with little villages with big names, Marseilles, Naples, etc.; its banks are low, and the vegetation excessively rank. Peoria, some

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307 There were several ships named *Vesta* in commission in 1848. This was a 599-ton brig constructed in 1843, captained by Soubry. This was not the steamship *Vesta* that was involved in a famous collision at sea in 1854; that ship was not constructed until 1853.

308 Whitman worked as a journalist in New Orleans in 1848. "Probably the influence most deeply pervading everything at that time through the United States, both in physical facts and in sentiment, was the Mexican War, then just ended. Following a brilliant campaign (in which our troops had march'd to the capital city, Mexico, and taken full possession) we were returning after our victory. From the situation of the country, the city of New Orleans had been our channel and entrepot for everything; I remember very well seeing Gen. [Zachary] Taylor with his staff and other officers at the St. Charles Theatre one evening (after talking with them during the day). There was a short play on the stage, but the principal performance was of Dr. Colyer's troupe of *Model Artists*, then in the full tide of their popularity. They gave many fine groups and solo shows. The house was crowded with uniforms and shoulder-strap... I used to wander a midday hour or two now and then for amusement on the crowded and bustling levees, on the banks of the river. The diagonally wedg'd-in boats, the stevedores, the piles of cotton and other merchandise, the carts, mules, negroes, etc., afforded never-ending studies and sights to me. I made acquaintances among the captains, boatmen, or other characters, and often had long talks with them - sometimes finding a real rough diamond among my chance encounters."

309 The Illinois & Michigan Canal connecting the Illinois River with Lake Michigan opened in 1848. It was used for passengers until a rail line was laid parallel to it in 1853. It remained in use for freight until 1933.
The 1860 census of Metamora shows Catherine Steider, 57, France; and farm laborers Joseph, 35, France; and Peter, 31, France. Unfortunately, the Steider family remained at St. Louis for a longer period, and suffered a loss there. The Missouri Republican, Dec. 21, 1848:

“In all the Eastern cities, measures are already in progress, to prepare for the visitation of cholera. Complaints are loudly made in the newspapers of the filthy condition of several cities, and efforts to improve them strongly recommended.

Something of this kind should be done in St. Louis. The general condition of the city and of every street in it, is as favorable for the spread of the disease as can possibly be imagined. Everywhere, arising to some extent, from the prevalence of wet weather and the negligence of the city scavengers, causes of complaint exist, and if our citizens desire to escape the ravages of this scourge they should at once attempt some reform in this particular. All the writers upon the cholera urge a proper attention to cleanliness, throughout the town, as most likely to lessen its ravages.

It is not now too soon to begin this work. Its existence at New York is pretty well established [recall the quarantined New York], and an arrival at New Orleans, from Havre, of an emigrant ship [recall the Swanton], on board which was a large number of passengers sick, gives reasons to fear that it may soon break out there.

The papers do not make mention of the disease as being cholera, though it is not improbable, from the fact that the cholera was brought to New York by a vessel from Havre, leaving about the same time as the vessel which has arrived at New Orleans. At all events, two or three months may be sufficient for it to reach St. Louis in its course from New York, and we cannot expect entirely to escape, though much may be done to mitigate its severity.”

Cholera reached St. Louis in the very week that the Republican made its prediction. On Dec. 27 the steamboat Alton arrived from New Orleans. A woman and five children had died on the transit.

Recall the incomplete Festa passenger list: if Joseph or any other passengers had the symptoms of cholera, it might explain why the list provided so little information. The Steiders may have been put ashore as soon as possible, perhaps at Baton Rouge; or quarantined onboard on the day of arrival at New Orleans.

Joseph Steider became sick at St. Louis on about Jan. 14. He died a week later, a victim of the St. Louis Cholera Epidemic of 1849. It eventually killed 4,500 persons, about 10 percent of the population.

Joseph was buried in the German Cemetery (also called the first Old Picker's Cemetery, now the site of Roosevelt High School). His headstone said he was born in 1807 (he was actually born Dec. 31, 1803), and died Jan. 21, 1849. Under the circumstances it would have been surprising to find an accurate birth date on his headstone. He was born while France was under the Republican calendar system. It is unlikely that either Joseph or his wife would have known the date on the birth entry created the day after his birth - 11 Nivôse 13 - and been able to make a conversion to the Gregorian calendar date Jan. 1, 1805, minus one day: Dec. 31, 1804.

In February floating ice prevented navigation on the river. No new cases of cholera would be identified until warming brought more steamboats.

In late March Catherine and her children continued on to Woodford County. It was dangerous to remain in the city of St. Louis; the Board of Health reported 24 new cases March 21-28, most from passengers who had come from New Orleans.

Catherine rented a house east of Metamora. Her new surroundings must have seemed idyllic, considering the news from New Orleans. On May 3, a levee burst there and water flooded into the city. The levy could not be repaired until June 20. It was the worst natural disaster on the delta until Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In St. Louis at least 250 deaths were reported in the first two weeks of May. On May 17 a substantial fire brought a respite from the epidemic. It not only consumed 430 buildings, but 23 moored steamboats as well.

Catherine's 17-year-old daughter Barbara married Joseph Bachman/Baughman in Woodford County June 3, 1849. He was a son of Partridge Creek meeting minister André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and Lisbeth Behr. The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) misidentifies Catherine: Christian Stider, 46, France; Joseph, 16, France; John, 12, France; and Peter, 11, France. It also shows two of the sons in the household of Joseph 'Red Joe' Belsley and his second wife Barbara/Barbe Engel, where they are found as J. Stide, 17, France, and John Stide, 14, France.

The 1850 census of Dist 56 (Woodford County) misidentifies Catherine: Christian Stider, 46, France; Joseph, 16, France; John, 12, France; and Peter, 11, France. It also shows two of the sons in the household of Joseph 'Red Joe' Belsley and his second wife Barbara/Barbe Engel, where they are found as J. Stide, 17, France, and John Stide, 14, France.

The 1860 census of Metamora shows Catherine Steider, 57, France; and farm laborers Joseph, 35, France; John, 23, France; and Peter, 31, France. In 1870: Catharina, 68, France; in the household of son Peter Stider, 30, France; Catharine [Gerber], 25, France; and Lena, seven months, Illinois. One address removed was the family of Joseph Stider, 28, France. The same census also shows Catherine, 67, living in the household of her son John at Metamora.
The 1873 plat map of Metamora shows Joseph, John, and Peter as the owners of the northwest corner of Section 12; their mother Catherine owned the southwest corner. 'C. Steider' was also the owner of 19 acres in Section 2 of Township.

In 1880 Catherine was living in the household of her son Peter. Catherine Miller Steider died at Metamora Sept. 13, 1884. Her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery reads, "Catharine, wife of Joseph Steider, died Sept. 13, 1884, aged 81 years [illegible]."

Children of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller include:

1. Joseph Steider was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois March 27, 1826, and died there April 2, 1826.
2. Joseph Steider was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois May 15, 1830, and died there Aug. 20, 1830.
3. Barbe/Barbara Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 13, 1831, and died at Metamora Oct. 20, 1904. On June 3, 1849 in Woodford County she married Joseph Bachman/Baughman. Woodford County marriage application and registration records erroneously name the groom and bride as Fetty Berkey and Barbara Stiter. Valentine 'Fetty' Birkey was actually the minister who performed the ceremony. Joseph was born circa Aug. 16, 1826, and died at Metamora Dec. 29, 1897, a son of Partridge Creek meeting minister André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman and Lisbeth Behr. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. For more on this couple see BACHMAN.
4. Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 1, 1834, and died at Metamora Feb. 8, 1920.
5. Jean/John Steider was born at Diane-Capelle in March 1837, and died at Milford, Nebraska circa 1900. On July 1, 1863 in Woodford County he married Elisabeth/Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Wagler. She was born at Marcikolesheim, Lower Alsace June 15, 1836, and died in Nebraska Dec. 26, 1907, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Metamora as farmer John Steider, 34, France; Elizabetha, 43, Germany; and eight children born in Illinois. 6. Peter Steider was born at Diane-Capelle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora Aug. 10, 1914.

Joseph Steider
Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 1, 1834, and died at Metamora Feb. 8, 1920.

On March 18, 1866 in Woodford County he married Anna Stauffer. She was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace March 12, 1841, and died after an epileptic seizure at Metamora May 23, 1880, a daughter of Joseph Stauffer and Anna Schantz. Their joint headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora is inscribed, "Joseph Steider 1833-1920, Anna Stauefer his wife 1841-1890."

His Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County biography said Joseph was "a native of France, born at Dearne, Capelle canton [Diane-Capelle], and arrondissement of Sorboume [Sarrebourg], Department of Muerthes [Moselle], Sept. 1, 1835. His father was a native of the same place, and was there reared and married, Catharine Miller becoming his wife." The remainder follows a familiar template:

"The early years of his life were passed amid the pleasant scenes of his birthplace in sunny France, and he was the recipient of a very good education, as he attended school regularly till his parents emigrated to the United States. At that time he was a bright, active lad of fourteen years, with eyes and ears open to all the strange sights and sounds in this, to him, strange country. He still remembers the vivid impression that the wild, scarcely cultivated, sparsely inhabited prairies made upon him when he first set foot in Woodford County, where the deer and other game were then roaming at will.

He commenced life here by working by the month, receiving $8 for that length of time as compensation for his services. He was prudent and thrifty, and with wise economy saved his earnings, so that three years later he was enabled to go to farming on his own account, renting land for that purpose the ensuing four years. In the meantime he and his brother bought land in partnership in their mother's name, and building a frame house to live in, commenced to improve their realty.

There was then no railway here, and Peoria and Spring Bay were the nearest markets for some years. The brothers were prosperous in their undertakings, and made money, with which they bought more land, the deeds being in the mother's name till her death.

The land was then divided, and our subject now owns the original eighty acres that he and his brothers purchased, and 140 acres besides. He has his farm under excellent cultivation, has it provided with suitable frame buildings, and everything about the place is in good order.

Mr. Steider was married in 1865 to Miss Ann Stauffer, a native of the province of Alsace, Germany. She was in every sense a true and devoted wife, making her home comfortable and attractive to her family, and her death, May 23,
1880 was a sad blow to her beloved ones. Of her happy wedded life three children were born: Ama, Louisa A. and David W. Ama is the wife of David Wagner, of Roanoke Township. The other two are at home with their father.

Mr. Steider is a whole-souled, warm-hearted man, kind, genial and charitable in his intercourse with others, and a true friend to all who need a helping hand. He possesses a fair share of energy, acumen and thrift, and a knack of working to the best advantage, and these with other attributes have contributed to his success in life, as he is entirely a self-made man, having had no adventitious aids of birth or fortune, but what he is and what he has, he owes to his own exertions. His character is appreciated by his neighbors, who hold him in high respect and esteem.

He and his family are devoted members of the Omish Church. Politically he is a Republican as regards national affairs, but in local matters he votes for the man and not for the party.”

The household appears on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Steider, 45, France; Anna, 39, France; Emma, 12; Louise, 6; and David, 4; all children born in Illinois.

Joseph is found in the household of his son at Metamora in 1900 (on the same census page as his brother Peter): farmer David W. Steider, 23, born in Illinois in October 1876 to a father from France and a mother from Germany; Catherine, 21, born in Illinois in May 1879 to parents from Illinois; and Joseph, 66, born in France in September 1833.

The Metamora Herald, Feb. 13, 1920:

"Joseph Steider Dies at Age of 85 Years, Came to Woodford County at Age of 14 Years from France, With Parents was 48 Days in Making Voyage Here in 1848.

Joseph Steider, for 71 years of his life of 85 years a resident of Woodford county, passed away February 8, 1920 at his homestead in the northeast part of Metamora township, in the home of son David W. Steider. His health had been failing for some years due to heart weakness, which eventually caused his death.

Mr. Steider was born in Elsace-Lorraine, Sept. 1, 1834. At the age of 14 years with his parents he set sail in the month of September, 1848, for the United States and 48 days later landed at New Orleans. The family spent a month there, then proceeded to St. Louis where the father took sick and died a week later, at the age of 42. The unfortunate mother and children were thus left without protection in a strange country and with but limited means.

They remained at St. Louis two months, then came on to Woodford County. The mother rented a house two miles west of Metamora as a home for herself and children. In the course of a few years they moved on the farm where Mr. Steider lived until his death.

Deceased was united in marriage with Anna Stauffer March 18, 1866. To this union were born three sons and two daughters. His beloved wife, two sons, one daughter and one granddaughter preceded him in death. There remains to mourn his loss one son, David W. Steider, and one daughter, Mrs. Henry G. Schertz, 14 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, besides other relatives and many friends who knew him and held him in honor and esteem.

He had a helping hand to help where help was needed and never refused while health and strength was given him. He united with the A.M. church in his youth and remained faithful until his death.

The funeral was held Wednesday morning. Prayer was offered at the residence at 8:45 by Peter Garber and the body was then taken to the Metamora A.M. church, where funeral services were held at 10 o'clock, in charge of Peter D. Schertz and Peter Garber. The body was laid to rest in the Hickory Point Cemetery, west of Metamora, where lie buried the bodies of the deceased's mother and wife and other relatives."

The children of Joseph Steider and Anna Stauffer born at Metamora include:

1. Joseph Steider was born Dec. 29, 1866, and died Aug. 23, 1867. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
2. Joseph Steider was born March 5, 1868, and died Sept. 21, 1868. He is also buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
3. Emma Lydia Steider was born June 18, 1868, and died at Peoria Dec. 25, 1911 (headstone date). On Jan. 24, 1888 she married David Wagner. He was born at Roanoke Feb. 10, 1866, and died at Eureka Aug. 7, 1946, a son of Joseph Wagner and Magdalena Schertz. See WAGNER for more on this couple.
4. Peter H. Steider was born in 1869, and died in 1872. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
5. Louisa Steider was born in 1873, and died in 1957. On Jan. 14, 1894 she married Henry G. Schertz. He was born at Eureka July 10, 1871, and died there March 21, 1930, a son of Joseph Schertz and Elizabeth Gingerich.

Gospel Herald, April 1930: "Henry G. Schertz was born June 10, 1871, and died Mar. 21, 1930; aged 58 y. 9 m. 11 d. He was a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Schertz, and was the oldest of a family of six children, only three of whom survive. He was married Jan. 18, 1894, to Louisa Steider. To this union were born three children (Lester L.; Alvin J.; and Laura M.). These with his three grandchildren survive to mourn the loss of a kind, loving husband, father, grandfather. Bro Schertz was born on a farm near Eureka, Ill., and lived in this vicinity all his life. He lived on a farm until five years ago, when he moved into a new home he had built in Eureka. He united with the Mennonite Church in early life and remained a faithful and consistent member, ever taking a deep interest in the affairs of the Church. He was out at his home farm looking after the farm interests, and that evening, March 17, he was taken ill. He was ill only four days and his death was caused by an attack of apoplexy. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Bro. H. R. Schertz, and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Bros. Ezra Yordy and John L. Harnish. A
very large number of friends and relatives attended the service." They are buried under a joint headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

David W. Steider was born in 1875, and died at Metamora March 30, 1945. He married Catherine E. Schertz. She was born in 1879, and died in 1948. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.

Peter Steider

Peter Steider was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora, Woodford County Aug. 10, 1914.

On March 2, 1869 in Woodford County he married Catherine Gerber/Garber. She was born at Metamora Oct. 6, 1846, and died there Aug. 8, 1926, a daughter of Christian Gerber and Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach. The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois published in 1878 listed Peter, John, and Joseph 'Stider' as farmers served by the post office at Metamora.

The 1880 census of Metamora shows farmer Peter Steider, 41, France; Katharina, 33, Illinois; Lena L., 10; Joseph W., 8; Christian, 6; Samuel, 4; Sarah L., 2; Martha, 4 months; and Katharina, 76, France.

When Peter was naturalized at the Metamora Courthouse Nov. 7, 1884, his country of origin was given as France-Germany (Lorraine was occupied by Prussia 1870-1918). His application was witnessed by John Abersol, a grocer with a store adjacent to the courthouse.

His household appears on the 1900 census of Metamora (on the same page as brother Joseph) as farmer Peter Steider, 60, born in France to French parents in June 1829 [note the decade error], married 31 years, immigrated in 1849; Catherine, born in Illinois to German parents in October 1847; Sarah L., 22, born in February 1878; Martha, 19, born in December 1880; Barbara, 19, born in May 1880 [sic]; Henry, 13, born in June 1886; Peter, 10, born in July 1889; Christian, 26, born in March 1874; and Andrew, 16, born in July 1883; all children born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Illinois.

Metamora Herald, August 1914: "End Comes to Well Known Farmer Monday Night, Lived Here 66 Years, Born in France and Came to Woodford County When a Child. After five weeks of patient suffering, with no hope held out for his recovery, the end came to Peter Steider, one of the well known and highly respected residents of Metamora township at about 10 o'clock Monday night. Deceased had been in failing health for over two years, but was able to be around until the early part of the summer, when he was stricken bedfast and since that time he had been in charge of a nurse. Mr. Steider was almost a lifelong resident of this county having lived here continuously for 66 years. He was born at Sorbourne [Sarrebourg administrative district], France, June 2, 1839. He was nine years old when his family immigrated to America and settled in western Woodford county. He was married in the year 1866 [1869] to Katherine Garber, who survives with eleven children. The children are: Mrs. Jos. Wagner of Roanoke, Joseph of Metamora, Chris of Aurora, Neb., Samuel of Eureka, Mrs. S.E. Unsicker of Roanoke, Mrs. B. W. Springer of Aurora Neb., Andrew, Henry, and Peter of Metamora. Two daughters, Mrs. C.C. Springer and Anna are deceased. One brother, Joseph, of Metamora, survives. Surviving are also 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Years ago when the early settlers of the county began to vacate the timber country in the west part of the county and settle upon the prairies, Mr. Steider moved to the location of his late home in the east part of Metamora township. Deceased was a member of the Amish and Mennonite church and lived up to his faith conscientiously. He commanded the respect and esteem of all his neighbors and acquaintance and his memory will long be cherished in the community in which he lived and died. The funeral was held yesterday. Services were held at 12:30 P.M. at the residence and the body was then taken to the Harmony A.M. church northeast of Metamora, where final services were held at 1:30. Interment was made in the Harmony cemetery."

Gospel Herald, August 1926: "Katherine Garber was born west of Metamora, Ill., Oct. 6, 1846; died Aug. 8, 1926; aged 79 y. 10 m. 2 d. She was united in marriage to Peter Steider Mar. 2, 1865. To this union were born 11 children, of whom 8 survive (Sam, Lena, wife of Joe Wagner, Joe, Henry, Peter, Sarah, wife of Sam Unzicker, Chris, and Barbara, wife of B. W. Springer). There are 29 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and two sisters (Mrs. Ferd Schertz, and Mrs. Aug. Schertz). She made her home with her daughter, Sarah Unzicker, since the death of her husband 12 years ago. About three years ago she was stricken with paralysis and has been an invalid since. She bore her affliction with unusual calmness. She was a patient, devoted mother to her children, who will greatly miss her. Services conducted at the house by Bro. A. A. Schlock; and at the church by Bros. H. R. Schertz and A. A. Schlock. Text, Rev. 2: 10, latter clause."

Children of Peter Steider and Catherine Gerber/Garber born at Metamora include:

2. Joseph W. Steider was born Dec. 24, 1871, and died Sept. 22, 1952. He married Barbara Grob. She was born Jan. 12, 1879, and died March 24, 1962. They are buried under a joint marker in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

3. Christian E. Steider was born March 4, 1874, and died April 19, 1947. He married Mary M. Springer. She was born at Gridley, McLean County June 7, 1876, and died March 17, 1944, a daughter of Christian C. Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried under a joint headstone in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

4. Samuel Steider was born in 1876, and died in 1960. He married Emma A. Schertz. She was born in 1879, and died in Woodford County Nov. 4, 1950. They are buried under a joint headstone at Olio Township Cemetery at Eureka, Woodford County.

5. Sarah L. Steider was born Feb. 19, 1878, and died April 28, 1959. She married Samuel Ernest Unzicker. He was born at Morton March 17, 1876, and died at Eureka Nov. 21, 1963, a son of August K. Unzicker and Elizabeth Birky. They are buried under a joint headstone in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

6. Martha A. Steider was born Dec. 28, 1879, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Dec. 11, 1908. She married Christian C. Springer. He was born at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 19, 1875, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Oct. 27, 1945, a son of Christian Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

7. Barbara Steider was born in May 1881, and died at Aurora, Nebraska in 1963. On Jan. 26, 1904 she married Benjamin W. Springer. He was born at Gridley, McLean County Feb. 14, 1879, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Jan. 19, 1955, a son of Christian Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried under a joint headstone in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

8. Andrew Steider was born in July 1883, and died at Linn, Woodford County Dec. 19, 1918. He is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

9. Henry Steider was born June 13, 1886, and died Dec. 3, 1965. His marker indicates that he served as a private in the army in World War I. He married Izzola Perrine. She was born in Woodford County April 2, 1908, and died at Peoria Feb. 26, 1988. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

10. Peter Steider was born at Metamora July 15, 1889, and died at San Diego, California April 12, 1956. He married Elizabeth Grob. She was born April 19, 1894, and died May 14, 1956. They are in Greenwood Mausoleum in Greenwood Memorial Park at San Diego.

11. Anna Steider died as an infant. She is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
Klopfenstein of Frutigen

In Canton Bern a Klopfenstein is a stone mason or quarryman. Peter Klopfenstein was baptized at Frutigen, Canton Bern Oct. 18, 1632. Frutigen is a mountain pass village 10 miles south of Spiez, a village on the southwest shore of Lake Thun. On Oct. 22, 1661 at Frutigen Peter married Anna Remund.

Their son Hans Klopfenstein was baptized at Frutigen Jan. 11, 1682 or 1683. On Feb. 2, 1701 or 1702 he married Elizabeth Schmid. She was baptized at Frutigen Nov. 6, 1681, a daughter of Peter Schmid and Verene Bircher.

Peter/Pierre Klopfenstein was baptized at Frutigen, Canton Bern Jan. 11, 1703, and died on the grounds of St. Nicolas chapel at Rougemont in the Territoire de Belfort Aug. 14, 1766. SCHLEGEL gives historical background on the Territoire de Belfort, particularly on the two sieges of the fort there.

According to historian Robert Baecher, Peter/Pierre migrated from Frutigen to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and found work with Christ Kropf on his farm Waldner de Freunstein at Haute Broque. There he chose adult baptism. At Belverne (10 miles west of Belfort) in 1727 he married Anna Luginbühl. She was born in 1701, and died on St. Nicolas Feb. 25, 1756, a daughter of Christ Luginbühl and Anna Gilgen.

According to historian Robert Baecher, the following year a Kauffman family at Guwenheim (adjacent to Bourbach-le-Bas) informed Peter/Pierre that a farm called Niederwil had become available. It was located on the slope between Bourbach-le-Bas (the lower) and Bourbach-le-Haut (the upper), Upper Alsace. In 1830 the farm was leased by the abbey of Masevaux to Adam Bürer. Bürer took on Peter/Pierre as a manager.

The Klopfensteins tended cattle and produced cheese and butter. Following Anna's death in 1756, Peter/Pierre remarried to Marie Wiederkehr.

Children of Peter/Pierre Klopfenstein and his first wife Anna Luginbühl born on Niederwil farm include:

1. Jean Klopfenstein was born Sept. 8, 1729, and died at Belfort Oct. 29, 1796.
2. Anne Klopfenstein was born March 13, 1731, and died at Belfort Aug. 23, 1804. On Jan. 30, 1757 at Rougemont she married Christian Müller. He was born at Florimont March 30, 1736, and died at Rougemont March 3, 1817.
3. Madeleine Klopfenstein was born April 15, 1732, and died at Meroux (four miles southeast of Belfort) Oct. 25, 1800. On Nov. 10, 1747 she married Nicholas Planck. He was born at Meroux Jan. 15, 1723 or 1724, a son of Joseph Plank and Barbara Rich.
4. Pierre Klopfenstein was born Dec. 2, 1733, and died at Bourgogne (9 miles southeast of Belfort) Jan. 13, 1801. On Nov. 30, 1753 at Bourgogne he married Marie Engel. She was born at Bourgogne May 10, 1734, and died there Feb. 10, 1814, a daughter of minister Nicolas Engel and Barbara Balsiger. Peter/Pierre was ordained as a minister in 1777, and followed Nicolas Engel as elder of the Münsterol/Blumbergerwald congregation. Peter Klopfenstein and Michel Müller represented the congregation at assemblies of ministers at Essingen in 1759 and 1779.
5. Christen/Christian Klopfenstein was born March 15, 1736, and died on the grounds of St. Nicolas chapel at Rougemont Feb. 28, 1757. On Nov. 15, 1756 he married Barbara Rich. She was born circa 1735, a daughter of Jean Rich and Barbara Richard.
6. Marie Klopfenstein was born May 15, 1738, and died at Montbéliard, Doubs Feb. 8, 1804. On Dec. 12, 1756 on Niederwil farm she married Jacob Eicher. He was born in or near Montbéliard circa 1736, and died at Montbéliard April 8, 1799, a son of Jacob Eicher and Katharina/Catherine Graber. Their descendants came to Elm Grove in 1867. For background on this couple see EICHER in the Appendix.
7. Michel Klopfenstein was born Sept. 30, 1740, and died at Rougemont Jan. 25, 1817. On April 19, 1763 at Montbéliard he married Anne Richard. She was born there Sept. 28, 1742, and died at Rougemont May 23, 1817, a daughter of Michel Richard and Catherine Schindler. When they co-leased La Maie farm at Menoncourt with older brother Jean in 1793, Michael/Michel became minister and elder of the congregation there. Michel attested to the birth of future Illinois settler Christian Schlegel for administrative purposes related to his marriage.
8. Catherine Klopfenstein was born Nov. 15, 1743, and died at Rougemont May 4, 1782. On April 19, 1763 at Rougemont she married Christian Rich. He was born there circa 1738, and died in 1799, a son of Jean Rich and Barbara Richard [Richards].

Jean Klopfenstein was born on Niederwil farm at Bourbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace Sept. 8, 1729, and died at Belfort in the Territoire de Belfort (28 miles southwest of Niederwil farm) Oct. 30, 1796. On April 20, 1750 he married Anna Graber. She was born June 14, 1730, and died at Belfort Oct. 26, 1796, a daughter of Daniel Graber and Catherine Eicher.

311 In 1893 Rougemont and some smaller localities were merged to become Rougemont-le-Château.
They leased the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont (seven miles southwest of Niederwil farm) with Jean's younger brother Michel. As noted in SCHLEGEL, some time in the 1780s the tolerant congregations east of Belfort fell into disagreement with their parent congregation at Montbéliard. This has been seen as a natural rivalry between two families from the same Bernese village – the Richen and Klopfenstein families of Frutigen. The property at Rougemont was nationalized during the French Revolution. In 1793 the Klopfensteins relocated onto La Maie farm at Menoncourt, a place where Mennonites had held meetings since 1780. Jean co-leased the farm with younger brother Michel, who became minister and elder of the congregation there. Their children born on the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont include:

1. Catherine Klopfenstein was born March 28, 1753, and died at Belfort Jan. 10, 1802. She married Jean/Hans Joder. He was born circa 1744, and died at Méziré (12 miles below Belfort, adjacent to Morvillars) Dec. 10, 1804, a son of Christian Joder and Anna Hochstettler. See JODER for background on this couple.
2. Jean Klopfenstein was born Feb. 28, 1755, and died at Belfort Sept. 8, 1840. He married Catherine Richard.
3. Christian Klopfenstein was born June 25, 1758, and died at Rougemont Oct. 7, 1834. He married Anne Marie Wenger.
4. Michel Klopfenstein was born Oct. 6, 1762, and died at Belfort Feb. 10, 1830. He married Catherine Kauffman and Elisabeth Stauffer.
5. Jacques Klopfenstein was born May 12, 1764, and died at Belfort Sept. 23, 1843. He married Anna Baecher. They developed La Maie farm into an exemplary agricultural system by restoring over-cultivated soil, varying crops, and experimenting with fruit tree hybrids. On Sept. 30, 1810 a representative of the Society of Agriculture in Paris came to La Maie to present Jacques with the l'Etoile de Or star of gold medal, a national award for civilian accomplishment. The ceremony for Jacques was attended by his uncle, minister Michel Klopfenstein. The representative toasted all Anabaptists on behalf of the emperor, the empress, and the minister of the interior. This entitled Jacques to take a seat as a Bonapartist member of the Belfort municipal council, a position he held until the Restoration five years later. In 1812 Jacques published he first of several yearly almanacs for farmers. The last edition was published by his son in 1841. 6. Daniel Klopfenstein was born June 12, 1766, and died at Sevenans (two miles south of Belfort) April 15, 1830. He married Anne Marie Reis.
7. Joseph Klopfenstein was born Feb. 16, 1772, and died at Belfort July 14, 1939. Joseph Klopfenstein was born on the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont Feb. 16, 1772, and died at Belfort July 14, 1939. On June 12, 1792 on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars (13 miles southeast of Belfort) he married Madeleine Reis. She died at Belfort Feb. 6, 1798. They had one daughter, Madeleine. On April 11, 1799 at Belfort he remarried to Marie Anne Stauffer (also found as Anne Marie Stauffer). She was born at Schlambé, Masevaux, Upper Alsace April 15, 1781, a daughter of Christian Stauffer and Anne Nafziger. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Michel Klopfenstein, 37, and Jacques Klopfenstein, 35 (brothers of the groom); Jean Stauffer, 26 (brother of the bride); and Jacques Joder, 35 (uncle of the bride); all four witnesses lived at Belfort. Children of Joseph Klopfenstein and his second wife Maria Anne Stauffer born at Belfort include:

1. Johannes/Jean/John Klopfenstein was born Feb. 19, 1802, and died in Woodford County March 15, 1865.
2. Christoph Klopfenstein was born Feb. 22, 1804.
3. Elisabeth Klopfenstein was born Dec. 5, 1806.
4. Marie Klopfenstein was born Jan. 25, 1809, and died at Rougemont March 7, 1814.
5. Joseph Klopfenstein was born April 8, 1812. On Sept. 14, 1833 he married his cousin Anne Klopfenstein. She was born Nov. 18, 1812, a daughter of Michel Klopfenstein and his first wife Catherine Kauffman.
7. Michael Klopfenstein was born June 20, 1820.
8. Marie Anne Klopfenstein was born Sept. 20, 1825. On July 5, 1845 at Belfort she married her cousin-once-removed Joseph Müller/Miller. He was born at Belfort Feb. 9, 1822, a son of Pierre Müller and Elisabeth Barbara Klopfenstein (Elisabeth Barbara was a daughter of Jacques Klopfenstein and Anna Baecher). Oldest son Johannes/Jean/John Klopfenstein was born at Belfort Feb. 19, 1802.

On Aug. 21, 1828 at Belfort he married his cousin Catherine Klopfenstein. She was born at Belfort Jan. 6, 1811, a daughter of Michel Klopfenstein and Catherine Kauffman. Their civil marriage entry stated that they were 26 and 18 years of age, and the groom was a cultivator like his father.
They had three children on the street Faubourg de France in the town of Belfort 1829-32; then two children while living in the Normanvillars forest at Florimont (20 miles southeast of Belfort) in 1834 and 1837; then one at Beaucourt (14 miles south of Belfort) in 1840; and two in their old neighborhood at Belfort in 1843 and 1846. Dominique Dreyer's Emigrants Haut-Rhinois en Amérique 1800-1870 states that 53-year-old farmer Jean Klopfenstein of Florimont applied for a passport for himself and his family at Boron in the Territoire de Belfort April 14, 1841. He gave his destination as New York. They immigrated after March 30, 1846 (the birthdate of daughter Magdalena), in 1846 (per the obituary of daughter Catherine) or 1847 (per the obituary of son Joseph). They initially settled in Stark County, Ohio, the home of John's cousin Christian Klopfenstein.

**STARK COUNTY**

Jacob Conrad was born in 1757, and died in Stark County Nov. 17, 1829. He was a son of Johannes/Hans Kunrad and Marguerite Rychen, and a younger brother to Pierre Kunrad/Peter Conrad (who was born in the Burgerwald at Montbéliard Feb. 17, 1760, married Babi/Barbara Ramseyer, and settled in Butler County, Ohio - see RAMSEYER). On Jan. 30, 1785 in Upper Alsace he married Babi/Barbara Schmucker. She was born at Boverance, Montbéliard in 1770, and died in Stark County April 25, 1825, a daughter of Henri Schmucker and Barbara Madiun. According to Christian Zook Yoder’s Genealogical Records of Descent from John Yoder (1932), they departed Le Havre May 19, 1819 (though a departure from Amsterdam would have been more typical of this time), and sailed nine weeks and three days. They landed in New York, went to Philadelphia, then traveled to Mifflin County in Pennsylvania. They resettled in Stark County circa 1824.

Jacob, who had been ordained by the Montbéliard congregation, became the founding minister of an Amish Mennonite meeting that became the Buchenland [ash tree grove] congregation and now Beech Mennonite Church at Louisville, Stark County. Jacob and Babi/Barbara are buried in unmarked graves in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery. Their son Jacob Conrad was born at Seigne, Doubs (the region Doubs did not become a French department until 1790) March 28, 1787, and died in Stark County Dec. 5, 1869. On Nov. 18, 1810 he married Anna Graber. She was born at Coutheensans, Haut-Saône Nov. 22, 1792, and died in Stark County Oct. 31, 1865, a daughter of Pierre Graber and Marie Riche.

They sailed in 1822. The time frame of their six-week voyage to New York is roughly known from the records of a nephew who was born at sea in July of 1822. They traveled by covered wagon via Mifflin County, presumably to see Jacob’s parents; and then to Wayne County, Ohio. On Oct. 14, 1822 they purchased 350 acres at Washington Township, Stark County for $2,000, jointly with Jacob’s sister Barbara Conrad and her husband Michael Schlunegger. The land would be formally divided between them Feb. 17, 1835, after two houses were constructed. Their household appears on censuses from 1840 to 1860. The 1860 census has farmer Jacob Conrad, 73, France; and Anna (Graber), 69, France. Jacob and Anna are also buried in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County. The 1822 voyage also carried Jacob’s the Schluneggers. Barbara was born at Seigne Nov. 22, 1788, and died at Louisville March 3, 1876. Michael was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Neuchâtel July 2, 1791, and died at Louisville, Stark County, Ohio May 3, 1879, a son of Johannes Schlunegger and Elizabeth Graber. They had married in Doubs Dec. 22, 1812.

Michael Schlunegger erected a log structure on their property to serve as a meeting house. Two of their sons later became ministers. Barbara and Michael can be found on every federal census of Washington Township from 1830 until 1870. In 1870 they appear as retired farmer Michael Slonaker, 79, Switzerland; and Barbara, 82, Switzerland. They are also buried in unmarked graves in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County. Johannes/John Klopfenstein had a cousin who settled in Stark County well before his arrival and became a permanent resident.

The civil records of Rougemont show a marriage entry dated Feb. 9, 1808. The groom was described as cultivator Christe Klopfenstein, 23, a son of Rougemont residents cultivator Christe Klopfenstein, 54, and Marie Wenger. The bride was described as Elisabeth Müller, 17, a daughter of St. Nicolas, Rougemont residents cultivator Michel Müller, 52, and Elisabeth Richert. Witnesses included the fathers of the bride and groom; cultivator Jean Klopfenstein, 55, uncle of the groom; and shopkeeper [Fr. propriétaire] Michel Klopfenstein, 67; all from Rougemont. The groom signed his name 'Christe Klopfenstein,' and the bride signed her name 'Barbara Müller'; the groom's father signed 'Christen Klopfenstein.'

The 1840 census of Nimishillen shows the household of Christian Klopfenstein. The 1850 census shows Christ Kloppenstein, 70, Fr.; Barbaray, 62, Fr.; Catharine, 24, Fr.; Mary, 17, O.; and Fanny, 16, O. The Amish Cemetery at Louisville, Stark County has headstones for Christian Klopfinstein, who died Nov. 2, 1858, age 87 years, three months, and eight days (thus born circa Aug. 25, 1780, which disagrees with the age stated on his marriage entry; his longevity may have been calculated using the age found on the 1850 census), and Barbara Kopfinstein, who died Feb. 5, 1853 (thus born circa Nov. 12, 1791). Christian also had a neighbor who had been his brother-in-law. The civil records of Rougemont hold a marriage entry dated June 23, 1807. The groom is described as André Bacher, 18, a son of Jean Bacher and Catherine Guery [Görig] of Climont, Lower Alsace. The bride was Christian’s sister, described as Anne Klopfenstein, 24, a daughter of cultivator Chris Klopfenstein and Marie Venguer [Wenger] of Rougemont. Witnesses included Christ Klopfenstein, 52, father of the
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

In the spring of 1850 Johannes/Jean/John Klopfenstein and his wife Catherine Klopfenstein resettled in Woodford County. They are shown on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer John Klopfenstein, 48; Catharine, 40; Joseph, 21; Michael, 16; Nancy, 15; Peter, 14; John, 11; Catharine, 8; and Magdalane, 5; all born in France. (We suspect that Nancy was a neighbor, Nancy Gingery). The family of Nicholas Ramseyer is found on the same census page.

According to Mennonites of the Ohio and Eastern Conference, "The prominent family names of the early years were Conrad, Schloneger, King, Miller, Sommers, Schmucker, Becher, Krabill, Ramseyer, Graber, Klopfenstein, Linder, and Maurer. These families came directly from Alsace-Lorraine territory in France, and from the Canton of Bern in Switzerland. Their chief reason for coming to the United States was to avoid the military draft during the post-Napoleonic era in Europe."

In the spring of 1850 Johannes/Jean/John Klopfenstein and his wife Catherine Klopfenstein resettled in Woodford County. They are shown on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer John Klopfenstein, 48; Catharine, 40; Joseph, 21; Michael, 16; Nancy, 15; Peter, 14; John, 11; Catharine, 8; and Magdalane, 5; all born in France. (We suspect that Nancy was a neighbor, Nancy Gingery). The family of Nicholas Ramseyer is found on the same census page.

They appear on the 1860 census of Greene, Woodford County as farmer John Klopfenstein, 60, Bavaria; Catherine, 50, Bavaria; farm laborer Peter, 23, Bavaria; farm laborer John, 19, Bavaria; Catherine, 16, Bavaria; Lana, 14, Bavaria; and Mary, 4, Illinois.

Johannes/Jean/John died in Woodford County March 15, 1865. He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery as 'Johannes Klopfenstein.'

The 1880 census of Ohio, Woodford County shows Catherine as a 70-year-old widow born in France, living with daughter Maria, 24. She died Dec. 17, 1884, and was buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

Their children include:

1. Joseph Klopfenstein was born at Belfort July 31, 1829, and died at Eureka Nov. 12, 1909. His civil birth entry said his parents were ages 27 and 18½; it was witnessed by grandfather Joseph Klopfenstein, 57, and Pierre Muller, 39.

2. Marie Anne Klopfenstein was born at Belfort May 10, 1831, and died Nov. 7, 1875. Her civil birth entry created the following day was witnessed by grandfather Joseph Klopfenstein, 60, and Antoine Widemann, 37. On April 20, 1852 in Tazewell County she married Benjamin Schlegel/Slagle. He was born in New York City in May of 1831, and died Feb. 14, 1906, a son of Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst. See SCHLEGEL for more on this couple.

3. Christophe Klopfenstein was born at Belfort July 20, 1832, and died there Nov. 23, 1842. His civil birth entry was witnessed by Joseph Klopfenstein, 21, and Antoine Widemann, 38.

4. Michel/Michael Klopfenstein was born in the Normanvillars forest at Florimont July 4, 1834, and died the same day. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Jean Klopfenstein dit le gros, 32, and cultivtor Catherine Klopfenstein, 23. It was witnessed by Joseph Stauff fils [Joseph Stauffer Junior], 31.

5. Pierre/Peter Klopfenstein was born at Florimont April 30, 1837, and died Dec. 28, 1863. His civil birth entry describes his parents as farmer Jean Klopfenstein dit le grand, 35, and Catherine Klopfenstein 26, living in the forest of Normanvillars at Florimont. One witness was Joseph Stauff fils, 35. On Jan. 28, 1862 in Woodford County he married Mary Sommer. She was born at Montgomery Township July 28, 1842, and died Dec. 1, 1929, a daughter of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz. He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery, where his headstone says he died Dec. 28, 1863 at 26 years, 8 months. She is buried at Gridley.

6. Jean/John Klopfenstein was born at Beaucourt Sept. 11, 1840, and died at Gibson City, Ford County July 20, 1916. His civil birth entry describes his parents as farmer Jean Klopfenstein, 38, and Catherine Klopfenstein, 29, residents of Beaucourt. On Jan. 24, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Burkey. She was born in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1846, and died at Gibson City Feb. 12, 1938, a daughter of Christian Burkey and Marie/Mary Stalter. They are buried in Drummer Cemetery at Gibson City.

7. Catherine Klopfenstein was born at Belfort Jan. 9, 1843, and died March 5, 1917. Her civil birth entry describes her parents as Jean Klopfenstein, 41, and Catherine Klopfenstein, 32, living on the street Fauburg de France at Belfort; one witness was Pierre Muller, 53. On March 22, 1866 at Eureka, Woodford County she married Christian.
Burkey. He was born at Memphis, Tennessee Feb. 2, 1843, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 4, 1929, a son of Christian Burkey and Marie/Mary Stalter. His obituary: "Christian Burkey was born February 2, 1843, at Memphis, Tenn., and was called from time to eternity at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., near Milford, Nebraska, Mar 4, 1929. He was privileged to go beyond the 86th milestone, having reached the age of 86 years, 1 month and 2 days. While only an infant he went with his parents to Tremont, Illinois where they located after they completed their immigration journey from Germany. Here he grew to young manhood. On March 22, 1866, he was united in marriage to Catherine Klopfenstein at Eureka, Illinois. In the year 1880, they moved to Washington, Ill. where they made their home until 1893, at which time they came to Nebraska, locating on a farm near Milford. Later he made his home in Milford until the death of his companion March 5, 1917. Since that time he has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., one mile northeast of Milford. For about fifteen years his health has been failing and at times he has suffered considerably, but he always took it patiently with his faith centered upon God, the Father. He often expressed the desire to be with his Lord in that eternal home. Mr. Burkey was converted when a young man and united with the Defenseless Mennonite Church of which communion he was a faithful member until his death. His Christian faith manifested itself in external acts and loyalty to his church. In the early days when churches were scattered he with his family often drove the distance of twenty miles on the Lord's Day to attend the worship services. This faithfulness on the part of the father also had its effect on the family in leading them to accept Christ and to render Christian service. Three daughters became missionaries to China and one son a minister of the Gospel. Two of the daughters who were missionaries went to their eternal reward while in China. Also one son preceded him in death. Those who remain to mourn his departure are: Five children, Rev. Samuel D., Pasadena, Calif., Mrs. J. C. Ritkey, Moses K., Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., and Benjamin E. all of Milford. Three brothers, Valentine of Burkey, Illinois, Henry of Yukon, Okla. and John W. of Milford; three sisters, Elizabeth Klopfenstein, Fanny Blume and Barbara Neimyer, all of Illinois; fifteen grandchildren, three great grandchildren, many other relatives and a host of friends. Funeral at M.B.C. church by Rev. N.E.Duskee and Rev. Wm. O.Rembelt. Interment at Fairview Cemetery." Milford, Nebraska obituary: "Mrs. Catherine Burkey, wife of Christian Burkey, born in Belfort, France on Jan. 9, 1843, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Klopfenstein and with her parents came to America in the year 1846. After living in Ohio for a few years, they came to Eureka, Illinois, where she grew to young womanhood, and in the year 1866, was united in marriage to Christian Burkey. To this union were born eight children, four sons and four daughters, Samuel D. of Peoria, Illinois, Amelia of Sunlinkow, China; Moses K. and Benjamin E. and Mrs. Emma Rediger of this vicinity. Katie and Lydia had gone to China as missionaries and both died in the year 1903. Joseph died in his youth at the age of 13. Father and Mother Burkey came to Nebraska in 1893, where they lived a peaceful life until the day of her death, March 5, 1917. Her age was 74 years, one month and 18 days. Besides her bereaved husband and children, she leaves 14 grandchildren and many friends to mourn her departure. She became identified with the Defenseless Mennonite Church in 1863, and was a faithful member until her death."

8. Magdalena/Madeleine/Lana Klopfenstein was born at Belfort March 30, 1846, and died at Phoenix, Arizona Dec. 14, 1914. On Feb. 21, 1864 in Woodford County she married Andreas/Andrew Sutter. He was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Germany May 14, 1842, and died at Phoenix, Arizona Feb. 8, 1921, a son of Johannes Sutter and Barbara Oesch. They are found on the 1870 census of Fairbury, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Sutter, 27, Bavaria; Magdalena, 24, France; John, 4, Illinois; Jospeh, 2, Illinois; William, five months, Illinois; and farm laborer Dan Unzicker, 19, Ohio. They are buried in Good Hope Cemetery in Woods County, Oklahoma.

9. Maria/Mary E. Klopfenstein was born at Greene, Montgomery Township, Woodford County Oct. 16, 1856, and died at Nickerson, Kansas Feb. 4, 1900. On June 26, 1885 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of John D. Yaggy. He was born at Canton, Stark County, Ohio Aug. 11, 1853, and died at Nickerson Sept. 20, 1905, a son of John Yaggy and Anna Schlunegger. His first wife had been Mary Gerig. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Sterling, Kansas.

Joseph Klopfenstein was born in the town of Belfort in the Territoire de Belfort July 31, 1829. On Feb. 26, 1856 in Woodford County he married Maria/Mary Yotty. She was born in Bavaria April 3, 1836, a daughter of Katharina/Catherine Stalter and stepdaughter of Chrétien Jordi/Christian Yotty. They ran a butcher shop at Farmsville or Slabtown (on opposite banks of the Mackinaw River at the center of Montgomery Township). History of Woodford County: "Joseph Klopfenstein opened a butcher shop there in 1858 and also had a grocery in connection with it. He came to Eureka twice a week, and supplied that vicinity with meat. It appears strange to the reader of the present day that Eureka should have at one time depended on the meat market of Slabtown for its meat. He was frequently able to supply his customers with venison that Samuel Finley had procured for him. Mr. Klopfenstein made this trip for two years."

In 1864 they relocated at Eureka, where Joseph became a butcher and hotel keeper. The 1870 census of Eureka shows butcher Joseph Clepinetine, 40, France; Mary, 34, Baden; Catharine, 13; Mary, 1; Joseph, 1; and Julia, two months; all children born in Illinois. They can also be found on the 1880 census of Eureka as hotel keeper

312 County records list them as Christian Burkey and Catharina Clupenstine.
Jos. Klopfenstein, 50, born in France to French parents; Mary, 44, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; and four children, all born in Illinois. Although they lived at Peoria for two years (1885-87), they returned to Eureka.

Joseph died at Eureka Nov. 12, 1909. *Gospel Herald*, December 1909: "Joseph Klopfenstein was born in Upper Alsace, City of Belfort, France, on July 31, 1829; died on July 31, 1909; aged 80 y. 4 m. 8 d. In 1847 he emigrated with his parents to America, settling in Stark Co., O. In 1850 he came to Illinois, locating in Woodford Co. On Feb 26, 1856, he was united in marriage to Mary Yatty/Yordy. In 1864 they moved to Eureka, where, with the exception of two years spent in Peoria, he has since lived and conducted a butcher shop until of late years. He was the father of five children, Kate, Annie, and Christian preceded him to the great beyond. His daughter, Josephine Carney of Chicago, and son Joseph of Eureka, remain to mourn his departure with their mother. He united with the Mennonite Church at the age of fourteen years and has lived an upright, honest life. Funeral services were held at the Methodist church in Eureka, on Dec. 11, by Bro Andrew Schrock, using as his text, *Heb. 9:27, 28.*"

Maria/Mary Yotty died at Eureka Jan. 24, 1926. *Woodford County Journal*, Jan. 28, 1926: "Another one of the earliest pioneer women, and, though born in a foreign land, was probably the oldest person in point of time spent in Woodford county at the time of her death, was called to her reward last Sunday morning about two o'clock – Mrs. Mary Yotty Klopfenstein, being at the time of her death almost ninety years of age. Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Yotty, was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 3, 1836. When she was two years of age with her parent, one sister and four brothers, she came to the United States [in 1838 she had only one older brother] and they settled on a farm in Germanstown, west of Metamora in 1838, known then as Black Partridge. There the subject of this sketch grew to young womanhood, and was married to Joseph Klopfenstein in 1856, in a little brick church west of Metamora, long since torn down. Soon after their marriage Mr. Klopfenstein opened a butcher shop in Farneyville, known to later generations as Slabtown [actually Farnisville was on the south bank, Slabtown was the north bank of the Mackinaw River], on the Mackinaw river near the present home of Senator Lantz... 'Grandma' says the timber lands along the Mackinaw abounded with wolves at that time, and one morning when she went to the horse stable to get some cobs there was a large wolf lying in the horse manger. Not many years later they moved to Eureka, which has since been her home, with exception of two years (1885-87) spent in Peoria... At the age of twelve Mrs. Klopfenstein joined the Mennonite church and has remained a faithful member. She was always a very active and happy woman, and one to whom people gave their trust and confidence. She was always willing to help and could be relied upon – a real friend in time of need or distress. Her many kind and thoughtful acts will long be remembered. In the early days the calling of a physician was of the simple stepping to a telephone that it is today, and to many families Grandma Klopfenstein was assistant physician, nurse, helper and friend. Of late years she has not been able to go out so much, but her heart was always with the afflicted. About two years ago she suffered an attack of heart trouble, from which she never fully recovered, although in her last illness she was bedfast only about two weeks. Realizing that her earthly career was fast drawing to a close, she made her own funeral arrangements, choosing the minister, the pallbearers and the songs to be used. The funeral service was held at the M.E. church in Eureka on Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Ezra Yordy of the Mennonite church assisted by Rev. Andrew Schrock and Rev. W.L. Barnes. A quartet composed of Mesers Lester Smith, Ed Smith, Walter Yordy and Walter Zook, rendered the hymns she had chosen. The pallbearers were Henry Sauder, David Ulrich, Jacob Garber, Chris Garber, Joseph Waggoner and John R. Resser. Burial was in Olio Cemetery, where her loved ones gone on before are awaiting the resurrection." *Gospel Herald*, March 1926: "Mary Yotty was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 3, 1836; died Jan. 24, 1926, at her home in Eureka, Ill. She came to America with her parents at the age of 2 years, locating in Woodford Co., Ill. Feb. 26, 1856, she was united in marriage with Joseph Klopfenstein. In 1864 they moved to Eureka, Ill. To this union were born five children (Joseph, Josephine - still living - and Katie, Anna, and an infant preceding their mother in death). Her husband preceded her in death December, 1909. She became a Christian in youth and united with the Mennonite Church. Before answering her summons she gave testimony that her desire was to go home and be with the Lord. She lived to a ripe old age, and while among us her usefulness was appreciated. Funeral conducted in the home by J. L. Harnish; at the church by W. S. Barnes and Ezra B. Yordy."

They are buried under a joint headstone in Olio Township Cemetery at Eureka.
Ramseyer: Ramseyer of Eggiwil

The Emmental is a region of rolling hills east of the city of Bern. In the past its residents were relatively more prosperous than those living in the small villages closer to the Alps. They were called Emmentaler, residents of the Emmental, the valley of the Emme River.

The plant *allium ursinum*, also called ransoms or wild garlic, is found as ground cover on forest floors in the Emmental. Humans eat its broad green leaves in salads, or feed them to cattle as fodder. Bears and boars ignore its leaves and small white flowers, digging up the entire plant to feed on its root bulbs. *Rams* = the plant, *Ei* = meadow. A Ramsey would describe a meadow covered by these plants, and a Ramseyer would describe someone who lives there.313

There is a place called Ramsei on the west side of the Emme River at the Äeschau crossing below Signau. It is only a one-mile walk south along the river to the area called Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei (two miles northwest of the village center of Eggiwil) opposite the Dieboldswil area - both places where our family of interest was found.

The surname morphed from Ramseier (someone who comes from Ramsei) to Ramseyer. The second spelling ensures that it will be pronounced ram-zyer rather than ram-zeer.

In Canton Bern *Heimatorte* or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights associated with this surname include Eggiwil, Bowil, Lauperswil, Rüderswil, and Trub.

Many early events in this family took place in the parish of Signau. FHL microfilms show Protestant Reformed records of family events at Signau commencing in 1589. In 1630 the Council of Bern initiated construction of a new church there to counter the local influence of Anabaptists.

Before 1648 Eggiwil was simply a place within the parish of Signau. The only way to get there from the Signau village center was to travel five miles southeast on a narrow mountain road. In 1648 a Protestant Reformed church was constructed there, the place became a parish, and a village grew around the church.

Recall from ROPP that a disputation-debate between Protestant Reformed clergy and Anabaptists was held in the city of Bern March 11-17, 1538. The Anabaptists who attended risked imprisonment to defend their views. Though they were guaranteed safe passage for the period of the event, they became visible to authorities, particularly because an attendance list identified their communities. The list named Bernhard Agerder, Ully Nuwenschant, Bernhardt Jenni, and Christian Saltzman from Eggiwil.

Eggiwil is also only seven miles northwest of Schangnau. Recall from YODER that in the 16th and 17th centuries Shangnau’s inaccessibility (one road in) and proximity to the Bern-Luzerne boundary (two miles to the east) would make authorities suspect that it was a haven for unrepentant Anabaptists. The Egli, Hirschi, Nafziger, and Yoder families were associated with this village.

Peter Ramseyer was born in the parish of Signau circa 1534, and died after 1568.314 Because of the out-of-the-way location of Eggiwil, and its small population, it is likely that Peter would have been familiar with Anabaptist Wälti Gerber.

Röthenbach (now called Röthenbach im Emmental) is adjacent to Eggiwil. Wälti Gerber of Röthenbach attended the disputation-debate held in the city of Bern in 1538. He was later arrested, but escaped with the aid of an Anabaptist locksmith. In Bernese Anabaptists Delbert Gratz wrote that, “For a time he was the leading Anabaptist minister in the Emmental.” In 1564 a notice offering a 100-guilder reward was distributed throughout the Emmental. Gerber was arrested near his home, and executed in the city of Bern July 30, 1566.

Between 1555 and 1559 Peter married Christina Trachsel. Their children include:

1. Hans Ramseyer was born before 1560. He married Barbli Gerig. Their children baptized in the parish of Signau include:
   a. Christina Ramseyer was baptized May 18, 1590.
   b. Michel Ramseyer was baptized Oct. 8, 1598.

313 We have seen Ramsei interpreted as a raven’s meadow, but the German raven is der Rabe or Rabenschwarz.

314 On Oct. 22, 1559 at Lützelflüh Daniel Ramseyer married Elsbet Rŭch. Lützelflüh is only nine miles northwest of Eggiwil. It is easy to conclude that he was a brother or cousin to Peter. However, he may have come from an entirely distinct family. There was a place called Ramsei one mile east of the village center of Lützelflüh, within its parish. It is now a village. One Ramsey was only seven miles from the other.

Numerous descendants of this couple lived at Grosshöchstetten (nine miles southwest of Lützelflüh, five miles west of Signau). A descendant Daniel Ramseyer of Grosshochstetten married Catharina Rötlisberger of Eggiwil, and they had children baptized at Eggiswil in 1693, 1694, and 1697.
2. Bendicht Ramseýer was born before 1566. On Nov. 11, 1591 in the parish of Signau he married Elsbeth Stärk or Steck. Their child baptized at Signau was:
   a. Ülrich Ramseýer was baptized Nov. 18, 1593. On Nov. 16, 1618 in the parish of Signau he married Adelheid Obliger.
3. Lŭdi Ramseýer was born in the parish of Signau circa 1568, and died there in 1615.

Lŭdi Ramseýer was born in the parish of Signau circa 1568, and died there in 1615. We also found him as ‘Ludwig,’ but only once, on the baptism entry of a child.

Circa 1591 he married Madlen Hŭser. On May 8, 1612 in the parish of Signau he remarried to Anna Krayenbühl. On July 22, 1621 in the parish of Signau he remarried again to Anna Dierstein.

Children of Lŭdi Ramseýer and his first wife Madlen Hăser baptized at Signau include:

1. Bendicht/Benedikt Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 20, 1592. On July 27, 1621 in the parish of Signau he married Katharina Krayenbühl. Their children born in Signau parish include:
   a. Hans Ramseýer was born circa 1628. He married Barbara Gerber. Birth entries for their children are found at Lauperswil (four miles from Signau, and nine miles north of Eggwil).
   b. Christian Ramseýer was born circa 1630. He married Ursula Blaser.
   c. Ülrich Ramseýer was born circa 1632. On March 14, 1659 he married Elsbeth Peter.
   d. Peter Ramseýer was born circa 1633. On July 20, 1657 at Lauperswil he married Barbara Staŭffer. The Eggwil baptism entry of a daughter Barbara created Oct. 13, 1665 said they were living at Zimmerzwý. Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei is an area two miles northwest of the village center of Eggwil, on the west side of the Emme River opposite the Dieboldswil area.

2. Hans Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 20, 1594.
3. Christina Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 30, 1597.
4. Nikláus Ramseýer was baptized April 21, 1598.
5. Christian Ramseýer was baptized Sept. 13, 1601.
6. Elsbeth/Elsi Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 5, 1603. Her baptism entry called her father Ludwig.
7. Barblí Ramseýer was baptized Aug. 9, 1607.

Hans Ramseýer was baptized in the parish of Signau Jan. 20, 1594. His marriage to Anni/Anna Haldimann was not recorded at Eggwil until Feb. 4, 1649, the day their third child was baptized. She was born in Signau parish Feb. 10, 1617, and died there circa 1654, a daughter of Ülrich Haldimann and Catharina Wŭthrich.

They lived in the Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei area of Eggwil.

Children of Hans Ramseýer and Anni/Anna Haldimann include:

1. Peter Ramseýer was born before 1638. On Sept. 25, 1663 at Eggwil he married Elsbeth Staŭffer. She was born circa 1641, and may have been a daughter of Daniel Staŭffer and Barbara Galli. They lived in the Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei area of Eggwil. Their children baptized at Eggwil include:
   a. Üli Ramseýer was baptized March 6, 1664, and died before 1670.
   b. Barblí Ramseýer was baptized Oct. 13, 1665.
   c. Hans Ramseýer was baptized Oct. 20, 1667.
   d. Ülrich Ramseýer was baptized Sept. 4, 1670, and died in 1749. On Aug. 18, 1693 at Eggwil he married Elsbeth Staŭffer. She was baptized at Eggwil Dec. 6, 1668, and died there Sept. 17, 1738, a daughter of Ülî Staŭffer and Barblí Staŭffer (and a granddaughter of Christian Staŭffer, whose story will be told in connection with his 1671 exile). They lived in the Dieboldswil area of Eggwil (now a road two miles north of the village center, adjacent to the Dieboldsbach or brook), then on the Hofacker River on the east side of the village center. Their children baptized at Eggwil include:
      1) Barbara Ramseýer was baptized Sept. 23, 1694.
      2) Elsbeth Ramseýer was baptized April 12 or 17, 1696, and died Aug. 4, 1706. She married her cousin (once removed) Christian Ramseýer. He was baptized at Eggwil Dec. 9, 1687, and died there March 12, 1766, a son of Johannes Ramseýer and Barbara Bühlman.
      3) Maria Ramseýer was baptized Nov. 14, 1697.
      4) Daniel Ramseýer was baptized April 9, 1699, and died Feb. 9, 1733.
      5) Katharina Ramseýer was baptized May 15, 1701.
      6) Anna Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 3, 1704.
      7) Peter Ramseýer was baptized Aug. 28, 1707.
      8) Ülrich Ramseýer was baptized Nov. 22, 1709.
      9) Hans Ramseýer was baptized Nov. 20, 1712, and died in February 1746. On May 4, 1756 at Eggwil he married Anne Haldimann. She was baptized at Eggwil Aug. 7, 1712, and died Dec. 25, 1786, a daughter of Ülrich Haldimann and Barblí Staŭffer.
10) Niklaus Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 1, 1716, and died March 28, 1791. On June 12, 1739 at Eggiwil he married Barbara Galli. She was baptized at Eggiwil July 24, 1717, and died there Jan. 31, 1779, a daughter of Christian Galli and Verena Kobel.

11) Christian Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 8, 1719.

2. Úlrich/Ŭlli Ramseýer was born circa 1640.
3. Anna Ramseýer was baptized at Eggiwil Feb. 4, 1649.
4. Elisabetha Ramseýer was baptized at Eggiwil June 23, 1650, and died as an infant.
5. Elisabetha Ramseýer was baptized at Eggiwil Feb. 7, 1652.
6. Johannes/Hans Ramseýer is found in a number of sources as someone born into this family June 18, 1654, though no baptism entry appears in Eggiwil records. His marriage to Barbara Bühlman was registered at Eggiwil Nov. 22, 1678. Ordinarily, when someone from outside Eggiwil was married there, a notation appeared in the entry. In this case it did not. ‘Barbli’ was baptized at Eggiwil Dec. 27, 1657, a daughter of Hans Bühlman and Elsbeth Haldiman. Their children baptized at Eggiwil include:
   a. Anna Ramseýer was baptized April 25, 1679.
   b. Elisabetha Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 9, 1681.
   c. Hans Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 22, 1683.
   d. Peter Ramseýer was baptized Oct. 30, 1685, and died at Eggiwil Jan. 22, 1766. Circa 1707 he married Anna Margaretha Moser. She was born at Sumiswald April 14, 1688, and died at Eggiwil in 1742, a daughter of Magdalena Moser.
   e. Christen/Christian Ramseýer was baptized Dec. 9, 1687, and died at Eggiwil March 12, 1766. He married his cousin (once removed) Elisabetha Ramseýer. She was born April 17, 1696, and died Aug. 4, 1766, a daughter of Úlrich Ramseýer and Elsbeth Staŭffer.
   f. Úli Ramseýer was baptized May 14, 1690.
   g. Úlrich Ramseýer was baptized Nov. 3, 1691.

Úlrich/Ŭlli Ramseýer was born circa 1640, presumably at Eggiwil in Signau parish, and died circa 1675. He was a saddler. On May 15, 1663 at Eggiwil he married Barbara Staŭffer. She was born circa 1643, a daughter of Daniel Staŭffer and Barbara Galli.

They were living in the Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei area of Eggiwil in 1764, and lived in the Dieboldswil area across the river by 1668.

Úlrich and Barbara were likely not Anabaptists. In 1671 Bernese authorities estimated that there were 40 Anabaptists residing at Eggiwil. On May 3 the magistrate received a directive from the Council of Bern. All Anabaptists were to be taken to the city of Bern, where they would be chastized and sent into exile. When the villagers balked, a dozen influential heads of families were taken instead. They were held as hostages in the city until the Anabaptists came forward. On Oct. 16 the Protestant Reformed minister at Eggiwil reported that all Anabaptists had left his community of their own accord.

Barbara’s grandfather Christian Staŭffer was born on Luchsmatt farm circa 1580, a son of Niclaus Staŭffer and Catrin Lehman. After 1618 he was living on Glashütte farm. Both locations were on the west side of what is now the village of Eggiwil, on the road to Röthenbach. In 1644 Christian, Úli Za ŭgg, and Úli Neuhauser were identified as Anabaptist preachers. They were arrested by Anabaptist hunters [Ger. Täuferjäger] and imprisoned in the castle at the town of Thun. Christian was among the exiles who departed Eggiwil in the fall of 1671. He was 90 years of age. With his second wife, some children, and some grandchildren he traveled through Dirmstein in the Pfalz, arriving at Ibersheim (eight miles north of Worms on the Rhine River) before the new year. He died at Ibersheim after April 6, 1672.

Children of Úlrich/Ŭlli Ramseýer and Barbara Staŭffer baptized at Eggiwil include:

1. Anna Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 14, 1664.
2. Elisbeth Ramseýer was baptized Feb. 21, 1668.
3. Úlrich/Ŭlli Ramseýer was baptized Oct. 15, 1669. When miller Hans Gosteli and Anna Galtner’s daughter Maria was baptized at Mühleberg, Canton Bern Feb. 17, 1702, one witness was ‘Ŭlly Ramseýer aus dem Eggiwil.’
4. Christ (per baptism entry)/Christian/Christen Ramseýer (#1) was baptized May 23, 1672, and died in 1713.
5. Johannes/Hans Ramseýer was baptized Jan. 8, 1675. On April 24, 1696 at Eggiwil he married Elisabeth Fluekiger. The baptism entry for their first child said they lived unter der Berg - under the mountain, a description of the Zimmertsei/Zimmerzei area of Eggiwil. The baptism entry of their second child said they lived at Brambach (in Eggiwil). Their children baptized at Eggiwil include:
   a. Elisbeth Ramseýer was baptized May 23, 1697.
   b. Peter Ramseýer was baptized Oct. 8, 1699. On Dec. 10, 1734 he married Barbara Agerter. She was baptized at Röthenbach (now Röthenbach im Emmental) Feb. 22, 1711, a daughter of Hans Agerter and Madleni Haldiman.
   c. Hans Ramseýer was baptized March 6, 1701.
6. Barbara Ramseÿer was baptized July 2, 1679.
7. Peter Ramseÿer was baptized Feb. 9, 1683. He married Margaretha Haldimann. She was born at Langnau Nov. 27, 1698, and died there Nov. 21, 1755, a daughter of Hans Haldimann and Madlena Äbersold.
8. Verena Ramseÿer was baptized July 25, 1686, and died March 9, 1758.

**Christ/Christian/Christen Ramseÿer** (#1) was baptized at Eggiwil May 26, 1672. We could not account for or verify notes that say he died in 1713.

Circa 1695 he married Christina Gosteli. She was born at Bolligen (on the northeast corner of the city of Bern) Aug. 4, 1665, a daughter of Jakob Gosteli and Anna Zoss.

Recall from BELSLEY that Baltzlis and Gostelis are mentioned together in documents from the city of Bern as early as the 1300s. The Gosteli family of Bolligen was extremely prolific and today has many descendants in the area. The Belsley family of Cental Illinois also has a Gosteli forebears.

Between the births of their first and second children something happened that prompted them to leave Eggiwil. Perhaps it was related to the appointment of a new Protestant Reformed minister in 1697. Johann Jakob Freudenreich was born March 18, 1670, and died Sept. 28, 1731. He was a son of the minister of the same name serving at Steffisburg. He had been a field preacher [Ger. Feldprediger] for his father, and would serve Eggiwil until 1729. Freudenreich and six leading citizens would also have made up the village morals court [Ger. Chorgericht].

A daughter was born at Wohlen (now Wohlen bei Bern) in 1698, and a son at Mühleberg, Canton Bern in 1700. These communities are west of the city of Bern. Perhaps Christ/Christian/Christen (#1) and Christina were only visiting Gostelis; we found Gostelis birth entries at both places. But it seems more likely that they had already left Eggiwil because they had accepted adult baptism, and Christina’s brothers and their wives accompanied them on their moves.

In 1704 the Eggiwil baptism entry of their fourth child described the parents as residents of the Dieboldswil area of Eggiwil. If they were living there, they would have been residing with or very near Christ/Christian/Christen’s cousin Úllrich Ramseÿer (born 1670, he was roughly the same age) and his wife Elsbeth Stauffman.

In 1706 the Eggiwil baptism entry of a daughter said her parents were ‘Anabapt.’ In 1708 the Eggiwil baptism entry of a son described his parents as anabaptiste im der Riedmatt (above the road called Dieboldswil). This open notation strongly suggests that they no longer lived in the community, and the last three baptisms at Eggiwil were arranged by other Ramseÿers to comply with the law.

Children of Christ/Christian/Christen Ramseÿer (#1) and Christina Gosteli include:

1. Elsbeth Ramseÿer was baptized at Eggiwil July 3, 1696.
2. Barbara Ramseÿer was baptized at Wohlen (now Wohlen bei Bern), Canton Bern April 3, 1698. An entry is found there, but this event and the baptism of her younger brother were also recorded together at Eggiwil. Wohlen (now Wohlen bei Bern) is a village on the north side of the Wohlensee (now a reservoir) six miles west-northwest of the city of Bern.
3. **Christian/Christen Ramseÿer** (#2) was baptized at Mühleberg, Canton Bern Sept. 22, 1700.
4. Christina Ramseÿer was baptized at Eggiwil Jan. 20, 1704. The entry said her parents lived in the Dieboldswil area of Eggiwil.
5. Anna Ramseÿer was baptized at Eggiwil March 12, 1706. The entry said her parents lived in the house of witnesses Bindiicht and Magdalena Jenni (actually found as Jenny, but other records suggest that this was the Jenni family of Eggiwil). The third witness was Anna Ramseÿer. Below Christina Gosteli’s name is the notation ‘anabapt.’ The entry immediately following this one was crossed out. Dated March 14, it named Peter, a son of Ulrich Ramseÿer and Elsbeth Stauffman of Dieboldswyl. Next to Peter’s name is the note ‘Obiante Baptismus.’
6. Ulrich Ramseÿer was baptized at Eggiwil July 6, 1708. His parents were described as anabaptiste im der Riedmatt. One witness was Ulrich Ramseÿer, presumably either the father’s older brother or cousin.

On Sept. 22, 1700 son **Christian/Christen Ramseÿer** (#2) was baptized at Mühleberg on the south side of the Wohlensee, seven miles west of Wohlen. His baptism entry, recorded Sept. 22, clearly identified his parents as Christen Ramseÿer of Eggiwil and Christina Gosteli.

Mühleberg is a relatively small village in the Bern-Mitteland district of Canton Bern. It sits in a triangle between the Aare River, Lake Wohlen (a reservoir formed in 1920 from the Wohlensee), and the Saane River. In the early 1700s toll collectors manned a customs and guard house by a bridge crossing the Aare River (Swiss internal tolls were not abolished until 1853). And like most border stations there would have been taverns, a forge, and a stable. Protestant Reformed records there date from 1651.
A number of events between 1700 and 1724 may have prompted him to resettle farther west outside Canton Bern. These include the failed reconciliation between Amman and Reist factions in 1711; an edict in 1711 reiterating that all the old Bernese mandates would be enforced; expulsions of Emmentalers by boat in 1711 and 1712; King Louis XIV of France’s edict banning all Anabaptists from Alsace in 1712; and rewards offered to Anabaptist ‘hunters.’

**EMISSION**

Before 1720 most Bernese citizens who wanted to depart the Old Swiss Confederacy were permitted to take dependents; a means of transportation—generally a horse, wagon, and cart; and personal possessions. Some communities charged a five percent assets tax.

In contrast, a known Anabaptist who chose to emigrate would typically be escorted out of his or her district with only items that could be carried.

In 1720 the Council of Bern made a small but significant change in their emigration policies. Someone who had chosen adult baptism could make an admission to the authorities in their community. After signing a promise never to return to the Old Swiss Confederacy, they could pay the assets tax and depart with their dependents, a means of transportation, and possessions.

A typical emigrant family of this time would travel with a horse, wagon and attached cart. Their possessions might include coins, chests, quilts, oilskins, pots, flints, and food that could keep on the journey—salted meats, cheese, dried fruit, and brandy. Bread and eggs could be purchased or bartered along the way. Some family members rode in the wagon, while older males walked to tend the sheep and cattle tethered behind.

A number of Anabaptist families resettled in the district of Erguël in the Prince-Bishopric of Basel.\footnote{315} It is about 18 miles northwest of Mühleberg, though the roundabout road between them may be twice as long.

Erguël was the site of a ruined castle that overlooked the villages of Sonvilier and St. Imier. It is often found on modern maps as Ruines du Chateau d’ Erguël.

In Bernese Anabaptists, Delbert Gratz wrote that in the district of Erguël “The communes of Sonvilier, Renan, and Les Montagnes [now Les Franches-Montagnes] complained [about the presence of Anabaptists] especially, and it appears that to a certain extent the Anabaptists were forced to leave this section of the Jura. The owners of the land then had their turn to complain. They wrote that through the expulsion of the Anabaptists they were greatly harmed.”

In 1724 a list of Anabaptists in the Principality of Neuchâtel included ‘Christ Ramsier von Erguël.’ With this scant evidence we could not determine how long Christian/Christen (2) had resided at Erguël in the Prince-Bishopric of Basel before relocating to the south into the adjacent Principality of Neuchâtel.

**THE PRINCIPALITY OF NEUCHÂTEL**

Neuchâtel [Ger. Neuenberg] is located in the central part of the Jura Mountains, in the largely French-speaking Romandy region of western Switzerland. In the north the river Doubs drains the highlands, while in the south rivers flow into Lake Neuchâtel.

The area around the lake sustains vineyards and crops. The area called Les Vallées on the north holds the large high valleys of Ruz and Val-de-Travers (elevation 2,300 feet). The even higher area of the Neuchâtelons Mountains (elevation 2,900 feet) holds a long valley where the district of La Chaux-de-Fonds is located.

The ruling house of the mainly Protestant Principality of Neuchâtel died with Marie d’ Orléans-Longueville in 1707. Within a year a council of citizens chose King Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia as her successor.

The Prussian king had promised three points: a relatively tolerant administration by the distant Berlin-based Hohenzollern dynasty; protection of the rights of the Protestant majority; and protection from claims by rival states. He immediately declared a law that Protestantism would be the only faith permitted within its boundaries.

Initially the Council of Bern was hopeful that he would make an exception by allowing Bernese Anabaptist emigrants to resettle there. On April 21, 1734 a mandate from Friedrich declared that, “…These Mennonites, Pietists, and Anabaptists shall be tolerated based on the testimonial given them by the council that these people live as good citizens.”

However, seeing tolerance formalized by the mandate, the council almost immediately reversed its position. In a letter to Friedrich dated Dec. 21, 1734 they asked that Neuchâtel administrators “…take the necessary steps, so that these
trouble-making people should be taken care of.” Friedrich replied that Anabaptists who had come under his protection since 1724 would be forced to emigrate farther in 1736. But very little action was ever taken.

Friedrich later wrote that, “Any spirit of persecution is obnoxious to me, and I cannot understand why one wants to drive these poor people out of the country, since they do no harm to anyone, and do nothing that could jeopardize the welfare of the state. They seem to me to be deserving of sympathy, and it would always be more worthwhile to draw them to you with kindness and Christian love, than to deprive them of the refuge they have sought with you. It is therefore my wish that they be tolerated until I find it advisable and necessary to order otherwise.”316

In 1769 Anabaptists were provisionally exempted from military conscription. In 1773 exemption from conscription was confirmed, and Anabaptists were first permitted to purchase land.

Circa 1725 Christian/Christen (#2) married Maria Ritz. She may have had some connection to Eggiwil, where the spellings Rÿz, Rÿss, Rÿtz, Rÿzezen, and Ritz are found.

In 1733 a general list of Anabaptists in the Principality of Neuchâtel included Christ Ramseyer from Hekwil [Eggiwil] in the district of Signau, farming at Beaugarud with his wife Maria Ritz and three underage sons. This indicates that Christ (#2), who was born at Mühleberg in Canton Bern, did not consider himself a citizen of the principality. Rather, as many Swiss emigrants did, he had willingly identified himself by his Heimat, the Swiss legal point of origin for his family’s Swiss citizenship rights. This further indicates that his parents had not been expelled or banished from Canton Bern, which would have meant the loss of those rights.

Beauregard was the estate of the Château de Beaugarud at Serrières, near the city and lake of Neuchâtel. It is 12 miles south of Ergüel (but 20 miles of actual travel on the modern highways 30-18 and 20, a roundabout route around the mountains that passes through La Sagne). The main building of the estate was constructed in 1563, and still serves as a residence. The complex of buildings includes a barn and stable, and is surrounded by a vineyard, tall trees, and orchards. Perhaps Christian/Christen found work as a cultivator there.

Less than a mile from Serrières is Peseux. Jacob Amman’s brother Ulrich took up residence there. A letter written by Pietist minister Hieronymus Annoni of Basel (1697-1770) is preserved in the library of the University of Basel. It tells about visiting Ulrich there in mid-December of 1730.

From Serrières, the village of Valangin is only three miles to the north. This village was a popular first settlement point for Anabaptists arriving in the principality. Its 1724 census had tallied 17 Bernese Anabaptist families with 71 persons.

In 1739 a general list of Anabaptists in the principality included Christ Ramseyer of the district of Signau with his wife Maria Ritz, three sons, and two daughters. Maria died before 1745.

Children of Christian/Christen Ramseyer (#2) and his first wife Maria Ritz presumably born in the Principality of Neuchâtel include:

1. Christian Ramseyer was born between 1725 and 1730, and died after 1739.
2. Johannes/Hans Ramseyer was born in 1730, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel (adjacent to La Sagne) Sept. 8, 1805. He married Anna. She died in November 1798.
   a. Johannes Ramseyer was born June 21, 1757. On June 30, 1787 he married Anna Tschantz. She was born before 1760, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel May 7, 1818, a daughter of Peter Tschantz and Anna Hostetler. Their children born at Les-Ponts-de-Martel include:
      1) Johannes Ramseyer was born Aug. 14, 1788. He married Magdalena Maurer.
      2) Susanna Ramseyer was born May 23, 1789. On Feb. 1, 1807 she married her second cousin (once removed) Michel/Michael Ramseyer. He was born Feb. 25, 1777, and died after 1826, a son of Abraham Ramseyer (#1) and Salomé/Catherine Graber.
      3) Joseph Ramseyer was born Aug. 26, 1794. Family notes say he “went to America.”

316 French troops occupied Neuchâtel in 1806. On March 30 Napoleon appointed his chief of staff Major General Louis Alexandre Berthier as the sovereign Prince de Neuchâtel, though Berthier continued to accompany him until his first abdication. For the next eight years the rights of Anabaptists would be regarded equally with Protestants.

In 1814 the principality was returned to Prussian rule. It was admitted into the Swiss Confederation as a canton in 1815. It continued to be administered from Berlin until 1847-48, when a local revolt loosened its authority. In 1857 Prussia renounced its right to rule.

After Napoleon’s first abdication, Berthier was at the head of a delegation welcoming the new king Louis XVIII into Paris. When he received word of Napoleon’s plans to return from exile on Elba, he chose not to participate. When Napoleon arrived on French soil March 20, 1815, Berthier was conveniently visiting royal family members still living in Belgium. But it soon became obvious that he was suspected by both sides. The Bourbon restoration government struck him from the list of military marshals April 10. Berthier left Belgium and withdrew to his wife’s estate at Bamberg, Bavaria (she was a niece of King Maximilian I Joseph of Bavaria). He died there June 1 after falling (or being thrown) from a window. Napoleon abdicated a second time on July 8. Berthier’s name is among those inscribed on the inner wall of the Arc de Triomphe.
4) Joel Ramseyer was born May 10, 1796. Family notes say he “went to America” and may have died in New York City.

5) Anna Ramseyer was born June 16, 1798. She married David Ummel. He may have been a son of David Ummel and Elisabeth Kocher, members of the congregation of minister Abraham Ramseyer.

6) Philip Ramseyer was born in September of 1802, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel March 8, 1807.

7) Lydia Ramseyer was born May 28, 1806, and died in 1886. On Feb. 29, 1829 in Neuchâtel she married Johann Dellenbach. He was born circa 1800, and died in 1842, a son of Jean Dellenbach and Anna or Barbe Andres. Their daughter Anna Dellenbach was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel March 18, 1831, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 24, 1885. On March 17, 1851 at Les Ponts-de-Martel she married Isaac Stahli/Stahly. He was born there June 17, 1829, and died at Milford May 28, 1915, a son of Isaac Stahli and Marie Kohler. They immigrated in 1868 and had at least one child in Danvers, McLean County before resettling in Nebraska. Anna is buried in East Fairview Cemetery, while Isaac is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery.

Jacob Ramseyer may belong here. On Aug. 29, 1783 his marriage to Anne Marie Staßfuer was registered at La Sagne. She was a daughter of Jean Staßfuer and Anne Marie Hirschi. She died March 26, 1806, and was buried at Le Locle. At the time their marriage was registered they had a son who would have been six years of age. Their child was:

1) Johannes Ramseyer was born at Travers (now Val-de-Travers) in 1777, and died in Switzerland in 1818. On Jan. 5, 1817 at Noiraigue he married widow Verena or Freni Liechti/Fanny Liechty. She was born at Montbéliard Jan. 24, 1779, a daughter of Jacob Liechtli and Barbara Roth. On Nov. 24, 1801 at Valangin she had married minister Johannes/Hans Schlunegger. He was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1777, and died in 1814. The house where he was born had belonged to his family for a century, and survived a fire that destroyed the village in 1794; it still exists. Children from the first marriage included Barbara, Peter, Marie/Mary, Johannes/John, Christian/Christophe, and Jacob. The second marriage yielded a daughter Verena Ramseyer, who may have been born after the death of her father. Widowed twice, Verena decided to follow the example of others by immigrating to Ohio. Verena and her children departed from Le Havre on the Origion, and arrived at New York June 8, 1824. The passenger list shows farmer Ferene Leichty, 42; Peter Schlonegger, 20; Jean, 14; Christophe, 13; Jacob, 12; Barbara, 21; Marie, 18; and Veren Ramsey [Ramseyer], 5. Initially the sons worked as farm laborers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They later recalled seeing the Marquis de Lafayette at Lancaster during his American tour in 1825. In that year they resettled in Butler County, Ohio. The children of Johannes/Hans Schlunegger opted to keep his surname in America, where it became Sloneker, Slienzker, or Slonaker. We suspect they comprised the household of 'Fanny Sloniker' on the 1830 census of Milford, Butler County: one female in the 40-49 year age bracket; one female 20-29; one female 10-14; and three males 15-19. McBride's 1836 plat map of Milford shows John Sleenaker and Peter Sleenaker on adjacent 40- and 30-acre parcels in southeast Section 15. The 1840 census of Somer, Butler County (a community in Milford Township) shows the households of Jacob, Peter, and John Sloenaker. Verena died in Butler County Feb. 14, 1868. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Schluniger Cemetery at Colrain, Hamilton County, Ohio.

a) Verena/ Frances Ramseyer was born in Neuchâtel in 1818, and died in Butler County, Ohio in or before 1865. On Dec. 13, 1836 in Butler County she married Michael Oswald (the entry names Michael Oswald and Frances Ramsey). He was born Aug. 14, 1808, and died in Butler County Aug. 12, 1846; he is buried in Schluniger Cemetery at Colersaine, Hamilton County, Ohio. He had immigrated to America on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832; the passenger list shows Michael Oswald, 25; Johann Oswald, 24; and Wilhelm Oswald, 20 (see the Appendix). A Michael Oswald household is found on the 1840 census of Sycamore, Hamilton County. Speculation on Michael’s family can be found in KENNEL. On Feb. 5, 1848 in Butler County Verena/ Frances remarried to Jacques Peter Schmid/Jacob P. Schmidt (the entry names Jacob P. Schmidt and Frances Rumpsire). He was born at Bendorf Aug. 9, 1823, and died at Montgomery, Hickory County, Missouri Oct. 7 or Nov. 10, 1873, a son of Johannes or Jean Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith and Christine Schwarz. See PETERSMITH for background on their life together.

3) Stefan/ Étienne Ramseyer was born in 1733. He married Maria Büttschi/Buitsche (also found as Pötschi). It is probable that she was a daughter of Peter Büttschi, an Anabaptist reportedly living at Valangin (Neuchatel) in 1718,
Erguël (the Prince-Bishopric of Basel) in 1727, and Valangin again in 1733.\textsuperscript{317} Their children born on La Joux du Plâne farm at Chézard-St. Martin (five miles east of La Sagne) include:

\begin{enumerate}
\item Isaac Ramseyer was born March 4, 1766, and died at Couvet (12 miles southwest of La Sagne, now part of Val-de-Travers) May 25, 1847. On Sept. 15, 1792 at Fleurier (below Couvet, now part of Val-de-Travers) he married Susanne Oesch. She was born at La Chaux-du-Milieu (seven miles southwest of La Sagne) Nov. 7, 1766, and died at Travers (above Couvet, now part of Val-de-Travers) Jan. 12, 1830, a daughter of Christian Oesch and an unidentified first wife (between 1766 and 1773 Christian remarried to Marie Ramseyer, Stefan/Étienne Ramseyer’s younger sister).\textsuperscript{318} Their children include:
  \begin{enumerate}
  \item Isaac Ramseyer was born at Couvet Sept. 20, 1792, and died there May 8, 1859. He married Maria Hauser. On April 1, 1824 at Ste. Croix Isaac remarried to Susanne Marianne Judith Junod.
  \item Susette Ramseyer was born at Couvet Feb. 19, 1795, and died there July 26, 1851.
  \item Marie Ramseyer was born in August of 1797.
  \item Christ Ramseyer was born at Travers Feb. 3, 1800, and died at Couvet Nov. 6, 1838.
  \item Anna/Nanette Ramseyer was born at Couvet Aug. 14, 1809, and died at Buttes Oct. 13, 1866. She married Abraham Winteregg. He was born at Hilterfingen, Canton Bern April 28, 1800, and died at Buttes April 14, 1868.
  \end{enumerate}
\item Christian/Christ Ramseyer was born Jan. 5 or 6, 1772, and died at Travers May 30, 1848. In 1799 at LesPonts-de-Martel he married Catrina/Catherine Bühler. She was born at Mombéliard circa 1773, and died at LesPonts-de-Martel April 29, 1836, a daughter of Christ Bühler and Madeleine Meyer. Their children born on Combe-Pellaton road between LesPonts-de-Martel and Travers include:
  \begin{enumerate}
  \item Hélène/Helena Ramseyer was born April 24, 1803, and died at Danvers, McLean County Feb. 10, 1887. On March 21, 1829 at Travers she married Christian Stähli. He was born at Travers March 9, 1799, and died there Feb. 28, 1854, a son of Christian Stähli and Magdalena Kropf. She is found on the 1870 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as Hellen Stahly, 65, Switzerland, in the household of son Joseph Stahlh, 29, Switzerland; and on the 1880 census of Dry Grove as boarder Helen Staehly, 76, Switzerland, in the home of Joseph Staehly, 39, Switzerland. Her headstone in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery describes her as “Helene Ramseyer, wife of Christian Stahlh, Apr. 1804-Feb. 10, 1887.”
  \item Marie Ramseyer was born in 1806, and died as an infant.
  \item Johannes/Jean Ramseyer was born Oct. 18, 1807, and died at LesPonts-de-Martel July 31, 1873. On May 5, 1838 at LesPonts-de-Martel he married Isaline Calame-Rosset. She was born at La Brévine March 9, 1817, a daughter of Daniel Frédéric Calame-Rosset and Rose Henriette Montandon.
  \item Stephanus/Étienne Ramseyer was born Oct. 4, 1809. On Oct. 31, 1840 at LesPonts-de-Martel he married Eugénie Pellaton. She was born at Travers Feb. 7, 1817, and died at La Combe-Pellaton March 28, 1881, a daughter of Henri François Pellaton and Marie Esabeau Jeannet.
  \item Joseph Ramseyer was born April 3, 1812, and died Jan. 11, 1890. On March 16, 1844 at Travers he married Julie Mélina Aellen. She was born at Travers May 24, 1824, and died there March 26, 1907, a daughter of Guillaums Aellen and Rose Emilie Shwartz.
  \item George Philippe Ramseyer was born in 1814, and died at LesPonts-de-Martel May 8, 1817.
  \end{enumerate}
\end{enumerate}

\begin{enumerate}
\item Marie Ramseyer was born circa 1734, and died at Môtiers (now part of Val-de-Travers) in January of 1812. She married widower Christen Oesch. He was born at Rochefort, Neuchâtel (five miles south of La Sagne), and died at Môtiers March 1, 1800, a son of Christian Oesch and Magdalena Ellenbrandt. His father is found on a 1730 census
\end{enumerate}

\textsuperscript{317} Ernst Müller’s 1732 \textit{Reconstructed Census of Mennonites} (1895) places Peter Bütschi at La Chaux-de-Fonds (either the village or the district around it); Valangin is in the adjacent district of Val-de-Ruz.

\textsuperscript{318} In 2009 Boveress, Buttes, Couvet, Fleurier, Les Bayards, Noiraigue, St. Sulpice, and Travers were merged to form Val-de-Travers, Canton Neuchâtel.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

of Anabaptists in La Heutte, in the Prince-Bishopric of Basel (27 miles northeast of La Sagne). According to J. Virgil Miller’s *Both Sides of the Ocean*, he was described as 38-year-old farmhand Christophel Asch of Uemis. Wimmis is inland from Spiez on the western shore of Lake Thun [Ger. Thunersee] in Canton Bern, on the road to Erlenbach im Simmental, the birthplace of Jacob Amman. His *Heimat* or legal place of origin for Swiss citizenship rights was Oberlangenegg, Schwarzenegg. In Canton Bern *Asch* is interchangeable with *Oesch* – they described an ash tree. Children of Christen Oesch and an unidentified first wife include:

a. Marie Oesch was born March 10, 1762, and died at Môtiers July 23, 1832.
b. Christine Oesch was born Dec. 17, 1764, and died at Môtiers Dec. 17, 1838.
c. Susanne Oesch was born at La Chaux-du-Milieu Nov. 7, 1766, and died at Travers Jan. 12, 1830. On Sept. 15, 1792 at Fleuryer she married Isaac Ramseyer. He was born at Chêzard-St. Martin March 4, 1766, and died at Couvet May 25, 1847, a son of Stefan/Étienne Ramseyer and Maria Büttchi/Buitsche (also found as Pötschi).

One of their children was entered into baptism records at Eggiwil Feb. 1, 1812. Described as Isaak Ramseyer, he was baptized at Fleuryer Sept. 20, 1792. Witnesses were Susanne’s younger brother Christen Oesch and his wife Marianne Quartier (also called Maire, according to the entry).

d. Rebecca Oesch was born at La Chaux-du-Milieu May 26, 1773, and died at Môtiers Nov. 14, 1843.
e. Christen Oesch was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel Sept. 8, 1775, and died at Môtiers Jan. 17, 1845. On Aug. 5, 1810 at Siselen, Canton Bern he married Marianne Quartiers (also called Maire, according to the entry). She was born March 19, 1784, and died at Môtiers Nov. 19, 1854, a daughter of Abram Quartiers. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Christen Oesch of Schwarzenegg and Môtiers. His father was described as Christen von Oberlangenegg, Schwarzenegg, who was a resident of Môtiers, Travers. Oberlangenegg, Schwarzenegg would refer not to his actual birthplace but to his *Heimat*, or legal place of origin for Swiss citizenship rights.

f. Léa Oesch was born at Travers Aug. 12, 1777, and died at Môtiers May 10, 1844.

5. Christina Ramseyer was born in 1737, and died at Noirague (now part of Val-de-Travers) March 11, 1788. Circa 1762 she married Jacob Stähli. He was born at Oberhofen but baptized at the shared Protestant Reformed Church of Hilferingen March 16, 1738, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel Nov. 20, 1777, a son of Caspar Stähli and Madle Ritschart. Their children include:

a. Jacob Stähli was born July 22, 1763, and died in 1826. On Nov. 6, 1786 he married Susanna Frutiger. She was born Nov. 27, 1767, a daughter of Joseph Frutiger and Christina Luginbühl. She was likely the Susanna Frutiger living on the farm of minister Abraham Ramseyer who was ‘received into the congregation’ in 1785.

b. Johannes/Jean Stähli was born circa 1766, and died at Brot-Dessus (below Les Ponts-de-Martel) March 13, 1829.

c. Christian Stähli was born at La Sagne circa 1769, and died at Travers in August of 1818. On March 31, 1792 at Boudry he married Madeleine Kopp. She was born circa 1769, and died at Noiraique before 1843, a daughter of Rudolph Kopp and Barbe Zanderen.

d. Isaac Stähli was born at Travers in May of 1771, and died at Brot-Dessus Dec. 19, 1839. On July 1, 1804 at Les Ponts-de-Martel he married Madeleine Frey. She was born circa 1787, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel March 23, 1815. On Nov. 23, 1823 at Les Ponts-de-Martel Isaac remarried to Maria Kohler.

e. David Stähli was born at Travers in April of 1776, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel Jan. 3, 1838.

No later than 1745 Christen (#2) relocated to La Sagne, in the district of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in the Principality of Neuchâtel. This village is 10 miles northwest of the Château de Beauregard, and 14 miles southeast of Erguël, on the road between them. Eleven years earlier La Sagne had been the first village in the principality to encourage toleration of foreigners and Anabaptists.

The move may have coincided with his second marriage to Edith Balsiger or Balsinger (both forms of the same surname). One source says she was born in 1718, and died in Switzerland in 1757.

LA SAGNE, LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, NEUCHÂTEL

La Sagne is a village/municipality in the district of La Chaux-de-Fonds in what is now Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland. A *sagne* is a marshland. A *chaux* is a high valley.

The district is located in the eastern part of the Vallée de la Sagne et des Ponts-de-Martel. The village Les Ponts-de-Martel is adjacent to the south. A *pont* is a bridge, a *martel* is a marshland. According to L’Église Mennonite ou Anabaptiste en Pays Neuchâtelois (1969), the district held four Anabaptist families with 17 persons in 1734, and eight families in 1747.

The village Le Locle is adjacent on La Sagne’s west side, but outside the district. In the late 1600s and early 1700s Le Locle had a population four times that of La Sagne (this changed in the mid-1700s with the development of a watch-
making industry). Anabaptists who lived there traveled several miles by carriage to attend meetings in the farmhouse of Abraham Ramseyer at La Sagne.

Children of Christen Ramseyer (#2) and his second wife Edith Balsiger/Balsinger presumably born at La Sagne include:

6. Abraham Ramseyer was born May 15, 1745, and died in 1826. On May 31, 1768 at La Sagne he married Salomé (later called Catherine) Graber. She was born at Bethoncourt, Doubs (above Montbéliard) circa 1746, and died March 21, 1807, a daughter of Daniel Graber and Catherine Eicher. (Her sister Anna was married to Jean Klopfenstein, 1729-1796; see KLOPFENSTEIN). Abraham farmed between the roads La Combe-Boudry and Les Bressels at La Sagne. He became an Amish Mennonite minister, holding meetings in his farmhouse. Some of the names found in his meetings included Amstutz, Bärtschi/Bartschy, Frutiger, Kocher, Rüfenacht, Siegrist, Stähli/Stahley, Tschantz, Ummel/Hummel, Winteregg, and Zurbruchen. Children of Abraham Ramseyer (#1) and Salomé/Catherine Graber born at La Sagne include:

a. Abram Ramseyer was born May 16, 1772, and died at Le Locle Feb. 21, 1806. On Feb. 21, 1792 he married Freni/Verena/Freny Graber. She was born Nov. 20, 1774, a daughter of Peter Graber and Marie Rich. Their children include:
   - Jean Ramseyer may belong here. On March 4, 1815 at La Sagne he married Marie Nussbaum. This was one of the few Ramseyer marriages entered in local records. Their entry described the groom as a son of the deceased Abram Ramseyer of Eggwiwil, Canton Bern (a Heimat, not a birthplace). The bride was described as a daughter of the deceased Christ Nussbaum of Bollingen, Canton Bern (a Heimat as well).
   1) Verena Ramseyer was born at La Sagne in May of 1797. She married Abraham Droz.
   2) Catherine Ramseyer was born April 24, 1799. On June 17, 1820 at Le Locle she married Charles Daniel Humbert-Droz. He was born circa 1800, a son of Daniel Humbert-Droz and Marianne Mooset. At the time of the marriage she was living at Le Locle, he at Valangin.

b. Christen/Christian Ramseyer was born June 12, 1775, and died in his home in the grand forest of Joux on the north side of Les Ponts-de-Martel July 7, 1835. On July 7, 1799 he married Rosina Steiner. Their children were born at Les Ponts-de-Martel, La Chaux-du-Milieu, and Rochefort, all touching La Sagne. They include:
   1) Johannes/Jean Ramseyer was born at La Chaux-du-Milieu April or May 14, 1800, and died at La Sagne March 26, 1860. On Aug. 28, 1827 at Les Ponts-de-Martel he married his second cousin Margueritte Ramseyer. She was born at Maiche, Doubs March 28, 1808 (the 10-year civil index calls her Margueritte Ramezin), and died in Switzerland July 28, 1839, a daughter of Johannes Ramseyer and Barbara Kaufmann. They had four children. On Jan. 5, 1841 Johannes remarried to Barbara/Barbe Amstutz. She was born on Petite Kolberg farm at Lucelle [Ger. Lützel], a village straddling the borders of Upper Alsace and Canton Jura June 30, 1817, and died Feb. 28, 1900, a daughter of Christian Amstutz and Barbara/Barbe Klopfenstein. They also had four children.

   One of the children of Johannes Ramseyer and his second wife Barbara/Barbe Amstutz was Frédéric-Louis Ramseyer (found in America as Frederick Ludwig Ramseyer). He was born on the road called Les Maix-Rochat at Le Cerneux-Pequignot (10 miles southwest of La Sagne) Feb. 3, 1847, and died in the home of a daughter at Massillon, Tuscarawas Township, Stark County, Ohio Sept. 17, 1931. On July 3, 1877 he married Rosina Ummel. She was born at Les Esplatures (four miles north of La Sagne) July 9, 1856, and died at Massillon Oct. 20, 1931. Her death entry named her parents as John Ummel and Barbara Schindler. He sailed from Le Havre on the Saint Germain, and arrived at New York April 13, 1882. The passenger list shows farmer Frederic Ramseyer, 35, Suisse, destination Ohio. She sailed from Bordeaux on the S.S. Château Loville, and arrived at New York Sept. 15, 1883. She and her children are found on the passenger list as Rosalie Ramseyer, 27 (her correct age 24 is crossed out) Switzerland; Lina, 5; and Marie, 4. In 1900 they resided at Western Star Village, Wadsworth Township, Medina County, Ohio with six children born in Ohio; the census called them Fred and Rosely Ramseyer, said they had been married 23 years, and gave their years of immigration. They are found on the 1930 census of Green, Wayne County, Ohio as Fred L. Ramseyer, 83, Switzerland, immigrated in 1857; and Rosena, 73, Switzerland, immigrated in 1857, German spoken in the home. They are buried under a joint headstone in Crown Hill Mennonite Cemetery at Rittmann, Wayne County.

2) Katharina/Catherine Ramseyer was born at Rochefort June 15, 1802, and died in 1839. In June of 1830 she married Christian Boss.
3) Maria/Marie Ramseyer was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel March 3, 1805, and died at Dambenois, Doubs Nov. 24, 1887. On May 30, 1826 at Vaufray she married Christian Riche. He was born at Lucelle April 25, 1803, and died at Dambenois Feb. 10, 1883, a son of Pierre Riche and Marie Klopfenstein.
   - Possibly a child born June 5, 1806 who died as an infant.
4) Rosina Ramseyer was born at Rochefort Feb. 12, 1808. She married Samuel Gerber.
5) Christian Ramseyer was born at Rochefort March 28, 1812.
6) Suzette Ramseyer was born in December of 1813, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel Jan. 19, 1817.
7) Jacob Ramseyer was born July 21, 1816, and died at Le Locle Oct. 15, 1881. He married Barbara Conrad. She was born at Montbéliard Jan. 18, 1816, a daughter of Jean Conrad and Barbara Hilty.

c. Babi/Barbara Ramseyer was born circa 1777, and died in Ohio in 1840. On March 11, 1786 at Monthbéliard she married Pierre Kunrad/Peter Conrad. He was born in the Burgerwald at Montbéliard Feb. 17, 1760, and died in Butler County, Ohio in 1837 (Christian lutz’i’s diary says Peter was buried June 17), a son of Johannes/Kunrad and Marguerite Rychen. Their marriage ceremony was performed by her father. A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio describes Peter Conrad as a settler and land owner at Overpeck (a junction in St. Clair) in Butler County in 1836. The Conrads chose the relatively liberal ‘button church’ in the religious division in 1835. McBride’s 1836 map of St. Clair shows Peter Conrad on 176 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 11, next door to Isaac Overpeck and Jacob Wehr, who both operated distilleries; Overpeck also owned a general store. The road to Trenton cut diagonally through his property. Barbara is found on the 1840 census of St. Clair, next door to her son Jacob. Her household held four females: one in the 60-69 year age bracket, one 30-39, and one 5-9. Their children include:
   1) Barbara Conrad was born circa 1794. She is found on the 1850 census of St. Clair next door to her brother Jacob. Her household holds Barbaray Conrad, 56, Germany; and Mary Linder, 17, Germany.
   2) Jacob Conrad was born at La Sagne Jan. 14, 1805, and died in Davis County, Iowa April 19, 1862. On Dec. 19, 1837 in Butler County, Ohio he married Anna Schlatter. She was born in the hamlet Le Sorgeux at Valangin Feb. 10, 1812, and died in Henry County, Iowa July 24, 1875, a daughter of Johannes Schlatter and Catherine Ramseyer. The 1840 census of St. Clair, Butler County shows his all-male household as one aged 50-59 years, one 40-49, and two 30-39. The 1850 census of St. Clair has farmer Jac. Conrad, 46, Germany; Anna, 38, Germany; Mary, 11, Ohio; Christian, 9, Ohio; Jac., 4, Ohio; Pet., 1, Ohio; Catharine Slackter, 11, Ohio; Catharine, 4, Germany; and Jos. Hoffman, 24, Germany. They also appear on the 1860 census of Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa. Jacob is buried in Union Cemetery in Davis County, where his headstone says he was “Jacob Conrad, died April 19, 1862, aged 57 U. 3 M. 5 D.” Anna is found as a widow on the 1870 census of Trenton, Henry County. She is buried in Sugar Creek Cemetery at Wayland, Henry County, Iowa.
   3) Margaret Conrad. She married Christopher Lindner or Linder before 1834.
   4) Anna Conrad was born circa 1813. On Feb. 28, 1837 in Butler County she married Johannes/John Burcky; the ceremony was performed by minister ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger (the civil entry was created May 8, 1837). He was born on the Albacherhof at Lich, Hesse March 2, 1800, a son of Johannes Bürki/Burcky and Maria Schönbeck. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for background on this couple who came to Central Illinois.

d. Jacob Ramseyer was born Dec. 29, 1778, and died the same day.
e. Catherine Ramseyer was born Nov. 27, 1779, and died in Butler County, Ohio in 1856. On Nov. 29, 1802 at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace she married Johannes/John Schlatter. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Jean Schlatter, 34, born at Richwiller, Upper Alsace Sept. 21, 1768, a son of farmer Christian Schlatter and Barbe Juncker, residents of Merzen [Mertzen, 19 miles southwest of Richwiller]. The bride was described as Catherine Ramzeir, 23, born at La Sagne Nov. 27, 1779, a daughter of farmer Abraham Ramzeir and Catherine Graber. The groom signed Johannes Schlatter, while the bride signed Catherine Ramsieir. He died in 1832. Catherine came to America as a widow with children. She is the probable that she is the Catharine Schlatter found on McBride’s 1836 plat map of St. Clair, Butler County as the owner of 67 acres in southwest Section 11. The Sloniker families living only one farm removed. She is also found on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County as Catharine, 65, Germany in the household of son Christian (found as Christopher Slauter). Children of Johannes/John Schlatter and Catherine Ramseyer born in Neuchâtel include:
   1) Abraham Schlatter was born Oct. 6, 1804. On June 24, 1838 in Butler County, Ohio he married Catherine König/King. Both Abraham and his wife died at Benton, Hocking County, Ohio in 1841.
2) Barbara Schlatter was born April 19, 1810, and died at Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio March 18, 1896. On June 2, 1834 in Butler County she married Hans Schlunegger/John Sloniker. He was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds May 22, 1809, and died at Collinsville July 15, 1905, a son of Verena or Freni Liechti/Fanny Liechty and her first husband minister Johannes/Hans Schlunegger. They are buried in Collinsville Cemetery. Herald of Truth, April 1896: “On the 19th of March 1896 in Collinsville, Ohio, our aged sister, Barbara Slonecker, maiden name Schlatter, aged 85 years and 11 months. She was for several years a faithful member of the Mennonite church. About three years ago she suffered an injury to her limb by a fall and was since that time helpless so that she had to be moved about in an invalid chair, and as she lived near the church she was able to attend regularly, kind friends wheeling her chair to the church. She bore her affliction with Christian fortitude until the Lord called her home. Upon the 22nd of March a large concourse of people assembled to accompany the remains to their last resting place. Funeral services by J.J. Kraybill assisted by Pre. Walker of the Presbyterian Church. She leaves her aged companion, who for sixty three years lived with her in happy wedded life. Also six children, twenty one grand children and eight great-grandchildren.”

3) Christian Schlatter was born circa 1814, and died in McPherson County, Kansas April 8, 1884; he is buried as 'Chris. Schletter' in the Amish Cemetery in McPherson County, ‘aged 70 years.’ On Dec. 22, 1842 in Butler County he married Barbara Kauffman. She was born circa 1825, and died in Lee County, Iowa Feb. 6, 1871; she is buried in Joseph Goldsmith's Burying Ground at West point, Lee County. Their household is found on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County as farmer Christopher Slaudor, 36, Germany; Barbaray, 28, Germany; Christian, 7, Ohio; Jos., 6, Ohio; Nancy, 5, Ohio; Barbary, 3, Ohio; John, 2; and Catharine, 65, Germany [his mother]. Herald of Truth, May 1871: “On the 6th of February, in Lee County, Iowa of consumption, Barbara, wife of Christian Schlatter, aged 46 years. She was buried on the 8th in J. Goldsmith’s burying-ground, on which occasion John Gundy, of Henry County, delivered a discourse, aided by Peter Schantz. She was a member of the Omish church.”

f. Michel/Michael Ramseyer was born Feb. 25, 1787, and died after 1826. On Feb. 1, 1807 he married his second cousin (once removed) Susanna Ramseyer. She was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel May 23, 1789, a daughter of Johannes Ramseyer and Anna Tschantz. Their children born at Boudry include:
1) Michael Ramseyer likely died as an infant.
2) Anna Ramseyer married David Gerber.
3) Christian Ramseyer was born March 3, 1815, and died May 14, 1879. On July 8, 1837 on the road La Combe-Boudry at La Sagne he married Suzanne Ummel. She was born at La Sagne April 7, 1815, a daughter of Abraham Ummel and Marianne Suter. Family notes say that on March 21, 1874 Christian departed and “went to America.”
4) Catherine Ramseyer was born Feb. 28, 1826, and died at Ste. Blaise, Neuchâtel May 9, 1897. On June 14, 1845 at Grafenhaüsen, Baden-Württemberg she married Meinrad Nussle in a Catholic ceremony. He was born at Grafenhaüsen May 12, 1818, and died at St. Blaise March 17, 1897, a son of Franz Joseph Nussle and Theresia Morath.

7. Peter Ramseyer was born circa 1747, and died before 1811. In 1768 he married Barbara Ritschard. She was a daughter of Kaspar Ritschard. Their children include:
a. Marie Ramseyer was born at St. Hippolyte, Doubs Aug. 1, 1772, and died there March 25, 1821 (the 10-year civil index lists her as ‘Ramseier, femme Schwartz’). She married Johannes/Jean Schwartz. He was born at Dampierre, Doubs (now called Dampierre-sur-le-Doubs) circa 1766, and died at St. Hippolyte Sept. 7, 1803, a son of Hans Schwartz and Babi. Two of their sons married second cousins, daughters of Johannes/John Ramseyer and Barbara Kaufmann. On Nov. 14, 1798 they had a child at Mancenans-Lizerne, Doubs, the home of Marie’s uncle and aunt Isaac Ramseyer and Anna Augsbourg [Augsburger]. The location was described as the house behind Chateau Melaine. Signatures included Hans Schwartz and the mother’s cousin Hans Ramseyer [married to Barbara Kaufmann].
b. Madeleine Ramseyer was born at La Brévine (12 miles southwest of La Sagne) Oct. 18, 1774, and died at Fleuriel Aug. 27, 1852. On Feb. 25, 1804 at Fleuriel she married Frédéric Jequier. He was born at Fleuriel May 3, 1784, and died March 27, 1817, a son of Jean Jacques Jequier and Marie Elisabeth Grandjean.
c. Jacob Ramseyer was born at La Brévine Nov. 26, 1779. A baptism register entry created at Eggiwil in 1815 says that he was baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at La Brévine Dec. 25, 1798. It describes his parents as Peter Ramseyer (son of Christen of Eggwil) and Barbara Ritschard (a daughter of Kaspar) von Oberhofen. ‘Von’ would generally indicate that Oberhofen was not her actual birthplace, but the Heimat for the Ritschard family.

8. Isaac Ramseyer was born circa 1747.
9. Jacob Ramseyer was born after 1748. He married Susanna Frutiger. She was baptized at Hilterfingen, Canton Bern Dec. 8, 1748, a daughter of Hans Frutiger and Verena Reusser.
   a. Marguerite Ramseier was born Sept. 22, 1772, and died at Les Verrières. She married Abraham Winteregg. He was born at Heiligenschwendi, and baptized at Hilterfingen June 20, 1773, a son of Úlli Winteregg and Elisabeth Jautzi. He died after 1829.
   b. Jacob Ramseyer was born Feb. 9, 1774. On March 3, 1804 he married Susanna Maurer. She was a daughter of Christ Maurer and Madeleine Willer. Their children born at Les Ponts-de-Martel include:
      1) Susanne Ramseyer was born Dec. 12, 1804. On Oct. 27, 1833 at La Chaux-du-Mièlu she married Frédéric Louis Matthey-Israel. He was born there June 12, 1790, a son of Daniel Henri Matthey-Israel and Henriette Matthey-Dupraz.
      2) Marianne Ramseyer was born June 24, 1812, and died at Les Ponts-de-Martel July 29, 1893.
      3) Jacob Ramseyer was born June 17, 1816.
   c. Isaac Ramseyer was born Sept. 23, 1775. He married Maria Maurer. Their children include:
      1) Abraham Ramseyer was born at Le Locle Jan. 5, 1806. On March 17, 1832 at Boudry he married Barbara Schlatter. She was born at Boudry circa 1810, a daughter of Johannes Schlatter and Marianne Richard [Ritschardt].
      2) Christian Ramseyer (#1) was born at Le Locle Sept. 6, 1808. On March 21, 1835 at Boudry he married Henriette Schlatter. She was born at Boudry circa 1814, a daughter of Johannes Schlatter and Marianne Richard [Ritschardt]. Their son Christian (#2) immigrated in 1860. Christian (#1), Henriette, and a daughter then sailed from Le Havre on the SS New York, arriving at New York March 31, 1862. The passenger list shows passenger #76 as [torn page] Ramseyer, 54, Eggigwil [his Heimat or point of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights, and not his actual place of birth]; Henriett, 48; and Rosine, 24. Other passengers who may have accompanied them were entered as Chr. Stalder, 32, Spiez; Helene Stahle, 25, Oberhofen; Christian Kohler, 52, Rudalphiingen or Budalphingen; and Maria, 25. Children of Christian Ramseyer and Henriette Schlatter born at Le Locle include:
         a) Christian Ramseyer (#2) was born June 16, 1836, and died in Hamilton County, Ohio (adjacent to Butler County) Jan. 11, 1891. On Nov. 27, 1862 in Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born there Nov. 26, 1836, and died in adjacent Hamilton County Feb. 20, 1916, a daughter of minister Nicholas Augspurger and Magdalena Gautsche. The ceremony was performed by her father. Three of Catherine’s siblings were married to Slonekers. History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio says, “Christian Ramseyer was born in Switzerland June 16, 1836, was educated in several colleges of his native county, ordained and preached there until 1860, when he came to America and settled in Butler County, Ohio. He was accepted by the Augspurger congregation as one of its ministers and remained as such for several years.” They are found on the 1870 census of Madison, Butler County as farm laborer Christian Ramser, 34, France; Catharin, 32, Ohio; Samuel, 5, Ohio; Christian, 4, Ohio; William, 1, Ohio; and farm laborer Henry Blazer, 64, Hesse Darmstadt. The 1880 census of Hutchinson, Kansas has laborer C. Reamseyer, 45, Germany; C., 45, born in Ohio to German parents; Samuel, 15, Ohio; C., 13, Indiana; William, 9, Indiana; Emma, 6, Ohio; Caroline, 5, Indiana; and Gideon, 3, Indiana. Catherine is buried in Augspurger Cemetery at Trenton, Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio.
         b) Rosine Ramseyer was born Feb. 7, 1838.

10. David Ramseyer was born circa 1751. He married Barbara Maurer. Although this couple lived at Les Ponts-de-Martel, the baptism register at Eggigwil made note of the baptisms of their children (the first five in entry #109, and Philipp in entry #119). The first entry describes David as a landowner from Eggigwil living at La Sagne, and Barbara as someone born at Bleiken in the Protestant Reformed parish of Diessbach, Canton Bern (in 1870 Diessbach became Oberdiessbach). Barbara may be found on an entry in the Diessbach Taufrodel as Barbara Maüßær, a daughter of Hans Mätürer and Barbara Chiltber who was baptized June 23, 1751. The entry notes that her father was a resident of Äschlen. Aeschlen was adjacent to Bleiken, later called Bleiken bei Oberdiessbach, which was absorbed by Oberdiessbach in 2014. Their children include:
   a. Maria/Marie/Marianne Ramseyer was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel June 7, 1773, and died at La Sagne June 17, 1844. She married Pierre Modeste Fairevä. He was born at Cerneux-Péquignot, Montlebon, Doubs June 19, 1775, and died at La Sagne Aug. 23, 1838, a son of Jean Ignace Hyacinthe Fairevé and Marie Antoine Mesnier.
   b. David Ramseyer was born Dec. 9, 1774.
   c. Barbara Ramseyer was born June 3, 1776.
   d. Verena Ramseyer was born May 31, 1779.
   e. Rosina Ramseyer was born Sept. 21, 1781.
   f. Philipp Ramseyer was born at La Sagne Jan. 22, 1785.
Isaac Ramseyer was born at La Sagne, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Neuchâtel circa 1747, and died after 1817. On Jan. 4, 1774 in Doubs, in the Franche-Comté region, Isaac married Anna Augsbourg. She was born circa 1750-1754, and died after 1817. ‘Augsbourg’ has been found in other instances as a French form of the Swiss surname ‘Augspurger.’ Augspurgers with the Heimat Langnau (now Langnau im Emmental, on the north side of Eggiwil) later lived at La Sagne, but it is not clear when they arrived.319

Many of the Amish Mennonites who arrived in the Franche-Comté region in the mid-to-late 1700s came from families farther north in the Territoire de Belfort. They were simply following the natural expansion of livestock raising and dairy markets, going where there was grazing land.

Amish Mennonites coming from Canton Bern circa 1708 brought with them a breed of cattle called the Braunvieh [brown cow]. Before this, dairy stock raisers in the area of Montbéliard were only familiar with two breeds. The red Tourache from the mountains was muscular and could be used as a draft animal. The wheat-colored Fémeline from the lowlands was leaner and less amenable to being driven. A large percentage of their herds were hybrids. The Braunvieh was a pure line that grew heavier (though it was much smaller than cattle today) and gave more milk. The Swiss emigrants who owned them frequently gained acceptance from their Protestant and Catholic neighbors by lending out their bulls for breeding. This could also lead to employment opportunities for their children, who followed the development of the breed south onto the Haut-Doubs plateaus.

Some time between 1792 and 1799 the Ramseyers leased or were given use of land on a nationalized property at Mancenans-Lizerne, Doubs, in the Franche-Comté region (18 miles north of La Sagne, 37 miles south of Belfort, 15 miles south of Montbéliard).

MANCENANS-LIZERNE AND MAÎCHE, DOUBS, FRANCE

To avoid confusion, it is helpful to know that there is a village called Mancenans 15 miles southwest of Montbéliard in the French department of Doubs. However, the location that interests us is located 15 miles south of Montbéliard.

There, another village called Mancenans administers the adjoining hamlet La Lizerne. They sit on wooded plateaus separated by a stream. Together they are now described as Mancenans-Lizerne, a pair of districts forming a commune or community within the canton or municipality of Maîche, in the arrondissement or borough/district of Montbéliard, in the department of Doubs, in the region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, France.

To this day the principal occupation in Mancenans-Lizerne is cattle raising and dairy. The present population of Mancenans-Lizerne is less than 200. In contrast, adjacent Maîche has a population of almost 4,000.

Like Mancenans-Lizerne, Maîche rests on a plateau between the Dessoubre and Doubs Rivers, surrounded by evergreen forests. At its heart is the Château Montalembert, constructed in 1524. On Nov. 13, 1944 it hosted Winston Churchill, Général Charles De Gaulle, and Général Jean de Lattre de Tassigny as they made plans for post-war Europe.

Some descendants relocated about seven miles above Mancenans-Lizerne and Maîche to a line of villages running east-west: Liebvillers (with Fleurey below it), St. Hippolyte, Sousel-Cernay, and Vaufrey.

LA PETITE VENDÉE or RÉBELLION DES MONTAGNES

The area was drastically impacted by the changes of the French Revolution. The National Convention passed a decree June 10, 1793 meant to state stipulations for the division of confiscated land. But it also made a much grander stroke – stating that all land owned by a municipality should be divided equally among its residents, without regard to age, gender, or status [Fr. partage]. This generous and unrealistic idea had odd qualifiers. If any inhabitant had an agreed right to use the property, such as the grazing of cattle on a community field, the entire property was excluded. To subdivide its land, a community had to petition a higher authority. They had to show that the community owed no debts or taxes to the state, which was rarely the case.

When large estates were confiscated from the wealthy, they were often subdivided into smaller parcels. The unusually rough terrain of the Franche-Comté region meant that small parcels were often worthless. In a place with only 1-2 inches of topsoil over limestone, the land was unsuitable for crops but ideal for grazing. It was generally felt that the land

319 La Sagne records show the marriage of Abram Augspurger and Catherine Sigenthaler Oct. 11, 1797. The entry describes the groom as Abram Augsbourguer, a son of Jean Ulrich Augsbourguer of Langnau (this could be a Heimat or a place of birth). The bride was described as Catherine Sigethaller, daughter of Christ Sigethaller of Langnau. Catherine was living at Grand Combe (now Grande Combe-des-Bois, in the French department of Doubs on the border with the district of Chaux-de-Fonds).

On Dec. 9, 1800 at La Sagne, Pierre Augspurger married Henriette Beulot. Their entry described the groom as Pierre Augsburger, a son of Nicolas Augsburger of Langnau. The bride was described as Henriette Beulot, a daughter of the deceased Henry Beulot, who had died at Les Ponts-de-Martel. Henriette lived at Les Brenets.

On April 18, 1812 at Le Locle Emanuel Augspurger married Thérèse Humbert-Droz. Their entry described the groom as Emanuel Augsburg, a son of Jean Augsburg of Langnau. The bride was described as Thérèse Humbert-Droz, a daughter of Pierre Fréderic Humbert-Droz. Thérèse lived at Le Locle.
was already being put to best use before interference from Paris. It was also feared the entire measure was a ploy by speculators.

Disillusionment with the central government was compounded when the Revolutionary Tribunal announced a significant levée en masse Aug. 24. The timing of these community drawings for military service would mean that many day laborers would be taken from the late-summer harvest, leaving their families without food or savings to face the winter. From Aug. 31 to Sept. 6, 1793 some local peasants rose up in protest. It became known as the insurrection of La Petite Vendée (a vendée is a customer, but in this case it was meant to be another name for the region Franche-Comté).

Rather than debating the complicated issues of land reform or conscription, they sought support by railing against the dechristianization policies of the Committee on Public Safety in Paris.

A number of factors led to disaster. The peasants were unaware of the sense of fear and intimidation felt in most of their country. It would have been better to let any objections go unmentioned, and certainly unrecorded, during the period from June of 1793 to July of 1794 – the Reign of Terror (see JANTZI for background on this period). They may have believed false rumors that they would be reinforced from Switzerland or Alsace, or by Prussian prisoners of war. And they did not understand the size and cruelty of the forces that would come down on them.

A number of small incidents involving the theft of weapons led up to confrontations with the National Guard. These culminated in defeat at Bonnétage (eight miles southwest of Mancenans-Lizerne and Maîche) Sept. 6. About 20 peasants were killed, and 200 fled over the border into Neuchâtel. In the following days 494 were arrested.

Executioners constructed a platform in the square in front of the church, Église St. Pierre de Maîche. On Oct. 14 nineteen young men were guillotined, and on Oct. 21 another five. Over the next few weeks a revolutionary tribunal handed out 46 prison sentences of 5-10 years, and another 20 prisoners were forced to leave the region. The resultant ill feelings led many families to emigrate.

The Château de l’Hermitage at Mancenans-Lizerne sits on the edge of a plateau overlooking the valley of the Dessoubre River [Fr. Vallée du Dessoubre]. The main house was constructed in 1626, and a Gothic chapel in 1633. The property was occupied by monks of the Catholic Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, or Carmelites. They cultivated orchards and produced a fruit brandy called L’Hermitage.

The property was nationalized in 1792. Between 1792 and 1799, and possibly much later, the Ramseyers were living in a house behind the château and tending to the orchards.

The situation may have been a ‘caretaker arrangement.’ Amish Mennonites were rightly thought to be favored by Maximilien Robespierre of the revolutionary Committee on Public Safety in Paris, though they were politically neutral. It is possible that the community recruited the Ramseyers to maintain the property until the political climate changed. Regardless, following the Napoleonic wars the château came into the possession of a local priest named Parent, and then returned to the Carmelite order.

We last identified Isaac and Anna from the civil marriage record of a son dated Nov. 22, 1817, where witness Isaac’s age was given as 70. He signed his own name ‘Isach Ramseier.’

Children of Isaac Ramseyer and Anna Augsbourge include:

1. Anne Ramseyer was born at Les Brenets in the district of Le Locle, Neuchâtel circa 1775. On Dec. 6, 1815 at Mancenans-Lizerne she married Christ Clausmeur. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christe Clausmeur, 31, of Canton Bern. His parents were cultivator Christ Clausmeur, 60, and Madelaine Barschi [Bärtschi] of Dareset. The bride was described as cultivator Anne Ramesin, 40, born at Pouilteré, des Brenets, a daughter of cultivators Isaac Ramesin, 67, and Ann Hausborg, 65. Witnesses included the bride’s father Isaac Ramesin, 66, a local resident [two ages in the same document]; and Jean Clausmeur, 21, brother of the groom. According to the 10-year civil index of Mancenans-Lizerne, the groom was Christ Chauseneur. We suspect he may have been Cochenauer, a surname associated with Canton Zurich.

2. Johannes/Hans/John Ramseyer (#1) was born April 3, 1780, and died in Stark County, Ohio July 4, 1853.

3. Christian/Christ Ramseyer/Ramseyer/Ramezin was born circa 1783, and died at Soucle-Cernay July 13, 1865. On March 1, 1809 at Mancenans-Lizerne he married Elisabeth Montandon. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christ Ramezin, 25, living behind the château, a son of cultivators Isaque Ramezin and Anne Hausbourg, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Elisabet Montandon, 23, born at Ponts, a daughter of Abraham Montandon and Marianne Thiebau, who were present and consenting. The groom signed Christ Ramseier, his father Isach Ramseier, and the father of the bride Abram Montandon. Elisabeth was born at Les Ponts-de-Martel April 1, 1780, and died at Soucle-Cernay June 28, 1867, a daughter of Abraham Montandon and Marianne Thiebaut. Their children include:
   a. Christ Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne July 16, 1809, and died as an infant.

320 Former queen Marie Antoinette was guillotined in Paris Oct. 16.
321 From 1849 to 1924 the property was occupied by the artist Joseph Aubert, who created religious and historical paintings. It is now a private residence on the Route de Waroly (the name of a stream below it).
b. Marie Ann Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne April 8, 1810, and died at Vaufrey Dec. 22, 1868. On May 14, 1845 at Vaufrey she married Jean Ignace Alexandre Briot. She was later known as Marie Therese Ramseyer/Ramezin, presumably after adopting the Catholic faith.

c. Isaac Ramseyer/Ramezin was born at Mancenans-Lizerne May 11, 1812, and died at Vaufrey Nov. 21, 1890. His civil birth entry calls him Jacques Ramezin; it describes his parents as cultivator Christ Ramezin, 28, and Lizabet Montandon, 20. On May 10, 1842 at Vaufrey he married Marie Virginie Viatte. The 10-year civil index of Vaufrey listed them as Isaac Ramesin and Virginie Viatte. The 10-year civil index of Vaufrey listed him at his death as ‘Christ dit Isaacly Ramseyer’ [Christ called Isaac].

d. Christ Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne April 12, 1814, and died at Vaufrey Sept. 18, 1884. His civil birth entry describes his parents as cultivator Christ Ramezin, 30, and Elisabet Montandon, 29. The 10-year civil index of Mancenans-Lizerne listed him as Christ Ramezin. On May 3, 1847 at Mouillevillers (below St. Hippolyte) he married Marianne Celestine Franke. The 10-year civil index of Mouillevillers lists him as ‘Christ Ramesin.’ Marianne was born at Réclère, Canton Jura (four miles north of Vaufrey) March 30, 1831, a daughter of Jean Pierre Franke and Marie Genéreuse Vuillemin.

e. Joseph Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne April 3, 1816, and died at Liebvillers, Doubs Feb. 12, 1861. On March 2, 1846 at Vaufrey, Doubs he married his cousin Marie Ramseyer. She was born at St. Hippolyte Oct. 2, 1826, and died on Grosbois farm at Soulce-Cernay, Doubs Dec. 26, 1872, a daughter of Joseph Ramseyer and Marie Kaufmann.

f. Amily Ramseyer/Ramseier (birth entry)/Ramezin was born at St. Hippolyte April 24, 1821. On Sept. 10, 1846 at Vaufrey she married customs officer Férrelou Courvoisier. He was born circa 1821, a son of Jacques Joseph Courvoisier and Marie Françoise Sylvestre.

g. Jean Ramseyer/Ramsaier (birth entry)/Ramezin was born at St. Hyppolite June 7, 1824, and died at Vaufrey June 10, 1847. On Jan. 11, 1837 at Vaufrey he married Appoline Férard. She was a daughter of Jean Pierre Férard and Marie Anne Caffot. The 10-year civil index of Vaufrey listed his marriage under Jean Joseph Rammesin.

4. Babeli Ramseyer/Bably Ramezin was born circa 1786. On Dec. 14, 1809 at Mancenans-Lizerne she married Abraham Moser. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Habraham Mozer, a son of Jean Mozer and the deceased Marie Kocher. The bride was described as Bably Ramesin, a daughter of Ramezin and Anne Haubourgh. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Mozer, 54, father of the groom; and cultivator Isake Ramesin, 60, father of the bride. Signatures included Hans Moser.

5. ‘Marguerite Ramesin’ was born circa 1787, and died at Villars-lès-Blamont, Doubs July 11, 1845. On Jan. 2, 1811 at Villars-lès-Blamont she married Pierre Mathiot. He was born circa 1782, and died at Villars-lès-Blamont May 7, 1826, a son of Jean Jacques Mathiot and Anne Catherine. Their marriage entry described her parents as Isaac Ramseyer and Anne Aubehourque.

6. Elisabeth Ramseyer was born at Le Locle, Neuchâtel circa 1788. On Sept. 17, 1815 at Mancenans-Lizerne she married Joseph Verchet. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Verchet, 30, a son of shopkeeper [Fr. propriétaire] Guillaume François Verchet and Marie Adelaid Narby. The bride was described as cultivator Elisabeth Ramezin, 27, born at Locle, a daughter of Isaac Ramezin and Julienne Bourgeois [a garbled Anna Augsbourg].

7. Joseph Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne Nov. 14, 1792, and died Feb. 26, 1848. On Nov. 22, 1817 at Florimont, Territoire de Belfort he married Marie Kaufmann. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Joseph Ramsinger, 25, born on the farm behind the château at Mansenans [Mancenans-Lizerne] Nov. 14, 1792. He was a son of farmer Isaac Ramsir, a resident of Mansenans who was present and consenting, and Anne Augsbourg. The bride was described as Marie Kauffmann, 21, born at Florimont March 16, 1797. She was a daughter of Pierre Kauffmann, who had died on St. André farm at Florimont Oct. 8, 1803, and Barbe Klobstein, a resident of St. André farm who was present and consenting. Joseph signed his own name ‘Joseph Ramseier.’ Beside Isaac, another witness was the mother of the bride, who signed ‘Babeli Klobstein.’ Marie Kaufmann was born on St. André farm at Florimont in the Territoire de Belfort March 16, 1797, and died June 3, 1870, a daughter of Peter Kauffmann and Barbara/Barbe Klobenstein. Her civil birth entry described her parents as farmer Peter Kaufman, 45, and Barbe Klobsteine. Witnesses were cultivator Pierre Klobstein, 40; and weaver Joseph Helty [he signed this way, though he was a Hilti], 50. The father signed Peter Kaufmann. Joseph and Marie had a large family at St. Hippolyte.
We could not determine how the Napoleonic Wars affected this family. But the issue of French military conscription would become a concern 15 years later with the French occupation of Algeria in 1830 (for background see STAKER).

Their emigration in 1835 coincided with unmarried son Joseph reaching 21 years of age.

Married children Johannes (#2), Anna, Barbara, and Marguerite elected to remain in Europe. The remainder of the family departed from Le Havre on the Richmond, and arrived at New York July 5, 1835. The passenger list shows laborer John Ramesay, 56, France, destination 'state of Ohio'; Barbara, 55; Marie, 23; Joseph, 20; Ellen [Elizabeth], 18; Nicolas, 15; Pierre, 12; Jacob Schwartz, 28; Catharine [Ramseyer Schwartz], 25; Barbara, 5; Marie, 3; and Catrina, 1.

From the city port they traveled up the Hudson River by steamboat, then crossed the Erie Canal to Lake Erie. From Cleveland they made the remainder of the water transit on the Ohio-Erie Canal, disembarking near Canton, Ohio.

On Aug. 13, 1835 Johannes (#1) purchased 60 acres for $400 from Amish Mennonite immigrants Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie/Mary Göerig. After immigrating in 1828, the Sommers had spent time in Butler County before settling in Stark County (see SOMMER).

The Ramseyer farm was located in Section 33 of Paris, Stark County. The 1840 census of Paris shows the household of ‘John Ramseyer.’ It had one male in the 60-69 year age bracket [Johannes], one male 20-29 [Nicholas], one 15-19 [Peter]; one female in the 60-69 year age bracket [Barbara], and another 20-29 [Catherine?].

The 1850 census of Paris has farmer and widower John Rumseyer, 70, Germany; farmer Peter, 28, Germany; Barbaray [Barbara Rich/Reich Ramseyer], 24, Germany; Jacob, 4, Ohio; and infant Joseph, Ohio [his illegible age was expressed in months]. They were still living next to the Sommer family.

Johannes (#1) and Barbara are thought to be buried in the Amish/Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County.

Children of Johannes/Hans/John Ramseyer (#1) and Barbara Kaufmann include:

1. Johannes/Jean/Hans Ramseyer (#2) was born at Mancenans-Lizerne May 30, 1801 (found in the 10-year civil index as Jean Ramezin), and died at Moos, Upper Alsace (now Mooslargue, below Altkirch on the Swiss border) Dec. 10, 1839. On Oct. 12, 1822 at Moos he married Maria Anna Klopfenstein. She was born at Vaufrey (in the district of St. Hippolyte) April 29, 1800, and died at Fessevillers (in the district of Maîche), Doubs, a daughter of Christian Klopfenstein and Catherine Rich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Rameseyer, 21, a son of cultivators Jean Ramezyser and Barbe Kauffman, residents of Maîche who were consenting. The bride was described as Marie Klopfenstein, 21, a daughter of miller Chrétien Klopfenstein and Catherine Riche, who were residents of Moos and were present and consenting. No birthplaces were given. Their children born at Moos include:
   a. Chrétien Ramseyer was born June 21, 1826, and died at Moos Feb. 18, 1879. On Nov. 21, 1848 at Vaufrey, Doubs he married Barbe Bigler. She was born at Vauvrey Oct. 1, 1825, and died at Réchésy in the Territoire de Belfort Oct. 11, 1872, a daughter of Christian Bigler and Barbe Bigler. On Dec. 22, 1874 at Réchésy he remarried to Catherine Hilty/Hildy. She was born at Boron in the Territoire de Belfort Dec. 19, 1840, a daughter of Caspar Hilty/Gaspard Hildy and Madeleine Kropf.
   b. Catherine Ramseyer was born Nov. 2, 1827.
   c. Marie Ramseyer was born Sept. 6, 1829. Her civil birth entry was witnessed by Christian Klopfenstein, 59 [maternal grandfather].
   d. Johannes/Jean Ramseyer was born Feb. 15, 1831.
   e. Nicolas Ramseyer was born Aug. 19, 1832, and died in 1902.
   f. Barbe Ramseyer was born Feb. 14, 1834.

2. Babely/Barbe Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne Sept. 25, 1802, and died there June 13, 1804. The 10-year civil index calls her Babely Ramezin at birth, and Barbe Ramezin at death. Her civil death entry said she was 22 months of age. It was witnessed by her father, described as cultivator Jean Ramezin, 24; and her uncle, described as cultivator Christ Ramezin, 21. They signed Hans Ramseyer and Christian Ramseyer.

3. Anne/Anna Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne May 1, 1804 (the 10-year civil index calls her Anne Ramezin), and died at Berne, Adams County, Indiana July 25, 1872. On Feb. 2, 1827 at St. Hippolyte she married her second cousin Johannes/Hans/Jean Schwartz (the 10-year civil index calls them Jean Schewartz and Anne Ramseyer). He was born at Mancenans-Lizerne Nov. 13, 1798, and died in Adams County, Indiana Dec. 30, 1883, a son of Johannes Schwartz and Maria Ramseyer. They farmed on Soyere farm near St. Hippolyte. Schwartzes were deacons of the congregation there. Their sons Hans and Joseph sailed from Le Havre on the Trumbull, and arrived at New York Feb. 2, 1852. Their son Christian sailed from Le Havre on the Trenton, and arrived at New York April 10, 1852. In 1853 the parents and remaining siblings immigrated, and the family reunited in Allen County, Indiana. They are found on the 1860 census of Monroe, Adams County, Indiana as farmer John Schwartz, 62; Anna, 57; farm laborer Peter, 28; farm laborer Joseph, 24; Barbara, 19; farm laborer Jacob, 17; Elizabeth, 14; and Catharine, 12; all from France. Anna is buried in Huser Cemetery at Berne. Johannes is buried under a wooden marker that gives only his initials in Schwartz Cemetery at Monroe, Adams County, Indiana.
4. Babeli/Barbara Ramseyer was born at Mancenans-Lizerne Feb. 5, 1806, and died in Marshall County, Iowa Jan. 9, 1873; she is buried in Sommer/Summers Cemetery at Wayland, Iowa. On May 28, 1823 at Lutter, Upper Alsace she married Joseph Rich/Riche. He was born June 6, 1800, and died before 1853. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Rich, 23, a resident of Lutter. He was a son of Lutter residents Jean Rich and Madelaine Kaufman. The bride was cultivator Barbe Ramezier, 17, a daughter of Jean Ramzier of Maiche who was present and consenting, and Barbe Kaufman. She was a resident of Maiche. Widow Barbara and her children departed from Le Havre on the Switzerland, and arrived at New York June 7, 1853. The passenger list shows Barbara Rich, 49; Joseph, 24; Verena, 15; Christ, 13; Martin, 11; and Elise, 8. Barbara first went to Orrville, Ohio, then in 1858 resettled at Wayland, Iowa. There she remarried to widower Joseph Zehr. He was born at Ostwald, Lower Alsace (on the southwest corner of Strasbourg) June 1, 1801, a son of Michel Zehr and Barbara Bachmann. On Feb. 16, 1832 at Strasbourg he had married Maria Anna Vorderwald; they had immigrated in 1843. The 1860 census of Jefferson, Henry County, Iowa has farmer J. Zear, 60, France; Barbara, 54, France; David, 16, Ohio; and Elizabeth, 14. Ohio. The 1870 census of Jefferson has farmer Joseph Zair, 69, France; and Barbara, 64, France. Joseph’s headstone in Sugar Creek Cemetery at Wayland says he was “Joseph Zehr, died Aug. 9, 1877, aged 76 y. 3 ms. 10 ds.” Barbara’s headstone in Sommer/Summers Cemetery in Washington County, Iowa says, “Barbara, wife of Joseph Rich, died Jan. 9, 1873, aged 66 yrs. 11 mos. 4 ds.”

5. Margueritte Ramseyer was born at Maiche March 28, 1808 (the 10-year civil index calls her Margueritte Ramezin), and died in Switzerland July 28, 1839. On Aug. 28, 1827 at Les Ponts-de-Martel she married her second cousin Johannes/Jean Ramseyer. He was born at La Chaux-du-Milieu April 14, 1800, and died at La Sage March 26, 1860, a son of Christen/Christian Ramseyer and Rosina Steiner. On Jan. 5, 1841 Johannes remarried to Barbara/Barbe Amstutz. She was born on Petite Kolberg farm at Lucelle [Ger. Lützel](a village straddling the borders of Upper Alsace and Canton Jura) June 30, 1817, and died Feb. 28, 1900, a daughter of Christian Amstutz and Barbara/Barbe Klopfenstein.

6. Catherine Ramseyer was born at Maiche Feb. 19, 1810 (the 10-year civil index calls her Catherine Ramezin), and died in Stark County, Ohio circa 1852; she is buried in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery. On Nov. 3, 1829 at St. Hippolyte she married her second cousin Jacob Schwartz (the 10-year civil index calls them Jacob Schewertz and Catherine Ramesayer). He was born at St. Hippolyte Dec. 27, 1808, and died in Allen County, Indiana in 1854, a son of Johannes Schwartz and Maria Ramseyer. They are found on the 1850 census of Washington, Stark County, Ohio as farmer Jacob Swartz, 41; Germany; Catherine, 39; Ohio; Barbaray, 20; Germany; Meary, 19, Germany; Catharine, 17, Germany; Ann, 13, Ohio; Joseph, 10 [or 12], Ohio; Margaret, 8, Ohio; Eliza, 6, Ohio; Jacob, 4, Ohio; and Lydia, nine months, Ohio. After Catherine’s death Jacob moved to Allen County, Indiana.

7. Marie/Mary Ramseyer was born at Maiche April 10, 1812 (her headstone gives the birth year 1813; the 10-year civil index of Maiche calls her Marie Ramseyer), and died in Stark County, Ohio Jan. 21, 1846. On Dec. 15, 1835 in Stark County she married Andrés Bäch (per civil birth entry)/Andrew Becher (the marriage entry called her Mary Ramsey). He was born at Rougemont, Territoire de Belfort April 29, 1808 (his headstone says 1801 and calls him Andrew Bacher Jr.), and died in Stark County March 9, 1845, a son of Andreas (as he signed his own name)/André/Andrew Bacher and his first wife Anne Klopfenstein (see KLOPFENSTEIN for background on this couple). They are buried in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery.

8. Joseph Ramseyer was born at Maiche June 12, 1814, and died at Zurich, Huron County, Ontario Feb. 1, 1890. A civil birth entry was not registered at Maiche until March 1, 1834, presumably while the family was obtaining travel papers. On Jan. 10, 1836 or 1837 in Stark County he married Barbara Klopfenstein. She was born circa 1807, and died before 1857. She may have been a daughter of Christian Klopfenstein and Catherine Stucky of Summit County (the vicinity of Akron), near to Stark County. They are found on the 1850 census of Washington, Stark County as farmer Joseph Rumseyer, 36, Fr. [France]; Barbaray, 20, Fr.; Joseph, 13; Christ, 11; Peter, 9; Michael, 7; Anna, 5; and Joel, 2; all children born in Ohio. Before 1857 Joseph remarried to Anne Marie Sommer. She was born at Sélesstat, Lower Alsace July 25, 1814, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Magdalena Kropp. She was the widow of Jacob Eicher, who had died at Akron June 21, 1849. The 1860 census of Washington, Stark County has farmer Joseph Rumserie, 44; France; Mary, 44; France; farm hand Christian, 21; farm hand Michel, 17; Henry Eicher, 14; Anna, 14; Mary, 11; Joel, 12; and Barbara, 6; all children born in Ohio. At the outbreak of the Civil War they relocated to New Hamburg, Waterloo County, Ontario, where Joseph became a minister. On March 4, 1866 Joseph’s son Michael from his first marriage married Anne Marie’s daughter from her first marriage Mary Eicher. The blended household is found on the 1871 census of Wilmot as farmer Joseph Ramseyer, 58, Germany, Mennonite; Maria [Sommer Ramseyer], 58, Germany, Mennonite; farm laborer Joel, 23, USA; John, 12, USA; Michael, 28, USA, Mennonite; Maria [Michael’s wife Mary Eicher], 22, USA; Maria, 4, Ontario; Joshua, 2, Ontario; Jacob Kropp, 87, Germany, Mennonite [Anne Marie’s maternal uncle]; and Magdalena Kropp [Jakob’s wife born Rothaker], 85, Germany, Mennonite. Their son Joseph Ramseyer, 30, and his wife Anna Litwiller, 21, lived in the same community. Widow Anne Marie Sommer Eicher Ramseyer died in the home of her other child from her first

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321 The Cotton Planter departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 31, 1843. The passenger list shows Joseph Zehr, 43, France; Maria, 44; Johannes, 10; Joseph, 8; and Barbara, 6. The same voyage brought Christian Aigsté [Eigsti?], who we could not identify; Jacob Eicher and his family (later in Ontario); Pierre/Peter Rich and his family (later in Ontario, and as a widow Barbara Schlatter-Rich went to Iowa); and Nicholas Schlegel (later in Ontario).
marriage, Henry Eicher, in Huron County, Michigan Jan. 13, 1902. She is buried in Oliver Township Cemetery in Elkton County. There is an eroded joint headstone in Paradise Cemetery at Smithville, Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio that names Joseph and Barbara but does not give dates. It is understood from the cemetery book to have been erected by the Ramseyer family. This may be an actual or simply a memorial stone for Joseph Ramseyer and his first wife Barbara Klopfenstein, who died more than 33 years apart. Oldest child Joseph Ramseyer had two children with Anna Wittmer who were buried in Paradise Cemetery in 1871.323 Children of Joseph Ramseyer and his first wife Barbara Klopfenstein born in Stark County, Ohio include:

a. Joseph Ramseyer, also found as Joseph J. Ramseyer, was born in October of 1837. He is found in the household of merchant Lewis Koontz on the 1860 census of Nimishillen, Stark County as brewer Joseph Rumseyer, 22; Ohio; with his brother as teamster Peter Rumseyer, 19, Ohio. He married Anna Wittmer. She was born April 30, 1837, and died in Washington County, Iowa June 10, 1904, a daughter of Jean Wittmer and Anna Eicher; she is buried in Eicher Cemetery in Washington County as “Anna Wittmer wife of J.J. Ramseyer.” They were living in Wayne County, Ohio in 1874 (known from the birth record of son David). The 1880 census of Washington, Washington County, Iowa has butcher Jacob J. Ramseyer, 43, born in Ohio to French parents; Anna, 43, born in France to French parents; John P., 17, Ohio, works in meat room; William C., 13, Ohio; Henry J., 10, Ohio; Samuel S., 8, Ohio; David F., 6, Ohio; and Emma E., 4, Ohio. The 1895 state census of McPherson, Kansas shows merchant J.J. Ramseyer, 53; Ohio; Anna, 57, France; and clerk Emma, 18, Ohio. They are found on the 1900 census of Halstead City, Kansas as general merchantiser Joseph Ramseyer, 62, born in Ohio in October 1837 to parents from Switzerland and France; Annie E., 63, born in Germany in April of 1837 to French parents; and daughter Emma, 23, born in Iowa in August 1876 to parents from Ohio and Germany. A Harvey County, Kansas marriage entry says that on Oct. 24, 1905 at Newton Jos. J. Ramseyer of Newton, Kans., 67, married Laura A. Munson, 61, of Wood, Oklahoma. They are found on the 1910 census of Peabody, Kansas as Joseph A. Ramseyer, 72, in a second marriage, born in Ohio to parents from Switzerland and France; and Laura A., 65, in a second marriage, born in West Virginia to parents from Virginia.

b. Christian Ramseyer was born March 1, 1839, and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio May 18, 1919. He married Katharine/Kathrina ‘Katie’ Miller. She was born at German, Fulton County, Ohio in 1846, and died in 1880. Widower Christian is found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Chesterfield, Fulton County with his children Benjamin and Rachel, with son Joseph next door. Christian and Katie are buried under a joint headstone in Pettisville Union Cemetery that calls her Kathrina.

c. Peter Ramseyer was born Nov. 14, 1840, and died in Michigan in March of 1922. He is found with his older brother Joseph as a 19-year-old teamster on the 1860 census of Nimishillen, Stark County, Ohio. On Sept. 24, 1867 in Waterloo County, Ontario he married Anna Litwiller. She was born at St. Agatha, Waterloo County in 1850, and died at Elkton in 1915; a daughter of Peter Litwiller and Elisabeth Leichti. They are found on the 1871 census of Wilmot as Mennonite farmer Peter Ramseyer, 30, USA; Anna, 21, Ontario; Elizabetha, 3, Ontario; and John, 1, Ontario. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Elkton.

d. Michael Ramseyer was born April 17, 1843, and died in Waterloo County April 9, 1873; he is buried in Kropf-Baden Cemetery in Waterloo County, Ontario. On March 4, 1866 at Wilmot he married Mary Eicher. She was born at Akron, Ohio Sept. 24, 1849, and died at Crystal, Michigan Aug. 16, 1930, a daughter of Jean Conrad Eicher and Anne Marie Sommer; she is buried in Spencer Cemetery at Crystal.

Daniel Ramseyer, 1856-1941, Rebecca [Smiley], 1856-1932. They were married on Sept. 26, 1877. They had 11 children, 6 sons and 5 daughters. An 1880 census shows in Whitewater Township, Plainfield County, Indiana Jan. 25, 1944. He was baptized into the Defenseless Mennonite Church by Henry Egly, and ordained as a minister by minister Joseph Rediger at Gridley, McLean County in 1892. He was expelled from that church in 1896. Two years later he participated in the founding of the Missionary Church Association, and became its president for 44 years.

Another son Michael Eicher Ramseyer was born at Wilmot Feb. 3 or 9, 1872, and died at Fort Wayne March 11, 1956. On Jan. 20, 1895 in Groveland he married Katie Birky. She was born in Tazewell County Feb. 18, 1866, and died at Fort Wayne Jan. 29, 1955, a daughter of Andreas/André/Andrew Birky and Catherine Litwiller. They are found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Morton. In 1900 their household included farmer Michael E. Ramseyer, 28, born in Canada in February 1872 to parents from Germany and Ohio, immigrated [from Canada to the United States] in 1889; Katie, 34, born in Illinois in February 1866 to parents from Germany and Ohio; Rosina, 4, born in Illinois in February 1869 to parents from Germany and Ohio; and Emma, 23, born in Illinois in August 1876 to parents from Germany and Ohio.

322 There are two other Ramseyer headstones in Paradise Cemetery. The first is for Joseph Ramseyer, an 11-day-old son of ‘J.J. & A.’ (Joseph J. Ramseyer and Anna Wittmer) who died April 23, 1871. The second is for Mary Ramseyer, a daughter of ‘J.J. & A.’ who died in August of 1871.
1896 to parents form Canada and Illinois; border Lena Hochstettler, 38, born in Illinois in April 1862 to parents form Germany and Ohio; and farm laborer and servant Jacob Eicher, 24, born in Canada in November 1875 to parents form Germany and Canada, immigrated [from Canada to the United States] in 1900. The 1940 census places them at Fort Wayne; Michael was described as “minister in charge of Missionary Church.” They are buried in Lindenwood Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

e. Anna Ramseyer was born circa 1845, and died at Wilmot before 1881. On June 20, 1870 in Waterloo County, Ontario she married widower Daniel Steinmann. He was born in Waterloo County Sept. 29, 1831, and died April 9, 1905, a son of Christian Steinmann and Veronica Eyer. He had first married Elizabeth S. Gardiner at South Easthope, Oxford County, Ontario April 9, 1854; she died at Wilmot Dec. 21, 1865. They are found on the 1861 census of Wilmot; Ontario as Mennonite farmer Daniel Steinman, 38, Ontario; Anna [Ramseyer], 25, Ontario; Feronika, 15, Ontario; Jacob, 14, Ontario; Noah, 11, Ontario; Christian, 9, Ontario; Daniel, 7, Ontario; David, 5, Ontario; and Mennonite Feronika [Eyer] Steinman, 70, Germany. On Feb. 27, 1877 at Wilmot Daniel married a third time to Susan Lebold, and they are shown on the 1881 census of Wilmot.

f. Joel Ramseyer was born April 30, 1847, and died in Oxford County, Ontario April 11, 1917. Circa 1872 he married Barbara Schlegel. She was born at South Easthope, Ontario Aug. 12, 1842, and died in Oxford County, Ontario July 15, 1917, a daughter of Nicholas Schlegel and Anna Schantz. Joel’s death entry said his death was accidental and instant. Barbara died three months later. Gospel Herald, July 1917: “Barbara Schlegel Ramseyer was born in South Easthope, Perth Co., Ont., on Aug. 12, 1842; died at her home near Tavistock in East Zorra, on July 15, 1917; aged 74 y. 11 m. 2 d. Joel Ramseyer was born in Stark Co., Ohio, April 30, 1847; aged 69 y. 11 m. 11 d. Bro. Ramseyer came with his parents to Canada when a young boy and when he married moved to the farm where he lived till his death, which came so suddenly. Bro. and Sister Ramseyer lived in matrimony 45 y. 3 m. 4 d. To this union were born four children, two sons and two daughters. One daughter preceded them. Two sons, one daughter and 11 grandchildren survive them. Buried side by side at the East Zorra A.M. Church of which congregation they were faithful members. Funeral services at Bro. Ramseyer’s funeral were conducted by Brethren Jac. R. Bender and Michael K. Jantzi. Text, Isa. 38:12, 13. Funeral services for Sister Ramseyer were conducted by brethren Christian Kropf and Jacob R. Bender. Text, II Tim. 4:6-8 and Rom. 5:18, 19. On both occasions a large number of friends had gathered to pay their last tribute to the departed ones.”

g. Barbara Ramseyer was born Oct. 3, 1853 (per her death entry), and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Oct. 6, 1930. On Jan. 29, 1871 at Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario she married David Gascho. He was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania March 7, 1841, and died at Wellesley, Waterloo County Sept. 19, 1893, a son of Christian Gascho and Christina Petersheim. They are found on the 1871 census of Wilmot as Mennonite farmer David Gascho, 30, USA; Barbara, 17, German; Joseph, 3, Ontario; Christina, 1, Ontario; widow Christina Gascho, 65, Germany; Magdalena, 44, USA; and Susanna, 24, USA. They are buried in Maple View Mennonite Cemetery at Wellesley.

The child of Joseph Ramseyer and his second wife Anne Marie Sommer was:

h. John Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio July 9, 1858 (per death entry), and died at Elkhart, Michigan Feb. 3, 1933. On Oct. 4, 1879 in the Methodist church at Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario he married Mary Ann Schmidt. She was born at Hay Township Jan. 3, 1862, and died at Elkhart Feb. 26, 1941, a daughter of Andrew Schmid and Gertrude. They relocated from Ontario to Michigan in 1890. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Elkhart.

9. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Ramseyer was born at Maîche July 13, 1817 (the 10-year civil index calls her Elisabeth Ramseyer), and died in Allen County, Indiana in 1860. On Nov. 24, 1844 in Stark County, Ohio she married Michael Zehr (a double ceremony with her younger brother Peter). He was born at Robertsau near Strasbourg June 15, 1803, and died in Adams County, Indiana Sept. 5, 1855, a son of Michel Zehr and Barbara Bachmann. In 1858 she remarried to Joseph Schwartz, who was born at St. Hippolyte May 8, 1813, a son of Johannes Schwartz and Marie Ramseyer. As a widower Joseph can be found on the 1861 census of Cedar Creek, Allen County as farmer Joseph Schwartz, 45, France in the household of Christian Schwartz, 28.

10. Nicolas/Nicholas Ramseyer was born at Maîche March 28, 1821 (the 10-year civil index calls him Nicolas Ramseyer), and died at Harper, Kansas Aug. 29, 1895.

11. Pierre/Peter Ramseyer was born at Maîche Nov. 5, 1822 (his headstone says Oct. 5; the 10-year civil index calls him Pierre Rameyer), and died in Stark County, Ohio May 24, 1880. Upon arriving in Ohio he worked on the Sandy and Beaver Canal, using his earnings to purchase land at Paris. On Nov. 24, 1844 in Stark County he married Barbara Rich/Reich (a double ceremony with his older sister Elizabeth). Barbara was born at Maximo, Stark County June 24, 1826, and died in Stark County Oct. 3, 1894, a daughter of Jacob Rich/Reich and Louise Eekinger. They are buried in Amish/Old Beech Cemetery, where Barbara’s headstone calls her ‘Barbara Rich Ramseyer.’ Their children born at Paris, Stark County include:

   a. Catherine Ramseyer was born Feb. 2, 1852, and died at Orrville, Wayne County, Ohio May 22, 1927. On Dec. 8, 1870 in Wayne County she married John Conrad. He was born at Baughman, Wayne County
Dec. 3, 1843, and died in Wayne County Nov. 16, 1925, a son of Martin Conrad and Anna Conrad. They are buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Green, Wayne County.

b. Daniel Ramseyer was born July 30, 1856, and died at Smithville, Wayne County May 6, 1942. On Oct. 11, 1877 he married Rebecca Smiley. She was born at Goshen, Indiana Nov. 23, 1856, and died at Smithville Feb. 22, 1932, a daughter of John Smiley and Mary Conrad. They are also buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

c. Elizabeth Ramseyer was born July 10, 1862, and died in Stark County May 2, 1896. In 1881 in Stark County she married Jacob Conrad. He was born in Stark County Feb. 1, 1849, and died at Louisville, Stark County Jan. 28, 1926, a son of Daniel Conrad and Catherine Krabill. They are also buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery.

d. Sarah Ramseyer was born Nov. 18, 1865, and died at Cleveland, Ohio Oct. 28, 1930; she is buried in Brookmere Cemetery at Cleveland. On Dec. 18, 1884 in Stark County she married David Hooley. He was born in Wayne County April 9, 1858, and died at Cleveland Feb. 13, 1917, a son of David Hooley and Lydia Zook. On May 7, 1927 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio she remarried to widower Cornelius Maaswinkel. He was born circa 1869, and died at East Cleveland July 16, 1939. Their marriage license described him as engineer Cornelier Maaswinkel, 58, born in Holland to Cornelier Maaswinkel and Nellie Erbeck. She was widow Sara Hooly, 56, born at Canton, Ohio to Peter Ramseyer and Barbara Richard. The 1930 census of Cleveland shows Cornelius J. Massvinkl, 54, born in Holland, an engineer for a building company who first married at age 25, and immigrated in 1894; and Sarah, 64, born in Ohio to German parents, first married at age 18. Their house was valued at $37.50.

Nicolas/Nicholas Ramseyer was born at Maîche, Doubs, France March 28, 1821 (though his headstone says March 12, 1820), and died at Harper, Kansas Aug. 29, 1895.

On Jan. 8, 1843 in Stark County, Ohio he married next door neighbor Barbara/Barbe Sommer (their marriage entry calls her Barbara Summers). She was born on the Zellerhof farm at Dossenheim, Lower Alsace March 14, 1823, and died before 1880, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie Göerig.

Barbara already had three brothers and a sister in Central Illinois, and in 1849 the couple took their three children to Woodford County. The 1850 census of Woodford County shows wagonmaker Nicholas Ramsire, 29, Switzerland; Barbaray, 28, Germany; Magdelane, 7, Ohio; Peter, 5, Ohio; John, 3, Ohio; and Joseph, three months, Illinois. The family of John Klopfenstein is found on the same census page.

The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Nicholas Rumsyre, 40, France; Barbara, 37, France; Magdalene, 16, Ohio; Peter, 15, Ohio; John, 14, Ohio; Joseph, 11, Ohio [he was born in Illinois]; Anna, 7, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; David, 3, Illinois; and newborn Elizabeth, Illinois.

An 1865 federal tax assessment dated June 18, 1865 says that Nicholas Ramseyer of Montgomery paid $8.50 on income.

According to the Illinois Public Land Sales Database, on April 30, 1869 Nicholas Ramseyer purchased 40 acres on the Rock River in the SENE portion of Section 8, Township 25N (Montgomery Township). He paid $11 an acre. We could not identify Nicholas on the 1870 federal census. The 1873 plat map of Woodford County has N. Ramseyer as the owner of 240 acres in Section 8 of Montgomery Township. His house was located on the west side of Walnut Creek, near the Mackinaw River above Farnisville.

In 1880 he was living at Fairbury, Livingston County with a new wife. The federal census shows Nicholas Rumsheyer, 60, born in France to a Swiss father and a French mother; and Christine, 52, born in Baden to parents from Baden.

After 1880 they relocated to Harper, Harper County, Kansas with Nicholas’s son Joseph and daughter Elizabeth. The son died in 1893. A state census of Harper City taken March 1, 1895 shows wagonmaker Nicholas Rumsayer, 74, born in France and a former resident of Illinois; his wife Christine, 67, born in Germany and a former resident of Illinois; and Elizabeth, 34, born in Illinois.

Nicholas died at Harper Aug. 29, 1895. He is buried near Joseph in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper as ‘N. Ramseyer.’

Children of Nicholas Ramseyer and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Sommer include:

1. Magdalene Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio in November 1842. On Sept. 11, 1864 in Woodford County she married Joseph Sommer. He was born at St. Louis, Missouri in 1836, a son of Christian Sommer and Marie Sommer. The 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County shows farmer Magdalena Sommer, 36, born in Ohio in November to parents from France; Nathaniel, 10, born in Illinois in February to parents from Ohio and France; and Samuel, 8, born in Illinois in April to parents from Ohio and France. The entry is only one household removed from that of younger brother John Ramseyer. She is last found on the 1900 census of Harper, Kansas in the household of her sister-in-law Jacobena Hermann Ramseyer as sister-in-law Lena Sumers, 57, born in Ohio in
November 1842 to parents from France and Germany; with Nathan, 30, born in Illinois in February 1870 to parents born at sea and in Ohio. Nathaniel was initially described as an invalid, but the word was lined through.

2. Peter Ramseyer was born in Stark County Oct. 7, 1845, and died at Harper, Kansas Sept. 20, 1920. On June 28, 1868 at Mackinaw Dells in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Funk. She was born at Richen, Baden May 30, 1839, and died at Harper, Kansas Jan. 5, 1914, a daughter of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are found on the 1870 census of Cropsey, McLean County as farmer Peter Ramseyer, 24, Ohio, Elizabeth, 30, Baden; Samuel, 1, Illinois; and farm hand Nick Hinegar, 18, Switzerland. They are buried in Harper Cemetery at Harper, Kansas.

3. John Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio Nov. 21, 1847 (Nov. 1 on his death entry), and died at Morton April 17, 1919. On Oct. 19, 1873 in Woodford County he married Barbara Zimmerman. She was born in Montgomery Township Aug. 28, 1850, and died at Harper, Kansas Nov. 18, 1893; he is also found as a widow on the 1920 and 1930 censuses of Morton. She was buried as Elizabeth Kuhn in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery there. Five children born in Illinois and Kansas; as well as sister-in-law Magdalena Ramseyer and nephew Nathaniel.

4. Joseph Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township Aug. 28, 1850, and died at Harper, Kansas Nov. 18, 1893; he is buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery there. On Feb. 17, 1878 at Gridley, McLean County he married Jacobena Hermann. She was born in Woodford County in Nov. 24, 1858, and died at Cissna Park, Iroquis County March 2, 1953, a daughter of Joel Hermann and Verena May Gerber. Jacobena is found as a head of household on the 1900 census of Harper, Kansas: Bena Ramseyer, 41, born in Illinois in November 1858 to parents from Germany and Iowa; five children born in Illinois and Kansas; as well as sister-in-law Magdalena Ramseyer and nephew Nathaniel.

5. Anna Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township April 24, 1853, and died at Harper, Kansas July 28, 1909; she is buried as Anna Kisling in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery there. On Oct. 27, 1877 she married Christian Kisling. He was born in Switzerland April 8, 1851, and died at Mansfield, Ohio June 9, 1934, a son of Christian Kisling and Lena. On July 12, 1914 at Richland, Ohio Kisling remarried to Mary Marks. She was born May 10, 1860, and died at Mansfield Dec. 3, 1947. Christian and Mary are buried in Mansfield Cemetery.

6. Jacob S. Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township Sept. 24, 1855, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 10, 1900. On Dec. 6, 1880 in Livingston County he married Mary Ann Steidinger. She was born at Buchenberg, Baden June 24, 1858, and died at Fairbury Nov. 4, 1914, a daughter of Johann Georg Steidinger and Anna Maria Yeackley. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Fairbury.

7. David Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township circa 1857, according to the 1860 census. He is found as a 22-year-old laborer in the household of his older brother John on the 1880 census of Montgomery. On Nov. 8, 1886 at Harper, Harper County, Kansas he married Euphena Ida Raymond. She was born at Harper Oct. 27, 1871, a daughter of Alfred H. Raymond and Clarissa J. Coon. They are found on the 1900 census of Thomasville, Colorado as David M. Ramseyer, 40, born in Illinois in September 1859 to a French father and a German mother, profession 'silver mines'; Euphena, 28, born in Kansas in October 1871 to a father from New York and a mother from Indiana; and three children born in Colorado between 1889 and 1895. They are also found on the 1920 census of Aspen, Colorado as David M. Ramseyer, 60, born in Illinois to French parents; and Ida, 48, born in Kansas to parents from New York and Indiana.

8. Elizabeth Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township April 1, 1860, and died at Peoria March 2, 1939. She married Henry Kuhn. The 1910 census of Morton shows odd job laborer Henry Kuhn, 65, Germany, immigrated in 1870; Elizabeth, 49, Germany, immigrated in 1891; and laborer in the pottery industry Daniel, 23, Illinois. Elizabeth is also found as a widow on the 1920 and 1930 censuses of Morton. She was buried as Elizabeth Kuhn in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

9. Samuel Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township March 22, 1862, and died at Peoria June 5, 1922. ‘Samuel Ramseier’ is found on the 1880 agricultural schedule of Partridge, Woodford County, suggesting that he was already tending a farm at age 18. Circa 1886 he married Nettie Lambright. They are shown on the 1900 census of Stella, Oklahoma as carpenter Samuel W. Ramseyer, 38, born in Illinois in March 1862 to parents from France; and Nettie L., 37, born in France to French parents in April 1863, immigrated in 1874. In 1910 they were living at Portland Ward 8, Oregon: Samuel W. Ramseyer, 49, born in Illinois to a French father and German mother, carpenter/contractor/employer; married 24 years; and Nettie L., 48, born in France to French parents, married 24 years. Samuel remarried to Wilhelmina ‘Minnie’ Stieglitz. Minnie was born in 1855, and died in 1950; she is buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria. His household is shown on the 1920 census of Peoria as Samuel W. Ramseyer, 58, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace-Lorraine, laborer in a tractor factory; and Wilhelmina, 54, Germany, immigrated in 1876. His death entry said he was a carpenter living at Peoria with a wife named Minnie.
Householder: Haushalter of Oberbetschdorf

In Switzerland and Germany Haushalter or Haushälter is an occupation, describing the steward or administrator of an estate. The villages of Oberbetschdorf and Niederbetschdorf were located eight miles northeast of Hagenau, Lower Alsace. Haushalter entries are found in local Protestant church records well before our beginning point. Sebastian Haushalter, a juror of the court who died at Niederbetschdorf May 28, 1691, had at least wight children with Elisabeth Weber. Thus by the early 1800s the family lines in the area were well represented and extremely convoluted. We counted 51 Haushalter births between 1813 and 1822.

The Haushalter family were Lutherans, but would have been exposed to the presence of nearby Anabaptists. Oberbetschdorf was adjacent to Kutzenhausen, home of the Gerbers.

Hans Adam Haushalter is described in the church records of Oberbetschdorf as a Burger und Zimmerman, a landowner and a carpenter. A number of the family appear to have been carpenters, though the main local industry in their area was the manufacture of pottery. Adam married Maria Margaretha Ketterer.

Their son laborer George Frédéric Haushalter (the spelling on his civil death entry; Georg Friederich Haushalter is found on his baptism entry) was born at Oberbetschdorf Aug. 16, 1765, and baptized Aug. 18. On Jan. 24, 1786 at Oberbetschdorf he married Anne Barbe Ketterer. She was born at Oberbetschdorf Jan. 11, 1763, a daughter of Jean George Ketterer and Marie Catherine Sturm.

Anne Barbe died at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 20, 1820, and George Frédéric died there Nov. 4, 1829. His civil death entry described him as a laborer, the widower of Barbe Ketterer, and a son of the deceased Adam Haushalter and Catherine Ketterer. Witnesses included oldest son Fréderic Haushalter, 44.

Children of George Frédéric Haushalter and Anne Barbe Ketterer born at Oberbetschdorf include:

1. Georg Frédéric/George Frédéric Haushalter was born Nov. 27, 1786. He was a carpenter. On Jan. 20, 1818 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Margueritte Holzmann. She was born July 20, 1794, a daughter of Thiebaut Holzmann and Anne Catherine Haushalter. Their daughter Salomé came to America on the packet ship Charles Carroll in 1837.
2. Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter was born Oct. 6, 1788. He was baptized in the Lutheran church, where the record calls him Theobald Haushalter. The godfather/witness signed 'Diebolt Wolf.'
3. Eve Margaretha/Eve Margueritte Haushalter was born Dec. 8, 1789.
4. Johann Jakob/Jean Jacques Haushalter was born May 29, 1791. On Dec. 26, 1815 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Dorothe Wagner. She was born Jan. 29, 1797, a daughter of Philippe Jacques Wagner and Marie Catherine Wolff.
5. Anna Barbara/Anne Barbe Haushalter was born March 8, 1794. On Nov. 19, 1822 at Oberbetschdorf she married Jacques Dangler, the widower of Catherine Wolff. He was born Jan. 28, 1798, a son of Jacques Dangler and Eve Dorothe Heinemann.
6. Philipp Heinrich/Philippe Henri Haushalter was born July 22, 1799.
7. Margaretha Dorothea/Margueritte Dorothe Haushalter was born Feb. 13, 1802. On June 29, 1830 at Oberbetschdorf she married Philippe Henri Ketterer. He was born March 16, 1800, a son of Jean Jacques Ketterer and Margueritte Dorothe Haushalter.
8. Johann Georg/Jean George Haushalter was born April 23, 1806.

Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter was born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 6, 1788.

On April 9, 1813 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Dorothe Greiner. The civil marriage entry described the groom as a cultivator and a son of Frédéric Haushalter and Barbe Ketterer, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Eve Dorothe Greiner, born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 30, 1791, a daughter of the deceased Georges Henry Greiner and Anne Catherine Greiner. Anne Catherine had remarried to Jean Claus and was present and consenting. The groom signed his name 'Deibold Haushalter.'

They had children at Oberbetschdorf in 1814 and 1815; birth entries 1820-29 say they were living in house number 57 at Niederbetschdorf.

An exodus of Haushalter families from both villages began in 1830, coinciding with the threat of renewed military conscription for the French occupation of Algeria. Their son Thiebaut/Debold emigrated from Europe in 1835. They followed less than two years later.

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324 In 1971 the two villages merged to form the community of Betschdorf.
325 The first Haushalter emigrants we found were onboard the packet ship Charles Carroll as it sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 29, 1830. Its passenger list shows Jaques Haushalter, 37; Catherine, 37; Dorotea, 6; Magdalene, 5; James, 3; Philip, 1; and Frederic Hausholder, an adult whose age is illegible. 'Jaques' was Jean Jacques Haushalter, who was
They sailed from Le Havre March 24, 1837 on the packet ship Charles Carroll (this was the same ship that had taken Haushalters in 1830). They arrived at New York May 3. The passenger list shows farmer Therbald Householder, 48; Dorothy, 45; Fred.k [Frédéric], 19; Dorothy, 23; Salma [Salomé], 19; Madeleine, 16; Caroline, 11; and Henry, 8. Salomé was a niece to Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter and Eve Dorothé Greiner; Frédéric was a distant relative.326

They settled at New Sewickley, Beaver County, Pennsylvania (25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh). History of New Sewickley Township (1904) describes the first church built there less than two years earlier: "In 1835 about thirty Germans, who had immigrated from the old country during the previous years, in connection with a few of the older settlers, resolved to build a church for their own use. One acre of land was bought from Mr. F. Burry, upon which the church, a log structure, was built in the fall of 1835, and from this transaction the church derived the name Burry's Church." The 1840 census of New Sewickley shows Detwit Householder as the head of a household: one male 60-69 years of age; one male 20-29; one male 10-14; one female 40-49; and two females 15-19. They appear on the 1850 census of New Sewickley as farmer Debold Householder, 63; Germany; Dorothy, 59, Germany; and Henry, 21, Germany.327 Henry is described as 'deaf and dumb'

Three family groupings appear on a single page of the 1860 census of New Sewickley. The first consists of farmer D. Householder, 72, France; Dorothy [Greiner], 69, France, and Henry, 30, designated as 'deaf.' The second grouping is farmer Fred. Householder, 55, France; Anna [Warmuth], Bavaria; Fred., 21; Mary, 14; Lena, 9; Catherine, 7; Dorothy, 3; Henry, 1; and Dorothy, 79; all children born in Pennsylvania.328 The third grouping is H. Householder, 43, France; Salome, 41, France; Rica, 11, Pennsylvania; and Catherine, 8, Pennsylvania.329

Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter died at New Sewickley April 3, 1866. Eve Dorothé Greiner died in her daughter Caroline's home near Portersville, Butler County, Pennsylvania Aug. 30, 1873. The cemetery where they are buried is on the site of the old Burry's church at New Sewickley, and is now maintained by a United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Burry's Congregation.

Their children include:

1. Eve Dorothé Haushalter/Eva Dorothea Householder was born at Oberbetschdorf Jan. 12, 1814. On May 11, 1840 in Burry's Church at New Sewickley she married Peter Buchler or Buehler.

2. Thiebaut Haushalter/Debold Householder was born at Oberbetschdorf Nov. 12, 1815, and died at Roanoke Township, Woodford County Jan. 14, 1886.

3. Eve Madelaine Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Sept. 27, 1820.

4. Caroline Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Aug. 2, 1825, and died at Prospect, Butler County, Pennsylvania Feb. 15, 1919. Her civil birth entry described her parents as day laborer Thiebaut Haushalter, 37, and Eve Doroth Greiner. One witness was carpenter Jean George Haushalter, 37. The father signed 'Diebold Haŭßhalter.' On Aug. 26, 1848 in Burry's Church at New Sewickley she married Henry Spithaler. He was born at Oberbetschdorf Feb. 18, 1827, and died at Prospect, Butler County, Pennsylvania April 12, 1898, a son of Martin Spithaler and Salomé Heckendurn. Their household is found next door to her parents on the 1850 census of New Sewickley as farmer Henry Spitanber, 23, Germany; Caroline, 26, Germany; and Henry, 1, Pennsylvania. During the Civil War Henry served with the 101st Pennsylvania Infantry. His regimental history notes, "Spithaler, Henry. Probably

born at Niederbetschdorf March 13, 1792, with his wife Christine Catherine Hermann, who was born there May 14, 1793. They were married at Niederbetschdorf Nov. 3, 1829.

326 Salomé Haushalter was born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 6, 1818, and died at Marion circa 1871, a daughter of Georg Frédéric/George Frédéric Haushalter and Eve Margueritte Holzmann. Thus she was a niece to Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter and Eve Dorothé Greiner. Her father had died at Oberbetschdorf Nov. 4, 1824. Circa 1840 she married George Jacob Pflug. He was born at Oberbetschdorf May 23, 1817, a son of George Jacob Pflug and Eve Dorothé Marzolf.

Frédéric Haushalter was born at Oberbetschdorf Feb. 18, 1819, and died at Marion, Butler County, Pennsylvania Sept. 26, 1905. His civil birth entry shows his parents as Philippe Jacques Haushalter and Barbe Haushalter [Anne Barbe Haushalter, his first wife]; witnesses were Jean George Haushalter, 34, and George Haushalter, 37. His mother died, and his father remarried to Eve Dorothé Haushalter at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 1, 1822; then his father died before 1835, and his stepmother immigrated in 1835 and settled at New Sewickley. Thus she was there to greet him when he arrived. On April 1, 1836 in St. Paul's German Lutheran and Reformed Church at Zelienople, Butler County he married Mary Eve Pflug. She was born at Oberbetschdorf March 13, 1820, a daughter of George Jacob Pflug and Eve Dorothé Marzolf.

Even more Haushalter family groupings came from Oberbetschdorf the following year. The packet ship Silvie de Grasse sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 16, 1838. 327 328 We also found Martzalf [Marzolf] and Cattery [Ketterer] families, familiar from Oberbetschdorf civil records.

327 This may have been Georg Henri Haushalter, who was born at Niederbetschdorf June 27, 1817, a son of Dorothé Haushalter and an unknown father. His birth was reported by a midwife.
misidentified as Henry Spitler. He immigrated to America around the age of 18 by himself as a stowaway on a transport ship from Germany. Mustered in 10 March ‘65. Married Carolyn Householder (also a German immigrant) and had 9 children, all of whom survived. He died in 1898, and is buried with his wife in Evans City Cemetery, Butler Co., PA. *Conneguessing Valley News*, Feb. 20, 1919: "Very Aged Lady Died at Butler. Mrs. Henry Spithaler, nee Catherine [Caroline] Householder, died Saturday February 15th, 1919, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Millemen of Butler, where she had made her home for the past eighteen years. She was born August 25th, 1825, in Lorraine, Germany and had reached the age of 94 years, 6 months, 17 days. Her married life was spent near Portersville [five miles west of Prospect]. Mrs. Spithaler is survived by the following children, Mrs. Fred Millemen of Butler, Mrs. John Schott of Beaver County, Mrs. A. Wehr, Harmony, Frederick Spithaler of Zelienople, Henry Spithaler of Pittsburgh, Charles, Daniel, Martin and Jacob Spithaler of Evans City. There are fifty-one grand children, forty-seven great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. A funeral service was held at the home of Mrs. Millemen on Monday morning at nine o'clock, being conducted by Rev. C.E. Cronenwett of the Butler Lutheran church, and the remains were then brought to the Reformed church of Evans City where a brief service was held by Rev. L.J. Lafer at 11:30 o'clock and burial followed at the Evans City cemetery."

5. George Henry Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Feb. 22, 1829. The civil entry described his parents as laborer Thiebald Haushalter, 40, and Eve Dorothe Greiner, 37, living at house number 57. The 1850 census of New Sewickley described him as 'deaf and dumb.'

**Thiebaut Haushalter/Debold Householder** was born at Oberbetschdorf, Lower Alsace Nov. 12, 1815, and died at Eureka, Woodford County Jan. 14, 1886.

The packet ship *Havre* sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 10, 1835. The passenger list of the *Havre* shows Thiebald Householder, 18; Eva Dorotea Householder, 35; Frederic, 16; Dorotea, 11; and Lewis, 4. Despite misinterpretations in a number of sources, this was not Thiebaut [Jr.] with his mother and siblings - his mother was born in 1791, would have been almost 44, and immigrated with his father in 1837. He was actually traveling with a widowed aunt and three cousins. The 35-year-old was Eve Dorothe Haushalter, the widow of Philippe Jacques Haushalter. At the close of the passenger list is a barely legible addendum with additional Haushalters. Other passengers included a Clauss, Ketterers, Sturms, and Wolffs from Oberbetschdorf.

On May 8, 1838 in the log structure called Burry's Church at New Sewickley he married Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr. Some published sources say she was born in Lorraine Sept. 25, 1816, and died at Eureka June 28, 1896, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Anne Verly. We suspect that she was born to this couple at Struth, Lower Alsace Nov. 3, 1842. The final purchase was for 40 acres in Section 15 on Dec. 11, 1845. All three purchases were made in Township 27N, which corresponds to Worth. The first purchase was for 40 acres in Section 15 on July 19, 1842. The next purchase was for 40 acres in Section 11 on Sept. 3, 1842. The final purchase was for 40 acres in Section 15 on Dec. 11, 1845. All three parcels sold for $1.25 an acre, or $50 apiece, and all three were designated 'FD' for federal land.

The family appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Debolt Householder, 35, France; Mary, 34, France; Henry, 10, Pennsylvania; Frederic, 8, Kentucky; Anna, 6, Illinois; and Mary, 4, Illinois. The 1860 census of Worth shows Dabolt Household, 46, France; Mary, 43, France; Henry, 19; Frederic, 17; Anna, 16; Mary, 14; Joseph, 7; Lana, 4; and Debolt, 2; all children born in Illinois. The 1865 state census shows the household of Deabolt Householder at Worth. The garbled 1870 census of Worth has John [Thiebaut/Debold] Householder, 50, Bavaria; Margaret [Maria/Marie/Mary], 45, Bavaria; Joseph, 16; Lena, 14; Albert [Debolt], 12; and Doree [Dora], 10; all children born in Illinois.

The 1873 plat map of Worth shows two properties in the name of 'D. Haushalter': 34 acres in Section 23, and 80 acres in Section 26.

They appear on the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as farmer Diebold Householder, 64, France; Cher. [Zehr?], 64, France; Deebold Jr., 21, Illinois; and Dorothe, 19, Illinois. *Herald of Truth*, February 1886: "On the 14th of January, in Eureka, Woodford Co., Ill., Debold Haushalter, aged 69 years, 2 months and 4 days. He was the father of eight children, thirty-four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He was born in Alsace, Lorraine, in 1816. On the 8th of May, 1838, he was married to Maria Zehr, with whom he lived forty-eight years to the time of his death. He enjoyed good health until the last year of his life.
On the 14th of January, as he was about to rise, he fell back and died in fifteen minutes. He was highly respected. Funeral services were held by Christian Reeser, P. Zimmerman and others."

His headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery calls him 'Debold Householder.' Marie/Maria/Mary is buried there as 'Mary, Frau von Debold Householder.'

_Herald of Truth_, August 1896: "Househalter. Maria Zehr was born on the 25th of September 1816, in Lorraine, France, was married on the 8th of May 1838, to Theobald Househalter. The union was blessed with eleven children, of whom eight survive, also fifty-six grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren, who with many other relatives and friends mourn their loss. She died on the 28th of June 1896, near Eureka, Woodford Co., Ill., and her remains were laid away on the 30th in the Roanoke graveyard. Appropriate services were held by Valentine Strubhar at the house and by Michael Kinsinger, Emanuel Hartman and John Schmitt at the meeting house. She was a faithful member of the Amish branch of our church and bore her afflictions with fortitude, longing for her release."

Thiebaut Haushalter /Debold Householder and Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr had 11 children. Four were born before the move to Woodford County, and seven after. Three children died as infants, and are not found on censuses. Of these three, two died from cholera. Taken altogether, these pieces suggest that their children include:

- A male child under age 5 appears on the 1840 census, and died before the 1850 census.
- Frederick Householder was born at Louisville, Kentucky Feb. 22, 1842, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 6, 1929. On Jan. 12, 1869 in Woodford County he married Katharina 'Kate' Imhoff. She was born in Butler County, Ohio March 1, 1845, and died at Fairbury Dec. 29, 1871, a daughter of Johannes/Johann Imhoff (or John Imhoff) and Maria Katharina Wagner (or Mary Imhoff). They are found on the 1870 census of Indian Grove, Livingston County as farmer Frdk. Householder, 26, Kentucky; Catharine, 24, Kentucky; George, seven months (Dec.), Illinois; and an illegible farm worker. _Herald of Truth_, February 1872: "On the 29th of December, in Fairbury, Livingston county, Ill. of consumption, Catharine Househalter, aged 26 years, 9 months and 29 days. She was sick nine months, and confined to her bed 10 weeks, yet she bore her affliction with patience."
- A second child died as an infant before the move to Woodford County, and does not appear on any census.
- A third child died after the move to Woodford County, and does not appear on any census.
- Anna/Annie Householder was born in Woodford County April 10, 1844, and died at Eureka April 30, 1939. She married Joseph Camp. He was born at Worth Sept. 7, 1842, and died at Eureka Dec. 7, 1928, a son of Joseph Kempf/Kemp/Camp and Magdalena Engel. See CAMP for more on this couple.
- Marie/Mary Householder was born at Worth July 26, 1846, and died at Eureka, Woodford County May 24, 1930. On March 1, 1866 she married Peter J. Kennell. He was born at Metamora Oct. 7, 1845, and died at Peoria Feb. 18, 1932, a son of Peter Kennel and Catherine Bachmann/Baughman. They can be found on the 1880 census of Fairbury as teamster Frederick Householter, 35, born in Kentucky to French parents; Annie, 22, born in Illinois to parents from France and Germany; Albert, 9, Illinois; and Louis, 6, Illinois. They also appear on the 1920 census of Indian Grove, Fairbury Township. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County. A second child died as an infant before the move to Woodford County, and does not appear on any census.
- Joseph Householder was born at Worth Nov. 22, 1853, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County April 1, 1938. On Jan. 14, 1875 he married Caroline Greiner; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey (according to the records of the Central Conference Mennonite Church). A second ceremony may have taken place Feb. 7, 1875 at Washington. She was born in Illinois Sept. 7, 1852, and died at Fairbury Jan. 14, 1933, a daughter of Michael Greiner and Louise Schuck. They relocated to Fairbury in 1883. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury.

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330 The identifying point is that the son who appears as Fred on the 1900 census was later called Debolt Householter. The _Social Security Death Index_ shows he was born in Kansas July 14, 1895, and died at Concordia, Cloud County May 18, 1974. On the 1930 census of Concordia he is Debolt Householter, and mistakenly states that his father was born in Illinois.
6. Magdalena 'Lena' Householder was born at Worth June 13, 1855, and died at Washington May 4, 1933. On Feb. 13, 1879 in Woodford County she married Andrew Schertz. He was born at Washington Feb. 25, 1854, and died there Oct. 31, 1928, a son of Christian Schertz and Catherine Engel. See SCHERTZ for more on this couple.

7. **Debold Householter** was born at Worth Aug. 21, 1858, and died Jan. 30, 1954.

8. Dora Householder was born at Worth Feb. 6, 1861, and died at Eureka April 10, 1935. On Jan. 24, 1884 at Eureka she married Christian B. Reeser. He was born at Eureka March 7, 1859, and died Oct. 28, 1940, a son of Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman. See RISSER/REESER for more on this couple.

**Debold Householter** was born at Worth Aug. 21, 1858, and died Jan. 30, 1954.

On Jan. 25, 1883 he married Anna Schertz. She was born June 16, 1863, and died at Olio Township, Woodford County Sept. 23, 1847, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Catherine Engel.

They are found on the 1900 census of Eureka, Olio Township as farmer Debold Householder, 48, born in Illinois in August 1852 to German parents [Alsace and Lorraine were occupied by Germany from 1870 to 1918]; Anna, 35, born in Illinois in June 1864 to German parents; Katie, 16, born in Illinois in May 1884; Peter, 13, born in Illinois in May 1886; Mary, 8, born in Illinois in February 1892; Ida, 4, born in Illinois in June 1895; and Emma, 3, born in Illinois in June 1896. They also appear on the 1920 census of Washington.

**Gospel Herald**, November 1947: "Householter. Anna, daughter of Christian and Katherine (Engle) Schertz, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., June 16, 1863; died at her home near Eureka, Ill., Sept. 23, 1947; aged 84 y. 3 m. 7 d. During the last seven years she suffered from the effects of a stroke. On Jan. 25, 1883, she was united in marriage to Debolt Householter, who survives. Also surviving are five children (Katherina - Mrs. Amos Neuhauser, Peter, Mary-Mrs. John Neuhauser, all of Eureka; Ida-Mrs. Austin Roth, Morton, Ill.; and Emma-Mrs. Wilbur Roth, Gibson City, Ill.), 17 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren. As a young girl she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Metamora, Ill. Mennonite Church, of which she was a member at the time of her death. A home-loving woman, she filled a large place in the home, community, and church. Funeral services were conducted Sept. 25 by Ezra B. Yordy at the home, and by Ben Esch and Henry R. Schertz, nephews of the deceased, at the Roanoke Church. Services at the cemetery were in charge of John L. Harnish."

**Gospel Herald**, March 1954: "Householter, Debold, the last survivor of eleven children born to Debold and Mary Zehr Householter, was born Aug. 21, 1858, in Woodford Co., Ill.; passed away quietly in his sleep Jan. 30, 1954; aged 95 y. 5 m. 9 d. He was married to Anna Schertz on Jan. 25, 1883. To this union were born one son and four daughters. Surviving him are a son (Peter, Eureka, Ill.), three daughters (Mrs. Amos Neuhauser and Mrs. John Neuhauser, both of Eureka, and Mrs. Austin D. Roth, Morton, Ill.), 17 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Preceding him in death were his wife and one daughter (Emma- Mrs. Wilbur Roth). He accepted Christ as his Saviour in his youth and was a member of the Metamora Mennonite Church. His passing marks the close of an era. From his birth, in a two-room log cabin to the settlement and development of his surrounding community is a pioneering accomplishment little recognized today. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, Feb. 2, with Ezra Yordy, LeRoy Kennel, and Ben Eash in charge. Burial was made in the cemetery nearby."
Yoder: Joder of Steffisburg

See the preface to ZIMMERMAN for information about the genetic background of the Joder/Yoder family.

ING genealogy had all the elements of a mystery: a pirate chase, an infanticide, a colony hidden in the forest, and a deathbed confession (foiled when the confessor pulled through). YODER genealogy brings the pieces of a puzzle: Is it possible there were brothers with differing DNA? Which children belonged to which family, when two mothers each had the same name? Who became an Anabaptist, who emigrated, and who did not? What might have been found in records that were destroyed by fire?

Theodor of Grammont was the first bishop of Octodorum (now Martigny in Canton Valais). He became a Catholic saint (see SWISS LEGENDS in the Appendix). The obscurity of Theodor is indicated by the scarcity of individuals and places named for him.

The Theodor-equivalent ‘Joder’ was found as a first name in pre-Reformation Canton Bern. The oldest document in the state archives of Canton Bern that shows ‘Joder’ as a surname is a confirmation of a property sale. It was made by Elsa, the widow of Ŭli Joder, on April 25, 1392. Elsa stated that her property on the Aebnit [now a road in Sumiswald, Canton Bern] had been sold to Künz Kürsener of Lugibach [Lugenbachgut in Sumiswald] for 13 pounds.

According to Karl and Ottmar Joder in Chronik der Familie Joder-Jotter (1977), a deed from Huttwil (10 miles northeast of Sumiswald) created April 25, 1403 and cited in Heimatkunde von Huttwil (1915) described parcels of land that included a bog at Huttwil ‘which belonged to Joder’ (it is not specified whether Joder was being used as a first or last name). They assumed from this that Ŭli Joder had also lived at Huttwil, which may or may not have been the case.

JORDI

Jordi is a diminutive form of Theodor, equivalent to Teddy. When discussing stories and theories about the early history of the Joders, the ‘elephant in the room’ is the Jordi family.

Recall from the preface to ZIMMERMAN that the Y chromosomes of Jordi family males are identical to those of many Joder males.

Americans tend to think of the Yoders (derived from Joder) as a very large family, and the Yordys (derived from Jordi) as a very small one. In Canton Bern the Joder-Jordi balance was the opposite, well before emigration altered the numbers. The Jordis have always been more populous and widespread there. They thrived in the parishes north and west of Steffisburg.

If the Joders lived in and around the more densely-populated parish center of Steffisburg for many generations – and this has yet to be shown with documentation – then later small numbers could only be explained if they had suffered drastic health consequences. It is conceivable that there were one or more cullings during plague years as recently as 1526 (and again in 1628-31).

The State Archives of Canton Bern has indexed the 1392 land document as a Joder document (though 14th-century goose-quill handwriting is often difficult to discern). However, two points noted in JORDI are inescapable:

- Huttwil is generally associated not with Joder, but with the surname Jordi. The Protestant Reformed Church at Huttwil was not established until 1753. Over the next 20 years the surname Joder does not appear once in its birth registers; the surname Jordi appears 32 times. It is a Jordi place of legal origin for citizenship rights [Ger. Heimat].
- The earliest Jordis in Canton Bern may have lived in the scattered farm houses that made up Wyssachengraben, which was then a part of the parish of Eriswil. Their records were kept at the Protestant Reformed Church of Eriswil. Over time the communities separated. In 1908 Wyssachengraben became Wyssachen. It now has its own church. In 1904 genealogist-historian Julius Billeter published the 164-page book The Jordi Family of Wyssachengraben-Eriswil, Bern, Switzerland. It culled details from dozens of Jordi marriages at Eriswil in the 1670s and 1680s. Eriswil is wedged between Sumiswald and Huttwil. This all suggests that early Joders were Jordis who took on the formal, Latinized version found on church and legal documents.

By road, Steffisburg is 26 miles southwest of Sumiswald.

We cannot imagine Joders at Steffisburg before the 16th century. There are not enough births, marriages, and loose ends in 16th century records to represent normal birth rates. We would also expect to see old branches in

331 Since Jordis were found to the north and west of Steffisburg, and because Steffisburg was a parish seat, it is inevitable that some Jordi family events took place there. The first marriage recorded there was between Margret Jordi and Niclaŭs Zimmerman Oct. 8, 1572; the first baptism that of Anni Dierstein, a daughter of Hans Dierstein and Anni Jordi, on Jan. 28, 1588.
surrounding communities, more than one Joder-to-Joder marriage between distant cousins, and Joders working on
the same farm or in the same mill who were only distantly related.

To the best of our present knowledge, by the mid-to-late 1500s all the Joders in the Old Swiss Confederacy
consisted of one family grouping at Steffisburg – one Caspar and wife, their grown children, and grandchildren –
and perhaps another family 15 miles to the northwest at Mühr bei Bern (see JODERS OF MÜR BEI BERN).

Their lowest numbers may have come in 1580, when a land purchase dramatically changed the family fortunes. Recall from STAKER, "The Yoder Newsletter cites Document K-893 of March 9, 1580, which has recently been
moved to the State Archives of Canton Bern. The deed describes land on the border of Steffisburg and neighboring
Fahrni [now Fahrni bei Thun]. 'The brothers Caspar and Nicolaus Joder, sons of the deceased Caspar Joder,
bought, together with the families Stücker, Steinmann, Blank, Roth, and Zimmerman related to them by marriage, a
large part of the March of Fahrni and jointly exploited it. '"

From that point forward Joders prospered and multiplied. They had interests in both ends of the production
process: raising grain, then refining it in the mills at Steffisburg. It is also possible that relatives at Mühr bei Bern
marketed their flour, grapes, and other products.

We estimate that the father Caspar was born before 1512. We have seen his first wife identified in a number of
modern sources as Margret Moser, but could not verify this from a record image. Their first child was born before
1534.

On Jan. 7, 1571 at Steffisburg Caspar remarried to Anni Moser. At age 59 or older it would have been his
second or third marriage.

Beyond the two sons, the children of Caspar Joder and his unidentified first wife (possibly Margret Moser) can
only be assumed from their age groups. There is always a chance that the seven individuals tentatively listed below
were born to other parents. But the naming seems consistent with one family. They include:

1. **Niclaŭs Joder** was born before 1534.333
   - Baltassar Joder was born before 1537. He is found as a witness to baptisms in 1557 and 1558. He married Anna
     Stähli. Their child baptized at Steffisburg was:
       a. Jost Joder was baptized July 18, 1557. Witnesses included Peter Berger, Hanns von Farni, Úli Eýman,
          Christina Schwender, and Barbal Marti.
     He may also have been the Baltisser/Baltasar Joder who married Margreth Zimper (or, this may have been a son of
     Baltassar who was not baptized at Steffisburg). Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:
       b. Margreth Joder was baptized May 28, 1581. Witnesses included Hans Rŭfiner, Christini Frey, and
          Margreth Eýman. She may be the Margreth Joder who had an illegitimate child Hans baptized at
          Steffisburg Dec. 10, 1610. The entry named the father as Peter Egli of Schangnau. Witnesses included
          Mathys Haberstock, Joseph Kropff, and Barbli Kropff. She may also be the Margreth Joder who married
          Peter Erb. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Anna, 1614; and Hans, 1617.
       c. Peter Joder was baptized Feb. 3, 1583. Witnesses included Hans Roth, Michel Graff, and Anni Farni.

   - Barbli/Barblÿ/Barbli Joder was born before 1537. She is found as a witness on baptisms in 1557 and 1566. On
     April 29, 1575 at Steffisburg she married Batt Graff/Grafen. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Hans,
     1583; and Barbli, 1585.

   - Anna Joder was born before 1537. She is found as a witness on baptisms in 1557 and 1560. She may have been the
     Anni Joder who married Bendicht Wenger at Steffisburg May 24, 1585.

   - Peter/Petter Joder was born before 1539. He is found as a witness on baptisms in 1559, 1566, and 1569. He married
     Madlena. Her full name is not found on entries for the baptisms of their three children. Their children baptized at
     Steffisburg include:
       a. Barbli/Barblÿ Joder was baptized May 5, 1566. Witnesses included Steffan Gisler, Elsy Zouck, and Anni
           --. On June 2, 1589 at Steffisburg she married Michel Linden von Undersen [Unterseen was a village
           that is now part of Interlaken, at the south end of Lake Thun]. The entry bears a Latin note ‘filia petri’
           [daughter of Peter]. She may have been the witness Barbli Joder at the baptism of Barbli Hadorn, a
daughter of Benedict Hadorn and Barbli, at Hilterfingen March 25, 1588.
       b. Trini Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 8, 1570. Witnesses included Úly Eýman, Anni Schaber, and
          Getta [Margretha].
       c. Hanns Jacob Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 3, 1574. Witnesses included Jost Leeman and Getta
          [Margretha], the wife of Peter Dummermûth.

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332 Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar were the names of the Magi in European mythology. They are not named in the Bible.
333 We found Niclaŭs as Nicklÿ at the baptism of Petter Zeisser Sept. 9, 1565.
Margreth Joder was born before 1540. She is found as a witness on baptism entries from 1560 and 1569. She may have been the Margreth Joder who married Hans Gasser at Steffisburg Jan. 21, 1581.\(^\text{334}\)

2. **Caspar Joder** was born before 1547 (based on his marriage year).

Elsÿ/Elsi Joder was born before 1545. She is found as a witness on a baptism entry from 1565. On June 14, 1573 at Steffisburg she married Jacob Müller. Their child baptized there was Barbli, 1577. Elsÿ/Elsi may also have been the Elsi Joder who married Hans Meÿer at Steffisburg Jan. 8, 1579. Their children baptized there include Hans, 1580; Elsi, 1582; Peter, 1585; Caspar, 1589; and Christofel, 1591.

Hans Joder was born before 1552. On Feb. 7, 1572 at Steffisburg he married Margreth Walck. He may also have been the Hans Joder who married Anni Wÿler at Steffisburg June 14, 1591. Neither marriage produced a child baptized there. A baptism entry with the names from the second marriage was created May 4, 1592, but leaves the child’s name blank – indicating death before the christening.

### Descendants of brother Niclaüs (of the 1580 land purchase)

#### Joders at the Aumühle

**Niclaüs Joder** was likely born before 1533 (based on the marriage year of his oldest son). He married Margaretha/Getta.\(^\text{335}\)

They were the parents of **Caspar Joder**, who was likely born before 1554 (based on his marriage year).

Steffisburg baptism records were not preserved before 1557.

On Nov. 14, 1574 at Steffisburg he married Anni Graf/Graff/Grafen. They operated the Aumühle [meadow mill], located on the banks of the Zulg River, in the center of Steffisburg. It was made up of three small mills. *Die Orschaften des eidgenössischen freistaates Bern* [The Villages of Canton Bern in the Swiss Confederation] (1838) describes the location “Au, in the, six houses there and several across the Zulg River.” The area is now Aumühlestrasse.

Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Hans Joder was baptized Jan. 1, 1581. Witnesses included Görg Falkëysen, Hans Meÿer, and Froni Rüsser. On Nov. 24, 1608 at Steffisburg he married Margreth Brönninan, in a double ceremony with his younger stepsister Barbli and Hans Wertmüller/Werdtmüller. Margreth was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 8, 1587, a daughter of Rûdi Bûneman [as found, presumably Brönniman] and Barbli Gaser [as found, presumably Gasser]. Their children include:
   a. Hans Joder was baptized Oct. 8, 1609. The entry names him Hans in the left margin, but Johannes in the text. Witnesses included Hans Linden, Elsi Blank, and Ůli Blank. He married Barbli Schwäar. She was baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 10, 1617, a daughter of Peter Schwäar and Verena Reüsser. Their marriage may be the one entered at Steffisburg Aug. 16, 1633 for Hans Joder and Verena Schwäar (Barbli would have been only six days past her 16th birthday). Hans was later described as *an der Langenegg* (in the pastures a few miles east of Steffisburg).
      1) Anna Joder was baptized April 24, 1636. Witnesses included Hans Leeman, Verena Galli, and Barbli Flûman.
      2) Barbli/Babi Joder was baptized Oct. 9, 1637. Witnesses included Niggli Hodel, Margret Erb, and Anni Marpach. She married Jost Holi.\(^\text{336}\) Their children baptized at Diessbach include Hans, 1657; Anna, 1659; Jost, 1660 (the parents described as Jost Holi and Babi Joder); Jost, 1662 (one witness was Caspar Joder); Ülli, 1663; Peter, 1665; Babi, 1667; Ülli, 1669; Madlen, 1671; Vreni, 1672; and Niclaüs, 1674.
      3) Verena/Vreni Joder was baptized May 9, 1644. Witnesses included Bendicht Wängen, Barbli Rot, and Verena Hertig. She married Hans Witwer. Their children baptized at Diessbach include Christ, 1666 (where the father is erroneously named as Christen Witwer); Hans, 1668; Jacob, 1671 (one witness was Babi Joder); and Hans, 1675.
   b. Caspar Joder was baptized Oct. 6, 1611. Witnesses included Caspar Kauffman and Elsbeth Leeman. On Dec. 8, 1643 at Steffisburg he married Anna Gengerich. A baptism entry created at Diessbach March 27, 1625 mentioned twin daughters of Christen Gengerich named Anna and Grett [Margreth]. One witness was Hans Walthart. The first evidence of Caspar’s presence in Diessbach is the name ‘Casp. Joder’ as a witness on the baptism entry of Steffen Gengerich March 16, 1645. Steffen’s parents were Christ Gngerich and Cathi Nusbaun; the other witnesses included Hans Walthart. Caspar and Anna had a child.

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\(^{334}\) Steffisburg records also spell the surname Gasser as Gassner and Gasner. But it had a specific meaning derived from *gasse* – someone who lived on a lane or alleyway.

\(^{335}\) Recall that a single page of the *Taufrodel* for Sept. 11, 1575 mentioned baptism witnesses ‘Nich Joder’s Frau Getta’ and ‘Caspar Joder’s Frau Getta.’

\(^{336}\) The online site of the Canton Bern state archive does not post images of Diessbach marriages from 1656 to 1690.
baptized at Steffisburg in 1648, then moved out to Diessbach and Kürzenberg, where another child was baptized the following year. Children of Caspar Joder and Anna Güngerich include:

1) Hans Joder was baptized at Diessbach in 1646. Witnesses included Hans Walthart, Hans Joder, and Magdalena von Diessbach. He died young.

2) Hans Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 1, 1649. Witnesses included Hans Spring, Andreas Mürer, and Madle Lügenbühl. He died young.

3) Barbli Joder was baptized at Diessbach April 21, 1650. The entry says the birth took place there; witnesses included Hans Hoffman and Madlena Walthart. She married Niclaus Moser. Their children baptized at Diessbach include Hans, 1670; Christ, 1672 (one witness was Christ Äbersold); Anna, 1673; Peter, 1675; Babi, 1677; Niclaus, 1679; Caspar, 1681; Christ, 1683; Salome, 1689; and Elisbeth, 1692.

4) Caspar Joder was baptized at Diessbach May 16, 1658. The entry said his birth had taken place at Kürzenberg; witnesses included Hans Rudolph Spangler and Verena Reüsser. He married Madlen Holli (as found on the entry). Their child baptized at Diessbach was:
   a) Babi Joder was baptized Feb. 8, 1680. The mother was identified as Madlen Halli. Witnesses included Niclaus Moser, Babi Bärger, and Babi Stucki.

5) Hans Joder was baptized at Diessbach Feb. 10, 1661.

b) Barbli/Babi Joder was baptized Nov. 10, 1616. Witnesses included Hans Blanck, Barbli Otz, and Margreth Landimann. She was a witness to Diessbach baptisms in 1654, 1655, and 1656, suggesting that she was living there with or near her older brother Caspar. She appears to have raised five orphans. Consistent with the customs of the time and place, she would have acted as their foster mother by arrangement with, and with the financial support of the Protestant Reformed Church. Five women with the maiden name Joder appear as mothers on Diessbach baptism records beginning in 1667. None had their own entries as Joders in the Taufrodel baptism registers of Steffisburg or Diessbach, and none had been married at Steffisburg. Perhaps we can assume they were married at Diessbach, but the village did not preserve marriage entries from 1656 to 1690. A large number of displaced children across the canton could certainly be explained by a single event: the Swiss Peasants War of 1653 (see SWISS ANABAPTIST EMIGRANTS for background).

   □ Vreni Joder married Christen/Christ Mürer. Their children baptized at Diessbach include Anna, 1668; Cathri, 1669; Bendicht, 1671; Jost, 1673; Peter, 1674; Christ, 1675 (he died young); Anni, 1677; and Christ, 1681.
   □ Anna Joder married Christen Müller. Their child baptized at Diessbach was Madle, 1669 (one witness was Christen Büllman).
   □ Elsi Joder married Christen/Christ Äbersold. Their children baptized at Diessbach include Anna, 1671 (one witness was Niclaus Moser); Elsbeth, 1673; Babi, 1677; and Madle, 1678.
   □ Barbara/Babi Joder married Hans Zimmerman. Their children baptized at Diessbach include Christen, 1677; Hans, 1678 (he died young); Elsbeth, 1679; Hans, 1681; Peter, 1687; Maria, 1688; Anna Barbara, 1689; and Michel, 1691.
   □ Ursula Joder married Christen Büllman/Bülman.337 Their children baptized at Diessbach include Ursula, 1680; Caspar, 1682; Ülli, 1683; Hans, 1687; Niclaus, 1689; and Christen, 1694.

   On Feb. 20, 1584 at Steffisburg Caspar remarried to Anni Meyer of Schwendi (now in Homberg bei Thun). He may have been the Caspar Joder von Steffisburg who appeared as a witness at the baptism of Anni Meyer, daughter of Hans Meyer and Margret, at Hilterfingen May 29, 1586.

   A financial document dated April 16, 1593 stated that Caspar Joder had become the operator of the Aumühle. Hans von Wattenwyl, a past mayor [Ger. Alt Schultheiss] of the city of Bern, was recognized as the lord of two-thirds of the mill.338

   Caspar may have remarried again on Dec. 3, 1591. If so, it would have meant that Anni Meyer died soon after the birth of their fourth child together. A marriage entry describes the bride as Maria Dübi (an unusual surname, but still found in Canton Bern).

Children of Caspar Joder and his second wife Anni Meyer baptized at Steffisburg include:

2. Anni Joder was baptized Jan. 17, 1585. Witnesses included Michel Graf, Anni Rüsser, and Christini Rüsser. On Jan. 10, 1620 at Steffisburg she married Peter Steiner. Their son Michel Steiner was baptized June 13, 1624, at the same time as his cousin Anni Joder, a daughter of Anni’s brother Caspar Joder and Margreth Erb.

3. Caspar Joder was baptized July 16, 1587. Witnesses included Hans Rüsthart, Hans Blanck, and Margreth Meýers.

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337 In Latin an ursula is a little female bear. Ursu is the Latin word for a male bear, the symbol of the city and canton of Bern.

338 Hans von Wattenwyl (1541-1604) was mayor of the city of Bern in 1582.
4. Barbli Joder was baptized Oct. 2, 1589. Witnesses included Niklaus Frutiger, Anni Blank, and Barbli Blank. On Nov. 24, 1608 at Steffisburg she married Hans Wermüller/Werdtmüller, in a double ceremony with her older stepbrother Hans and Margaretha Brönniman. Their child baptized at Steffisburg was Caspar, 1610.

5. Verena Joder was baptized Aug. 1, 1591. Witnesses included Hans Barb, Dori Graf, and Verena Stutzman. On Jan. 21, 1611 at Steffisburg she married Peter Linder. The ceremony took place on the same day as one for her brother Caspar and Barbli Linder. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Anna, 1613; and Hans, 1615. She may also have been the Verena Joder who married Niklaus Müller at Steffisburg Nov. 9, 1629.
   a. Andres/Andreas Mürrer was baptized at Steffisburg March 20, 1631. On April 7, 1651 at Steffisburg Andres/Andreas married Christina Reüsser. They appear as witnesses on a number of Joder entries. Andres/Andreas is found as Andres Müre on the 1681 Mosestafel tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church.

**Caspar Joder** was baptized at Steffisburg July 16, 1587, and died at Steffisburg Nov. 8, 1654, a son of second wife Anni Meyer.

On Jan. 11, 1611 at Steffisburg he married Barbli Linder, the ceremony took place on the same day that his sister Verena Joder married Peter Linder. She may have been the Barbli Linder who was baptized at Steffisburg Sept. 24, 1587, a daughter of Frantz Linder der Keffler von Coppingen [the coppersmith from Koppigen, 33 miles north of Steffisburg] and Maria Biberstein.

On June 9, 1623 at Steffisburg Caspar remarried to Margreth Erb. An estate settlement document dated Nov. 18, 1654 described Caspar as a miller *in der Au*, who left widow Margreth Erb.

Children of Caspar Joder and Margreth Erb include:

1. Anni Joder was baptized June 13, 1624. Witnesses included Hans Linder and Margreth Brönniman. She was baptized with her cousin Michel Steiner. On Feb. 16, 1652 at Steffisburg she married Hans Kislig. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Anna, 1653; Barbara, 1654; and Verena, 1656 (witnesses included Jost Joder and Anna Joder).

2. Babý/Barbli/Barbara Joder was baptized April 11, 1634. Witnesses included Michel Boo, Barbli Flüman, and U. Meý. On Jan 13, 1654 at Steffisburg she married Hans Gerber. He was baptized there Oct. 13, 1633, a son of Christen Gerber (found as Christen Gerver) and Lucia Schenk. Their child baptized at Steffisburg was Christian, 1662.

3. Hans Joder was baptized in February 1636 [the day is illegible]. Witnesses included Zacharias [Nafzger] der Schmid [metal smith], Meideli der Pfister [baker] zu Thun, and Barbli Rot. Zacharias was the forebearer of the Nafziger family; see NAFZIGER.

4. Margret Joder was born Jan. 23, and baptized Jan. 29, 1640. Witnesses included Hanns Jacob Güder, Zacharias Nafzger der Schmid, and Barbli Frey.

5. A child died before baptism in 1644.

6. The birth of Caspar Joder was entered in the baptism register March 18, 1650. The unusual entry names Caspar, Mar., and Caspar Jr. – parents and son – but not the surname Joder. Witnesses included Nigli Mürer, Jacob Ruchti, and Barbli Wantzenried. A Latin phrase says the child was not present to be baptized. The absence of a notated explanation or a later baptism entry suggest that he died.

**Hans Joder** was baptized at Steffisburg in February of 1636. His death was registered at Steffisburg March 19, 1719 as ‘der alte Joder in der Au.’

Under the estate settlement in 1654, Hans and his much younger brother Caspar received the mill and accessories. Three days later Hans signed a document agreeing that he owed four bushels of grain from the Aumühle as ‘annual interest’ to Samuel von Wattenwyl or his father Gabriel von Wattenwyl, district governor of Oron (a municipality in Canton Vaud).

On Aug. 13, 1656 at Steffisburg Hans married Verena/Fröni/Freni Reüsser. She was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 9, 1625, a daughter of Stephan Reüsener and Elsbeth Eicher. Their last child was baptized Dec. 26, 1669. Verena died shortly after this, and Hans remarried to Anna Wyttenbach at Steffisburg Feb. 9, 1672. Their marriage entry describes ‘Hans Joder in der Au.’ Anna died at Steffisburg May 2, 1705. A Totenrodel entry describes her as Hans Joder’s wife *in der Au*.

In 1707 a 1,000-pound loan was drawn, perhaps for the construction of a new mill. The guarantors were Hans Joder *in der Au*, son Caspar der Alt Kirchmeier, and son Jacob at the Pfaffenhalten vineyards (along the Pfaffenhaltenweg north of the village). The Aumühle was put up as surety.

Hans, 67, subleased the Aumühle to Jakob Tschaggeler in 1712. Legal contracts preserved at Thun also indicate that he purchased pasture land in 1715.
His grandson Jacob Joder der Jüng sold the middle mill to Jakob Stettler in 1714, then obtained the use of it on a lease the following year. Some of Hans’s grown children continued to be described as in der Au, suggesting they remained in a house there.

The 1,000-pound loan was paid off in 1719, the year of Hans’s death. Estate settlement documents from 1719 and 1720 for the late ‘Hans Joder in der Au’ identify the oldest son Caspar in the Gloggenthal with his sons Christen and Caspar, and another son Jacob of the Pfaffenhalten vineyards with his sons Hans and Caspar.

Children of Hans Joder and Verena/FRINGI/Freni Reüsser baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Margreth Joder was baptized Oct. 25, 1657. Witnesses included Niggli Moser, Anna Gëngerich, and Barbli the wife of a Linder.
2. **Caspar Joder** was baptized Jan. 2, 1659. Witnesses included Christen Werdmüller, Andres Mûrer, and Anna Gëngerich of Diessbach.
3. Jaggi/Jakob/Jacob Joder was baptized Oct. 7, 1660; witnesses included Hans Frey, Hans Spring, and Anni Trachsel. On May 30, 1684 at Steffisburg he married Margaretha Stühli of Oberhofen. She was born circa 1664, and died at Steffisburg Dec. 13, 1734. A child’s baptism entry from 1692 described the father as ‘Jacob Joder in der Au.’ The settlement documents from 1719 and 1720 indicate that by then they were living at the Pfaffenhalten vineyards. A document from 1721 described him as der Alt Seckelmeister [the former treasurer of the village]. He died at Steffisburg April 12, 1733; the entry describes him as Jacob Joder in der Au, 73. Children of Jaggi/Jakob/Jacob Joder and Margaretha Stühli baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Hans Joder was baptized May 17, 1685; witnesses included Ulrich Stucker, Christen Moser, and Anna Kolb. On Sept. 30, 1707 at Steffisburg he married Christina Moser. She was baptized at Steffisburg March 11, 1688, a daughter of Jacob Moser and Anna Moser. Hans remarried to Barbara Berger. She was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 21, 1692, and died at Steffisburg Jan. 23, 1778, a daughter of Ulrich Berger and Barbara Schmütz. He may be the Hans Joder der Alt in Gloggenthal who died at Steffisburg Dec. 28, 1757, age 70. Children of Hans Joder and his first wife Christina Moser baptized at Steffisburg include:
      1) Jacob Joder was baptized June 15, 1710. Witnesses included Jost Moser, Jost Joder, and Catharina Stauffer. He died young.
      2) Jacob Joder was baptized Jan. 3, 1712. Witnesses included Jost Moser, Jost Joder, and Catharina Stauffer.
      3) Hans Joder was baptized Aug. 12, 1714. Witnesses included Hans Joder, Daniel Zaugg, and Verena Joder.
      4) Anna Joder was baptized March 7, 1717. Witnesses included Christen Mûrer, Anna Meier, and Barbara Farni.
   b. Caspar Joder was baptized Aug. 14, 1687; witnesses included Hans Jenni, Jacob Moser, and Magdalena Stauffer. On Jan. 23, 1711 at Steffisburg he married Anna Meier. She was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 8, 1688, a daughter of Christen Meier and Anna Blanck. He died at Pfaffenhalten Sept. 12, 1762, age 76 (registered at Steffisburg). Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:
      1) Peter Joder was baptized Aug. 26, 1714. Witnesses included Christen Stauffer, Niclaus Schneider, and Verena Stauffer.
      2) Anna Joder was baptized Aug. 9, 1716. Witnesses included Jacob Joder, Verena Stauffer, and Barbara Farni.
   c. Jacob Joder der Jüng was baptized Nov. 10, 1689; witnesses included Jost Joder im Ortbühl, Hans Holi, and Anna Spring.
   d. Peter Joder was baptized May 22, 1692; witnesses included Peter Büchler, Peter Gerber, and Cathrin Freudenberger. He died at Steffisburg Aug. 4, 1775; the entry described him as a widower in der Au, age 83 years, three months.
   e. Verena Joder was baptized Sept. 23, 1694; witnesses included Hans Joder, Anna Stauffer, and Magdalena Joder. A contract preserved at Thun says that she and Christen Maurer of Oppligen (five miles northwest of Steffisburg) married in 1721. Christen Maurer subleased the Aumühle that year.
   f. Ulrich Joder was baptized July 9, 1702; witnesses included Christen Gerber, Caspar Joder, and Magdalena Joder. On Jan. 25, 1726 at Steffisburg he married Magdalena/Madlena Bürki. She was born circa 1704, and died at Steffisburg Sept. 14, 1766. Ulrich died at Steffisburg April 20, 1784.
   g. Jost Joder was baptized Dec. 13, 1705; witnesses included Zacharias Fuss, Caspar Büchler, and Anna Joder. He died young.
   h. Jost Joder was baptized Dec. 21, 1710; witnesses included Niclaus Meier, Hans Rüpp, and Verena Stauffer. He died at Steffisburg May 18, 1736.
4. Niclaus Joder was baptized Aug. 24, 1662. Witnesses included Niclaus Moser, Hans Gerber im Ättenbühl, and Barbli Müller. He died before the 1719 settlement.
5. Barbli Joder was baptized Nov. 13, 1664. Witnesses included Hans Gerber im Ättenbühl, Stini Meier, and Babý Joder (described as Caspar’s Tochter, daughter).
6. Hansli Joder was baptized March 3, 1667. Witnesses included Peter Meýer, Caspar Joder junior, and Anna Blanck. He died before the 1719 settlement.

7. Madlena Joder was baptized Dec. 26, 1669. Witnesses included Niclaus Hoffman von Herbligen [five miles north of Steffisburg], Barbara Staufffer, and Madle Moser. On Feb. 14, 1710 at Schwarzeneegg she married Matthiis Widwer [Wittwer]. On Jan. 12, 1720 at Steffisburg she remarried to Hans Bürki. The entry described her as the widow of Matthiüs Witwar of Schwarzeneegg. She died at Steffisburg Aug. 13, 1758; the Totenrodel entry described her as Magdalena Joder, 86, widow of Hans Bürki.

**Caspar Joder** was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 2, 1659, and died there April 18, 1735. His death entry describes him as Caspar Joder *der Alt in Gloggenthal*, age 70.

On Jan. 21, 1681 at Steffisburg he married Freni (baptism entry)/Verena (marriage entry) Staufffer. She was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 23, 1662, a daughter of Christen Staufffer and Freni Farni. She died there only 51 days after her husband, on June 7, 1735.

The 1682 *Mosestafel* tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has Caspar’s coat-of-arms board [Ger.*Wappentafel*]. It shows the detached black leg and webbed foot of a duck or goose (though later copies have changed this to resemble a crow or eagle) on a yellow shield. Oddly, it is identical to the board of Petter Blanck, *Obmann* [chairman]. Perhaps it was thought that a goose was an appropriate symbol for someone from a mill family.

Such a recognition at age 23 may have come because Caspar was working for the church. He is found on later documents as ‘*Kilchmeier*’ or ‘*der alte Kirchmeier,*’ A *Kilchenmeyer* was a person who collected money for the church. Although a *Kirchmeier* could be a tenant farmer on church-owned land, it also described an administrator of church property.

In 1721 Caspar leased the Aumühle to Christen Maurer of Oppligen, who had just married Caspar’s niece Verena Joder.

A legal document created in 1733 and preserved at Thun proposed a trade of properties within the family. Father Caspar, his son Caspar, and sons-in-law Christen Spring and Hans Zaugg would give up a pasture in the area of Röthenbach suitable for grazing 10 cattle. Sons Hans and Christen would give up two houses, a barn, an oven house, a granary, and property in Gloggenthal. The trade was voided in 1737, perhaps because of the death of father Caspar in 1736.

An estate settlement document created at Steffisburg Aug. 11, 1736 listed Caspar’s heirs as Hans, Christen, Caspar, Anna, and Barbara.

Children of Caspar Joder and Freni/Verena Staufffer baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Anna Joder was baptized April 16, 1682. Witnesses included Peter Jenni, Catherine Gerber, and Anna Füss. She died young.

2. Anna Joder was baptized May 20, 1683. Her father was described as Caspar Joder *in der Au*. Baptism witnesses included Jacob Moser, Catherine Gerber, and Anna Joder. On June 8, 1708 at Steffisburg she married Christen Reüsser. He may have been the Christen Reüsier baptized at Steffisburg May 27, 1683, a son of Christian Reüsier and Maria Elsbeth Delsperger. They lived at Erlen above Steffisburg. Anna remarried to Christen Spring. He was baptized at Steffisburg May 25, 1690, a son of Peter Spring and Barbara Meier (one witness was Hans Rŭpp *in der Au*), and died in der Erlen March 17, 1749 (registered at Steffisburg). A *Totenrodel* entry said that Anna Joder, the widow of Christen Spring, died June 24, 1759, age 74.

3. Barbara Joder was baptized Jan. 4, 1685, and died young. Baptism witnesses included Peter Jenni, Christina Mührer, and Catharina Krebs.

4. Hans Joder was baptized Oct. 24, 1686. His father was described as *Kilchmeier*. Witnesses include Peter Linder, Hans Spring, and Christina Maurer. He lived at Erlen above Steffisburg.

5. Christen Joder was baptized Feb. 15, 1691. Witnesses included Christen Güngerich, Christina Rüser [Reüsser], and Elsbeth Megerdt. On May 10, 1715 at Steffisburg he married Rosina Schwendimann. She was baptized at Thierrachern Sept. 18, 1698, a daughter of Christen Schwendimann and Anna Zimmerman, and died at Steffisburg May 19, 1765. Christen died at Hartlisberg, Steffisburg Feb. 11, 1773, described on the entry as age 80.

6. Caspar Joder was baptized Sept. 1, 1695. Witnesses included Caspar Joder, Peter Gerber, and Elsbeth Kipfer. He died at Reutschbrunnem (now a road in Schwendibach, adjacent to Steffisburg) March 27, 1771.

7. Peter Joder was born at Thun, but baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 18, 1700. Witnesses included Abraham Schulter, Hans Henni, and Anna Berner. Peter presumably died before the 1719 settlement.

8. Barbara Joder was baptized Oct. 29, 1703. Witnesses included Johanes Stäli, Magdalena Moser, and Barbara Stauffer. She first married Christen Gasser. He was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 22, 1700, a son of Christen Gasser von Belp and Barbara Wäglin. On March 7, 1732 at Steffisburg she remarried to Hans Zaugg. The entry described her as the widow of Christen Gasser. Hans was born circa 1701, and died at Steffisburg Nov. 2, 1779.
Descendants of brother Caspar (of the 1580 land purchase)
Joders on Ortbühl Farm

We can make a very hazy guess and say that Caspar Joder was born between 1534 and 1546. The entire time frame predates preserved Steffisburg church records. Caspar married Margretha/Getta Wyss.\textsuperscript{339} We could only identify two of their children, but at least two more are probable. They include:

1. If Caspar Joder was born and baptized at Steffisburg, it may have been before 1557 (the date of the oldest preserved baptism records). But it is also possible that his birth took place in one of the later years that are missing from the records (1561-64, 1567, or 1568).

2. Pauly Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 24, 1571. Witnesses included Hans Sürer, Anthoni Dummermuth, and Getta Wyss, the wife of Heini Farm of Thun [was this his mother’s cousin?]. We only found one other instance of the name Pauly at Steffisburg: on Oct. 29, 1559 a child Paulus was baptized, a son of Pauly Mayer and Ursula Tierstein; one witness was Caspar Joder. On Feb. 7, 1590 at Steffisburg Pauly Joder married Fronegg Hennig.\textsuperscript{340} He was only 18 years of age. Their children include:
   a. Anni Joder was baptized at Steffisburg April 18, 1591. Witnesses included Hans Dummermuth, Anni Stein of Thun, and Madlena Rüchtli. She married Hans Walder at Steffisburg April 28, 1609, 10 years past her 18th birthday. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Hans, 1610; and Peter, 1613.
   b. Caspar Joder was baptized at Steffisburg June 4, 1592. Witnesses included Nicklaus Frutiger, Nicklaus Bachman, and Anni Kauffman. Only 45 days after his 21st birthday he married Barbara Gürli. The ceremony took place at Steffisburg July 19, 1613. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:
      1) Barbli Joder was baptized April 7, 1616. Witnesses included Caspar Kauffman, Anna Reüüser, and Esther Breit.
      2) Anna Joder may belong in this family. She was baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 17, 1617; ‘ein ehrlich tochter’ [a legitimate daughter] of Caspar Joder. The mother was not named. Witnesses included Niclaus Küng and the wife of Niclaus Merli. If Anna was a member of this family, she died before 1626 (note the death of a daughter named Anni).
      3) Hans Joder was baptized June 10, 1620. Witnesses included Christina von Gütten, Rodolf Schwab, and Niclaus Lang. He was the village treasurer [Ger. Seckelmeister] of Steffisburg. On Feb. 9, 1666 at Steffisburg he married Margreth Reiff. Their ceremony legitimized the birth of a son born less than a month earlier. Their marriage entry bears a Latin note, ‘integro verse a puerpio’ [puerperium is the period immediately after childbirth]. Children of Hans Joder and Margreth Reiff baptized at Steffisburg include:
         a) Hans Joder was baptized Jan. 12, 1666. After the name of the mother the entry had the Latin notation ‘ancilla, ante nuptialem’ [maid, before wedding]. Witnesses included minister Uriel Freudenberger, Hans Gürtner, and Anna Meier.
         b) Barbara Joder was baptized Feb. 5, 1671. On her baptism entry her father was identified as Caspar Joder dorff Seckelmeister. Witnesses included Ludwig Dacitis, Christina Reüüser, and Anna Berger.
         c) Margaretha/Margreth Joder was baptized Feb. 26, 1675. Witnesses included Peter Büchler, Susanna DeLoose, and Magdalena Reüüser.\textsuperscript{341} On June 24, 1707 at Steffisburg she married Michel Jenni. He was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 15, 1676, a son of Peter Jenni and Susanna Kauffman. Her death entry registered at Steffisburg said she died at Homberg Jan. 12, 1757, at 81 years of age, the wife of Michel Jenni. His death entry registered at Steffisburg said he died at Homberg March 10, 1758, age 84.

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\textsuperscript{339} Margretha Wyss’s full name is found on son Pauli’s baptism entry. A single page of the Taufrodel for Sept. 11, 1575 mentioned baptism witnesses ‘Nich Joder’s Frau Getta’ and ‘Caspar Joder’s Frau Getta.’

\textsuperscript{340} When the surname Hennig is found in old Swiss documents, it may have been the same as Henni (also found as Jenni and Jendi). In Fraktur script if the letter ‘i’ comes at the end of a word it drops below the line and hooks to the left.

Other early Hennig marriages at Steffisburg: Batt Balli married Anni Henn July 1, 1583 (her name was Hennig on a 1589 baptism entry); Walspur Hennig married Christen Ball/Ball Jan. 9, 1589; Christini Hennig married Hein Rorer July 12, 1602; and Margreth Hennig married Joseph Tschabold No. 1, 1602.

\textsuperscript{341} Susanna DeLoose (1653-1711) was married to Thun councilman [Ger. Ratsherr] Isaak Deci.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Anni Joder may belong here. She was baptized Nov. 5, 1626, a daughter of Caspar Joder (no mother named). Presumably she died before her baptism was completed; a space is marked with an asterisk, and no witnesses are named.

4) Verena Joder was baptized Aug. 17, 1628. Witnesses included Jacob Reüsser, Elsi Boo, and Verena Ggügimler. She may have been the Verena Joder who married Christen Stagman at Steffisburg Dec. 12, 1651. Their child baptized at Steffisburg was Peter, on May 20, 1655; witnesses included Christen Werdmüller, Peter Eichacher, and Anna Drachsel [Trachsel].

c. Christen Joder was baptized at Thierachern Nov. 7, 1593. The entry was witnessed by Criste Cxnalt [?], Conrad Bischoff, and Hans Rotte. 342

We suspect but cannot prove that Üli Joder was baptized at Thierachern between 1600 and 1604, years of missing records. On Oct. 24, 1623 at Steffisburg he married Verena Joŭnner. She was baptized there June 10, 1597, a daughter of Bartli Joŭnner and Anni Wäber. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1) Anna Joder was baptized July 18, 1624.
2) Hans Joder was baptized in July of 1625. On Sept. 25, 1646 at Thierachern he married Anna Roll. On Feb. 7, 1667 at Thierachern he remarried to Anna Zimmerman. Their children baptized at Thierachern include:
   a) Anna Joder was baptized Feb. 14, 1669.
   b) Christina Joder was baptized Nov. 20, 1670.
   c) Johannes/Hans Joder was baptized Sept. 21, 1673. He may have married Elsbeth Mettler; they were the parents of Anna Joder, who was baptized at Thierachern in February of 1700.
3) Babi Joder was baptized Feb. 16, 1627.
4) Üli/ Ulli Joder was baptized March 21, 1630. He married Anni Meÿer. Their child baptized at Thierachern was:
   a) Barbli Joder was baptized in October of 1679.
5) Christen Joder was baptized May 24, 1635. On the entry no name was given, only a small ‘x’ in the left margin to signify a Christen. On March 7, 1676 at Thierachern he married Elsbeth Wenger. Their children baptized at Thierachern include:
   a) Christen Joder was baptized May 1, 1682.
   b) Elsbeth Joder was baptized in January of 1682. Witnesses included Hans Fürstenberg, Salome Trachsel, and Anna Graaf. Elsbeth Wenger died in or shortly after child birth. A Thierachern marriage entry says that the following month Christen Joder married Barbli Trachsel. This was perhaps a temporary arrangement for the sake of propriety – considered necessary while Barbli lived in the house to care for the newborn. In May Christen married a third time to Madlena Wenger at Thierachern. Their children baptized at Thierachern include:
   c) Anna Joder was born July 7, and baptized July 9, 1684. Witnesses included Christen Küntzi, Anna Steiner, and Barbli Jenni. She married Christen Güggsperg. Their son Christen was baptized at Thierachern Nov. 23, 1704; a side note on the entry said his father was from Belp, while his mother was a daughter of Christen Joder of Uetendorf. Witnesses included Jacob Büler, Christen Wenger, and Anna Wenger.
   d) Magdalena Joder was baptized Aug. 16, 1696. Witnesses included Michel Meÿer, Magdalena Althaŭs, and Anna von Bŭch.
6) Peter Joder was baptized Nov. 18, 1638. Witnesses included Nigglı Mûrer, Heini Farni, and Barbli Eichacher.

Hans Joder may belong here. On March 9, 1627 at Thierachern he married Elsbeth Baller.

Anna/Anni Joder may belong in this family. She may have been the Anni Joder who married Hans Enpen [Anken?] von Sanen at Steffisburg Dec. 3, 1591. On June 21, 1602 at Steffisburg she married Hans Blanck/Blank. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Margreth, 1607; and Johannes, 1610.

Madleni Joder may belong in this family. On Oct. 25, 1594 at Steffisburg she married Christen Lädliger. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Ursula, 1598; and Hans, 1601.

If Caspar Joder was born and baptized at Steffisburg, it may have been before 1557 (the date of the oldest preserved baptism records). But more likely it was in one of the later years that are missing from the records (1561-64, 1567, or 1568).

342 Conrad/Konrad Bischoff (1560-1629) was minister at Sankt Petrus Kirche [Saint Peter’s Church] in Thierachern. At various times he was also a minister at Thun, Wimmis, and Kirchlindach.
On July 4, 1596 at Steffisburg he married Margreth Hennig. They lived on Ortbühl farm on the west side of the village. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Peter Joder was baptized June 5, 1597. Witnesses included district governor Peter Schlapach, Niklaus Frö, and Anni Früti.
2. Margreth Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 8, 1601. Witnesses included Hans Zoügg, Dichtli Leenhart, and Madleni Rüchti.
3. Nicklaus Joder was baptized July 17, 1603. Witnesses included Uli Blank, Jacob Rüchti, and Anni Silberysen. He died young.
4. Barbli Joder was baptized Sept. 14, 1606. Witnesses included official Christiany Leeman and Hans Metzger’s wife from Thun.
5. Jost Joder. Many sources say he was born on Ortbühl farm at Steffisburg Nov. 30, 1607, but no baptism was recorded in the Protestant Reformed Church there.
6. Niclaus ‘Nigli’ Joder was baptized March 26, 1609. Baptism witnesses included Niclaus Spring, Peter Meier, and Uli Blank’s wife Elsbeth.

Jost Joder, husband of Anna Trachsel
Numerous sources say Jost Joder was born on Ortbühl farm at Steffisburg Nov. 30, 1607, a son of Caspar Joder and Margret/Margreth Hennig. In reality, only his name can be verified. It is only assumed that he was born on Ortbühl farm because he was assumed to be a son of Caspar Joder and Margret/Margreth Hennig. Yet, while there are Steffisburg baptism entries for all their known children, there is none for Jost. And the original source of the purported birth date can no longer be identified.

Jost may have been baptized in the adjacent town of Thun. Although the working set of records at Thun was destroyed by fire Feb. 8, 1772, an official had made copies two years earlier, and kept them in his home. But the entries for persons living outside Thun were lost.

Yet there is another anomaly. Jost’s descendants are born with an unusual genetic identifier: value 16 (length) of marker 19 on the Y chromosome, a chromosome only passed down through males. Other Joder-of-Steffisburg descendants have value 15 of marker 19 (suggesting that value 15 was the older base form).

Even with this, the door is still open for Jost to have been a son of Caspar and Margret/Margreth. Jost may have been the original bearer of a slight genetic variance that did not occur in his father and brothers. This can happen as often as once in every 20 generations. It generally occurs at even longer intervals.

And, a specific coincidence in Steffisburg records links Jost with his assumed brother Niclaus. Niclaus’s first child Barbli was baptized March 8, 1844. When Jost’s first child Hans was baptized April 21, 1644, the three witnesses were Peter Brönniman, Verena Meÿer, and Anna Joder. Niclaus had his second child Anna/Anni baptized April 13, 1645, and used the same three witnesses.

On Oct. 14, 1642 at Steffisburg Jost married Anna Trachsel, in a double ceremony with his assumed brother Niclaus Joder and another Anna Trachsel.

TWO ANNAS
While sorting through the names of Joder witnesses on marriage and baptismal records we were struck by numerous coincidences. Many of the surnames are clustered in one place: the records of the adjacent parish of Mühlethurnen, centered around a church eight miles northwest of Steffisburg. The parish was once called Thurnen; it was more expansive than its present boundaries, and took in Burgistein, Kaufdorf, Kirchenturnen, Lohnstorf, Mühlethurnen, Rümlingen, Rüti bei Riggisberg. The parish is only separated from the parish by Heimberg, which is in Steffisburg’s parish.


Two Anna Trachsels born in the appropriate time frame were baptized at Mühlethurnen. Anna Trachsel was baptized Nov. 19, 1620, a daughter of Jacob Trachsel and Anna Dippens. Anna Trachsel was baptized about four months later on

343 Ortbühl is now a country estate at the foot of Hartlisberg, between Steffisburg and Heimberg. An existing farm house was expanded into a manor house 1794-96. Michael Stettler’s article Ortbühl: ein Berner Landsitz (1960) can be found online. Written by a Swiss architect, it is largely concerned with developments after the mid-1700s.
344 As a Chorrrector Caspar undoubtedly knew church officials from Thun. We suspect but cannot prove that he was a witness for a baptism at Steffisburg in 1608. On Jan. 25 Christian Leeman and Esther Brett had a child christened Caspar. Witnesses were Caspar von Graffenried, Caspar Joder, and Lucia Schmid, the wife of the minister of Diessbach. Caspar von Graffenried (1574-1627) had been mayor of Thun in 1602. In 1615 he was governor of Baden, and was later a member of the larger general council of Bern.
March 18, 1621, a daughter of Rüff Trachsel and Salome Lötscher. We could not determine which Anna married which brother.  


In 1690, after it became known that several of their children had been re-baptized as adults, he and Hans Kauffmann offered to step down from the church panel.

An entry from the journal of Karl Manuel, mayor of Thun, says “…On March 21, 1692 I sent three men from the free court of Steffisburg as hostages to Bern (in accordance with orders given to me), because of the growing Anabaptist sects in the same free court. They are Jost Joder of Steffisburg, an elder consistory judge; Peter Roth of Fahrny from the Langeneggg, and Hans von Farni of Horrenbach in the Eriz.” Jost was 84 years of age.

The three were put up in the most expensive inn, and their families were required to pay their expenses for six months. Authorities were hopeful that this measure of pressure would influence their offspring and encourage religious compliance in the community. Rather it seems to have led to increased animosity and a few emigrations.

Children of Jost Joder and Anna Trachsel baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Hans Joder was baptized April 21, 1644, and died in 1713. Baptism witnesses included Peter Brönniman, Verena Mejer, and Anna Joder. On July 17, 1671 at Steffisburg he married Catarina Cathrin Reüsser. She was baptized at Steffisburg May 20, 1649, a daughter of Christen Reüsser and Babý/Barbli Käpferschmidt, and died before her husband. According to a 1678 baptism entry they were living at Muri (not Müri bei Bern, but a location in Steffisburg). After the death of Hans an estate settlement document names heirs as Christen, Hans, Anna, Barbara, and Verena. Daughter Cathrin was not mentioned, thus may have died before 1713; son Jost was not mentioned, except to say that he had been out of the country since 1695. The following year sons Christen and Hans sold the family house and land on the Bernstrasse in Steffisburg. Children of Hans Joder and Catarina Cathrin Reüsser baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Cathrin Joder was baptized July 28, 1672. On June 10, 1692 at Steffisburg she became the second wife of Christen Kolb. His first wife had been Cathrin’s aunt Barbara Joder. Cathrin died before the 1713 settlement. See Barbara’s information for background details including a list of Cathrin’s children.
   b. Anna Joder was baptized Jan. 25, 1674. Witnesses included Jost Joder im Ortbühl, Anna Wyttenbach, and Christina Mûrer. On Dec. 7, 1716 at Steffisburg she married Abraham Blank. He was baptized at

341 Muri is listed as a location within Steffisburg in Die Orschaften des eidgenössischen freistaaten Bern [The Villages of Canton Bern in the Swiss Confederation] (1838). Not to be confused with Müri bei Bern.
Steffisburg Oct. 30, 1670, and died at Steffisburg Aug. 22, 1746, a son of Hans Blank and Anna Büler. She died at Wasseregg (an Aare River crossing 60 miles north of Steffisburg) Feb. 9, 1747 (reported at Steffisburg); the entry described her as the 74-year-old wife of Abraham Blank.

c. Jost Joder was baptized Sept. 19, 1675. The German descriptive word Mennoniten did not differentiate between Amish Mennonites and Mennonites. Jost Joder is found on a census of Mennoniten paying a protection tax at Lachen in the Pfalz in 1717 (in that year only the head of household was named). Thus he had settled in a location adjacent to Lachen-Speyerdorf, where his father’s cousin Adam Joder had been living. In Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793 authors Hermann and Gertrud Guth translated a 1724 census entry from nearby Mussbach. Mussbach was the district administrative center 3.5 miles northwest of Lachen, in effect adjacent to it. "Johannes Joder, linen weaver, with a narrow home, and one-half Morgen vineyard. No wealth." It is thought that Johannes was a son of Jost born between 1697 and 1702. Johannes is also found on Mussbach protection tax censuses in 1738, 1743, and 1759. In 1738 he is found as Johann Jeder, a single male. In 1743 he is found as Johannes Jotter, his household included one adult male, one adult female, one son, and two daughters. In 1753 he is found again as Johannes Jotter, his household includes himself, his wife, and two children. A note says that he had lived there since 1723; and a recently-married daughter was living there with her new husband. In 1759 they were described as farmer and weaver Johannes Jotter, his wife, one son, and a daughter who had been married at Pfeffersheim (35 miles to the north). In 1768 the head of household at Mussbach is listed as Andreas Jotter, presumably the son of Johannes.347

d. Barbara Joder was baptized Aug. 4, 1678. The entry described her father as Hans Joder aus Muri in Steffisburg.

e. Christen Joder was baptized April 9, 1680, and died at Wolfbach (now in Homberg bei Thun) Nov. 26, 1750.

f. Verena Joder was baptized Feb. 12, 1682, and died young.

g. Hans Joder was baptized March 29, 1691. He may be the Hans Joder auf den Zülg who died at Steffisburg Dec. 20, 1775, age 84 years and nine months, described as a husband [Ger. Ehemann].

h. Verena Joder was baptized March 12, 1691. On May 7, 1714 at Steffisburg she married Peter Reüsser. She died at Steffisburg March 17, 1758; the entry described her as Peter Reüsser’s 64-year-old wife in der Au.

2. Anna Joder was baptized April 19, 1646. Witnesses included Isaac Tschaggelar, Barblì Flühman, and Verena Fÿg. She died as an infant.

3. Verena Joder was baptized Sept. 12, 1647. Witnesses included Wÿt Sägisman, Elisbeth Steiner, and Verena Kaüßman.

4. Peter Joder was baptized Oct. 28, 1649. Witnesses included Peter Blanck, Hans Zimmerman, and Barblì Kislig. Family notes say he married a Stähli. He is found on a tax list at Fertrupt below Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1699, where he purchased a house near his brother Christen and sister Catri/Cathrin. In Both Sides of the Ocean, J. Virgil Miller notes that a Fertrupt list describes Barbara Jotter, a single woman of 64 who was buried April 14, 1750. Was she a daughter of Peter?

5. Jacob Joder was baptized April 4, 1652. Witnesses included Abraham Trachsel, Peter Mey, and Anna Mürer. On Jan. 9, 1685 at Steffisburg he married Verena Kaüßman (a triple wedding with his brother Jost marrying Babÿ/Babara Rûpp and his sister Catri/Cathrin marrying Hans Rûpp der Jung). She was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 18, 1655, a daughter of Hans Kaüßman and Elisbeth Christener. Jacob and Verena were suspected of being Anabaptists. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

a. Hans Joder was baptized Nov. 29, 1685. Witnesses included Jost Joder im Orthühl, Bendicht Rohrer, and Margreth Blank.

b. Christen Joder was baptized Feb. 6, 1687. Witnesses included Ulrich Krieg, Hans Köng, and Ann Kropf. On the same day, Hans Räpp was baptized. He was a son of Hans Räpp (der Jung) and Catri/Cathrin Joder. Witnesses included Hans Joder in der Au, Peter Meier, and Anna Spring.

c. Anna Joder was baptized Sept. 16, 1688. Witnesses included Christen Güngerich, Anna Kolb, and Magdalena Kaüßman.

6. Anna Joder was baptized July 17, 1653. Witnesses included Steffan --, Anna Schneider, and Barbara Joder. She died young.

7. Barbara Joder was baptized Oct. 28, 1655, and died before 1692. Baptism witnesses included Hans Brönniman, Margret Carli, and Anna Strääl. On Jan. 28, 1684 at Steffisburg Barbara married Christoffel/Christen Kolb.348 He

347 In Both Sides of the Ocean, J. Virgil Miller says that Magdalena Joder, 102, died at Mussbach in 1732, the widow of Christian Zaüg. No Magdalena Joder was baptized at Steffisburg in 1629, 1630, or 1631, or married to a Christian Zaüg between 1646 and 1670. If this was a native of Steffisburg she may have been Barblì Räber, who married Christophe Zaüg at Steffisburg June 12, 1646.

348 According to Karl Joder, Barbara went with a Berger to Hardenburg, Grethen, Bad Durkheim, and Wachenheim in the Pfalz (these adjacent hamlets and villages run east-to-west across less than four miles). There was only one Berger couple having
was baptized at Steffisburg June 12, 1659, a son of Christoffel Kolb and Babÿ/Barbara Kauffmann. The child of Christoffel/Christen Kolb and his first wife Barbara Joder baptized at Steffisburg was Christoffel, baptized in 1689. On June 10, 1692 at Steffisburg Christoffel/Christen remarried to Cathrin Joder. She was baptized at Steffisburg July 28, 1672, and died before her father’s 1713 settlement, a daughter of Hans Joder and Catarina/Cathrin Reussner (thus she was the niece of Christoffel/Christen’s first wife). Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Barbara, 1692; Cathrina, 1694; Anna, 1696; Barbara, 1698; Verena, 1704; and Susanna, 1708.

8. Christen Joder was baptized May 10, 1657. There are two versions of his birth entry – one was mistakenly entered among the marriages in an Eherodel, and lined out. Witnesses included Christen Hueselman, Hans Rup, and Anna Joder. In 1679 22-year-old Christen was fined 50 Kroner for permitting Anabaptist Ulrich Muller to speak on his property at Thun. In 1674 Muller had been imprisoned at Thun and the city of Bern as a proselytizing Anabaptist. On March 10, 1684 at Steffisburg Christen married Babÿ/Barbara Gerber. Since their marriage entry does not indicate that she was born outside Steffisburg, there are two possibilities for her parentage: she may have been Babÿ Gerber, baptized at Steffisburg April 29, 1659, a daughter of Walti Gerber and Freni Farni; or, she may have been Babÿ Gerber, baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 25, 1663, a daughter of Christen Gerber and Babÿ Farni. A Swiss emigration tax entry dated April 8, 1695 suggests that Christen and Barbara were going to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines with younger sister Cathrin and her husband Hans Rup der Jung, whose tax entry was dated only four days earlier. Christen Joder is found on census lists of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1703 and 1704. He signed the second list, and the names match his handwriting. Other signatures include Jacob Hostetler, Hans Hueser, Christen Farni, Niclaus Blaneck, and Hans Zimmerman. Apparently Christen and Barbara settled at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1696, and lived at Fertrupt 1701-1712, but resettled at Emmendingen, Baden in 1714. There he would have lived near his cousin (once removed) Christian Rup, who leased the Hochburg estate at Sexau in 1713. In 1724 Christen applied to Christian III's administrators for permission to return to Alsace and live at Jebsheim, stating that he had previously lived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines for 18 years. Children baptized at Steffisburg include:

a. Peter Joder was baptized Aug. 2, 1685; witnesses included Hans Martin, Peter Gerber der Jung, and Salome Joder.

1) Bendicht/Benedikt/Benz Joder was born circa 1720, and died at Eguenique (adjacent to Menoncourt in the Terroire de Belfort) before 1773. According to Joe Springer’s Sorting Alsatian Yoders in the April 2017 issue of Yoder Newsletter, he came from Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace to lease the Le Maie farm at Menoncourt March 20, 1759 (background on the farm is given in SCHLEGEL and KLOPFENSTEIN). Heidolsheim is only six miles north of Jebsheim, Upper Alsace. He married Elisabeth Guenten (also found as Gunt and Gunté, suggesting this was the Swiss surname von Gunden, also found as Gundy). Following his death she remarried to his brother, widower Christen/Christ Joder. Children of Bendicht/Benedikt/Benz Yoder and Elisabeth Guenten include:

a) Barbara Joder was born circa 1753, and died at Heimsbrunn, Upper Alsace May 16, 1824. According to typewritten transcriptions of the Montbéliard Gemeindebuch, on Feb. 9, 1773 her marriage to ‘Christian Joder’ was recorded at Montbéliard.349 According to Chris Yoder, their descendants have value 16 (length) of marker 19 on the Y chromosome, a chromosome only passed down through males – indicating that Christian was also a descendant of Just Joder and Anna Trachsel. He died April 23, 1787. On May 24, 1789 Barbara remarried to Nicolas Liechty/Liechty. The ceremony took place in the home of Hans Wenger in the Blumenburgerwald, and was recorded at Montbéliard. Nicolas was born circa 1762, a son of Fritz Leichty and Barbara Frey. They farmed at Friesen, Upper Alsace. Her civil death entry created at Heimsbrunn described her as

children at Steffisburg between 1645 and 1660. On April 18, 1645 at Steffisburg Matthys Berger of Steffisburg married Anna Stauffer of Signau. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Gilgen Berger was baptized Apr. 26, 1646, and died young.
2. Hans Berger was baptized Sept. 5, 1647. On Jan. 7, 1670 at Steffisburg he married Anna Joder, a daughter of Niclaus Joder and Anna Trachsel.
3. Niclaus Berger was baptized March 10, 1650. On May 13, 1691 at Steffisburg he married Anna Rufenchacht von Hochstatten.
4. Madle Berger was baptized June 22, 1651.
5. Anna Berger was baptized June 12, 1653. On Aug. 15, 1679 at Steffisburg she married Christen Zimmerman.
6. Barbara Berger was baptized Jan. 13, 1656.
7. Matthias Berger was baptized March 9, 1657. On June 21, 1678 at Steffisburg he married Elisbeth Freudenberger.
8. Gilgen Berger was baptized July 4, 1658, and died at Rachholtern (now a road in Fahrni bei Thun) Dec. 8, 1721. He was described in the Steffisburg Totenrodel as a bachelor [Ger. ein alter Knab, literally old boy].349 One odd note was that there was a ‘Christ Joder’ of Munsingen who was living at Dung near Montbéliard in 1759. We suspect he was baptized Christen, and was a son of Hans Joder of Muri bei Bern and Elisbeth Lugibuhl, who were married at Munsingen May 28, 1713.
Barbe Joder, 71. It was witnessed by her husband Nicolas Liechty, 50, and son-in-law Pierre Kauffmann, 33, ‘les deux anabaptistes et fermiers.’ Children of Barbara Joder and her first husband Christen Joder include:

1. Johanes/Jean Joder was born circa 1782. He witnessed and signed the death entry of his brother Joseph Joder at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace April 6, 1803, where the entry gave his age as 21. On Oct. 29, 1810 he married Catherine Schad at Largitzen (adjacent to Hirtzbach). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Joter, 27. His father was identified as the deceased Cretein Joter, who had died at Pannja [French genealogist Thierry Huckel believes Pannja represented Allenjoie] in the district of Montbéliard Jan. 13, 1790 [Christen actually died in 1787]. His mother was Barbe Joterer, who was present and consenting. The bride was Cathrine Schatt, 27, a daughter of Davit Schatt and Anne Schatt, who were present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Nicolas Liechty, 30 (he signed as Claüs Lichti). The groom signed Johanes or Johann Jodnr, while the bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.

2. Joseph Joder was born circa 1786, and died at Hirtzbach April 6, 1803. His death entry mentions his mother Barbara Joder, and was witnessed by stepfather Claüs [Nicolas] Liechty and brother Johanes Joder.

b) Maria Joder was born circa 1757. Her story brought about an unlikely scenario: Joder/Yoders as witnesses at a Catholic wedding. Maria was baptized as a Catholic at Phaffans (below Menoncourt) March 21, 1773, becoming Marie Thérèse Joder. On April 20, 1773 at Phaffans she married Catholic Jean Claude Samps. On Nov. 6, 1786 at Morvillars she remarried to Jean Pierre Juillet. On Feb. 20, 1792 at Morvillars she married for a third time to Pierre Perronier. Their marriage entry described her as Marie Thérèze Yoder, 35, a resident of Morvillars. On Dec. 20, 1797 at Morvillars a daughter from her second marriage, Marie Agnes Samps, married Jean Gag. Their marriage entry described Marie Agnes as a daughter of the deceased Claude Samps and Tairaize Joder. Witnesses included Christe Joder, 77, a resident of Bettendorf [uncle and stepfather to Maria/Marie Thérèse]; and miller Jean Joder, 32, a resident of Morvillars [brother to Maria/Marie Thérèse, uncle to the bride]. The witnesses signed Christian Joder and Johannes Joder.

c) Elisabeth Joder was born circa 1764. On Jan. 16, 1787 she married Nicolas Klopfenstein. He was born circa 1766, and died at Bourogne Feb. 9, 1833, a son of Pierre Klopfenstein and Marie Engel. They farmed at Bourogne.

d) Jean Joder/Yoder was born circa 1765. He was a farmer at Morvillars. On Jan. 9, 1781 he married Barbe/Babi Stauffer. The ceremony was recorded at Montbéliard, where her father was described as Michel Stauffer of Binningen, Baselland (now actually in the city of Basel). She was born circa 1763, and died at Morvillars July 8, 1813. Her death entry described her as a 50-year-old farm equipment operator; her husband was not named, but she was not described as a widow. It was witnessed by her brother-in-law cultivator Joseph Joder, 56. At the same time they were living at Morvillars, Joseph Joder was living there with his wife Catherine Stauffer. Catherine and Barbe were sisters, so that Joseph and Jean were not only second cousins (once removed) but brothers-in-law as well. When their daughter Elisabeth married Claüs Schallenberg (as he signed his name)/Jean Chalemberg (as he appears in the text of their marriage entry) at Morvillars Nov. 14, 1815, one of the witnesses was Juste Joder, 68, a shopkeeper at Grandvillars. This was Elisabeth’s cousin (once removed) Joste/Juste Joder, the husband of Barbe Ernst. The entry also described father Jean as deceased. Like his second cousin (once removed), his death was almost certainly caused by the disease, starvation, and violence associated with military occupation of the area and the two sieges of Belfort. The first siege lasted from Dec. 23, 1813 to

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350 His death was recorded in the Gemeindebuch Montbéliard [congregation book] in 1787, and the remarriage of his widow Barbara Joder shortly afterward. There was no civil system that would have recorded events concerning Anabaptists. The County of Montbéliard was part of the Duchy of Württemberg until November of 1793, when it was occupied by the First French Republic and implemented the état civil system of record keeping.
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April 12, 1814; the second from June 18, 1815 to July 11, 1815 (see SCHLEGEL for background).

2) Christen/Christ Joder was born circa 1720, and died after Dec. 28, 1797 (when he attended the wedding of a niece). He married Barbe Gerig (also found as Guerick). According to Joe Springer, Christen/Christ’s name is found on lease documents in the Territoire de Belfort at about the time Bendicht/Benedikt/Benz leased the La Maie farm at Menoncourt. Following the death of Barbe Gerig some time after 1756, Christen/Christ remarried to his brother Bendicht’s widow Elisabeth Günten. Elisabeth must have died in or shortly after childbirth (circa Nov. 8, 1772), leaving a newborn, because very soon he married for a third time. Gemeindebuch Montbéliard noted on Jan. 12, 1773 that widower Christ Joder of Morvillars had remarried to widow Lisbeth Nafziger of La Maie farm: “…And on the 8th of January he brought his [new] wife into his home, and her daughter ran away to Belfort and became a Catholic. In spite of this there was many guests at their wedding, and Niclaŭs Plankt of Murrui [Niclaŭs Blank of Müri bei Bern] performed the ceremony. Even the good Glaŭs Engle [minister Niclaeus Engel of Montreux] forgot his misfortunes and came to the wedding of a man whose wife had died only eight weeks earlier.” Children of Christen/Christ Joder and his first wife Barbe Gerig include:

a) Jost/Juste Joder was born at Fontaine (next to Reppe) circa 1755, and died at Grandvillars Oct. 5, 1852. Circa 1776 he married Barbe Ernst. She was born circa 1757, and died at Grandvillars Aug. 5, 1841, a daughter of Christian Ernst and Barbara Nafziger. They became shopkeepers at Grandvillars. Her death was reported by her husband, who was 86. It named her as ‘Barbe Herntz,’ and listed her parents as ‘Christian Herntz’ and ‘Barbe Nafgre.’ It also stated that she had been a cultivator at Phaffans (next to Menoncourt). It gave her birthplace as ‘Pettonvillers,’ but may have meant Bethonvilliers near Menoncourt. Jost’s death entry exaggerated his age as 106, and stated that his parents were inconnu (unknown), but did mention that he was born at Fontaine (between Reppe and Menoncourt, seven miles east of Belfort) and that he was the widower of ‘Barbe Herntz.’ His death was reported by Christ Joder, 31.

1. Christ Joder was born at Morvillars Aug. 4, 1782. On June 8, 1799 at Grandvillars he married Elisabeth Klopfenstein. She was born at Rougemont Jan. 26, 1781, a daughter of Christian Klopfenstein and Marie Anne Wenger. We found the marriage of ‘Christ Hjoder’ and Elizabeth Kloebstein listed in the Grandvillars civil index under the matching Republican Calendar date 20 Prairial 7, but not the actual entry. Entries for the Republican calendar years 7 and 8 – roughly 1799 and 1800 – are missing from the FHL microfilm series and online archive. According to second hand information, the original paper entry names Christ’s parents as Juste Joder and Elisabeth Hernest.

2. Johannes (as he signed his own name)/Hans/Jean Joder was born at Morvillars in 1785, and died at Bourogne (adjacent to Morvillars) March 19, 1834. On July 10, 1809 at Bourogne he married Marie Klopfenstein, who was born there circa 1791, and died at Florimont March 20, 1864, a daughter of Nicolas Klopfenstein and Elizabeth Joder living at Bourogne. Jean’s age was given as 23 years, eight months, and 11 days. His parents were described as Juste Joder and Barbe Hernest, cultivators at Grandvillars, and Jost signed the entry. The groom signed 'Johannes Joder.' Both sets of parents were present and consenting. In 1810 they were described as cultivators at Grandvillars. Jean's death entry gave his age as 49, and described him as someone who was born at Morvillars but resided in Grandvillars. It named his parents as Juste Joder and Elisabeth Ernst, and said that he had died in the home of Elisabeth Joder, the widow of Nicolas Klopfenstein.

b) Barbe Joder was born at Morvillars circa 1756, and died at Grandvillars April 27, 1820. She married Jean Schad of Brebotte. On Feb. 27, 1795 at Brebotte she remarried to his brother Christen/Christ Schad. He signed their marriage entry Christen Schad; she signed with an ‘x,’ indicating she was illiterate. He was born circa 1758, and died during the siege of Belfort Feb. 13, 1814. It is probable that the brothers were sons of the parents named on the marriage entry of Gaspar Schad, created at Brebotte June 2, 1794. It named Jean Hulrick Schad and
Catherine Lindre, residents of Brebotte. Barbe’s civil death entry described her as the 64-year-old widow of Christ Schaad. It said that she was born at Morvillars, a daughter of Christ Joder and Barbe Guerick, and was witnessed by her older brother Jost. Children of Barbe Joder and her first husband Jean Schad include:

1. Elisabeth Schad was born at Brebotte March 10, 1773, and died at Dasle, Doubs (six miles southeast of Montbéliard, 10 miles south of Sevenans) Feb. 27, 1838. On Nov. 29, 1801 at Sevenans she married Christ Rothe. Their marriage entry described the groom as farmer Christe Rothe, 28, a widower living at Sevenans. He was born on Des Gouttes farm at Exincourt Sept. 25, 1753, and died at Dasle, Doubs Dec. 31, 1834, a son of Jacob/Jacques Roth and Anne/Aneli Frey. His first wife had been Maria Kerique, who had died at Sevenans June 27, 1799. The bride was described as Elisabeth Chade, 27, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Chade, who had died at Brebotte, and Elisabeth Joder.

2. Joseph Schad was born circa 1792. On Dec. 29, 1814 an Extract Mortuaire report stated that 'Joseph Schaad,' a conscrit réfractaire from Grandvillars, had been brought to a military hospital from Montaigne prison in Paris, where he had been incarcerated as a deserter. He entered the hospital July 5, 1813, and died there July 19. He was 21 at the time of his death.

The child of Christen/Christ Joder and his second wife Elisabeth Günten was:

c) Magdalena Joder was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace (above Heidolsheim) circa Nov. 12, 1772, and died at Wilmot, Ontario in 1851. Her mother died in or shortly after childbirth. On Sept. 29, 1793 at Friesen, Upper Alsace she married Johannes/Hans Liechti. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 16, 1756, and died at Wilmot Oct. 23, 1839. Their marriage entry described the groom as Johannes Liechtï, 28 [thus born circa 1765], a son of Fritz Liechtï and Barbara Frey. The bride was Magthalena Joter, 20, born at Muzig, a daughter of Christen Joter and Elisabeth Günt. The bride’s father signed as ‘Christian Jodnr.’ Liechtis and Joders from Morvillars would farm at Grantzelen, the castle estate of the Château de Hirtzbach at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace (see LITWILLER for background on this location owned by Baron Charles de Reinach). This couple emigrated from Europe in 1825, and resettled at Wilmot, Ontario (see Wilmot background in ROPP). The 1830 survey map of Wilmot shows Nicholas Leighty and their son Christian Leighty on 150-acre sections 8 and 10 on the south side of Erb Street. The Liechtis would have known the Ropp family from Upper Alsace, and Andreas Ropp claimed a lot that touched corners with their.

b. Christen Joder’s death was notated March 20, 1687 in the Steffisburg Taufrodel baptism register (‘defuncto’ before baptism therefore not baptized, name crossed out). Witnesses included Hans Moser, Hans Rüpp, and Cathrin Krebs. The entry was made on the same day (die Palmarum or Palm Sunday) as a baptism entry for Christina Joder, daughter of Jost Joder and Christina Schlacht.

9. Anna Joder was baptized May 15, 1659. Witnesses included Peter Carli, Madlena Sillinger, and Stini Reüsser. On Dec. 13, 1680 at Steffisburg she married Christen Blank (their marriage entry called her Anni Joder). He was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 14, 1656, a son of Hans Blank and Margreth Carli. He would be described in church records as a ‘heretic Anabaptist’ and a ‘disobedient Anabaptist.’ For background on this couple, see PLANK.

10. Jost Joder was baptized Nov. 17, 1661. Witnesses included Caspar Joder im Kürzenb. [Kürzenberg]; Peter Linder, and Elisabeth Freüdenberg. On Jan. 9, 1685 at Steffisburg he married Babï/Barbara Rüpp (a triple wedding with his brother Jacob marrying Verena Kaïffman and sister Catrî/Cathrin marrying Hans Rupp der Jüng). Recall the 1703 report that places Jost with his sister Anni on an estate at Le Vernoy in 1703. A decade later they were living at Dambenois (10 miles east of Le Vernoy, 11 miles south of Belfort). In 1727 they were at Exincourt (five miles southwest of Dambenois). Their children include:

a. Barbara Joder was baptized at Steffisburg Aug. 29, 1686. Witnesses included Christen Blank, Cathrin Reüsser, and Salome Joder.

b. Anna Joder was baptized at Steffisburg July 1, 1688. Witnesses included Jost Joder, Anna Carli, and Anna Kolb.

c. Jost Joder was born between 1689 and 1699. He married Anneli Kropf. She was the mother of a child born circa 1720, and perhaps another born before 1730. Before 1844 Jost remarried to Anne Strite [as found in Montbéliard civil records, likely Streit or Streid from Canton Bern]. She was born circa 1705. It could not be ascertained whether she was the mother of his first child, or two. In 1759 they were farming at Dung (three miles west of Montbéliard). Jost was selected as a deacon at Montbéliard Oct. 19,
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1766. He died before 1792. Anne died at Étobon Sept. 3, 1794. Her civil death entry described her as the 89-year-old widow of miller Jost Joder. It was witnessed by Françoise Joder, daughter of the deceased, who signed her name ‘freni joder.’ Children of Jost Joder include:

1) Christen Joder/Christe/Christian Yoder was born circa 1720, likely at Sochaux (on the east side of Montbéliard), and died at Belfort Sept. 21, 1797. Circa 1744 he married Anne Hochstetler. She was born circa 1726, and died at Belfort Sept. 28, 1796. Some sources name her parents as Christ Hostettler and Elisabeth Ulrich; we could not identify a record that might confirm this. In 1759 they were living at Brognard (adjacent to Dambenois). By 1761 they lived at Brevilliers (seven miles southwest of Dambenois, seven miles southwest of Belfort, not to be confused with Brevilliers adjacent to Belfort). On the 1778 congregational marriage record of a son, Christen was described as ‘Christ de Sochaux.’ Anne died in their home on the Rue de Barre at Belfort. Her death entry described her as anabatis Anne Hoestel, the 70-year-old wife of farm equipment operator Christe Yoder, a resident of Belfort. He was described as Christe Joder, 72, a resident of Bettendorf [Upper Alsace], when he attended the marriage of Thérèse Yoder and Pierre Perrouvier at Morvillars Feb. 20, 1792. He signed ‘Christian Joder.’ Christen died in the home of his son-in-law David Stoll at Belfort. His death entry described him as 77-year-old Christe Yoder, anabatis, a resident of Belfort, and was witnessed by Stoll. Their children include:

a) Hans/Jean Joder was born circa 1744, and died at Méziré (12 miles below Belfort, adjacent to Morvillars) Dec. 10, 1804. He married Catherine Klopfenstein. She was born on the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont, Territoire de Belfort (adjacent to Rougemont-le-Château) March 28, 1753, and died at Belfort Jan. 10, 1802, a daughter of Jean Klopfenstein and Anna/Anne Graber. Her death entry, witnessed by her brother Michel, described her as the 48-year-old wife of Jean Joder, a cultivator living at Belfort. Hans/Jean’s death entry described him as Jean Joder, 60; it was witnessed by his illiterate son-in-law Gaspard Lindre [Caspar Linder]. Their children include:

1. Catherine Joder was born circa 1774. On Jan. 3, 1792 her marriage to Kaspar/Caspar/Gaspard Lindre was recorded at Montbéliard. Notes say that he had used foul language to such an extent that some ministers would not marry them. Peter Richen performed the ceremony. He was born circa 1761, and died at Méziré Oct. 11, 1809. His death entry was witnessed by his wife Catrine Jodre, described as a cultivator at Méziré. He was described as Gaspart Lindre, 48.

2. Barbara Joder was born at Méziré Dec. 1, 1784. On May 26, 1804 at Belfort she married Pierre Gueman [Guiman]. Their marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Pierre Gueman, age 25 years and five months, born at Verlan [Verlans], Haut-Saône (10 miles southwest of Belfort) Dec. 5, 1778. He was a resident of Baone [Byans adjacent to Verlans]. His parents were cultivator Jean Gueman and Magdelaine Marchant, residents of Baone. The bride was described as Barbe Joder, age 19 years and five months, born at Méziré Dec. 1, 1784. She was a daughter of cultivator Jean Joder, a resident of Belfort who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Klopfenstein. Witnesses included uncles Jacques Klopfenstein, 36, and Joseph Klopfenstein, 34; Christ Joder, 26, second cousin of the bride; and Jacques Joder, 41, an uncle; all residents of Belfort. A few of the signatures looked like Hans Joder, Jacob Joder, Peter Guiman, Barbra Joder, and Christ Jodnr.

3. Christe/Chrétien Joder was born at Méziré circa 1789. On Feb. 13, 1810 at Méziré he married Anne Catherine Klopfenstein. Their marriage entry describes the groom as laborer Christe Jodre, 21, a son of the deceased Jodre [the first name mistakenly written as Juste is crossed out] and Catrin Klobstain. The bride was Anne Catriine Klobstaine, born at Roguemont, a daughter of the deceased Christe Klobstaine and Catrine Veginre [Wenger], who was present. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-groom Joseph Joder, 48, of Morvillars; and cousin-of-the-bride Pierre Klobstaine, 24, of Roguemont. He remarried to Barbe Schott [Schad] in the Mennonit meeting on St. Jakob farm at Basel in April of 1816. She was born at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace (six miles northwest of Basel) Nov. 17,
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2. Catherine Joder was born Jan. 13, 1784.

3. Marie Joder was born Nov. 14, 1785, and died at Danjoutin Sept. 17, 1808. Her death entry described her as Marie Joder, 22, a daughter of Christ Joder and Elisabet Lement. It was witnessed by father Christe Joder and uncle David Seetol.

4. Frena Joder was born June 12, 1787.

5. Simon Joder/Yoder was born June 4, 1789, and died in 1870. He married Marie Stuckey. She was born Sept. 10, 1803, and Dec. 20, 1865. The 1850 census of French Township in Adams County, Indiana shows Simon Yutter, 62; Mary, 53; Barbara Stuckey, 50; and Christian Slaghter [Schlatter]; all Germany. John Yutter, 25, lived in the same town; and Joseph Yutter, 25, lived in Wabash Township.

6. Christ Joder was born Jan. 4, 1795 (several sources say Andelnans, but no entry is found there), and died young.

7. Christe Joder/Jodre/Christ Yoder was born at Charmois (adjacent to Bourogne and Froidefontaine) Jan. 2, 1796, and died in Wayne
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County, Ohio Sept. 6, 1850. His birth entry identifies his parents as Christe Jodre and Elizabethe Lheemann/Lisli Lemann. On Dec. 23, 1822 at Danjoutin he married his cousin Marie Yoder. The civil entry described the groom as weaver Christ Yoder, 26, born at Charmois, a son of the deceased Christ Yoder and Elisabeth Lemann. The bride was Marie Yoder, 33, born at Belfort, a resident of Danjoutin. She was a daughter of Jacques Joder, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Geoimen [Gaúman], who died at Belfort Feb. 17, 1800. She was born at Belfort Nov. 25, 1790, and died in Wayne County, Ohio April 9, 1882.

1. Magdalena Joder married Johannes/Jean Liechty. They were living at Bettendorf, Upper Alsace Jan. 30, 1804, when a son Joseph was born. Note that Magdelana’s grandfather Christ Joder (born circa 1720) had given his residence as Bettendorf when he appeared as a 72-year-old marriage witness at Morvillars in 1792.

2. Barbara Joder married Jacob/Jacques Liechty. They were living at Bettendorf June 7, 1804, when a son Jacques was born. Jacques Liechty, 38, applied for a passport at Colmar Jan. 3, 1841. He was accompanied by a wife and eight children. They were residing at Altkirch, where he was a domestic servant. Destination New York.

3. Joseph Joder was born at Morvillars circa 1787. On June 7, 1810 at Morvillars he married Anne Stocky. Their marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Joder, age 22 years and eight months, born at Morvillars and a resident. He was a son of cultivator Joseph Joder and Catherine Stauffer, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Anne Stocky, age 22 years and seven months. She was a daughter of cultivator Benoit Stocky of Grandvillars and Anne Richen. Witnesses included brothers-of-the-bride Crist Stauffer, 21, and Jacques Stocky, 29; and her cousin Pierre Stauffer, 29, a cultivator residing at Morvillars. Jacques signed his name ‘Jacob Stŭckÿ.’

4. Michel Joder was born at Grandvillars Oct. 13, 1805. On Jan. 23, 1827 at Morvillars he married Françoise Frey. Their marriage entry described the groom as Michel Yoder, born at Grandvillars Oct. 13, 1805 and a resident there. His parents were the deceased Joseph Yoder, who had died April 13, 1814, and Catherine Stauffer, who had...
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Michel was accompanied by surrogate guardian Christe Yoder, who was consenting. The bride was described as Françoise Frey, born at Chatenois Aug. 30, 1804 but a resident of Morvillars. Her parents were cultivator Jacques Frey, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Meyer; she had died at Châtenois Jan. 28, 1810. Witnesses included brother-of-the-groom Joseph Yoder, 34, a resident of Grandvillars; paternal cousin-of-the-groom cultivator Jean Yoder, 35; Jean Chalemberg [elsewhere he signed his own name Claut Schallenberg], a 30-year-old shopkeeper in Morvillars, described as a brother-in-law [not exactly - he had married Elisabeth Joder, a daughter of Jean Joder/Yoder and Barbe/Babi Stauffer]; and cultivator Jacques Frey, a brother of the bride.

h) Jacob/Jacques Joder was born at Rougemont (per his death entry) circa Sept. 16, 1761, and died at St. Ulrich, Upper Alsace Oct. 21, 1838. He married three times. On Nov. 23, 1788 his marriage with Anne/Anneli Gaumann [Gaüman] was recorded at Montbéliard. She died at Belfort Feb. 17, 1800. Their children include:

1. Marie Joder was born at Belfort circa 1789 (per her marriage entry, though Nov. 28, 1790 is also found), and died in Wayne County, Ohio April 9, 1882. For background on her marriage to her cousin Christ Joder see his information.

2. Anne Joder was born in the Territoire de Belfort Feb. 29, 1794, and died there June 16, 1801.

On April 13, 1800 at Belfort Jacob/Jacques remarried to Anne Graber. Their marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacques Joder, a resident of Belfort, the widower of Marie Anne Guemet. He was aged 38 years, seven months, and 14 days, a son of Christianne Joder and Anne Hoschtelder of Brevilliers. The bride was a resident of Verlant in the department of Haute-Saone [possibly Valay or Velay, each about 85 miles west of Belfort]. She was born at Verlant Oct. 16, 1779, aged 20 years, six months, and 14 days, a daughter of Jean Graber and Christine Schvari [Schwari] of Verlant. Witnesses included cultivator Joseph Klopfenstein, 27, cousin of the bride; cultivator Jacques Klopfenstein, 30, cousin of the bride; cultivator Christ Joder, 48, brother of the groom; and David Stoll, 43, brother-in-law of the groom. The groom signed 'Jacob Joder,' while the bride signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate. Anne/Anneli died at Hochstatt, Upper Alsace (below Mulhouse) Aug. 15, 1808. Their children include:

3. Christ (birth entry)/Christian (as he signed his own name) Joder was born at Belfort April 5, 1801. Like his father, he married three times. On April 19, 1824 at Luemschwiller he married Catherine Boshart. She was born at Geishouse, Upper Alsace Nov. 25, 1784, and died at Luemschwiller Nov. 2, 1824, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Boshart and Anne Marie Müller. For background on her family and first marriage (a caretaker arrangement with a 68-year-old) see BOSHART in the Appendix. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 23-year-old cultivator residing at Luemschwiller. He was born at Belfort, a son of resident cultivator Jaques Joder [he signed 'Jacob Joder'], who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Graber, who died at Hochstatt Aug. 7, 1815. The bride was described as Catherine Bosard, born at Geishausen in the parish of Saint Amarin; widow of the deceased Francois Joseph Möglin, who had died at Meyenheim Dec. 1, 1817. Mother-of-the-bride Anne Marie Müller was present and consenting. The place of death of Jean/Hans Boshart was identified as 'Vittenheim,' near Mulhouse. The entry was witnessed by cultivators Joseph Ropp, 25, and Jean Ropp, 25. On Oct. 31, 1825 at Luemschwiller Christian remarried to Catherine Stauffer. Their marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christ Joder, 25, born at Belfort but a resident of Luemschwiller. His parents were cultivator Jacques Joder, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Graber, who had died at Hochstatt Aug. 15, 1820. Christ was the widower of Catherine.
Bosard, who had died at Luemschwiller Nov. 2, 1824. The bride was described as Catherine Staufer, 25, born at Bettendorf but a resident of Illfurth. Her parents were cultivator Pierre Staufer, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Elisabeth Gausner, who had died Dec. 22, 1801. One witness was cultivator Michel Nafzger, 23. Catherine Staufer died at Altkirch Dec. 30, 1854. On May 12, 1855 at Luemschwiller Christian married for a third time to the much younger Catherine Kauffmann. Their marriage entry described him as day laborer Christ Joder, 55, born at Belfort April 5, 1801. He was the widower of Catherine Stauffer, who had died at Altkirch Dec. 30, 1854. His parents were the deceased Jacques Joder, who died at St. Ulrich Oct. 21, 1838, and the deceased Anne Graber, who died at Hochstatt Aug. 15, 1807. The bride was described as Catherine Kauffmann, 22, born at Luemschwiller Sept. 30, 1832. She was a daughter of cultivator Jacques Kauffmann, 55, and Catherine Stucky, 60, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included carpenter Jacques Kauffmann, 28, the bride’s brother; cultivator Chrétien Joder, 36, her uncle; and cultivator Pierre Rath [Roth], 51, her uncle.

4. Daniel Joder was born at Belfort Feb. 2, 1803. Witnesses on his birth entry included cultivator Daniel Graber, 37, and domestic servant Françoise Stoll, 23.

5. Anne Joder was born at Belfort Jan. 4, 1805. One witness on her birth entry was Christ Graber, 28. She died there March 10, 1806. Her death entry said she was born at Belfort, and had died at 14 months in their home at house number 33, Rue de la Surveillance. Her parents were described as Belfort cultivator Jacques Joder, 53, and Anne Graber.

Jacob Jacques married for a third time to Catherine Gaus. She was named as his widow on a death entry created at St. Ulrich, Upper Alsace (11 miles southwest of Luemschwiller) Oct. 21, 1838. It described him as Jacques Joder, 78, born at Rougemont.

i) Jean/Hans Joder was born at Brevilliers circa 1763. He was roughly 19 years younger than his oldest brother of the same name. He became a weaver at Froidefontaine (adjacent to Morvillars, Bourogne, and Grandvillars). On Nov. 12, 1786 his marriage to Babi/Elisabeth Lehmann was recorded at Montbéliard. She was described as a daughter of Simon Lehmann of Ganzweiler in Alsace [perhaps Ganzweiler, Germany?], working on La Maie farm at Menoncourt. She was a daughter to Simon Lehmann and Marie Guemann; and a sister to Liese Lehmann, who married Jean /Hans’s older brother Christen/Christ; as well as a sister to Catherine Lehmann, who married Jacques/Jacques Ernst. She died in their home at Froidefontaine Nov. 17, 1814. Her death entry described her as Elizabethe Lémaan, 58; it was reported by weaver Jean Jodre, 60 [suggesting his birth circa 1754], who signed ‘Hans Joder.’ When Catherine Lehman had died as a widow at Froidefontaine July 3, 1809, witness Jean/Hans Joder was described as an 50-year-old anabaptiste [suggesting his birth circa 1759]. In 1815 he petitioned for permission to remarry to the much younger Marie Ernst. She was born at Boron March 10, 1796, a daughter of weaver Simon Ernst and Catherine Roth (see ERNST for background on her family). He was 52, and she was 20. To obtain a civil ceremony, he had to request exemption from an article of law intended to prevent incest. His deceased sister-in-law Catherine Lehman had been a grandmother to his intended bride; thus Jean/Hans was Marie's grand-uncle. But permission was given. The Feb. 2, 1816 marriage entry gave his age as 52 [suggesting his birth was circa 1763], and cited a birth record showing he was born at Brevilliers to Christ Jodre and Anna Houster. It named Marie’s father ‘Simon Erneste’ as a 44-year-old witness, though Simon was illiterate and could not sign. The groom signed ‘Hans Joder.’ That year Jean/Hans served as a witness at the marriage of his sister-in-law Catherine Ernst and Christian Schlegel (see SCHLEGEL for background on this couple with descendants in Central Illinois). On that entry, he was described as a 53-year-old weaver from Froidefontaine, and signed with an ‘x.’

2) Johannes/Hans/Jean Joder (also found as Jodter) was born before 1730, and died at Grand Charmont (above Sochaux, on the north side of Montbéliard) Nov. 11, 1762. We could not
identify his first wife, who may have died in or shortly after childbirth with their fourth child. Circa 1759 he remarried to Frena Zimmerman, the widow of Christ Ummel. She brought a son named Christ Ummel to the second marriage. At the time they were farming at Dung (three miles west of Montbeliard); they later lived at Grand Charmont. Frena Zimmerman died there Nov. 13, 1770. Children of Johannes/Hans/Jean Joder and his unidentified first wife include:

a) Joseph Joder was born circa 1750, and died at Hirtzbach. Upper Alsace May 31, 1825. On July 12, 1778 he married Anne Marie Stücki on Schetzen farm at Grandvillars. She was born at Grandvillars circa 1758, and died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Dec. 10, 1813, a daughter of Christ Stucki and Anna Roth. At the time of her birth her parents were living on Schetzen farm at Grandvillars. Joseph’s death entry created June 1, 1825 described him as Joseph Jotter, 75. It was witnessed by a son, cultivator Jacques Jotter, an employee of Monsieur de Reinach. Their children include:

1. Jacob (as he signed his own name)/Jacques Joder was born at Grandvillars July 11, 1779. On Oct. 9, 1821 at Hirtzbach he married Barbe Liechti. She was born at Bettendorf, Upper Alsace Dec. 7, 1793. Their marriage entry described the groom as Jacques Jotter, 42, born at Grandvillars July 11, 1779, a son of Joseph Jotter, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Marie Stucki. The bride was described as Barbe Liechti, 28, born at Bettendorf but living at Altkirch, a daughter of Jacques Liechti, a resident of Pfistatt who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Jotter. Witnesses included farmer Nicolas Stucki, 60, of Morschwiller; farmer Pierre Schmoucker, 30, of Fontenelle [Les Fontenelles], Doubs; farmer Chrétien Logibuhl [Luginbühl], 66, of Altkirch; and day laborer Chrétien Jotter, 40, of Hirtzbach. They departed from Le Havre on the Argo, and arrived at New York March 24, 1834. He is found on the passenger list with other Joders as ‘Jacob Joder, 62, France.’ Jacob Joder, 62, France; Barbara, 48; Anne, 18; Verena, 15; Barbara, 12; Barbara, 57; Ch.n Liechty, 46, France; Joseph, 17; Jacob, 13; Jacob, 38; Jacob, 8; See ZIMMERMAN for the entire traveling group including Liechty, Zimmermans, and an Aeschliman. The Zimmermans and Aeschliman settled in Fulton County, Ohio.

2. Anne Marie Joder was born circa 1781, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 18, 1833. On Dec. 11, 1805 at Staffelfelden she married Jacob Goldschmitt. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1779, and died there April 4, 1843. Their German-language marriage entry described the groom as Jacob Goldschmitt, 26, son of Jacob Goldschmitt and Cathrina Stucki. It described the bride as Anna Maria Joder, 24, a daughter of 60-year-old Joseph Joder (who was present) and Anna Maria Stucki. Witnesses included Christian Goldschmitt, 34, and Nicolaus Stucki, 55.

3. Véronique Joder was born circa 1784. According to Jean François Lorentz, on June 20, 1811 at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace she married Peter/Pierre Schmoucker (though no civil entry is found there). He was born circa 1789, a son of Jacob Schmucker and Elisabeth Graber.

4. Elisabetha (birth entry)/Elisabeth (death entry) Joder was born at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Nov. 4, 1792, and died at Cernay-et-Steinbach Feb. 1, 1800. Her death entry described her as Elisabetha Joder, 6. It was witnesses by her father, and both parents were identified.

5. Barbara/Barbe Joder/Jotter may have been born at Staffelfelden circa 1794, though no civil entry is found there, and died in Adams County, Indiana in 1863. On Sept. 12, 1821 at Hirtzbach she married Daniel Schmoucker. Their marriage entry describes the groom as Daniel Schmoucker, 22, born at St. Julien, a son of cultivator Jacques Schmoucker and Elisabeth Glaber [Grabar], who were residents of Les Fontenelles. The bride was described as Barbe Jotter, 27, born at Staffelfelden, a daughter of farmer Joseph Jotter (on the farm of Monsieur de Reinach) and the deceased Marie Stucki. Witnesses
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6. Johannes/Jean Joder was born at Steinbach in March of 1795, and died at Hartford, Indiana April 28, 1878. On June 27, 1822 at Pfastatt, Upper Alsace he married Marie Conrad. Their marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Jean Joder, 26, born at Steinbach in March of 1795, a resident of Hirtzbach. He was a son of farmer Joseph Joder, a resident of Hirtzbach who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Marie Stucky, who had died at Staffelfelden Dec. 30, 1813. The bride was described as Marie Conrad, 23, a resident of Pfastatt. She was born at Belfort Feb. 7, 1799, a daughter of the deceased Issac Conrad, who died at Belfort July 29, 1798, and the deceased Elisabeth Schlegel, who had died at Belfort April 16, 1797. Witnesses included cultivators Jacques Koerig, 36, and Daniel Frutiger, 44. See SCHLEGER for the details of her birth entry and her father’s accidental death. They lived on the communal farm Barthel Hutte (the March 26, 1828 birth entry of their son Jacob calls it ‘Barthlyhütten’) at Largitzen, a location described in ROPP. Johannes/Jean knew Andreas Ropp, and appeared as a witness to the birth of one of his sons. Marie died on their Transatlantic crossing June 1, 1845. He arrived in New York with three children. Johannes/Jean became a Defenseless Mennonite, and is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Hartford, Indiana.


b) Jacob Joder was born circa 1750. He was given adult baptism at Grand Charmont March 20, 1768. He died unmarried on Matten farm at Grandvillars June 26, 1778. A Montbéliard church record noted his death and listed his heirs by age: his half-brother Christ Ummel, his brother Joseph Joder, and his sister Freni, wife of Peter Klopfenstein.

c) Johannes/Hans/Jean Joder was born circa 1752. The Montbéliard church record notes that ‘Hans fils de Hans’ died at Grand Charmont Jan. 26, 1767.

d) Freni Joder was born at Grand Charmont circa 1759, and died at Grandvillars, Territoire de Belfort Feb. 23, 1813. Her marriage to Peter Klopfenstein was recorded at Montbéliard Jan. 4, 1778. He was born at Bourgogne in 1755, and died at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1819, a son of minister Peter Klopfenstein and Marie Engel. Freni’s death entry described her deceased father as having been a laborer at Grand Charmont.

1) Freni/Françoise Joder was born circa 1744. She accepted adult baptism March 20, 1768. At the time her father was described as Jost aux Gouttes (a resident of Des Gouttes farm at Exincourt). On Jan. 16, 1787 her marriage to Christ Gaumann [Gaŭman] was recorded at Montbéliard. The record described his father as the deceased Christ Gaumann. Freni/Françoise died at Étobon May 5, 1799. Her civil death entry was witnessed by her husband, described as laborer Christ Gueman. Her age was given as 55.

2) Jost Joder was born circa 1750, and died at Étobon June 18, 1795. His civil death entry described him as Jobst Joder, 45. It was witnessed by his brother-in-law, described as farmer and laborer Christ Gueman. He was ordained as a minister at Montbéliard April 11, 1787.
11. Caspar Joder was baptized May 22, 1664. Witnesses included Peter Schneider, Hans Joder ‘muller in der Au,’ and Elsi Stūrr. Historian Robert Baecher found a report dated Sept. 28, 1690 that said Caspar Joder was suspected of holding Anabaptists meetings. On June 6 the wife of Jacob Engemann of Thun had accompanied Verena Linder and another woman to a Steffisburg home where she had talked with Jacob Amman. However, she could not identify the specific ‘house across from the inn’ where she had been taken that night. According to a record at Durrenentzen, Upper Alsace (adjacent to Kunheim) Anabaptist Caspar Joder and Verena Hoffin had a son born there March 20, 1695; the son died May 31, 1695 without being baptized. Hoffman, as Verena’s surname appeared on these entries, may have been Hofer with the German -in feminine suffix. From 1703 to 1710 they lived at Weiler, Lower Alsace, two miles west of Wissembourg. Weiler is across the Alsace-Pfalz border from the German customs station Sankt Germannshof (Fr. Saint Germanshof). In 1708 they were described as ‘well-to-do’ and had nine children. From 1712 to 1735 they lived at Langenberg, on the north side of Wissembourg. Lists of their children often show confusion with the children of Caspar Joder and Verena Stauffer of Steffisburg.

- Their son Christian married Anna Maria Klaus/Class of Interlaken. After 1710 they relocated to the Sand estate at Salzwog, about 18 miles northwest of Langenberg and four miles northwest of Erlenbach bei Dahn. There he was ordained as a minister and served the Wissembourg-Froensbourg congregation.
- Another son Caspar married Magdalena Gungerich. Caspar appears on a 1735 census of St. Germanshof that says he was living at Langenberg. Caspar and Magdalena later relocated to an estate owned by the Laroche family at Erbes-Budesheim in the Pfalz (five miles west of Alzey). There was a small Anabaptist community at Erbes-Budesheim from 1701 to 1748.
- Johann/Hans Joder married Katharina Oesch and lived at Sankt Germannshof after 1712, though he did not appear on the 1735 census.

12. Catri/Cathrin Joder was baptized July 8, 1666. Witnesses included Peter Blank junior, Catri Ûli, and Catri Knör. On Jan. 9, 1685 at Steffisburg she married Hans Rupp der Jang (a triple wedding with her brother Jacob marrying Verena Kauffman and brother Jost marrying Babÿ/Barbara Rupp). He was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 7, 1662, a son of Hans Rupp and Christina Majer. Official accounts recorded at Thun April 4, 1695 state that, "The Anabaptists Hans Rupp and Catryn [Cathrin] Joder of the [jurisdiction of the] Steffisburg [Free] Court have left the country. They must pay an emigration fee of five percent for the property they took with them." And again on the same day, "The Anabaptist Hanss Rupp of [Free] Court Steffisburg has moved out of the country. He must pay a five percent emigration fee of 368 pounds." See ROPP for background on this couple after they resettled at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Children baptized at Steffisburg include Hans (1667) and Catharina (1692).

Niclaüs ‘Nigli’ Joder, husband of Anna Trachsle

Niclaüs ‘Nigli’ Joder was baptized at Steffisburg March 26, 1609. On Oct. 14, 1642 - the same day that Jost Joder and Anna Trachsle were married – Niclaüs married another Anna Trachsle from Mühlethurnen parish at Steffisburg. The Protestant Reformed entries were recorded together. Niclaüs and Anna lived on Ortbuhl farm. Children of Niclaüs ‘Nigli’ Joder and Anna Trachsle baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Barbli/Barbara Joder was baptized March 8, 1644. Witnesses included Peter Blanck, Madlen Hiefigker, and Barbli Mejer. On Nov. 30, 1666 at Steffisburg she married Hans Rupp. He was baptized at Hilterfingen Feb. 17, 1633, a son of Andres Rupp and Christina Linder. According to Yoder family notes they resettled at Enkenbach-Alsenborn in the Pfalz. However, this may only reflect confusion with Hans Rupp of Sigriswil, born in 1665; he was noted in a Thun Tower Book [Ger. Turnbuch] March 17, 1710 as someone who left a deportation vessel and went to the Hetschmühle at Enkenbach-Alsenborn (see the footnote in ROPP). Also see ROPP for a list of their children.

2. Anna Joder was baptized April 13, 1645. Witnesses included Peter Brönniman, Verena Meÿer, and Anna Joder. On Jan. 7, 1670 at Steffisburg she married Hans Berger (a double wedding with her brother Caspar). He was baptized at Steffisburg Sept. 5, 1647, a son of Matthys/Mathis Berger of Steffisburg and Anna Stauffer of Signau (see the previous footnote). One of the baptism witnesses was district governor Hans Berger. Their daughter Barbara Berger was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 27, 1670. On the entry her father was misidentified as ‘Hans Bacher.’ Witnesses included Peter Rupp, Margret Blanck, and Barbara Oechsenbein. On Feb. 10, 1673 at Steffisburg Anna remarried to

351 We take the existence of these entries on faith. On a trip to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City Aug. 7, 2018, we had an opportunity to look through FHL microfilms of Durrenentzen entries. We did not find these two events where we would normally expect them to be. However, we were under time constraints and did not look for appended notes or back-page entries. If anyone has an image of these entries, we would be extremely grateful for copies.

352 Although there was no Hofer family living at Steffisburg, Samuel Hofer married Anna Rider at Steffisburg July 31, 1696. Their marriage entry describes Samuel as a resident of Thun.

As noted earlier, 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, and have not been scanned for the Staats Archiv online site.
3. Caspar Joder was baptized June 4, 1648, and died circa 1712. Baptism witnesses included Caspar Joder’s heirs were listed as “the widow named Anni Zaugg, represented through Jacob Joder (born in 1660, married to Margreth Stähli); and the children Anna Joder, the miller’s wife from Wiler; Christina Joder, the smith’s wife from Wattenwil [seven miles west of Steffisburg]; Margret Braun; and Barbara, Verena, and Catharina Joder with their trustee. March 4, 1713. There are many debts.” A 1716 document preserved at Thun says that son Hans sold the house that he had inherited from his father. Another document says that in 1721 Jacob Joder sold a pasture at Boden (now the Bodenweg at the east end of Steffisburg, on the north side of the Zülg River) that had belonged to Caspar. Anna Joder died at Steffisburg Feb. 7, 1724. Her death entry described her as ‘der alte Mütter Joderin der Scheidgasse’ - now a street on the west side of the village, below the Orbühlweg. The surviving family was still struggling with debt in 1734. An acknowledgement-of-debt document dated May 16, 1735 says, “Hans Joder, the late Caspar Joder’s son, in the Scheidgasse, about 40 years of age, is in some foreign country; moreover it is not known whether he is still alive. His heirs: Matthys and Caspar Joder; Verena Joder, wife of Peter Blanck; Margareth Joder, widow of the late Michel Braun, at this time in the lowlands; for all of them, and also in the name of their sister Catharina Joder, wife of Peter Meier, also staying in the lowlands; with the permission of their brothers and brothers-in-law, and all the brothers and sisters of Hans Joder, who has been owed 48 Kroner since Aug. 15, 1724.”

Children of Caspar Joder and Anna Zaugg baptized at Steffisburg include:

a. Anna Joder was baptized Nov. 3, 1672; witnesses included Uli Blanck, Catrin Wilhelm, and Anna Kolb. On April 8, 1701 at Steffisburg she married Hans Müller of Uetendorf. He may have been the Hans Müller baptized at Thierachern Nov. 21, 1669, a son of Hans Müller and Verena Schwitzer. When Anna was called “the miller’s wife from Wiler,” it may have meant that they resided in Uetendorf. In German a hamlet is a Weiler. Within Uetendorf there was a hamlet called Willerüti und Guet on the Gürbe River. The river flows north into the Aare River below the city of Bern. Uetendorf did not have its own Protestant Reformed Church. Anna and Hans attended the parish church at adjacent Thierachern. Their children baptized there include Christina, 1702; Anna, 1705; Madleni, 1708; and Magdalena, 1712.

b. Christina/Stini Joder was baptized March 15, 1674; witnesses included Hans Brömmiman, Anna Wenner, and Christina Schlact. On March 12, 1694 at Steffisburg she married Christen Schmidthalter of Wattenwil. They had a child Hans at Wattenwil Feb. 4, 1700.

c. Margreth Joder was baptized Feb. 6, 1676; witnesses included Rudolf Mürr, Margreth Moser, and Margreth Blank. On Dec. 10, 1697 at Steffisburg she married Michiel Braun. He was baptized at Steffisburg March 12, 1676, a son of Steffan Braun and Cathrina Knöri.

d. Hans Joder was baptized Oct. 7, 1677; minister Hans Jacob Freudenreich served as a witness with Jost Joder der Jüngere and Magdalena Zender. The article 300 Years of Anabaptist Yoders in America in the Yoder Newsletter April 2017 issue suggests that Hans ‘in some foreign country’ was the American immigrant known as ‘Hans Yoder of Great Swamp.’ He arrived as a widower with two children at Philadelphia Aug. 24, 1717, on one of three ships carrying 363 Anabaptists (see KING for background on these arrivals). He brought a daughter Magdalena who married Michael Shell (1693-1769), and a son later called John who was born circa 1708. Hans remarried to Anna Bachmann, and purchased 99 acres at Lower Milford (Great Swamp), Bucks County, Pennsylvania for 15 pounds Jan. 17, 1720. He had a son Caspar with Anna Bachmann circa 1720. He was naturalized in 1734. In 1747 he was co-executor of an estate, but pleaded that he was “ancient and not fit to travel in ye winter season.” On Dec. 8, 1750 he and Anna sold their farm to son Caspar for 20 pounds. In 1751 he signed someone’s probate document as ‘Johnd Joder Senior.’ He died at Lower Milford circa 1753.

e. Barbara Joder was baptized Dec. 7, 1679; witnesses included Christen Joder and Barbara Joder. She presumably died between 1713 and 1735.

f. Verena Joder [twin] was baptized Jan. 28, 1683; witnesses included Jacob Joder, Verena Stäuffer, and Verena Kauffmann. She died before 1689.

g. Eva Joder [twin] was baptized Jan. 28, 1683. She died before 1713.

h. Matthys Joder was baptized July 20, 1684; witnesses included Margreth Stähli. On Oct. 1, 1706 at Steffisburg he married Barbara Meijer. She was baptized at Steffisburg March 10, 1689, and died at Steffisburg Feb. 5, 1734, a daughter of Peter Meier and Barbara Reüsier. Matthys died at Steffisburg Jan. 17, 1751; the entry described him as a carpenter.

i. Caspar Joder was baptized Feb. 27, 1687; witnesses included Hans Kauffman, Peter Schmid, and Anna Rüegger [Rügsgeger]. The entry described his father as Caspar Joder im Ortbühl. On Feb. 13, 1711 at Steffisburg he married Anna Meijer. On June 7, 1721 at Steffisburg he remarried to Barbara Bürki of the Diessbach congregation. She was baptized in June of 1701, and died at Steffisburg Jan. 29, 1778, a
daughter of Benz Bürgi (as found on her baptism entry) and Elsi Moser. At some point they were living at Boden.

j. Verena Joder was baptized Oct. 20, 1689; witnesses included Peter Walder, Verena Stauffer, and Barbara Gnägi. On Oct. 25, 1715 at Steffisburg she married Peter Blanck. He may have been the Peter Blanck baptized at Steffisburg March 1, 1685, a son of Niclaŭs Blanck and Barbara im Hooff; or the Peter Blanck baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 13, 1687, a son of Hans Blanck and Maria Reüsser.

k. Cathrin-Catharina Joder was baptized July 30, 1693; witnesses included Peter Rüpp, Cathrin Gerber, and Cathrin Schütz. She married Peter Meier. He stood co-guarantor on a legal contract with his brother-in-law Matthys Joder in 1713; it described Peter as a Kirchmeier. Cathrin-Catharina was living at Boden in 1735.

l. Nicolaüs Joder was baptized Dec. 31, 1699. Witnesses included Nicolaüs Frey, Daniel Zöü, and Anna Joder. He died before 1713.

4. Adam Joder (twin) was baptized Sept. 22, 1650. Witnesses included Adam Blanck, Adam Farni, and Anna Mathis. On Jan. 9, 1671 at Steffisburg he married Barbli Ochsenbein. She was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 26, 1647, a daughter of Jaggi Ochsenbein and Anna. They operated a fulling mill on the Schnittweierbad farm above Steffisburg. They departed from Steffisburg after 1683 and went to the Pfalz, where they resettled at Lachen-Speyerdorf. Two of their sons went to Pennsylvania, where they represent a non-Amish Mennonite branch of the Joder/Yoders. See YODERS OF THE OLEY VALLEY for background on this family.

5. Hans Joder (twin) was baptized Sept. 22, 1650, and died young. Baptism witnesses included Wit Sägisman, Hans Eichenberger, and Stini Reüsser.

6. Madle/Magdalena/Madlena Joder was baptized Feb. 29, 1652, and died at Boden May 28, 1728 (registered at Steffisburg). Baptism witnesses included Hans Rüpp, Madle Lügibil, and Christina Räbi. On April 26, 1689 at Steffisburg she married Peter Meier/Meier. He was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 10, 1667, a son of Michel Mejer/Meier and Barblí Farni. She had their last child at age 54. Their children baptized at Steffisburg include Caspar, 1690; Madlena, 1693; Magdalena, 1694; Hans, 1698; Verena, 1701; Anna, 1703; and Margreth, 1706.

7. Margret Joder was baptized April 10, 1653.353 Witnesses included Christen Stagman, Barbara Henni, and Barbara Walthart.

8. Jost Joder was baptized Jan. 13, 1655. Witnesses included Melcher Drachsel, Jörg Alsaser, and Barbara Schwaar. On Jan. 9, 1680 at Steffisburg he married Christina Schlecten (as found on the entry, but later also found as Schлаct) of Kirchdorf (found on the entry as ‘Kилхдорф’). Children baptized at Steffisburg include:
   a. Anna Joder was baptized Jan. 9, 1681; witnesses included Caspar Joder der Jöng, Anna Kolb, and Anna Joder.
   b. Barbara Joder was baptized Dec. 17, 1682; witnesses included Hans Gerber, Anna Wÿttenbach, and Barbara Rüpp. At Schwarzenegg in January of 1718 she married Hans Hodel. Their marriage entry describes them as Hans Hoddell in der Schiggenen and Barbara Joder von Steffisburg. A marriage contract at Thun describes them as Hans Hodel and Barbara Joder of Lügstalden in the Schniggenen, a location that is now in Bleiken bei Oberdischbach. Hans was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 18, 1672, a son of Hans Hodel and Barbara Blank. He died at Steffisburg April 8, 1751, where the entry says he was age 75. Barbara died at Schwarzenegg Nov. 28, 1753, age 70; her Totenrodel entry described her as the widow of Hans Hodel.
   c. Christina Joder was baptized May 4, 1684; witnesses included Hans Gnägi, Christina Kauffman, and Verena Roth. She died young.
   d. Hans Joder was baptized July 5, 1685; witnesses included Hans Kauffman, Hans Trachsel, and Magdalena Reüsser. He is likely the Hans Joder who died at Steffisburg Aug. 17, 1750, though the entry said he was 67 years of age.
   e. Christina Joder was baptized March 20, 1687; witnesses included Bendicht Trachsel, Margreth Stahl, and Christina Naafsger. Christina Naafsger was baptized at Thierachern Sept. 7, 1651, a daughter of Melchior Naafsger and Eva Schmocker, and a granddaughter of Zacharias Naafsger der Schmidt and Margareth Engemann.

9. Salome Joder was baptized April 13, 1656. Witnesses included Andreas Murer, Susanna Moser, and Catarina Dummermuth. On March 1, 1678 at Steffisburg she married Hans Gerber. Chorgericht notes from July 26, 1691 describe them as Anabaptists. They emigrated north to the Pfalz. Karl Joder said they went to Fischbach (11 miles east of Kaiserslautern) or Weidenthal (six miles southeast of Fischbach). These two villages are below Enkenbach-Alsenborn where descendants are found.

10. Hans Joder was baptized Feb. 28, 1658. Witnesses included Hans Meier, Hans Leeman, and Babý Küntzi. On March 9, 1689 at Steffisburg he married Anna Eicher. Anna Eicher was born circa 1670; her Beerdigungen 1618-1875 death entry said she died at Steffisburg Feb. 14, 1750, age 80. Hans sold his house at Steffisburg in 1715. In

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353 A modern genealogist muddled the waters a bit by concluding that Margret Joder married Üli/Ulrich Reüsser (the second husband of her older sister Anna/Anni). Then how to explain Reüsser’s marriage entry with an Anna/Anni Joder? And the baptism entries of three children? Easy – the same person decided that Margret Joder baptized in 1653 must have actually been an ‘Anneger,’ combining the two names.
1716 a legal document at Thun says ‘lieutenant Hans Joder’ wished to borrow 400 pounds. Another document from the same year says that his wife Anna Eicher had received it. The primary guarantor for this transaction has been their son Caspar Joder ‘in der Glockenthal’ (bell valley at Steffisburg, also called the Gloggenthal). In 1717 Anna sold their lands on Emberg (two miles east of the village). Children of Hans Joder and Anna Eicher baptized at Steffisburg include:

- Caspar Joder was baptized July 28, 1689; witnesses included Hans Berger, Glado Wÿermann, and Margreth Maũrer. He died young. He may be the Caspar Joder ein Knablin [a boy] who died at Gloggenthal April 11, 1700.
- Magdalena Joder was baptized Oct. 4, 1691; witnesses included Hans Spring, Maria Caspar [?], and Barbara Meier. On Jan. 29, 1712 at Steffisburg she married Hans Reüsser. She died at Steffisburg Feb. 13, 1751.
- Caspar Joder was baptized Jan. 28, 1694; witnesses included Glado Wÿermann, Abraham Spring, and Barbara Neũenhost. He married Catharina Lilieu. She died at Steffisburg March 17, 1745. Caspar died at Schwendibach (adjacent to Steffisburg, in the parish) March 18, 1745 (reported at Steffisburg). The entry says he was age 55, which may have been miscalculated from the baptism entry of the Caspar born in 1689.
- Anna Joder was baptized Feb. 2, 1696; witnesses included Christen Pfister, Anna Staŭffer, and Cathrin Schütz. On July 15, 1722 at Steffisburg she married Hans Ramsyeųer. He was baptized at Grosshöchtetten Jan. 23, 1680, and died at Steffisburg Dec. 14, 1749, a son of Hans Ramsyeųer and Margreth Mosler. The Steffisburg Totenrodel described him as a ‘carpenter in the village,’ age 68. Anna died at Steffisburg March 7, 1762.
- Barbara Joder was baptized March 13, 1698; witnesses included Hans Jŭng, Christina Eicher, and Anna Brandli. On April 19, 1717 at Steffisburg she married Abraham Reüsser. A Totenrodel entry says she died at Emberg March 4, 1749.
- Margreth Joder was baptized March 10, 1700; witnesses include distgrict governor Hans Berger, Barbara Reüsser, and Margreth Stähli. On March 6, 1722 at Steffisburg she married Peter Reüsser. He was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 7, 1697, a son of Hans Reüsser and Anna Walthart. Margreth died at Steffisburg Jan. 25, 1774; the entry described her as the widow of Peter Reüsser.
- Cathrin Joder was baptized May 28, 1702; witnesses included Johannes König, [illegible], and Anna Cathrin Freudenrÿch.
- Hans Joder was baptized Oct. 5, 1704; witnesses included Hans Gerber, Hans Lüthi, and Barbara Spring.
- Verena Joder was baptized Aug. 15, 1706. The entry is illegible because of ink bleed-through. The first of three witnesses was a district governor. She died young.
- Verena Joder was baptized in April of 1708. The entry is barely legible, so that the parents could only be identified as Hans Joder and Anna. She died at Muri in Steffisburg Aug. 25, 1750, age 42; the entry described her as the wife of Peter Linder. He may have been the Peter Linder baptized at Steffisburg May 30, 1697, a son of Caspar Linder and Catharina Roth; the entry labeled Catharina ‘Anab.’ [Anabaptist]. Peter died at Muri in Steffisburg as a widower Nov. 26, 1759.
- Elsbeth Joder was baptized Nov. 9, 1710; witnesses include Christen Rŭchti, Anna Krebs, and Elsbeth Steiner. On Jan. 9, 1733 at Steffisburg she married Hans Linder ab Lug.355
- Peter Joder was baptized April 2, 1713; witnesses included Peter Meyer, Hans Kroppf, and Barbara Esch.
- Christen Joder was baptized June 28, 1716; witnesses included Jacob Moser, Christen Joder, and Anna Rothenbüler.

11. Stini Joder was baptized Aug. 25, 1661. Her baptism entry named her parents as Niclaũs Joder im Ortbühl and Anni Trachsel. Witnesses included Hans Kolb, Stini Graff, and Vereni Reüsser. She was likely the Christina Joder who married Hans Walder at Steffisburg June 20, 1679. They were the parents of Hans Walder, who was baptized at Steffisburg July 5, 1681. Baptism witnesses included Isaac Iutzi, Hans Joder in der Au, and Christina Schleeter.

**Jost’s American Descendants**

Male descendants of Jost Joder have the Y chromosome genetic identifier ‘value 16 on marker 19.’ All other males have ‘value 15 on marker 19’ (believed to be the older base form). The remainder of YODER will follow the American descendants of Jost. We know they are connected by their bloodline — it is more difficult to determine how.

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354 Glado Wÿermann was a son of Glado Weÿermann and Elisabeth Wyss. He was Vogt [administratator on behalf of the Council of Bern] of Thörberg. The Schloss or castle at Krauchthal, 23 miles north of Steffisburg, is made up of a group of former monastery buildings used as a hospital and prison. It is now a prison.

355 Kleines Dorf Lexicon von einem Theil der Schweiz (1801) describes Lug as a mountain and village by Steffisburg. Auf den Lug was a farm by Burgdorf.
Two Yoder families sailed from Rotterdam via Deal on the *Francis and Elizabeth*, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742 (Deal was an English customs and tax station between Dover and Ramsgate on the southeast corner of England).  

Male descendants of these two families have ‘value 16 on marker 19,’ indicating that the fathers were grandsons of Jost Joder and Anna Trachsel. Their parents cannot be identified, because we lack knowledge of all of the sons of Jost and Anna’s sons Peter, Jacob, and Christen (those most likely to have had children who emigrated from Europe).

Upon the day of arrival male passengers over 16 years of age were required to take an oath of allegiance to the English crown at the Philadelphia court house. The oath list held Christian Jotter, Jacob Yoder [signed with an ‘x’], Christian Yoder, Christian Miller [signed with an ‘x’], Johannes Qnäg, Moritz Zug, Christian Zug, Johannes Gerber, Jacob Kurtz, Johannes Zug, Uhllerich Ställy [signed with an ‘x’], and Jacob Guth.

‘Christian Jotter,’ also known as Christian Yoder, brought his wife and children. The head of a second Yoder family had died on the voyage. Jacob Yoder and Christian Yoder were his sons, traveling with their newly-widowed mother Barbara and seven siblings.

**Christian Yoder** ([found on the 1742 passenger list as ‘Christian Jotter’])  
*leading to Yost Yoder of Farnisville and Yoder of Tremont*

**Christian Yoder** is thought to have been born in 1699, and died in Berks County, Pennsylvania Nov. 17, 1775. His wife died at Bern, Berks County in 1782. She is likely buried in the Northkill Amish Burying Ground, also known as the Jacob Hertzler Farm Cemetery, where only a few graves have headstones.

They settled at Bern in the Pesthouse settlement area of Lancaster County. At the time this was the edge of the American frontier, where European intruders came in conflict with Native Americans. See KING for background on this area.

To follow some of the discussions of location that follow, it is helpful to know that Lancaster County was created in 1729. Berks County was carved from it in 1752, and Lebanon County in 1813. (Thus someone who is said to have been born in Lancaster County may have died in one of the other two counties, without having moved).

In early Pennsylvania a land warrant made a claim on a parcel of land. This was a request to purchase unclaimed land from the provincial government, and it was submitted at the county seat. Administrators had a grace period to consider competing claims before granting the land for free or accepting full payment. But the claimant could work the land in expectation of owning it. Usually two entries were placed in county records: the first when the land warrant was issued, and the second when it was returned showing that the land was surveyed, boundaries determined, and no objections had been filed. In some cases ownership or occupation of the property passed through several families in the interim.

Children of Christian Yoder and his wife include:

1. Barbara Yoder was born circa 1725, and died in Berks County circa 1785. Circa 1746 at Bern, Lancaster County she married next door neighbor Stephen Kaufman. He was born circa 1725, and died in Berks County in 1800, a son of Isaac, Kaufman and Anna Streit. The Kaufmans had arrived at Philadelphia on the *Virtuous Grace* Sept. 24, 1737.
2. Magdalena ‘Mattie’ Yoder was born circa 1727, and died in 1782. She married widower Johannes/Hans/John Gnaegi/Kanagy. He was baptized at Bürglen, Canton Bern (38 miles northwest of Steffisburg) May 1, 1720, and died at Bethel, Lebanon County in 1772, a son of Bendicht Gnägi von Schwaad (Schwadermau in Bürglen parish) and Maria Strielenberg. They had arrived at Philadelphia on the same voyage of the *Francis and Elizabeth*. His first wife had been Mary Holden. As Hans Gnage he received a land warrant for 122 acres in Bern, Lancaster County Sept. 30, 1747. They sold this land Sept. 27, 1763, and relocated along the Swatara Creek near Jonestown, Hanover.

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356 The *Francis and Elizabeth* was well known for overcrowding. A few years later one incident made it infamous. The minutes of a council meeting at Philadelphia Sept. 11, 1749: "The Governor having order’d Doctor Groeme and Doctor Thomas Bond to visit the Ship *Francis and Elizabeth*, arriv’d in the Cove below the City with Palatines on board from Rotterdam, and they having reported that she was an unhealthy Vessel, several of the Passengers labouring under an eruptive fever which they were of opinion was infectious." Another ship, the *Rachel*, arrived at the same time with more diseased passengers. This was more than the ‘pest house’ could accommodate. "It appear’d on examination that the Place was in great Disorder, and that for want of room, Household Furniture, and suitable Apartments, the Sick could be but indifferently taken care of...where-upon the Captain of the Ship *Francis and Elizabeth* was serv’d with an order from the Governor to remove his Vessel to the Mouth of Schuykill, as near to the Pest House as he cou’d conveniently lye, to send there all the sick and keep the well on board, and not to suffer any Persons to go near them except the Doctor, Necessary Nurses, and Servants." On Jan. 27, 1750 an act was passed that set space and provisions requirements on passenger vessels docking at the port.
Township, Lancaster County (in what is now Lebanon County). In 1767 they purchased 200 acres at what is now Monroeville, Bethel Township, Lebanon County. His will was created Nov. 9, 1772, and probated Dec. 15, 1772.

3. **Christian 'Schweitzer Christian' Yoder** was born Oct. 28, 1728, and died at Stonycreek, Somerset County Nov. 20, 1816.

4. Elizabeth Yoder was born circa 1730, and died in Lancaster County Sept. 1, 1771. Circa 1751 in Lancaster County she married Christian Beiler. He was born circa 1727, and died in Lancaster County July 13, 1812, a son of minister Jacob Beíeler/Beiler and his first wife Verena Siber. The Beíelers had been passengers on the *Charming Nancy*, arriving at Philadelphia Oct. 8, 1737. In 1764 Christian and Elizabeth moved to Caernarvon, Lancaster County with 'Strong Jacob' Yoder and Anna Beiler (Elizabeth would have been cousin and sister-in-law to 'Strong Jacob'). In 1772 Christian remarried to a Barbara who could not be further identified. He is buried in Mast Cemetery at Morgantown, Caernarvon Township, Berks County.

5. Johannes/John Yoder was born in the Pfalz circa 1732 and died at Armagh, Mifflin County July 2, 1813.

6. Yost Yoder was born circa 1734, and died at Union, Mifflin County after 1784. He married a Holly in Berks County in 1755. He remarried to Mary Siever circa 1762 in Berks County. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1742, and died in Mifflin County, a daughter of Hans Sieber/John Siever (he had arrived at Philadelphia on the *Princess Augusta* Sept. 16, 1736). In 1771 Yost relocated from Berks County to Caernarvon, Lancaster County, and later to Earl Township. On April 2, 1796 he purchased 700 acres in Mifflin County and constructed a stone house.

7. Freni/Veronica Yoder was born circa 1736, and died circa 1798.

8. Jacob Yoder was born circa 1738, and died after 1800.

**Christian ‘Schweitzer Christian’ Yoder**

The oldest son of Christian Yoder was **Christian 'Schweitzer Christian' Yoder**. He was born Oct. 28, 1728, and died at Stonycreek, Somerset County Nov. 20, 1816.

His first wife could not be identified. He remarried to Barbara Holly/Hooley in Berks County in 1762. She was born April 17, 1741, and died in Somerset County March 8, 1812, a daughter of Johannes/Hans Holly/Hooley and Freni/Veronica Miller.

On Oct. 9, 1775 Christian purchased 606 acres at Stonycreek in the Brothers Valley Glades for $968 (about $29,200 in modern buying power). In the spring of 1776 they resettled. The 1800 census of Stonycreek shows five consecutive households for John Yoder Sen., Christian Yoder, John Yoder, Solmon Yoder, and Jacob Yoder. Their homestead is now the site of the Old Yoder Cemetery, where they are buried in unmarked graves.

Their son **Solomon H. Yoder** was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania March 25, 1776, and died in Elkhart County, Indiana Feb. 16, 1868. Circa 1797 in Somerset County he married Barbara Miller. She was born in Berks County Jan. 12, 1774, and died Nov. 14, 1858, a daughter of Christian Miller and Veronica Mischler. They are buried in Elkhart Prairie Cemetery.

Their son **Peter Yoder** was born in Somerset County Sept. 22, 1804, and died in Wayne County, Ohio Oct. 29, 1849. On Nov. 18, 1827 in Wayne County he married Veronica 'Fanny' Blough. She was born in Somerset County Sept. 26, 1808, and died in Wayne County Jan. 10, 1855, a daughter of David Blough and Elizabeth Weaver.

The 1850 census of Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio shows Fanny Yoder, 41, Pennsylvania; Susanna, 21; farmer David, 19; Polly, 18; John, 15; Solmon, 13; Fanny, 11; Catherine, 10; Elizabeth, 8; Sarah, 1; and Yost, 3; all children born in Ohio. They lived next door to John Kaufman, 52, and Sarah, 65.

Children of Peter Yoder and Veronica 'Fanny' Blough born at Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio include:

1. Susanna Yoder was born April 13, 1829, and died in Lagrange County, Indiana Aug. 24, 1909. She married Daniel Egli. He was born circa 1829, and died before Dec. 24, 1861, a son of Christian Egli and Catherine Stahly. On Dec. 24, 1861 in Lagrange County, Indiana she remarried to Joseph C. Yoder. He was born in Somerset County Nov. 20, 1819, and died in Lagrange County Sept. 4, 1863, a son of Christian Yoder and Judith Gindelsperger. On Oct. 18, 1870 she married a third time to Samuel Hooley. *Gospel Herald*, October 1909: "Susan (Yoder) Hooley was born in Wayne Co., O., April 13, 1829; died in Elkhart Co., Ind., Aug. 24, 1909; aged 80 y. 11 d. Sister Hooley had been married three times; first to Daniel Egli, second to Joseph Yoder, third to Samuel Hooley. These all preceded her to their resting place and Sister Hooley has been living in her own home in Lagrange Co., Ind., having another family living with her. She has been nearly blind for some time. This past summer she has especially enjoyed visiting some of her friends and spending several days with them. While visiting in the home of Bro. Samuel Myers she wanted to go from the dining room to the sitting room and by mistake opened the cellar door instead of the room door and fell down stairs and was almost instantly killed. Funeral at Forks church Aug. 28, by J. Troyer in German and D. D. Miller in English."
2. David P. Yoder was Nov. 12, 1830, and died at West Liberty, Logan County, Ohio Sept. 7, 1923. On April 27, 1854 he married Barbara Zook. She was born in Wayne County Aug. 2, 1832, and died at Wooster, Wayne County May 5, 1904, a daughter of Gideon Zook and Maria/Mary Yoder. Gospel Herald, September 1923: "David P. Yoder was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Nov. 12, 1830. He was a resident of this county all of his life, with the exception of a few years when he resided with his daughter, Mrs. C.K. Hartzler, of West Liberty, Ohio. He died of infirmities of old age Sept. 7, 1923; aged 92y. 9m. 25d. He was united in marriage to Barbara Zook in 1854. To this union were born four children (Sarah, Hiram, Mary Ann, and Fanny). His beloved life companion, one son and two daughters preceded him in death. There remains to mourn his departure one daughter, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, with a large circle of near relatives and friends. At the age of 17 he confessed and accepted Christ as his Savior and united with the A.M. Church. He was a loyal and faithful brother, a worker and wise counsellor in the church, interested in her activities, supporting the work by his prayers and means, continuing steadfast in the faith he held so dear. In his place in the church services was seldom found vacant and his delight was to mingle with both young and old as he passed through life. He was resigned to the will of God and looked forward with confidence and hope, trusting in the promises of his blessed Savior. He leaves to the family and the church, the memory of a beautiful Christian life. Services were conducted by the brethren, Jesse Smucker, J.S. Gerig, and David Hostetler, from Prov. 3:1,2 and II Kings 20:1. Interment in the Oak Grove Cemetery."

3. Mary 'Polly' Yoder was born Nov. 9, 1832, and died in Lagrange County Dec. 8, 1880. On April 3, 1855 in Wayne County she married Jacob P. Hooley. He was born in Mifflin County Dec. 11, 1832, and died in Cass County, Missouri Jan. 23, 1888, a son of Daniel Hooley and Esther Yoder.

4. John B. Yoder was Sept. 11, 1834, and died at Morton Jan. 10, 1904.

5. Solomon Yoder was born July 15, 1836, and died in Lagrange County, Indiana April 18, 1914. He married Elizabeth Stutzman. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Jan. 26, 1843, and died at Lyons, Kansas Dec. 2, 1916, a daughter of Jonathan Stutzman and Fannie Bachman. They are found on the 1900 census of Mitchell, Kansas as landlord Solomon Yoder, 63, born in Ohio in July 1837 to parents from Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, 57, born in Ohio in January 1843 to a father from Pennsylvania and a mother from Ohio; farmer Frank S., 24, born in Missouri in February 1876; Jonathan, 21, born in Indiana in September 1878; Adline, 20, born in Indiana in March 1880; and Lydia, 17, born in Indiana in October 1882.

6. Veronica 'Fanny' Yoder was born Aug. 21, 1838, and died Dec. 7, 1894. On Aug. 20, 1863 in Tazewell County she married Samuel King [Jr.], a son of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born 'near Wooster' Aug. 4, 1841, and died Dec. 19, 1900. They lived in McLean County, where he was a miller, and relocated to Forrest, Livingston County in 1873. They appear on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer Samuel King, 38, Ohio; Fanny, 35, Ohio; and four children born in Illinois.

7. Catherine Yoder was born Feb. 3, 1841, and died Feb. 4, 1892. On May 24, 1859 in Wayne County, Ohio she married Jacob D. Yoder. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania circa 1821, and died in 1878, a son of David Yoder and Magdalena King.

8. Elizabeth Yoder was born Aug. 4, 1843, and died at Emma, Lagrange County, Indiana June 7, 1885. On Sept. 11, 1873 in Cedar County, Missouri she married Samuel D. Stutzman. He was born in Wayne County April 7, 1832, and died there Sept. 27, 1908, a son of David Stutzman and Catherine Schrock.

9. Yosi D. Yoder was born April 15, 1846, and died in Lagrange County, Indiana March 27, 1915. He married Sophia Yoder. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Oct. 26, 1849, and died at Greenfield, Indiana March 12, 1935. According to family notes, she was a Dunkard.

5. Sarah Yoder was born Sept., 23, 1848, and died in Wayne County Jan. 23, 1889. On Jan. 12, 1864 in Wayne County she married Jonas Smucker. He was born in Wayne County June 11, 1840, and died there Feb. 23, 1923, a son of David Smucker and Anna Brandt. Gospel Herald, March 1923: "Jonas Smucker was born in Wayne Co., O., June 1, 1840; died at his home after a brief sickness which lasted about two weeks. He bore his affliction patiently, realizing that the end was near at hand. He peacefully fell asleep Feb. 24, 1923, at the ripe age of 82 y. 8 m. 23 d. On Jan. 12, 1864, he was united in marriage to Sarah Yoder. To this union were born 11 children, five daughters and six sons. Mother was called to her reward Jan. 23, 1889. Also one son, three daughters and six grandchildren preceded him in death. On Jan. 6, 1891, he was united in marriage to Mattie Yoder of Cass Co., Mo. To this union were born five daughters. There remain to mourn his departure mother, five sons, seven daughters, 31 grandchildren, and a large circle of near relatives and friends. Early in life he gave heed to the voice of the heavenly Shepherd and accepted Christ as his Savior. He united with the A.M. Church and was always deeply interested in its activities, giving his support to the work freely and liberally in prayers and means. He continued loyal to the Faith which he held so dear. His place was seldom vacant in all the various church services. Being a man of vision his counsel was often sought. He leaves to his family and the church the memory of a beautiful Christian life. 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.' Funeral services were conducted by the brethren, Jesse Smucker, J. S. Gerig, and C. Z. Yoder. Texts, 1 Cor. 16:13, 14; I Cor. 11:1. Interment in the Oak Grove Cemetery."

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John B. Yoder was born at Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio Sept. 11, 1834, and died at Morton Jan. 10, 1904.

He came to Tazewell County as a farm laborer in 1853 or 1854. On Sept. 19, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth King. She was born at Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio July 20, 1839, and died from pneumonia at Tremont Feb. 18, 1912, a daughter of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz (see KING for more on this couple).

They are found on the 1870 census of Tremont as farmer John Yoder, 36, Ohio; Elizabeth, 31, Ohio; Seruda, 14; Julia, 12; Samuel, 10; Fanny, 8; William, 4; Christian, 5 months; and farm laborer Henry Healer, 17, Missouri. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Tremont as farmer John Yoder, 46, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; Elisabeth, 43, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; Samuel, 20; Fannie, 18; William, 15; Christian, 11; Lydia, 8; John, 6; Emma, 4; Edward, 2; and Joseph; all children born in Illinois.

They are buried in the Old Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton. An obituary reprinted on the Apostolic Heritage site: "Death from Pneumonia. Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder passes away at the age of seventy-two. Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder died of pneumonia, at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, at the age of 72, following a brief illness at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Huette. Her maiden name was King, and she was born in Ohio July 20, 1839. Her husband, John Yoder, died about eight years ago while they lived in Morton. About four years ago she went to live with her daughter, Mrs. John Huette, in the country. One of her sons, Chris, died two months ago. The children living to mourn the loss of an excellent mother are: Edward and John of Morton; William and Samuel of Fairbury; Mrs. John Huette of Tremont; Mrs. Chas. Huette of Indiana; Mrs. Hiram Fortna and Mrs. Chris Moser of Forrest. The funeral was held from the Apostolic Church Wednesday afternoon."

Children of John B. Yoder and Elizabeth King include:

1. Sarilda/ Sorilda [headstone] Yoder was born at Tremont Aug. 1, 1856 (though her headstone says 1859), and died at Fairbury, Livingston County June 20, 1931. On Feb. 6, 1877 in Tazewell County she married Hiram Andrew Fortna. He was born in Hancock County, Illinois Dec. 13, 1854, and died at Forrest, Livingston County Oct. 5, 1921. They are buried in North Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Forrest.
2. Julia Ann Yoder was born at Tremont Feb. 28, 1858, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Nov. 24, 1935. On Jan. 27, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Charles Huette. He was born at Morton Aug. 7, 1855, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Oct. 27, 1926, a son of Carl Huette and Minnie Strunk. She is buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury as 'Anna Huette.'
3. Samuel P. Yoder was born at Tremont Nov. 3, 1859, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County April 25, 1928. On Aug. 12, 1883 at Morton he married Mary Naffziger. She was born at Pulaski, Iowa March 16, 1861, and died at Fairbury March 10, 1945, a daughter of John Naffziger and Katharina Miller. They relocated from Morton to Fairbury in 1892. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury.
4. Fannie Yoder was born at Tremont Nov. 19, 1861, and died at Morton Dec. 13, 1936. On Feb. 7, 1886 at Morton she married John Huette. He was born at Tremont Nov. 17, 1862, and died at Morton Jan. 7, 1936, a son of Carl Huette and Minnie Strunk. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.
5. Peter S. Yoder was born at Tremont Nov. 13, 1863, and died April 10, 1870.
6. William John Yoder was born at Tremont Oct. 10, 1865, and died April 7, 1951. He is buried in North Apostolic Cemetery at Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County. On Dec. 25, 1889 in Tazewell County he married Marie Schreiber. She was born in Württemberg Sept. 3, 1864, and died at Peoria April 28, 1932, a daughter of Christian Schreiber and Rosina Hokl. They are buried in North Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Forrest.
7. Daniel Yoder was born at Tremont Dec. 12, 1867, and died there April 2, 1870.
8. Christian Yoder was born at Tremont Feb. 7, 1870, and died at Nampa, Idaho Nov. 11, 1911. On Sept. 21, 1897 at Middletown, Butler County, Ohio he married Louisa Mosiman. She was a born in Ohio in April 1875, a daughter of Christian Mosiman and Anna Kinsinger. Hamilton Telegraph, Sept. 23, 1897: "David K. Roth of Morton, Ill., and Louisa Mosiman of Middletown, find Christian H. Yoder of Morton and Lena Mosiman of Middletown have licensed to wed. The affair will be a double wedding and will take place at the home of the brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Mosiman, west of Middletown, tomorrow evening. The wedding will be brilliant and is attracting much attention in Middletown and vicinity." Despite the article, Christian married Louisa. They can be found on the 1900 census of Morton as machine salesman Christian Yoder, 30, born in Illinois in February 1870 to parents from Ohio; Louisa, 25, born in Ohio in April 1875 to parents from Ohio; and Florence, 1, born in Illinois in November of 1898. They are found on the same page as Christian's brother John and his wife Alma. The 1900 census of Nampa, Idaho shows the same family of three. The Jan. 31, 1940 obituary of Dr. Samuel K. Mosiman, a president of Bluffton College and the older brother of Louisa, indicates that in 1940 she was living in Cincinnati, Ohio.
9. Lydia Yoder was born at Morton Nov. 14, 1872, and died at Forrest, Livingston County March 13, 1913. On Jan. 29, 1893 in Tazewell County she married Chris Moser. He was born at Morton April 16, 1870, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 23, 1943, a son of Benedict Moser and Verena Steiner. They are buried in
North Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Forrest. An obituary reprinted on the Apostolic Heritage online site: "Mrs. Christian Moser, whose death was mentioned last week, passed away at the home four and one-half miles northeast of Forrest, Thursday morning at 3:30, March 13, 1913. The news of her death was a great surprise to many. Although she had been ailing for several months, she was thought to be improving. Lydia Yoder was born near Morton, Illinois, Nov. 14, 1872, where she spent her girlhood. On Feb. 13, 1893, she was married to C. Moser, also of Morton, but immediately after their marriage they moved to Mr. Moser's farm near Forrest, where she died. To this union were born ten children, five boys and five girls, all of whom are at home. Besides the husband and children there are left to mourn her loss four brothers and three sisters: Will and Sam Yoder of near Fairbury; Mrs. Herman Fortna of Healey; Mrs. John Huette, Ed and John Yoder of Morton; and Mrs. Chas. Huette of Wolcott, Ind., all of whom attended the funeral except John, who was kept at home by severe illness. The funeral services were held Sunday at North Amish Church of which she was a member, the funeral leaving the house at 9:30. Rev. Schmitz of Eureka conducted, assisted by Revs. Honegan and Slagel. The esteem in which she was held was shown by the large number who attended from Forrest, Fairbury, Gridley, Eureka, and Morton."

10. John King Yoder was born at Morton Feb. 12, 1874, and died at Morton Aug. 28, 1913. On June 20, 1899 at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio he married Alma Augspurger. She was born at Miltonville, Butler County May 25, 1877, and died Dec. 5, 1962, a daughter of Moses Augspurger and Anna Sloneker. They are found on the 1900 census of Morton as liveryman John Yoder, 26, born in Illinois in February 1874 to parents from Ohio; Alma, 23, born in Ohio in May 1877 to parents from Ohio; and Oscar, three months, born in Illinois in March 1900. They are found on the same census page as John's brother Christian and his wife Louisa. John is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

11. Emma Yoder was born at Morton April 14, 1876, and died there Jan. 3, 1888. She is buried in the Old Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

12. Edward Yoder was born July 19, 1877, and died there July 7, 1949. On Oct. 1, 1899 in Tazewell County he married Anna Kaufman. She was born July 24, 1876, and died at Morton Aug. 12, 1948. Edward was a minister of the Apostolic Christian Church at Morton. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

13. Joseph Yoder was born at Morton Nov. 2, 1879, and died there Jan. 31, 1892. He is buried in the Old Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

Johannes/John Yoder

Another son of Christian Yoder was Johannes/John Yoder. He was born in the Pfalz circa 1732, and died at Armagh, Mifflin County July 2, 1813.

Circa 1753 he married Anna Mast. She was born in Europe in 1734, and died in Pennsylvania Oct. 30, 1823, a daughter of Johannes Mast and Barbara Risser.

Children of Johannes/John Yoder and Anna Mast include:

1. Johannes/John 'Hannes' Yoder was born at Womelsdorf, Berks County in 1754, and died in Wayne County, Ohio July 2, 1813.

2. Magdalena Yoder was born in Berks County July 9, 1761, and died in Mifflin County in 1815. She married Christian Yoder. He was born at Reading, Berks County Dec. 3, 1761, and died in Mifflin County in 1825, a son of Johannes Yoder and Catherine Lesher/Lyster. They are buried in Allensville Mennonite Cemetery at Allensville, Mifflin County.

3. Jacob Yoder was born in Berks County Sept. 17, 1763, and died in Mifflin County April 17, 1836. He married Catherine Blank. She was born in Berks County Nov. 7, 1768, and died in Mifflin County March 25, 1856, a daughter of John Blank and Veronica Schmucker. They are buried in Yoder-Zook Cemetery at Brown, Mifflin County.

4. Barbara Yoder was born at Caernarvon, Lancaster County circa 1765, and died in Mifflin County in April 1835. On Dec. 4, 1791 she married Moses Peachey. He was born in the Jura region of Switzerland in 1758, and died in Mifflin County in 1814, a son of Peter Peachy [Bütschi] and Rosina Willi. They are buried in Locust Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. His headstone says 'Christian Peachey, born in Switzerland, Died 1814, 56 yrs.'

5. Anna Yoder was born circa 1770. She married Jacob Kauffman. He was born circa 1769, and died in Wayne County, Ohio in March 1833, a son of Jacob Kauffman and Anna Mast. They farmed in Huntingdon County until 1807, then went to Halfmoon, Centre County.

6. Christian Yoder was born in Lancaster County in 1774, and died in Mifflin County Dec. 19, 1827. Circa 1799 he married Barbara Hertzler. She was born in Berks County Dec. 17, 1776, and died in Mifflin County Dec. 18, 1846, a daughter of Christian Hetzler and Elizabeth Yoder. They are buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County, where her crude headstone says 1847 - perhaps because she was not buried until spring.

7. Yost 'Red Yost' Yoder was born circa 1775, and died in Juniata County in 1856.
Freni/Veronica Yoder was born in Lancaster County circa 1779, and died at Berlin, Holmes County, Ohio Dec. 31, 1827. Circa 1800 in Somerset County she married widower Jonathan Hochstetler. He was born at Bern, Berks County between 1776 and 1779, and died at Berlin May 8, 1823, a son of Jacob Hostetler and Catherine Hertzler. Jonathan was buried on his farm, now called the William Ewert Farm Cemetery at Berlin; markers no longer stand, and Freni/Veronica may be buried there as well, though at least one source says she is buried without a marker in Union Grove Cemetery at Berlin.

At this point we descend into two branches. The first under Johannes/John 'Hannes' Yoder contains some of the characters that figured in the KING murder story. The second under Yost 'Red Yost' Yoder leads to a Woodford County settler.

Note one potential source of confusion: Hannes born in 1754 had a son named Yost who was born in 1775, and married Sarah Yoder. He also had a much younger brother named Yost (called 'Red Yost') who was born circa 1775, and married Freni Yoder and Mary Zook.

Johannes/John 'Hannes' Yoder

Johannes/John 'Hannes' Yoder was born at Womelsdorf, Berks County in 1754, and died at Wayne County, Ohio in 1839. Circa 1773 he married Barbara Rickenbach. She was born in Berks County in 1755, and also died in Wayne County. Circa 1779 they resettled at Elk Lick, Bedford County (in the part that became Somerset County in 1795).

In 1791 they purchased 212 acres at Armagh, Mifflin County for 710 pounds from Henry Milroy. This included a two-story stone 'mansion' and a weaver shop which are still standing. They were among the first Amish Mennonite settlers in the Kishacoquillas Valley (or Big Valley) of Mifflin County. Hannes was ordained as a minister there.

Other land purchases included properties at Perrysville (later Milroy) in November 1792. They were sold in parcels over several years.

Two Yoter households (Jacob and Abraham, numbers 24 and 25) and two Yodter households (John and one with the first name torn away, numbers 27 and 28) appear on the 1810 census of Armagh. The number 27 household with only a 45+ year-old man and wife may have been John 'Hannes' Yoder and Barbara Rickenbach. Number 28 may have been Yost/Joseph Jr. living next door to his parents (the first name torn away ends in an 'h,' and the head of household is a male in the 26-45 year age range).

In 1813 they sold the house and acreage at Armagh to Jacob Kanagy for 2,500 pounds. This amount was equivalent to more than $148,000 in modern buying power. The money was immediately reinvested in a remote property. Mabel V. Brunk wrote in the October 1999 issue of Yoder Newsletter that, "John [Hannes Yoder] also bought land in Half Moon Township, Centre County, Pa., where various relatives lived."

They migrated to Wayne Township, Wayne County, Ohio. The 1830 census of Wayne shows John Yoder [Hannes] and Jacob Yoder [his son].

In Ohio Hannes was known as the conservative elder 'Vater Hannes'; he died there in 1839. This may be a partial explanation for local histories that say an exodus of conservative Amish Mennonites took place from Wayne County to Union, Logan County in west-central Ohio in 1840.

One source says that Barbara died in Wayne County as early as 1815. No date is found on her headstone. They are buried in Plank Cemetery at Wooster, Wayne County.

Children of Johannes/John 'Hannes' Yoder and Barbara Rickenbach include:

1. Yost Yoder was born in Berks County July 27, 1775, and died at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio May 3, 1849; he is buried in Paradise Cemetery at Smithville. In 1798 at Belleville, Mifflin County he married Sarah Yoder. She was born in Somerset County Jan. 23, 1797, and died there Nov. 7, 1805, a daughter of Christian Yoder and Magdalena Troyer. Yost Yoder purchased 111 acres at Halfmoon, Centre County for $4,860 on Dec. 16, 1813; the deed said he had most recently lived at Armagh, Mifflin County. The money may have come from his parents' sale of their home at Armagh, or from the estate of
his recently deceased father. Tax assessments at Halfmoon, Centre County indicate that he owned 270 acres worth $4,010 in 1814; and four horses, three cows in 1815. He sold his Halfmoon farm April 24 or March 8, 1839 (it is uncertain which sale was his and which was that of his uncle 'Red Yost' of the same name and age).

2. Jacob Yoder was born at Elk Lick, Bedford County (in what became Somerset County in 1795) circa 1779, and died in Wayne County, Ohio in 1852. In 1806 in Mifflin County he married Mary 'Polly' Keim. She was born in Berks County circa 1779; and died in Centre County in 1828, a daughter of Johann Peter Keim and Mary. Jacob Yoder appears on the 1850 census of Canaan, Wayne County, Ohio as a 71-year-old in the household of his son Jonathan Yoder, 40, Pennsylvania; Catherine [Yoder], 37, Ohio; and five children born in Ohio, the oldest in 1839.

3. Mary Magdalena Yoder was born at Elk Lick in 1782, and died at Union, Logan County, Ohio Sept. 12, 1856. In 1807 at Armagh, Mifflin County she married Christian King. He was born at Cumru, Berks County June 5, 1784, and died at Union Aug. 20, 1865, a son of Samuel King Jr. and his unidentified first wife. They were the parents of Samuel King, who came to Tazewell County. See KING for more on this couple.

4. Christian 'Keifer Christ' Yoder was born in Elk Lick in August 1784, and died at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio May 3, 1850. In German Keifer is pine. He married Esther Hertzler. She was born in Berks County Feb. 18, 1788, and died May 8, 1861, a daughter of Christian Hertzler and Elizabeth Yoder.

5. Anna Yoder was born at Elk Lick March 10, 1786, and died in Wayne County, Ohio June 18, 1877. In 1812 she married her second cousin Henry Yoder. He was born at Elk Lick May 1, 1787, and died in Wayne County March 21, 1866, a son of Heinrich/Henry Yoder and Catherine Detweiler. They are buried in Plank Cemetery at Wooster, Ohio. The story of Henry's murder of a baby, and his confession 50 years later, is told in KING.

6. Barbara Yoder was born at Elk Lick Feb. 10, 1788, and died at Shanesville, Tuscarawas County, Ohio Jan. 6, 1870. Circa 1807 in Somerset County she married Daniel Yoder. He was born circa 1777, and died at Shanesville in 1854, a son of David Yoder and Magdalena Stutzman.

7. Daniel Yoder was born at Armagh, Mifflin County April 21, 1792, and died in Holmes County, Ohio Dec. 1, 1882. He married Anna 'Nancy' Yoder. She was born in Pennsylvania May 28, 1800, and died in Holmes County, Ohio Nov. 1, 1887. Herald of Truth, January 1883: "December 1st in Holmes Co., Ohio, Daniel Yoder, aged 90 years, seven months and 10 days. He was a faithful brother of the Amish Mennonite Church for over 65 years. He leaves a widow with whom he lived in matrimony about sixty-two years. Funeral services by Daniel Miller and Jacob J. Miller." He is buried in Stutzman Cemetery at Mr. Hope.

8. Elizabeth Yoder was born at Armagh, Mifflin County April 17, 1799, and died in Wayne County, Ohio May 8, 1890. Circa 1823 she married Christian Hostetler. He was born in Juniata County April 18, 1801, and died in Wayne County Oct. 27, 1875, a son of John Hostetler and Barbara Mast. They are buried in Plank Cemetery at Wooster, Wayne County.


Yost 'Red Yost' Yoder

Yost 'Red Yost' Yoder (also found as Joseph) was born circa 1775, and died at Fayette, Juniata County in 1856. Circa 1796 he married his cousin Freni Yoder. She was born in Mifflin County circa 1775, a daughter of Michael Yoder and Mary Young.

In 1814, 1815, and on May 14, 1816 he purchased land at Halfmoon Township. Some time after the marriage of his son circa 1828 they were both ordained as ministers there. (The presence of father Yost/Red Yost and son Joel prompted some confusion, and they are occasionally found in documents there as Joseph Sr. and Joseph Jr.).

Freni died at Halfmoon before 1830, and Yost remarried to Mary Zook. She was born at West Whiteland, Chester County Aug. 15, 1779, and died at Fayette after 1850, a daughter of John Zug/Zook and Catherine.

359 Repeating a footnote from KING: A footnote in Descendants of Barbara Hostedler and Christian Stutzman says that the accounts of Stephen Yoder list the children of John 'Hannes' Yoder and Barbara Rickenach including 'Matlanah m. Christ King.' Some genealogists have followed this up by calling her 'Magdalena Matlanah Yoder.' But this may have been a misreading of a handwritten record. There is also the possibility that it was a play on Mattawanna, a community in Mifflin County.

360 Heinrich/Henry was a son of Yost Yoder and his first wife, a Holly.
'Red Yost' sold his Halfmoon land April 24 or March 8, 1839 (it is uncertain which sale was his and which was that of his nephew Yost of the same age), and relocated onto a farm between Fayette and Oakland Mills in Lost Creek Valley, Juniata County. There he became elder. He appears as 'Joseph Yoda' on the 1840 census of Fayette, Juniata County, checked in the 60-70 age range.

In 1850 his household there appears as farmer Joseph Yoder, 75, Pennsylvania; Mary Yoder [Zook], 70, Pennsylvania; farmer Joseph Allgyer, 22, Pennsylvania; Barbara Allgyer, 21, Pennsylvania; Nancy McElroy, 19, Pennsylvania; Mary Smith, 12, Pennsylvania; Jacob Allgyer, 4, Pennsylvania; M. Allgyer [female], 1, Pennsylvania; and Cath. Zook, 65, Pennsylvania.

Children of 'Red Yost' Yoder and his first wife Freni Yoder include:

1. Joel Yoder (also found as Joseph Yoder Jr.) was born Berks County April 30, 1797, and died in Juniata County Dec. 15, 1869. Joel went to Halfmoon, Centre County in 1813 as a 16-year-old proxy for his father. An 1814 tax assessment of Halfmoon, Centre County shows Joseph Yoder Jr. in possession of 160 acres worth $2,280. In 1814 he had four horses, three cows, and a saw mill. By 1819 he had 222 acres. His father 'Red Yost' joined him at Halfmoon in 1816. Circa 1828 Joel married Freni/Francy/Veronica Yoder. She was born in Berks County April 11, 1802, and died in Juniata County March 25, 1856, a daughter of David Yoder and Jakobina Schuster. Joel was ordained as a minister at Halfmoon on the same day as his father, and later became an elder. They are found on the 1850 census of Fermanagh, Juniata County as farmer Joel Yoder, 51; Frances [Yoder], 45; Leah, 18; Nathan, 16; Mary, 15; and Yost, 13; all born in Pennsylvania. Next door was Sarah Fegely, 21; Elizabeth Yoder, 10; and Moses Yoder, 3; all born in Pennsylvania. Joel and Freni are buried in Renno-Sieber Cemetery at Mifflintown, Juniata County.

2. Leah Yoder was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania Sept. 24, 1798, and died between 1832 and 1839. Circa 1825 she married Daniel Yoder. He was born in Berks County April 4, 1797, and died at Bratton, Mifflin County Jan. 15, 1868, a son of Henry Yoder and Barbara Kauffman. In 1839 he remarried to Phebe Hertzler. She was born in Mifflin County Dec. 25, 1809, and died at McVeytown, Mifflin County Oct. 4, 1898, a daughter of David Hertzler and Magdalena 'Martha' Kauffman. They are buried in Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery at Mattawan, Mifflin County. Herald of Truth, February 1868: "On the 15th of January, 1868, in Bratton Township, Mifflin County, Pa., Daniel Yoder, aged 70 years, 9 months, and 12 days. He was buried on the 17th. Funeral sermons were delivered by Samuel Yoder and David J. Zug. He was a member of the Omish Mennonite Church."

3. John Yoder was born in Mifflin County June 25, 1800. He married Maria/Mary Yoder. She was born in Berks County April 11, 1804, and died at Comins, Michigan, a daughter of David Yoder and Jakobina Schuster. They are found on the 1850 census of Fayette, Juniata County as farmer John Yoder, 49; M. [Maria/Mary], 25 [should be 45]; John, 14; Peter, 15; Ann, 12; and Susan, 5; all born in Pennsylvania.

4. Maria/Mary Yoder was born in Mifflin County July 16, 1802. She married David Yoder. He was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania circa 1795, and died in Indiana County, Pennsylvania in 1842, a son of Heinrich/Henry Hooley Yoder and Catherine Detweiler.

5. Elizabeth Yoder was born in Mifflin County Dec. 14, 1804, and died there June 2, 1877; she is buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. She married Christian Kauffman. He was born in Berks County April 10, 1810, and died in Juniata County Aug. 30, 1846, a son of Isaac Kauffman and Maria/Mary Miller. Elizabeth remarried to widower Samuel 'Shem' Yoder; his first wife had been Veronica 'Fannie' Beiler. He was born in Mifflin County Sept. 20, 1801, and died there March 22, 1884, a son of Christian Yoder and Sarah Hertzler. Shem was a minister. While married to Shem, Elizabeth cared for Irish immigrant Rosanna McGonegal at Halfmoon, inspiring her grandson Joseph Warren Yoder to write Rosanna of the Amish based on true events. Herald of Truth, April 1884: "On the 22d of March, in Union Township, Mifflin County, Pa., Bishop Shem Yoder, aged 82 years, 6 months and 2 days. He was buried on the 24th. Funeral services were held by Christian Yoder. He was Bishop in the Amish Mennonite church for many years, and during the last eight years of his life he was sitting in the chair."

6. Yost Yoder was born in Mifflin County Nov. 16, 1806, and died at Robinson, Brown County, Kansas March 7, 1891.

7. Veronica Yoder was born in Mifflin County July 27, 1808. She married Lewis Riehl. He was born in Chester County circa 1802, and died in Mifflin County, a son of Jacob Riehl and Freni Zug/Veronica Zook. They are buried in Locust Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. His father was Ludwig 'Lewis' Riehl. He was born near Hamburg, Germany in 1746, and died in Mifflin County May 5, 1806. One of Riehl's grandsons said that his grandfather had been abducted at the Hamburg docks at age 8, and was later indentured to a cruel

361 Jacob Riehl was born in Lancaster County in 1771, and died there in 1821. In 1796 in Chester County he married Freni Zug/Veronica Zook. She was born in Chester County Oct. 12, 1771, a daughter of John Zug and Catherine, and a granddaughter of the immigrant Christian Zug. They are buried in Locust Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. His father was Ludwig 'Lewis' Riehl. He was born near Hamburg, Germany in 1746, and died in Mifflin County May 5, 1806. One of Riehl's grandsons said that his grandfather had been abducted at the Hamburg docks at age 8, and was later indentured to a cruel
8. Gertrude ‘Charity’ Yoder was born in Mifflin County July or Nov. 27, 1810, and died in Juniata County Aug. 19, 1875. She married Jacob Riehl. He was born in Chester County May 24, 1810, and died in Juniata County in December 1881, a son of Jacob Riehl and Freni Zug/Veronica Zook. The 1860 census of Beal, Juniata County shows farmer Jacob Reahl, 50; housekeeper Charity, 48; farmer Shem, 22; farmer Moses, 22; housekeeper Fanney, 16; Levi, 14; Jonas, 12; Noah, 6; and Jacob, 4; all born in Pennsylvania. Jacob was still living there as a widower in 1880, age 70. They are buried in Spruce Hill Cemetery in Juniata County.

9. Michael Yoder was born in Mifflin County Aug. 14, 1814, and died at Kishacoquillas Valley, Mifflin County Feb. 24, 1898. He married Barbara Hoffman. She was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 15 or 25, 1815, and died in Juniata County Dec. 29, 1867, a daughter of Jacob Hoffman and Barbara Wenger. Herald of Truth, April 1898: “On the 24th of Feb., 1898, in Kishacoquillas Valley, Mifflin Co., Pa., Michael Yoder, aged 83 years, six months and 10 days.” Michael is buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Mifflin County.

10. Jonas Yoder was born at Halfmoon, Centre County Aug. 26, 1817, and died in Juniata County March 4, 1853; he is buried in Renno-Sieber Cemetery at Mifflintown. He married Catherine Allgyer. She was born in Pennsylvania Nov. 13, 1821, and died in Mifflin County May 25, 1880, a daughter of Jacob Allgyer and Magdalena Hooly; she is buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County.

11. Sarah Yoder was born Dec. 12, 1821.

Yost Yoder was born in Mifflin County Nov. 16, 1806. Circa 1831 he married his fourth cousin Leah Yoder. She was born in Berks County Dec. 8, 1806, a daughter of David Yoder and Jakobina Esch/Eash. Her grandparents were Christian Yoder and Barbara Beiler [Byeler]; her great-grandparents were ‘Jacob Yoder who died at sea’ and Barbara, mentioned earlier. Leah was also a sister to McLean County minister Jonathan ‘Yony’ Yoder and Joseph Yoder/Joder, mentioned in STAKER.

The couple lived at Milford, Juniata County (adjacent to Mifflintown) from 1839 until 1847. The 1840 census of Milford shows the household of Yost Yoder: one male 30-39 years of age; one male 15-19; one male under 5; one female 30-39; and three females 5-9.

In 1848 they resettled at Farnisville. Farnisville became part of Montgomery Township in 1851, and is now called Mackinaw Dells. They are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Yost Yoder, 42, Pennsylvania; Leah, 42, Pennsylvania; Malinda [Magdalena], 28; Derkas [Dorcas], 14; Johnathan [Jonathan], 11; and Hannah, 8; all children born in Pennsylvania. They appear on the same page as Peter and Christian Farney (‘the Amishmen who hired Abraham Lincoln’), Jacob Zehr, and Christian Smith.

At first the 1860 census seemed puzzling. No Yost Yoder is found in Central Illinois. However, next door to Joseph Strubhar at Danvers (and his son Nicholas Strubhar, who later married Hannah Yoder) we find what appears to be a garbled accounting: farmer Jacob Yoder, 39 [Yost would have been 53], Pennsylvania; and Leah, 37 [Leah would have been 53], Pennsylvania; John, 24 [Jonathan would have been 22], Pennsylvania; and Hanna, 17 [Hannah would have been 18], Pennsylvania.

On Dec. 31, 1866 Yost purchased 80 acres of land in Woodford County for $324. The record in the online Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database (thus a transcription from the original handwritten entry) says his residence was unknown. The lot was the SWNE part of Section 28 in Township 25N. The type of purchase was ‘RR’ (Rock River). Ordinarily Township 25 N would mean Montgomery Township, where the river runs through, but there is no Section 28 there.

The 1870 census of Danvers shows farmer Yost Yoder, 63, Pennsylvania; and Leah, 63, Pennsylvania. They are found next door to their son and daughter: farmer Jonathan Yoder, 30, Pennsylvania; and Hannah Yoder, 29, Pennsylvania.

In 1878 Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois listed Yost Yoder as a farmer living near Post Office Deer Creek.
They appear on the 1880 census of Danvers as retired farmer Yost Yoder, 73, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Leah, 73, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; and servant Melinda Kauffman, 19, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania.

In 1883 they moved to Kansas with their son Jonathan.

Leah Yoder died at Whitewater, Butler County, Kansas Jan. 27, 1889, and is buried in Brainerd Cemetery there. Herald of Truth, February 1889: "In Brainerd, Butler County, Kansas, Leah Yoder, aged 82 years, 1 month and 16 days. She was buried at Brainerd, Kansas. Services in the Presbyterian church by W.J. Ficht, in English, from Luke 12, and L. Suderman, in German, from 1 Cor. 2. The deceased leaves her husband, three children, twenty-two grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren."

Yost Yoder died at Robinson, Brown County, Kansas March 7, 1891. He is buried in Ununda Cemetery there. Herald of Truth, April 1891: "In Brown Co., Kansas, Jost Yoder, aged 84 years, 3 months. In the year 1848, he moved from Juniata Co., Pa., to McLean Co., Ill., and in 1883 to Brown Co., Kan. He was buried on the 8th of March 1891. Services by J. Mohler from 1 Cor. 15: 39."

Children of Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder include:

1. Magdalena 'Malinda' Yoder was born in Mifflin County Feb. 4, 1832, and died at Congerville March 11, 1906. On Feb. 12, 1855 she married Solomon Lantz. He was born in Mifflin County Oct. 5, 1824, and died in Woodford County Dec. 22, 1916, a son of Samuel Lantz and Magdalena Plank. Herald of Truth, March 1906: "Malinda Yoder was born in Juniata Co., Pa., Feb. 4, 1832, and died at Congerville, Ill., March 11, 1906; aged 74 Y., 1 M., 7 D. On Feb. 12, 1855 she married Solomon Lantz. Of their eleven children the oldest daughter Uree died some years ago. The surviving children are: Samuel L. and Mattie at home; Pre. Levi J. Lantz, living on the home farm; Aaron, Ira, and Tillie, wife of S. L. Stutzman near Carlock; Mary M., wife of Ben Clark, and Emma, wife of Eli Sharp, both of Kansas; Lydia A., wife of I. N. Hooley of Rockwell; Iowa, and Dr. Ida R. Lantz of Chicago. She also leaves 29 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren to mourn their loss. Her death was due to cancer with which she was afflicted for several months. All through her illness she was very patient, making very little complaint and always saying that it was all right no matter whether she got well or not. Mother united with the Mennonite church in her youth and was always a consistent member. She was much concerned for the welfare of her church, and rejoiced in the knowledge that all her children were Christians. Funeral services at Congerville on the 13th, conducted by Valentine Strubhar and Emanuel Troyer. Gospel Herald, February 1917: "Lantz - Solomon Lantz was born in Mifflin Co., Pa., Oct. 5, 1824; died at his home in Congerville, Ill., Dec. 22, 1916, at the age of 92 years. In 1850 he moved from Pa. to Ill., and three years later was married to Malinda Yoder who died in 1906. There were 11 children born to them of whom there are nine living: Mrs. Ben Clark of Hubbel, Nebr.; Ira, of Newton, Kans., Aaron and Mrs. S. L. Stutzman of Carlock, Ill.; Mrs. Eli Sharp of Iola, Kans.; Sam and Mattie of Congerville, Ill.; Lee, of Normal, Ill., and Mrs. Franklin Muir of Spokane, Wash. Mrs. Uree Yoder, the oldest daughter, died in 1885, and Mrs. Lydia Hooley in 1913. Grandfather Lantz also leaves besides his nine children, 35 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren, two aged brothers, John and Levi, both living in West Liberty, Ohio. He was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church since his youth. The funeral services were held at the Mennonite Church of Congerville, Ill., of which he was a member at the time of his death. The services were in charge of G. I. Gundy, the pastor, assisted by Valentine Strubhar of Washington, Ill." They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers, where the lower name on the headstone reads 'Malinda, his wife.'

2. Dorcas Yoder was born in Mifflin County circa 1835, and died in McLean County Jan. 2, 1868. On Feb. 17, 1856 in McLean County she married Jonathan Kauffman. He was born in Union Township, Mifflin County Sept. 28, 1828, and died in McLean County March 4, 1910, a son of David Kauffman and Freni/Veronica/Frances/Fanny Yoder. For KAUFFMAN for background on this couple.

3. Jonathan A. Yoder was born in Mifflin County Oct. 15, 1837, and died at Hubbard, Oregon March 29, 1918. On Aug. 7, 1850 in McLean County he married Mary M. Staub. She was born at Eitengen, Baden April 25, 1851, and died at Hubbard July 31, 1925, a daughter of Jacob Staub and Margaret. They are found on the 1880 census of Danvers, McLean County as farmer Jonathan A. Yoder, 42, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Mary, 29, born in Germany to Swiss parents; and three

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362 Dorcas was a disciple referenced in the Bible, Acts 9:36-4. Apostle Peter raised her from the dead.

361 The 1870 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Jacob Staub, 54; Margaret, 58; Casper, 28; Lewis, 26; Jacob, 23; Mary, 18; and Lena, 15; all natives of Switzerland. They are found on the same page as a 70-year-old Christian Farny, indicating they were living at Farnsville roughly in the same place that the Yoders had lived. The 1900 census of Montgomery shows that Jacob Staub was born in Germany to Swiss parents; he gave an immigration date of 1866. In 1910 Casper Staub, living at Montgomery, said he was born in Switzerland to Swiss parents; he gave an immigration date of 1861.
children born in Illinois. They moved to Kansas in 1883, and to Hubbard, Oregon in 1891. They are buried in Hopewell Mennonite Cemetery at Hubbard. Gospel Herald, April 1918: "Jonathan A. Yoder was born Oct. 15, 1837 in Mifflin Co., Pa.; died Mar. 29, 1918 near Hubbard, Oreg.; aged 80 y. 5 m. 4 d. He leaves to mourn his loss a wife, four sons, one daughter, one sister. His funeral was held at the Hopewell Mennonite Church Monday April 1, 1918, conducted by J. D. Mishler and D. F. Shenk." Gospel Herald, August 1925: "Mary M. Staub-Yoder was born in Germany, Apr. 25, 1851; died at the home of her son, Ezra Yoder, near Hubbard, Oreg., July 31, 1925; aged 74 y. 3 m. 6 d. In 1865 she came to America with her parents, Jacob and Mary Staub. They located in Illinois. On Aug. 7, 1870, she was united in marriage to Jonathan A. Yoder, who preceded her in death, March 29, 1918. To this union were born four sons and one daughter. In 1883 the family moved to Kansas and in 1891 they moved to Oregon, where they have since resided. Since the death of her husband, she spent most of her time with her son, Ezra, where she was at the time of her death. She is survived by five children (Amos and Mrs. J. T. Imman, of Veneta, Oreg., Ezra S., John and Noah J., of near Hubbard), seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother in Illinois and a host of friends. She accepted Christ in her youth and united with the Mennonite Church to which she remained faithful until death, which was caused by a paralytic stroke. She peacefully passed away after being confined to her bed for nearly four weeks. She was a faithful wife and a devoted and loving mother. Funeral services were conducted at the home and the Hopewell Mennonite Church, Aug. 2, 1925. Services in charge of Bros. H. A. Wolfer, F. J. Gingerich, and N. L. Hershberger. Texts, Eccl. 12:1; and Psa. 90:10."

4. Hannah Yoder was born in Juniata County Oct. 7, 1841, and died at Hubbard, Oregon May 16, 1920. On Jan. 27, 1874 in McLean County she married widower Nicholas Strubhar; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Commercy, Meuse Dec. 6, 1842, and died at Hubbard March 12, 1920, a son of Joseph Strubhar and his first wife Madeleine Engel. See STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more on this couple including their obituaries.

The Yoder who died at sea, and the widow Barbara (represented on the 1742 passenger list by his sons Christian Yoder and Jacob Yoder) leading to Abraham Yoder of Farnisville

The Unknown Yoder passenger who died at sea onboard the Francis and Elizabeth in 1742 had married Barbara, who was born circa 1695. She arrived at Philadelphia as a new widow with nine children. Her sons Christian and Jacob were old enough to swear an oath of loyalty at the courthouse. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler, the Immigrant of 1736 (1912) erroneously stated that the widow Barbara arrived earlier then 1727 with eight small children, and "was among the first of the Amish Mennonite families in America." These errors persist in family histories.

Barbara died at Bern, Lancaster County (now in Berks County) in 1751. It is thought that she was buried in the Northkill Amish Burying Ground, also known as the Jacob Hertzler Farm Cemetery, where only a few graves have headstones.

Children of the Unknown Yoder and Barbara include:

1. Catherine Yoder was born circa 1720, and died in Berks County in 1772. Circa 1748 at Bern, Lancaster County she married next door neighbor Isaac Kauffman (their first child was born in 1749). He was baptized at Steffisburg May 29, 1718, and died in Berks County circa 1802. He was born Oct. 15, 1718, and died in Berks County circa 1802, a son of Isaac Kauffman and Anna Streit.

2. Christian 'Hamburg Christian' Yoder was born circa 1722, and died in Berks County Jan. 2, 1772. The Lancaster County land register shows land warrants issued to him at Bern. On Oct. 19, 1743 he obtained warrants for four parcels. The parcels were located on Irish Creek in Upper Bern Township (in a part that was carved out in 1887 to become Tilden Township). They were returned as 40 acres by John Kauffman Feb. 19, 1812; five acres by Joseph Kauffman Feb. 19, 1822; 140 acres by William Mochme on April 15, 1822; and 112 acres by Andrew Boyer on April 15, 1822 - a total of 297 acres. The surrounding neighbors soon included Hertzlers, Fischers, Gindelspergers, Holllys, Kauffmans, Lehmans, and Zooks. Circa 1745 he married Barbara Beiler. She was born circa 1726, and died in Berks County in 1781, a daughter of minister Jacob Beyeler/Beiler and his first wife Verena Siber. He has created Dec. 10, 1771 has been preserved: "...That my one dear and worthy Wife, Barbara Joder, shall have my said Estate under her Care and manage the same as long as it is agreeable to her... But the Road Wagon with four horses and gears, plough and harrow shall be left on the place and the price estimated accordingly and the monies thense..."

364 Jacob Beyeler and Verena Siber were married at Wahlen August 16, 1725; the entry described her as Verena Siber von Rüchenbach [Reichenbach]. Jacob had four children with Verena (we could not find baptism entries at Wahlen or Reichenbach). She died shortly before his emigration from Europe. The Charming Nancy sailed from Rotterdam via Plymouth and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 8, 1737. Jacob made a joint land warrant application with Hans Sieber in December 1737; from this Jacob received 178 acres in 1749. He had five children with second wife Elisabeth Kallen. His will was created July 19, 1765, and executed March 25, 1771.
arising for like Manner shall be divided among my Children which I leave behind... I bequeath to my dear Wife Barbara Joder whom I leave behind all yearly [income] and till this happy Departure according to the Will of God, if it is agreeable to the Mother to remain in the Dwelling Room with the Son that takes the Place to himself...”

Witneses included Hannes Yoder, Benedict Lehman, and Jacob Gindelsperger. In 1779 Barbara Beiler paid a tax on 200 acres, two horses, and six cattle.

3. Magdalena Yoder was born in 1724, and died circa 1784. Circa 1749 at Bern, Lancaster County she married Christian Fischer/Fisher. He was born circa 1727, and died in Chester County 1768, a son of Ulrich Fischer and Maria Kemmel. The Fischers had arrived at Philadelphia on the St. Andrew Sept. 23, 1752.

4. Jacob or Stark Jacob or ‘Strong Jacob’ Yoder was born circa 1726, and died at Caernarvon, Lancaster County in 1790. Circa 1747 he married next door neighbor Anna Beiler. She was born circa 1728, and died in Lancaster County in 1781, a daughter of minister Jacob Beijeler/Beiler and his first wife Verena Siber. Jacob Yoder received a land warrant for 50 acres in Lancaster County Oct. 28, 1747; it was returned for what turned out to be 68 acres June 3, 1773. This was the farm called Merchant’s Hall, located on Irish Creek in Upper Bern Township (in a part that was carved out in 1887 to become Tilden Township). The final payment on the farm would be made by Stephen Kaufman June 4, 1773. In 1764 Jacob and his brother-in-law Christian Beiler purchased land at Caernarvon. Jacob was thought to be the strongest man in the region. One story goes that he lifted or shoved aside a wagon loaded with hay to clear a barn door jam, rather than back up. Three unusual points converge with ‘Strong Jacob.’ His Y chromosome DNA tests as value 16 (a measure of length) at marker 19, rather than the more common Joder/Yoder base value 15 at marker 19. This characteristic was passed down by what is believed to have been a genetic variance that first appeared in his great-grandfather, Jost Joder (married to Anna Trachsel). And, he was unusually strong. Finally, an article in the January 1965 issue of American Journal of Human Genetics has an article by Bowman, McKusick, and Dronnamaju called Pyruvate Kinase Deficient Hemolytic Anemia. It describes a syndrome that is thought to have been passed down from either ‘Strong Jacob’ or Anna Beiler. 365 It is not related to the Y chromosome.

5. Anna Yoder was born circa 1728, and married Samuel König/Koenig. See KING for more on this couple.

6. Michael Yoder was born circa 1730, and died at Union Township in Mifflin County circa 1799.

7. Johannes/John Yoder was born in 1732, and died in Berks County in 1807. Circa 1761 in Berks County he married Anna Berkey. She was born at Centre Township, Berks County in 1742, a daughter of Jacob Berkey/Burkey. 366 On Nov. 24, 1784 John obtained a land warrant for 178 acres at Bern; it was returned Dec. 21, 1784. A family Bible with a record of the births of their 10 children survives. The will of Johannes Yoder was created Aug. 24, 1804, and probated in Berks County Nov. 7, 1807: “To the oldest son David the land already in his possession in Mifflin County, paying therefore £200. To son Johannes and Jacob my plantation of 343 acres paying to executors £1000. To my six dau, viz: Freny who is single, Anna wife of Christian Gerber, Magdalena wife of Abraham Gerber, Elizabeth wife of Stephen Kurtz, Sarah wife of Daniel Kaufman, Catharine who is single, and to children of deceased dau. Barbara wife of Jacob Knegi the above mentioned £1200 in seven shares. Provides for wife Anna. Exrs: Son Johannes and son-in-law Stephen Kurtz. Wits: Jacob Hertzler and Hannes Miller.”

8. Barbara Yoder was born in 1734, and died at East Cocalico, Lancaster County in 1790. 367 In 1759 in Berks County she married Johannes Schürch/John Shirk or Sherk. He was born at Sumiswald, Canton Bern Dec. 19, 1706, and died at East Cocalico in 1790, a son of Ulrich Schürch and Barbara Grundbacher. Johannes had children from an earlier marriage. His will was written at Cocalico Dec. 17, 1789 and executed Feb. 3, 1790. Barbara’s will was written Jan. 7, 1790, and executed March 6, 1790 (as ‘Barbara Shirk’); it listed all her siblings, living and dead.

9. Veronica Yoder was born circa 1736, died at Mifflin County in 1806, and is buried in Allensville Mennonite Cemetery in Mifflin County. Veronica is often found as ‘Veronica Reichenbach.’ This may indicate that the surname of her mother was Reichenbach, but more likely that she was lodged in that household for a time. It was the custom

365 Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency, a form of Hemolytic Anemia, is a disorder within the red blood cells of infants that causes the cells to break down prematurely. The level of oxygen that reaches the tissue is inadequate. This causes high bilirubin levels in the bloodstream, jaundice, rapid heart rate, shortness of breath, and fatigue. Its outward symptoms are a skin pallor, yellowing of the eyes, and swelling that distorts the skull. The onset takes place in the first two years of life, and if left untreated death can occur in three or four years. It has traditionally been treated by blood transfusions and the removal of the spleen. The greatest concentration of cases has been found in Big Valley, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania.

366 Jacob Berkey/Burkey sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes and arrived at Philadelphia on the galley Hope Aug. 28, 1733. His name on the passenger list appears to say ‘Jacob Bürck.’ He submitted a warrant application for 234 acres in Centre Township May 10, 1738. His will was created Sept. 7, 1764, and executed at Bern Township March 2, 1767. His wife was alive but not named; his sons were named as Christian and Hans, and his daughters as Maria, Cathrina, and Anna. The witnesses were Hannes Yoder and Steffen Kurtz, and the executors were Christian Yoder and Hannes Kurtz. He is often confused with another Jacob Bürck/Berkey who came on the Brotherhood Nov. 2, 1750. The Brotherhood passenger list appears to say ‘Jacob Bürck.’
for a single parent to distribute his or her children among neighboring families. Circa 1755 she married Hans/John Hertzler. He was born circa 1729, died at Womelsdorf in April 1801, and is buried in Kurtz Cemetery (on Adam Kurtz's farm) at Womelsdorf. His parents were minister Jacob Hertzler and his first wife. Jacob Hertzler owned the farm 'Contentment' farm next door to the Yoders, as well as other properties. John traveled to America a year after his father, the Brotherhood sailed from Rotterdam and arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 3, 1850. Hans/John lived at Alsace until 1759; Caernarvon until 1773; Upper Bern until 1785; Caernarvon until 1795; then Heidelberg. On Aug. 30, 1773, Jacob divided his land and gave Hans/John a farm near Mooretown in Centre, Berks County (also identified as Womelsdorf). Their children were born at Alsace and Caernarvon, Berks County.

**Michael Yoder** was born circa 1730, and died at Union Township, Mifflin County in 1799. Circa 1753 he married Maria Jüng/Mary Young, a daughter of Johannes Jüng/John Young of Lancaster, Lancaster County. On May 9, 1755 he received a land warrant for 25 acres at Bern; it was never returned. Michael and Mary lived at Oley, where Michael is found on two tax lists. In 1767 he had no acres, four horses, three cattle, and three sheep. In 1768 he was described as a miller with one horse and four cattle. Michael was described as a grain miller on tax lists there in 1767 and 1768. They relocated to Leacock, Lancaster County (where Michael is found as 'Mich. Yoter' on the 1790 census). And finally they settled at Union Township/Big Valley, Mifflin County.

Children of Michael Yoder and Maria Jüng/Mary Young include:

1. Magdalena Yoder was born circa 1760. Circa 1783 she became the second wife of Christian Kurtz. He was born on the Mechtersheimerhof Aug. 27, 1747, a son of Abraham Kurtz and his first wife Margaret Bollinger (see KURTZ in the Appendix for background on this couple).
2. Jacob Yoder was born in Berks County in 1762, and died at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio in February 1837. Circa 1783 he married Barbara Hooley. She was born in Lancaster County in 1769, and died at Smithville in October 1832, a daughter of Johannes Holly/John Hooley and Catherine Blank. They are buried in Paradise Cemetery at Smithville.
3. Anna Yoder was born in Berks County in 1768, and died in Mifflin County before May 1815. On Nov. 3, 1789 in Lancaster County she married Peter Sharp. He was born circa 1765, and died in December 1796. Circa 1798 in Chester County she remarried to Johannes 'Dick Hans' Zug/Zook.
4. Michael Yoder was born circa 1770, and died in 1842.
5. **Abraham Yoder** was born in Pennsylvania in 1772, and died in Mifflin County Sept. 1, 1813.
6. Freni Yoder was born in Mifflin County circa 1775, and died at Halfmoon, Centre County, Pennsylvania before 1830. She married Yost 'Red Yost' Yoder.
7. Mary Yoder was born circa 1777.

**Abraham Yoder** was born in Pennsylvania in 1772, and died in Mifflin County Sept. 1, 1813. Circa 1794 he married Magdalena Zug/Zook. She was born April 25, 1773, a daughter of Johannes Zug/John Zook and Magdalena Gnaegi.

In 1797 Abraham was considered the township road supervisor of Brown Township, Mifflin County, though it is unlikely that he accepted a municipal appointment. In November 1799 he purchased 109 acres there.

*Harrisburg Chronicle*, Sept. 6, 1813:

"Melancholy Accident - Died, on Wednesday night last, Mr. Abraham Yoter, a respectable German farmer of Kishaquillas Valley, Mifflin Co.

The manner in which he came to his death is truly affecting. It appears that in the evening Mr. Yoter and five or six others had gone to the Kishaquillas Creek afishing. A few young men, observing them, agreed that they would go and scare them off. After the fisher had been there some time, persons unseen commenced throwing stones and firing guns.

Mr. Yoter repaired to the spot, whence the assault appeared to be made, accompanied by a large dog, and on seeing a man, he encouraged the dog to attack him. The man called out, that if he did not desist, he would shoot the dog, at once the same time cocking the gun. Yoter caught hold of the muzzle, with the intention of wrestling the gun from the other. In the struggle the piece went off, and Yoter received the contents in his bowels, and almost immediately expired.

It appeared on examining the corpse there had not been a bullet in the gun; the wad, however, almost perforated through the body. The coroner's inquest sat yesterday morning on the body, and reported the death 'accidental, by discharge of a gun.'

Mr. Yoter has always maintained the character of an honest and good citizen, and has left a wife and several children. Thus was he in the vigor of life launched into eternity. It is a striking display of the uncertainty of human life, and a solemn call for us all for that awful change which must sooner or later take place."

Their children born at Brown Township, Mifflin County include:
1. **Gideon Yoder** was born March 26, 1800, and died July 7, 1871.

2. Freni//Franey/Veronica/Fanny Yoder was born in 1803. She appears in her brother's household on the 1850 census of Brown, Mifflin County.

**Gideon Yoder** was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County March 26, 1800, and died July 7, 1871. Circa 1822 he married Hannah Zook. She was born in Berks County Aug. 8, 1799, and died in Mifflin County Nov. 6, 1883, a daughter of Daniel Zug/Zook and Catherine König/King.

The 1850 census of Brown, Mifflin County shows farmer Gideon Yoder, 50; Hannah, 51; Catherine, 25; Daniel, 20; Martha, 16; Gideon, 14; and Franey [Gideon's sister], 47; all from Pennsylvania.

Gideon Yoder and Hannah Zook are buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township. His headstone says he was aged 71 years, three months, and 11 days; hers says she was aged 84 years, three months, and three days.

Their children born at Brown include:

1. Catherine Yoder was born Aug. 28, 1823, and died in Mifflin County April 2, 1862. She is buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township.

2. **Abraham Zook Yoder** was born Aug. 27, 1826, and died at Carlock, McLean County Aug. 20, 1889.

3. Daniel Zook Yoder was born July 6, 1829, and died at Barville, Brown Township, Mifflin County March 2, 1902. He married Anna Mary Geisweiss. She was born in Pennsylvania June 6, 1839, and died June 18, 1910.

4. Magdalena Yoder was born June 16, 1831, and died in Mifflin County Dec. 9, 1905. She is buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township.

5. Levi Yoder was born Aug. 19, 1833, and died in Mifflin County Aug. 24, 1836.

6. Gideon Yoder was born June 15, 1836, and died April 2, 1864. He is buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township.

7. An infant daughter was born Sept. 3, 1839, and died Sept. 22, 1839.

**Abraham Zook Yoder** was born in Brown Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Aug. 27, 1826, and died at Carlock, McLean County Aug. 20, 1889.

As noted earlier, the households of Christian Farny and Peter Farny (the Amishmen who hired Abraham Lincoln') are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). They were living at Farnisville, in what became Montgomery Township.

The household of 'Christian Farney' had two guests. They appear as farmer David Sharp, 25, Pennsylvania; and farmer Abram Yoder, 24, Pennsylvania. The entries for Yost Yoder's family are found farther down the same census page. This suggests that Abraham came west with the couple Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder in 1848.

Farther down the same page is a set of entries for the family of farmer John Sharp, 40, Pennsylvania. He was David's older brother. See SHARP for more on his family.

On Dec. 18, 1851 in Woodford County Abraham married Sarah Yoder. She was born in Mifflin County Oct. 29, 1831, and died in McLean County May 22, 1903, a daughter of Joseph Yoder/Joder and Catherine Lantz (see STAKER for more on Joseph). Her schoolmaster father changed the spelling of his surname from 'Yoder' back to 'Joder' after studying languages.

The 1860 census of White Oak, McLean County shows farmer Abrom Yoder, Pennsylvania; Sarah, 25, Pennsylvania; Emma, 6; Mary, 4; Catharine, 3; and Sarah, 1; all children born in Illinois. The 1865 state census of Kansas, Woodford County shows A. Z. Yoder in a household with six females.

The 1870 census of Kansas, Woodford County has farmer Abraham Yoter, 43, Pennsylvania; Sarah, 38, Pennsylvania; Emma, 17; Mary, 15; Catherine, 13; Sarah, 11; and Ada, 2; all children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1880 census there as Yoder Z. Abraham, 53, Pennsylvania; Sarah, 48, Pennsylvania; and Ada, 12, Illinois.

Widow Sarah is last found on the 1900 census of Dry Grove, McLean County: farmer Jacob Birckelbaw, 33, born in Illinois in May 1867 to parents from Ohio; Addie [Yoder], 32, born in Illinois in January 1868 to parents from Pennsylvania; Loyd, 6, born in Illinois in December 1893; Wayne, 5, born in Illinois in May 1895; and mother-in-law Sarah Yoder, 68, born in Pennsylvania in February 1832.

Their four oldest daughters relocated to Robb, Gosper County, Nebraska. Only the youngest daughter remained in Illinois.

Abraham Yoder and Sarah Yoder are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

Children of Abraham Zook Yoder and Sarah Yoder include:

1. Emma Rebecca Yoder was born in Woodford County Dec. 3, 1852, and died in Washington County, Nebraska Nov. 19, 1929. On Sept. 10, 1872 in McLean County she married Jacob F. Lantz. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

April 21, 1842, and died in Nebraska in 1928, a son of Jonathan Lantz and Anna Yoder. They are shown on the 1900 census of Robb, Gosper County, Nebraska. They are buried in Blair Cemetery at Blair, Nebraska.

2. Mary Elizabeth Yoder was born in Illinois Feb. 19, 1855, and died in Gosper County, Nebraska April 4, 1928. On Dec. 23, 1873 in McLean County she married Jeptha L. Lantz. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio April 12, 1847, and died in Gosper County April 29, 1929. The 1900 census of Robb shows the household of Jeptha Lantz and Mary. They are buried in Robb Cemetery at Smithfield, Gosper County, Nebraska.

3. Catherine Ann Yoder was born in Woodford County May 26, 1857, and died at Lexington, Gosper County, Nebraska Jan. 6, 1940. On April 8, 1880 in McLean County she married Samuel Lorenzo Burns. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio Oct. 1, 1847, and died at Lexington May 31, 1836. They moved to Nebraska in 1881. They are shown on the 1900 and 1920 censuses of Robb. They are buried in Robb Cemetery.

4. Sarah Frances Yoder was born at White Oak, McLean County May 5, 1859, and died at Dawson County, Nebraska Oct. 3, 1931. On March 9, 1879 in McLean County she married George F. Knapple. He was born in Germany Jan. 12, 1854, and died March 6, 1925. He had immigrated in 1854. They are found on the 1880 census of Drummer, Ford County; and on the 1900 census of Robb. They are buried in Robb Cemetery.

5. Ada/Adda/Addie Hannah Yoder was born at Kansas, Woodford County Jan. 14, 1868, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County Nov. 28, 1928. On March 31, 1892 in McLean County she married Jacob William Birckelbaw. He was born at Dry Grove, McLean County May 28, 1866, and died in McLean County June 24, 1948. They are found on the 1900 census of Dry Grove. They are buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington, McLean County, where her headstone calls her 'Mother Adda Hannah Birckelbaw.'

Yoders of the Oley Valley

The Francis and Elizabeth immigrants of 1742 were not the first Yoders in Pennsylvania. They followed Yoders who were not Amish Mennonite. Thanks to amazing research published in the Yoder Newsletter, we can identify someone who sailed from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, and set a precedent for emigration from Steffisburg to the Oley Valley of Pennsylvania.

The first Yoder known to have settled in North America was Yoder. Though he traveled from the Pfalz in 1709, he was born at Steffisburg. His story makes indirect connections between Steffisburg, the Königs at Steffisburg, and the Oley Valley. The coincidence of the Steffisburg-Oley connection suggests that his correspondence played a part in bringing others to his new home. Because he may have arrived as a Lutheran and joined the Protestant Reformed Church, his influence on later migration is often overlooked.

Niclaus Joder was baptized at Steffisburg March 25, 1609. On Oct.14, 1642 he married Anna Trachsel (in a double ceremony with his brother Jost and a cousin also named Anna Trachsel, who became paternal great-great-grandparents of the Francis and Elizabeth immigrants). They lived on the Ortbühl farm in the northwest corner of Steffisburg.

Their son Adam Joder was baptized at Steffisburg July 22, 1650. On Jan. 9, 1671 at Steffisburg he married Barbli Ochsenbein. Adam operated a fulling mill on the Schnittweiberbad farm above Steffisburg. On April 9, 1675 Samuel König was one of three witnesses to the baptism of their daughter Barbara Joder in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg. Other witnesses were Anna Wyttenbach and Magdalena Zimmerman.

Adam Joder and Barbli Ochsenbein left Steffisburg with their children after 1683, and went to the Pfalz. There they lived at Lachen-Speyerdorf, in the district of Mussbach (Mussbach is located 3.5 miles to the northwest). Hans and Yost later lived at Schwetzingen, between Mannheim and Heidelberg, which is now in the northwest corner of Baden-Württemberg. Schwetzingen was the summer home of the Elector of the Pfalz, and they may have been employed on his estate.

Among their five children were two sons, Hans Yoder and Yost Yoder, who were born on the Ortbühl farm at Steffisburg. Hans was baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg March 10, 1672. Yost was baptized there Nov. 5, 1679.

Hans married Veronica Aechilman. A church register from Schwetzingen says that Hans and Veronica departed for 'the island of Pennsylvania' March 1, 1709. Don Yoder has discovered that they were in London May 6, 1709. Hans appears on a list of Palatine travelers, age 38, occupation husbandman (farmer), religion Reformed Church. He was accompanied by his wife; sons 9 and 4; a 1-year-old daughter; the family of Philip Kuhlewein; and the family of John LeDee.
Hans purchased land at London, Chester County Jan. 14, 1711. His wife Veronica must have died on the transatlantic voyage or soon after. On April 29, 1711 at Whitemarsh, Bucks County he remarried to Anna Rosina LeDee. The ceremony was conducted by controversial minister Paulus van Vlecq. 368

On March 25, 1714 Hans received a warrant for land along the Manatawny Creek at Oley. Oley is on the east side of the Schuylkill River, and at the time it was in Philadelphia County. The first German-speaking people who took part in William Penn's 'Holy Experiment' had settled there in 1712.

The Indians of Berks County, Pa. states that in this period "...there were only three counties in Pennsylvania, viz.: Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks. All of Berks County west of the Schuylkill was in Chester County, and all east of it was in Philadelphia County. In 1730 Lancaster County was formed from Chester County by a line running from a place in the vicinity of Birdsboro to Octorara Creek, emptying into the Susquehanna. From this time until 1752 that part of Berks County east of the Schuylkill was in Philadelphia County, Union and part of Robeson and Caernarvon were in Chester County, and the rest of the county was in Lancaster. Berks County was not organized until 1752. The term Berks, however, was used to denote the territory which forms the county at present."

The area around Hans's farm became known as Yotterschdettle or Yodertown, and is now the unincorporated community of Pleasantville in Oley Township, at the junction of Covered Bridge Road and Route 73. Hans built a number of mills, and the family attended the Oley Reformed Church. Hans died in 1742 and was buried in a family cemetery on his property.

Hans's younger brother Yost arrived at Oley by 1714. He married Elizabeth Kuhlwein, and made his living as a fur trapper. His will was written May 29, 1741, and executed Jan. 14, 1742.

Joders of Műri bei Bern

We have not seen genetic testing results that might link Joders in Steffisburg with Joders in Műri be Bern, though this seems likely.

Műri bei Bern is 15 miles northwest of Steffisburg and 16 miles southwest of Sumiswald.

This suburb of the city of Bern can be recalled from STAKER as a location offering employment for the construction of a cathedral. Though the foundation was set in 1421, the structure evolved in stages until the completion of its tower in 1893. In the mid-1700s its columns were still being sheathed in limestone casings. The limestone was quarried at Ostermundingen, a village adjacent to the city and Műri bei Bern. It held the pulpit where Berchtold Haller spoke in favor of a reformation (withdrawal from Catholic influence) in 1527. Then called the Catholic St. Vincent Münster [cathedral], it became the Protestant Reformed Church of Bern [Ger. Berner Münster, or Bern Minster].

The first mention of a Joder in Műri bei Bern records was the marriage of Hans Joder and Kungolt Wyenet Feb. 7, 1614. On Dec. 7, 1621 Hans Joder married (or remarried to) Barbara Wanzenriederin [Wanzenried]. Over the next 18 years they had six sons and four daughters baptized there. No mention of Anabaptism is found in the entries of descendants over the next 115 years.

One Joder from Műri bei Bern traveled to Steffisburg to be married. Catri/Catrin Joder was baptized at Műri bei Bern May 15, 1664, a daughter of Heini Joder and Margreth Krieg; baptism witnesses included the minister Johannes Haller and Catri Lüthi. On Jan. 13, 1688 at Steffisburg she married Christian Bachman. The entry said they were married 'mit Bistilligung Joh. Haller' [with written permission from Haller]. Christen was baptized at Steffisburg Jan. 9, 1659, a son of Christen Bachman and Anni Rüffenacht. Baptism witnesses were Hans Blanck, Hans Stutzman, and Catri Rübin von Brenzikoffen [Brenzikofen above Steffisburg].

368 Paulus van Vlecq arrived in the colonies in 1702, and initially served as a schoolmaster at Kinderhook, N.Y. In New York he was forbidden to preach unless he returned to the Dutch Republic for ordination in the Dutch Reformed Church. He may have been ordained in secret by a minister friend. When he moved to Pennsylvania in 1710 he was not recognized by the Dutch Reformed Church at Philadelphia. He became a minister under the authority of the Presbyterian Church for immigrants in Bucks County (north of Philadelphia). In 1712 he was accused of bigamy. The evidence against him included a letter from his own mother. He left the area. His records were kept in a journal that is now held by the Dutch Reformed Church at Churchville, Bucks County. Hans Yoder is described in the journal as 'Johannes Jodder, widower of Fronica Iselmyn.'
Lantz of Mifflin County

To visualize some of the Pennsylvania locations mentioned in the following text, imagine the present day communities of Upper Bern (Berks County), Penn (Berks County), Heidelberg (Berks County), Spring (Berks County), Brecknock (straddling the Berks and Lancaster County line), and Caernarvon (straddling the Berks and Lancaster County line) as a 36-mile chain running north to south. The Heidelberg that is relevant here was located about 20 miles west of Caernarvon, on the Lancaster-Lebanon County line.

Lantz descendants in Illinois are generally associated with McLean County. But the family initially came from Pennsylvania to arrive by steamboat at Pekin. They established a farm at Congerville, Woodford County that thrived for only six years. The head of the family succumbed to the Asiatic Cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855 (see SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING for background on the sudden deaths in the area).

According to Delbert Gratz, Lantz is derived from Landbold, or place of birth. Heimatorte or legal points of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname include Eriswil, Huttwil, and Rohrbach in Canton Bern.

The first relevant occurrence of the surname was the appearance of an Anabaptist named Simon Lantz at a debate between 23 Anabaptist leaders and representatives of the Protestant Reformed Church at Zofingen, Canton Bern July 1-9, 1532.

Johannes/Hans/John Lantz was born in Europe before 1728. A number of his associations suggest that he was associated in some way with the Amish Mennonite congregation that met on the Katharinentaler Hof in Baden-Durlach (see KING for background on this location). He died at Heidelberg or Caernarvon, Lancaster County Dec. 26, 1789.

Circa 1848 in Europe he married Anna Maria Kreybill (she is found as both 'Anna' and 'Anna Maria' in his will). She was born circa 1730. Kreybill is derived from the German Krehbiel, which was derived from the Swiss Krayenbühl.

They departed from Rotterdam on the Phoenix, sailing via the tax station at Cowes to reach Philadelphia on Friday, Sept. 15, 1749. The voyage may be recalled from KURTZ as one that brought Abraham Kurtz; or from EHRISMAN as one that brought Christian Schowalter and Christian Stauffer; or from STRUBHAR as one that brought Hans Straubharr (see STRUBHAR in the Appendix for more surnames from the passenger list).

Typically three lists of arriving passengers were created in colonial ports after 1727: one kept by the captain, one from the oath of allegiance to the sovereign created the day of arrival, and one from the oath of abjuration to the pope created the same day. Pennsylvania genealogists tend to call these the A, B, and C lists. In this instance only the last list has been preserved. 'Johannes Lans' appears on an Oath of Abjuration to the Pope list that was created that day at the courthouse.

JACOB HERTZLER

Recall from KING that the Katharinentaler Hof was located six miles north of Pforzheim. In present day it would be described as part of the community of Neulingen adjacent to Göbrichen in the German state of Baden-Württemberg.

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369 Some sources say Anna Maria was a Sieber. We found nothing to support this, and one retraction from a writer who may have originated the idea. Hans Sieber and Melchior Detweiler were the first Amish Mennonite settlers along Irish Creek and Northkill Creek in 1836.

370 Another Johannes Lantz departed from Rotterdam on the Samuel, and arrived at Philadelphia Aug. 11, 1729. Also, Johannes Lantz, 30, arrived at Philadelphia from Rotterdam via Leith, Scotland on the Patience and Margaret Oct. 25, 1748. There is nothing to support ideas on their final destinations, or that either was or was not Amish Mennonite.

371 The story of the Lantz family has been garbled by mistaken guesswork from the pre-computer era, when items were not so easy to cross-check. Someone who knew about the 1729 arrival, but not the 1749 arrival, assumed that the Johannes who came in 1749 must have arrived as a 3-year-old son in 1729. A number of mistaken assumptions have spun off this.

371 Another name on the Phoenix list naming only males over 16 years of age was 'Peter Crapy,' who may have been a Krehbiel. He is thought to have been the Peter Krebiel listed as a head of household at Bern Township in 1754 (and thus a neighbor to Johannes/Hans/John Lantz).

The galley St. Andrew sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes, arriving at Philadelphia Aug. 18, 1750. Among the passengers was Jacob Kraybill. Jacob was born before 1735 (he was at least 16 when he signed the loyalty oath in 1750), and died at East Donegal, Lancaster County Dec. 27, 1810; he is known as 'the founder of the Kraybill family in North America' (see DELLENBACH).
In 1728 Hans Hürzler and Jakob Kurtz [Sr.] partnered in a lease agreement. The estate became the central meeting place for Amish Mennonites in Baden-Durlach. Hürzler functioned as a minister, while Kurtz served as his deacon (just as two of his sons would later serve as deacons in Pennsylvania).

While Hans did not emigrate from Europe, his son Jakob Hürzler did. He was born in the Old Swiss Confederacy in 1703. He married twice. His son John and daughter Catherine were born to an unidentified first wife. His second wife was Catherine Ruegg or Gnägi/Knegy, who was born in the Old Swiss Confederacy circa 1709. They had Jacob, Christian, and Veronica/Fanny.

The family arrived at Philadelphia only six days before Johannes/Hans/John Lantz. Their ship, the galley St. Andrew, had departed from Rotterdam and sailed via Plymouth to dock on Saturday, Sept. 9, 1749. Christian Stauffer was also a passenger on this voyage (see EHRISMAN).

In Pennsylvania Jakob would be known as Jacob Hertzler, as his name appears on a loyalty oath list created at the courthouse later that day.

The Hertzlers arrived at the Northkill Creek Amish settlement at the same time as the Lantzes. Upon his arrival there Jacob Hertzler became the first Amish Mennonite elder in America.

On Jan. 9, 1750 Jacob obtained a warrant for 182 acres along Irish Creek in Upper Bern Township (in a part that was carved out in 1887 to become Tilden Township, Berks County). He called his farm 'Contentment.' This was followed by warrants in 1752, 1765, 1766, and 1778 for a combined holding of 404 acres. The land was divided between his children Aug. 30, 1773.

Catherine died over the 1773-74 winter. Jacob died in 1786. They are buried in the Amish Congregation Burying Ground at Hamburg, Berks County, adjoining the former site of their family farm. Their wooden markers no longer exist. They left numerous Hertzler and Hartzler descendants in Berks County.

On April 20, 1750 Johannes Lantz obtained a land warrant for a 59-acre parcel in Bern Township, Lancaster County. He called his farm 'Perseverance.' Bern Township overlapped the Northkill Creek Amish settlement. In modern day the land would be located in Penn Township, Berks County. Berks County was not carved out of Lancaster County until 1752, and Penn Township was not incorporated from a part of Bern Township until 1841.

It is likely that the Amish Mennonite community there had cooperated to construct one or two large log dwellings as temporary quarters for new arrivals. These were generally divided into two rooms, segregated by gender. The Lantzes do not appear on a 1752 tax list, suggesting that they were still living in such quarters while working to construct their own dwelling.372

Reiterating a few points made in KING:

The Northkill Creek Amish settlement was the earliest identified Amish Mennonite settlement in the new world. It was situated just below Blue Mountain, a ridge that runs 150 miles from Maryland across Pennsylvania to New Jersey. The land was cheap, but was poorly situated for defense. Adjacent Upper Bern Township was actually at the extreme western edge of the American frontier until Aug. 22, 1749. On that day William Penn's sons Thomas and Richard Penn paid combined tribes 500 pounds for additional land north of Blue Mountain.

The only fortification near the Northkill Creek settlement was Fort Northkill at Upper Tulpehocken. It was a 32-by-32 foot log cabin about a mile south of Blue Mountain. It was so simple that it had a hearth but no chimney, so that it could not be occupied during cold months. It was more of a gathering place than a resource for defense.

The Lantzes presumably moved south to Lancaster County circa 1756, the first year of the French and Indian War.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR AND THE HOCHSTETTLER MASSACRE

This war was fought between British North American colonies and French North American colonies, with both sides supported by Native Americans. It corresponded to the Seven Years War fought in Europe.


British general Edward Braddock was fatally wounded in the Battle of the Monongahela July 9, 1755. Follow-up operations over the next two years all failed. The Northkill Creek settlers dispersed to the south and southeast around the time of an incident that came to be known as the Hochstetter Massacre. The Hochstetter family lived about a mile west of present day Shartlesville in Upper Bern. Late at night on Sept. 19, 1757, their cabin was surrounded by 10 Delaware and three French scouts. The cabin was set afire, the mother and two children were killed and scalped, and the father and two sons were taken captive for several years.

However, the American colonies were reinforced with men and supplies after William Pitt became prime minister in 1757. The British rallied and ultimately captured the colony of Canada. France ceded all territory east of the Mississippi River.

However, in the aftermath of the wars the American colonies would become increasingly concerned with increased taxes resulting from a doubling of England’s national debt.

The Lantzes returned to their 50 acres in Berks County circa 1763, the last year of the war, but eventually turned that land over to a new resident. The final payment would be made by John Mast May 24, 1808. At that time its true extent after survey was found to be 291 acres.

**THE JOHANNES/HANS/JOHN LANTZ-JACOB HERTZLER LETTER**

Two articles in the magazine *Mennonite Family History* may be relevant here. The first, *The Jacob Kaufman Bible*, was published in October 1990. It told about five items that had once been collected and inserted into an heirloom Bible.373 It was uncertain at the time whether one authors or several authors were involved; only translated copies survived.

The second article was a follow up, John F. Murray's *An Old German Letter Interpreted*, published in April 2007. Murray proposed that all of the items were copies or records kept by minister Jacob Hertzler; perhaps they were intended as ‘pass down’ for his successor as elder.

Item number four may have been a letter dictated by Johannes Lantz to Hertzler, meant to be hand-carried to his relatives by someone returning to Europe. (Although return trips were unusual, they did take place. When Abraham Kurtz arrived at Philadelphia with the Lantzes on the *Phoenix* in 1749, he was making his fifth crossing).

Murray estimated the date of the letter as 1763, the last year of the French and Indian War, but it may also have been written a year or two earlier.

"A friendly greeting from me, Hans Lands, and Mrs. Anna Landria to my father and mother and also to my brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and all friends and acquaintances we greet heartily."374 We also beg of you that you would remember us in your prayers and that you will beg the Lord to give us strength of mind. Also greetings from myself, Hans Lands, to my father-in-law, Michael Kreybill.

We want to let you know that we have been obliged to flee from our place on account of the war, but the war has subsided again. The English have gained the upper hand. They have fought the French back, and the Indians have again made peace and so we are back again on our place.

We have no want in temporal food. We have also had no want because of the war. Further we have six sons. They are, God be thanked, healthy.

I am much grieved on account of my brother Christian Lands for I have heard that he has married a Church Woman and has joined worldly people. I would like to wish you, my dear brother, and your wife which you have taken to yourself that God may give you grace to turn around like the Prodigal Son.”

Prior to 1771 Johannes purchased 150 acres at Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County. John Hertzler, the oldest son of minister Jacob Hertzler, also farmed at Caernarvon 1759-73 and 1785-95.

The alms book of deacon Abraham Kurtz shows Hans Lantz as a contributor in 1774. Abraham farmed in the townships of Earl and Salisbury in Lancaster County; he had been a passenger with Lantz on the *Phoenix* in 1749.

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373 Murray assumed that the fifth item was written by minister Jacob Hertzler to express his political position at the commencement of the Revolutionary War: "To him our King George III, to give all just obedience, to live in harmony, faithfulness, love, honor, and taxes, and benevolence, and to pray for him to God according to the Scriptures in the New Testament (Matt. 2-21; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 12:13-16; and Timothy 1-2). I also hate and despise with all my heart, treachery, rebellion, and assassination, as might be made against our King and his government, be it by Pope, Protestant, or others. I am also hereby disposed (as much as is granted to me by God and it behooves me) to prevent such as much as possible, at the same time I wish and pray that God will give to our King a wise and sensible heart and a willing mind to live cheerfully and faithfully in all commandments and laws of God, that he may manage right and justice, and thus his throne might be well fortified with fairness and be handed down, so that he may have an eternity for his faithful service and have his reward from God."

374 We suspect that 'Mrs. Anna Landria' was originally written as *Ehefrau Anna Landsin*. -in is a German grammatical device; the suffix is added to a surname to indicate that the bearer is female.
Although he now owned land at Caernarvon, Johannes purchased an additional 100 acres at Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County in 1776. Some sources erroneously say this was Heidelberg in Berks County, but taxes on the property were paid to Lancaster County in 1779 and 1782, long after the establishment of Berks County. This indicates the land was located farther west, in what would now be called Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County; or in Heidelberg, Jackson, or Mill Creek in adjoining Lebanon County (part of that county was carved out of Lancaster County in 1813). 375

In 1778 he relocated to the farm at Heidelberg, leaving the operation of the Caernarvon home to his son Jacob. 376

Johannes died at Heidelberg or Caernarvon Dec. 26, 1789. He had created a German-language will at Caernarvon March 1, 1789. We have only seen a translated abstract. It names him as 'John Lantz,' and mentions his wife Anna Maria, and children Christian, John, Jacob, Samuel (who had died), Peter, and Henry, as well as sons of Samuel named John and Samuel. The widow was left 2,000 English pounds (the equivalent of $296,000 in modern buying power); son Jacob was given support for life. The executors were his son Jacob Lantz and John Gneagey [derived from Gnägi].

Anna Maria Kreybill is found on the 1790 census of Caernarvon as 'widow Lanch.' Her son 'Jacob Lanch' and 'John Kneaky' are also found there. 377

On April 14, 1797 Jacob and his wife Magdalena Kurtz sold the family farm at Caernarvon before relocating to Huntingdon County. Book B, Deeds and Patents, Lancaster County holds this entry: "Deed. Jacob Lantz et ux to Andrew Weiler for 180 acres and allowance. No. 1723. Signed by Jacob Lantz and Magdalene Lantz (mark)."

Children of Johannes/Hans/John Lantz and Anna Maria Kreybill include:

1. **Christian Lantz** was born at Bern Township/Northkill Creek Amish settlement in 1751.
2. John Lantz was born at Bern Township/Northkill Creek Amish settlement in 1753, and died in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania circa 1813. He married Freini 'Fanny' Beiler. She was born in Berks County Nov. 6, 1754, and died in Lebanon County May 8, 1794, a daughter of Christian Beiler and Elizabeth Yoder. In 1806 John was living at Mattawana, Bratton Township, Mifflin County. He is found as a head of household on the 1800 enumeration of Union Township, Mifflin County.
3. Jacob Lantz was born at Bern Township/Northkill Creek Amish settlement in 1754, and died at Henderson, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania in 1816. He married Magdalena Kurtz. She was born in Berks County June 4, 1756, and died in Huntingdon County circa 1816, a daughter of Stephen Kurtz and Freini Yoder. Jacob assumed operation of the home at Caernarvon when his father moved to Heidelberg in 1778. He paid three pounds as tax at Caernarvon in 1782, though his father paid 17 pounds on the same property. On March 6, 1820 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed an act clarifying the ownership of the land he left behind in Huntingdon County. John Beiler had purchased a third of the acreage from the estate, though it was intended for three Lantz sons. It began, "Whereas it appears upon the petition of John Pyler [Beiler], Christian Ditwelier [Detweiler], Sarah Lantz, widow of Christian Lantz, deceased [presumably Jacob's brother], Christian King and Abraham Kurtz, executors of the testament and last will of Jacob Lantz, late of Henderson township, Huntingdon county..." It also named Jacob's children and their guardians. His sons were described as "...out of the society commonly called Ammisch." It also mentioned "the lunacy of Jacob Lantz," and upheld the legitimacy of Beiler's purchase.
4. Samuel Lantz was born at Bern Township/Northkill Creek Amish settlement or at Caernarvon, Lancaster County 1755-1758, and died at Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County Nov. 29, 1781. Circa 1778 at Heidelberg he married Elizabeth King. She was born in 1755, and died in Lancaster County in 1823, a daughter of Samuel König/Koenig and Anna Yoder. Samuel's will calling him 'Samuel Lanz' was created at Heidelberg Nov. 29, 1781. It named his

377 He is found elsewhere in this time frame as John Kenagy and John Gnagy.
informative, but nothing reliable.

Christian Lantz was born at Bern Township/Northkill Creek Amish settlement in 1751, and died in Mifflin County in 1810.

The alms book of deacon Hans Kurtz shows Christian Lantz as a contributor in 1777. Kurtz farmed in the village of Womelsdorf, Heidelberg Township, Berks County.

In Berks County circa 1777 Christian married Barbara Kurtz. She was born there April 26, 1749, and died before 1789, a daughter of Hans Kurtz and Elizabeth Rickenbach.

Children of Christian Lantz and his first wife Barbara Kurtz born at Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County include:

1. Anna 'Nancy' Lantz was born Feb. 1, 1778, and died in Fairfield County, Ohio Feb. 11, 1868. Circa 1802 she married David Zook. He was born in what is now Mifflin County March 2, 1780 (it was not formed until 1789), and died in Fairfield County, Ohio Aug. 8, 1863, a son of Christian Zook and Catherine Kurtz. He may have been the David Zook on an enumeration of heads-of-household at Union, Mifflin County in 1821. They are buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery at Lancaster, Fairfield County, where his headstone says he was aged 83 years, four months, and 14 days, and hers has the age count 90 years, 10 days.

2. Christian Lantz was born Nov. 12, 1781, and died Dec. 21, 1859. In 1803 in Mifflin County he married Maria/Mary Hertzler. She was born in Berks County May 24 or 25, 1783, and died Dec. 13, 1857, a daughter of John Hertzler and Anna Rickenbach. He may have been the Christian Lantz on an enumeration of heads-of-household at Union, Mifflin County in 1810. His name also appears there in 1821. They are buried in the Weesaw Baptist Church Cemetery at Denver, Indiana, where his headstone says he was aged 78 years, one month, and nine days, and hers says she was aged 74 years, six months, and 19 days.

3. Jacob Lantz was born July 25, 1784. Circa 1813 he married Anna/Nancy. He may have been the Jacob Lantz on an enumeration of heads-of-household at Union, Mifflin County in 1821. They are found on the 1830 census of Union Township, Mifflin County. Until at least 1836 they were living in Mifflin County, where they had at least nine children. Jacob Lantz, 74, and Nancy Lantz, 64, both born in Pennsylvania, are found on the 1860 census of Hocking, Fairfield County, Ohio. They were living in the household of Adam Stutzman, 40, Pennsylvania, and Barbara (their daughter Barbara Lantz), 36, Pennsylvania.

Circa 1790 Christian remarried to Freni 'Fanny' Rickenbach. She was born circa 1751, and died in or before 1793, a daughter of Hans Adam Rickenbach.

They may be shown on the 1790 census of Heidelberg, Berks County. This township was below Penn Township. The tally of the household of Christian Lantz shows one male above 16 years of age, two males below 16 years of age, and three females. They lived next door to Jacob Kurtz.

Christian Lantz and his second wife Freni 'Fanny' Rickenbach had one child:

4. Freni/Fanny/Veronica Lantz was born in Berks County July 22, 1791, and died in Fairfield County, Ohio Nov. 4, 1868. In 1822 she married David Hertzler/Hartzler. He was born in Berks County March 1, 1789, and died in Fairfield County, Ohio Feb. 23, 1855, a son of Jacob Hertzler and Anna Yoder. Gospel Herald, January 1869: "On the 4th of November, 1868, in Fairfield Co., Ohio, Fanny Hertzler, widow of David Hertzler deceased, aged 77 years, 3 months, and 13 days. About nine weeks before her death she fell and injured her hip. She was a sister in the Omish Mennonite church." They are buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery at Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, where their joint headstone says he was aged 65 years, 11 months, and 22 days, and she was called 'Frances' and aged 77 years, three months, and 12 days.

In 1793 Christian married a third time to Catherine/Katharina (a name given by a number of sources) or Sarah (as named in a legislative act regarding his brother Jacob's property). They resettled in Mifflin County.

378 She is also found as Veronica Rickenbach, but it is unlikely she was known by this during her lifetime.
Beginning in 1791 many of the first Amish Mennonite settlers of the Kishacoquillas Valley (or Big Valley) in the northern end of Mifflin County relocated from what is now Somerset County, on the southwestern border of the state. As they thrived more settlers came from Lancaster County. Lewistown was incorporated as the county seat in 1795.

In 1798 Christian became a public overseer of the poor in Mifflin County.

An 1800 enumeration of Union Township, Mifflin County shows head of household Christian Lantz, as well as his brother John. The 1800 federal census of Lewistown, Mifflin County may show the crowded household of Christian Lantz, though his handwritten name looks like 'Christian Sarles.' The tally has one male 45 years of age or older; one male 16-25 years of age; two males 10-16 years of age; two males under 10 years of age; one female 45 years of age or older; one female 26-45 years of age; one female 10-16 years of age; one female under 10 years of age; and one non-slave 'other.'

On April 12, 1804 Jacob King and his oldest son John made an extraordinary land acquisition. Together they purchased 1,710 acres of the Mifflin County 'Sharron tract' for 10,000 English pounds. This sum was equivalent to the modern buying power of $888,000. Part of the acreage was sold to Chris Allen in 1806, and became the village of Allensville. Some of the remainder was sold to other Amish Mennonite families. Their numbers increased so much that in January of 1837 the southern part of Union Township that contained Allensville was reincorporated as Menno Township, named for Menno Simons.

Christian died in 1810 after a tree limb fell on him. He was buried on a farm by the village of Airydale in Huntingdon County, just across the southern border of Mifflin County.

Children of Christian Lantz and his third wife, Catherine/Katharina or Sarah, born at Union Township, Mifflin County include:

6. Barbara Lantz was born July 2, 1794, and died at Danvers, McLean County April 27, 1860. In 1816 she married John Plank. He was born in Lancaster County July 3, 1793, and died at Danvers County April 20, 1868, a son of Christian Plank and Barbara Yoder. John is found as a 66-year-old widower from Pennsylvania on the 1860 census of Danvers. He is buried in North Danvers Mennonite Church Cemetery. Herald of Truth, June 1868: "On the 20th of April in Danvers Township, McLean County, Illinois, from inferences of old age, John Plank, aged 74 years, seven months, and 16 days. His body was buried on the 22d. A funeral sermon was delivered by Pre. Joseph Stuckey in German, and by Pre. Loren in English from John 17."

7. John Lantz was born June 26, 1797.

8. Samuel Lantz was born Aug. 20, 1799, and died at Salem, Champaign County, Ohio March 11, 1870. Circa 1819 in Mifflin County he married Magdalena 'Martha' Plank. She was born in Berks County Sept. 25, 1794, and died at West Liberty March 10, 1891, a daughter of Christian Plank and Barbara Yoder. They are found on the 1860 census of Salem, Champaign County, Ohio as Samuel Lantz, 61, Ohio; Magdalene, 65, Pennsylvania; and Isaac, 20, Pennsylvania. Samuel is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery at Kennard, Champaign County, Ohio, where his headstone has the same age count as his obituary. Gospel Herald April 1870: "On the 11th of March, in Champaign County, Ohio, Samuel Lantz, aged 70 years, 10 months, and 20 days." Herald of Truth, April 1891: "Died March the 10th, near West Liberty, Logan Co., Ohio, Martha Lantz, widow of Samuel Lantz, at the advanced age of 96 years, four months, and 13 days. Grandmother Lantz was born Sept. 25th, 1793, in Berks Co., Pa. She was the daughter of Christian and Barbara Plank, she being the second or third oldest of the family of six sons and two daughters, and has outlived all the others... The subject of this notice lived with her parents in Berks and Lancaster counties, until about the year 1818, when they moved to Mifflin Co., Pa. Martha early united with the Amish branch of the Mennonite church, and remained an earnest adherent to its principles until her death. About the year 1819, she married Samuel Lantz with whom she was permitted to live a little over fifty years. Under the blessing of God they brought up a family of ten children to man and womanhood, of whom eight survive their mother. They live in Pa., Ill., Mo., and Kansas. In 1851 they moved from Mifflin Co. to Champaign Co., Ohio. Here by patient industry and economy they succeeded in securing for themselves a beautiful early home, where they both exchanged time for eternity. After the death of her faithful companion in 1870, mother Lantz lived with her son Levi Z. on the homestead. She suffered much physically in her declining years, and most intense the last few days of her life, but she bore her afflictions with Christian meekness, relying only on God for help. Death claimed his victim, but the victory was hers through the Lord Jesus Christ in whom she had a living faith to the end. For the last seven years grandmother Lantz was deprived of the use of her lower limbs... Her sister Barbara frequently told the writer that they used to go to church on a cart. But not a fancy cart like the ones used in our day and time for both business and pleasure, but an old fashioned dump cart. Her remains were laid away on Mr. 13th, 1891. Services were conducted by J.C. Yoder and A. Miller. Her descendants number 33 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren. D." Martha is also buried in Oak Grove.

379 They lived next door to the household of John Lance [Lantz]: one male 16-25 years of age, and one female 16-25 years of age. This may have been a nephew.
Cemetery, where her headstone says she was, "Martha, wife of Samuel Lantz Sr., died March 10, 1891, aged 96 Y., 5 M., & 15 D."

9. Catherine Lantz was born Feb. 15, 1801, and died at Carlock, McLean County Jan. 1, 1863. In 1825 at Mifflin County she married Joseph Yoder/Joder. He was born in Berks County Sept. 17, 1797, and died in McLean County Dec. 31, 1887, a son of David Yoder and Jacobina Eash. See STAKER for background on this couple.

10. Magdalena Lantz was born April 26, 1803, and died in McLean County Feb. 21, 1864. In 1821 she married Henry Stutzman. He was born in Berks County Jan. 24, 1793, and died in Fairfield County, Ohio Sept. 22, 1845, a son of Christian Stutzman and Susannah Miller. He is buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery at Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, where his headstone gives the age count 52 years, five months, and 28 days. The 1860 census of Normal, McLean County shows Moses Stutzman, 28, Pennsylvania; Isaac, 26, Pennsylvania; David, 24, Pennsylvania; Magdalene, 57, Pennsylvania; and Sarah Zook, 15, Ohio. Magdalena is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, where her headstone embedded in the grass says she was, "Magdalena Stutzman, died Feb. 21, 1864, age 61 Ys."

11. Solomon Lantz was born Jan. 13, 1806, and died at Perry Township, Lagrange County, Indiana April 4, 1870. In 1826 he married Anna 'Nancy' Stutzman. She was born circa 1805, and died in Mifflin County circa 1831, a daughter of Christian Stutzman and Maria/Mary Beiler. He remarried to Hannah Riehl. Hannah was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1813, and died in Lagrange County Sept. 6, 1861, a daughter of Jacob Riehl and Freni Zug/Zook. His eleven children were born in Mifflin County 1826-37, then in Fairfield County, Indiana 1840-49. Solomon and Hannah are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery at Topeka, Lagrange County. His headstone gives his age count as 64 years; hers gives her age count as 48 years. *Herald of Truth*, May 1870: "On the 5th of April, in Noble Co., Ind., of quick consumption, Solomon Lantz, aged 64 years, two months, and 21 days. He was buried on the 5th at the Omish Mennonite burying ground. Funeral services by Isaac Schmucker and Daniel Brenneman in English and German, from Luke 12:40. The deceased was for many years a faithful member of the Omish Mennonite church."

**John Lantz** was born at Union Township, Mifflin County June 26, 1797. In 1822 he opened the first store at what would now be called White Hall, about four miles east of Allensville. The location is now in Menno Township.

In 1823 at Belleville, Union Township, Mifflin County he married Magdalena Yoder. She was born in Berks County April 23, 1799, and died in Mifflin County circa 1834. She was a daughter of David Yoder and Jacobina Eash/Eash, and a sister to future Central Illinois settlers Leah Yoder (see YODER), Joseph Yoder/Joder, and minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder (see STAKER for background on these two).

On Aug. 22, 1823 John obtained a warrant and made full payment (thus obtaining the ownership patent) on 77 acres near the village of Allensville in Union Township.380 His household is found on the 1830 census of Union Township, Mifflin County: one male 30-39 years of age; two males under five; one female 20-29; and one female 5-9. John's older brother Jacob Lantz is found on the page before his.

Children of John Lantz and his first wife Magdalena Yoder born in the village of Allensville in Union Township (Allensville is now in Menno Township), Mifflin County include:

1. Lydia Lantz was born Dec. 15, 1824, and died at Allensville, Mifflin County July 18, 1890. Lydia did not come to Woodford County with her family in 1849. In 1852 she married future minister David Peachey, in a ceremony performed by minister Solomon Beiler. Peachey was born at Allensville, Union Township, Mifflin County Jan. 27, 1828, and died at Menno, Mifflin County March 21, 1890, a son of Abraham Peachey and Magdalena Zook. He was ordained Nov. 6, 1864. They are buried in Allensville Mennonite Cemetery, *Herald of Truth*, April 1890: "On the 21st of March, in Menno Twp., Mifflin county, Pa., David Peachey, aged 62 years, one month and 25 days. Brother Peachey served as a minister in one of the Amish Mennonite congregations, in Kishacoquillas valley, Pa., for many years, although he was almost disabled the last few years, on account of failing sight and bodily infirmity. An attack of the grippe broke him down, and this was followed by sickness which finally ended his earthly sufferings and, we hope, admitted him to the home of the redeemed in Christ." *Herald of Truth*, August 1890: "On the 18th of July, at Allensville, Mifflin Co., Pa., Lydia Peachey, aged 65 years, seven months, and three days."

2. Joseph P. Lantz was born Dec. 16, 1827, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County July 30, 1861. On Sept. 7, 1851 in Woodford County he married Catherine Kistler. She was born in Butler County, Ohio Dec. 19, 1833, and died in McLean County Dec. 6, 1904, a daughter of minister Johann (or John) Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Naflziger. On Dec. 11, 1824 in McLean County Catherine remarried to widower Amos Yoder. He was born at Lewistown, McLean 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. Joseph and Catherine are buried in Lantz Cemetery.

3. Simeon Lantz was born July 16, 1829, and died after falling from a load of hay at Carlock Sept. 30, 1895. In 1856 he married Mary Plank. She was born at Wooster, Ohio Sept. 16, 1834, and died in McLean County Dec. 22, 1899, a

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380 The area that contained Allensville was successively part of Derry, Armagh, Union, and finally Menno.
daughter of David Plank and Anna Kurtz. *History of McLeAnn County* (1878) says Simeon came to McLean County in 1853. On Nov. 15, 1860 Simeon purchased 80 acres of federal land in Section 4 of Township 24N (Dry Grove), for $12 per acre. He later held offices as supervisor (three terms 1875-78) and overseer of highways of Dry Grove, and eventually farmed 320 acres there. One of their children was state senator Simon Everett Lantz (1872-1952). Lantz Street at Congerville is named for him. *Herald of Truth*, November 1895: "On the 1st of October 1895, near Carlock, McLean Co., Ill., Bro. Simeon Lantz, aged 66 years and 15 days. Deceased was engaged in hauling hay, when he fell from the load and sustained injuries which he survived but 24 hours. His wife and eldest son who were on a visit in Cass Co., Mo., were telegraphed for, but did not arrive until after his death. It was a heavy blow for the family, yet they mourn not as those who have no hope. He was loved and respected as a Christian citizen. Buried at North Danvers M.H. Funeral services to a large concourse of people by Joseph Stuckey and Valentine Strubhar."

Leah Lantz was born Aug. 28, 1831, and died in Woodford County March 17, 1868. On Oct. 26, 1851 in Woodford County she married Jacob/Jacob Sommer. He was born on Zellerhof farm near Dossenheim, Lower Alsace May 29, 1826, and died at Ashtabula, Ohio Feb. 24, 1892, a son of Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie/Mary Güerig. He was a farmer and butcher. They can be found on the 1860 census of Eureka, Woodford County as Jacob Sommers, 34, France; Leah, 30, Pennsylvania; and Anna Helderly, 15, Hesse. On May 5, 1872 at Mansfield, Ohio Jacob remarried to widow Anna Kathryn Steiner. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Feb. 21, 1841, and died at Mansfield, Ohio Sept. 21, 1923, a daughter of John Steiner. She had been married to Jacob Michelfelder.

Magdalena 'Martha' Lantz was born Feb. 17, 1834, and died at Sterling, Wayne County, Ohio Feb. 13, 1912. On March 18, 1862 she married Solomon Beiler Hartzler. He was born at Belleville, Mifflin County Nov. 22, 1835, and died at Sterling Oct. 8, 1921, a son of Yost Hartzler and Elizabeth Beiler. *Gospel Herald*, March 1912: "Martha Hartzler, nee Lantz, was born Feb. 17, 1834, near Allensville, Pa., died near Sterling, O., Feb. 13, 1912; aged 77 y. 11 m. 26 d. She was united in marriage to Solomon B. Hartzler Mar. 19, 1862. To this union were born five sons, two daughters. One son preceded her to the spirit world in infancy. She united with the Amish Mennonite church in her young years, but after her marriage felt that she could serve her Lord and Master better by joining another church called the Apostolic church, which she did, and remained true to her calling. She lived peaceably with her neighbors wherever she lived. She leaves a sorrowing husband, four sons, two daughters, and 21 grandchildren to mourn her departure. She took sick on Friday morning with a very severe pain in her stomach, and her death was caused by what the doctor called cancerous hernia. The funeral services took place at the house on Friday morning by the ministers, Robert Bowman and Benj. Maybrough." *Gospel Herald*, October 1921: "Solomon B. Hartzler was born in Mifflin Co., Pa., Nov. 22, 1835; died at his home in Wayne Co., Ohio, Oct. 8, 1921; aged 85 yr. 10 m. 16 d. His wife, Martha (Lantz) Hartzler, died in February, 1912. Shortly before his death he made some requests with reference to his burial. In his youth he united with the Mennonite church, remaining very faithful and zealous in his devotion to his church and to his Creator to the end of his life."

Circa 1837 in Pennsylvania John remarried to Sarah Hostetler. She was born in Juniata County May 23, 1815, a daughter of Jacob Hostetler and his first wife Sarah Mast. They are found on the 1840 census of Menno Township, Mifflin County under the name John Lantz: one male 30-39 years of age [John would have been 43]; two males under five; one female 30-39; one female 10-14; and two females 5-9.

The family came west in the spring of 1849. Perhaps they traveled with uncle and aunt Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder, who would resett late at Farnisville.

Leaving oldest daughter Lydia behind, the Lantzes loaded household goods on a sectioned flatboat at Lewistown. They were hauled west on the Western Juniata Division of the Pennsylvania Canal system, until they reached Hollidaysburg. There the sections were separated to be hauled on flatcars (called 'special trucks') by steam railroad 36 miles over what was called the Allegheny portage. At Johnstown they once again traveled by canal west to the Allegheny River. This flowed south to Pittsburgh, where that river merged with the Monongahela to...
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

form the Ohio River. They traveled on the Ohio as far as Cairo, Illinois, where they boarded a steamboat to head north on the Mississippi River. Above St. Louis they turned onto the Illinois River. They arrived at Pekin by steamboat. In 1849 the village of 1,500 had incorporated and elected its first mayor, and became the county seat of Tazewell County.

Perhaps they were met by Leahs' brother Joseph Yoder/Joder and his wife Catherine Lantz, who were also aunt and uncle to John; they had resettled at Farnisville in the spring of 1848. They completed their journey by wagon.

The Lantzes established a farm at Congerville. They are found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer John Lance, 50; Sarah, 31; carpenter Simeon, 21; carpenter Joseph, 22; Sarah, 19; Martha, 16; Eli, 12; and Samuel, 11. They lived next door to Catherine, the widow of Peter Beck; farther down the same census page is the family of minister Johann (John) Michael Kistler.

John died at Congerville Aug. 5, 1855 - on the same day as Jonas Kauffman (see KAUFFMAN). SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING tells the story of the many deaths in the area over only a few weeks. His headstone in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock says he was aged 58 years, one month, and nine days.

Sarah Hostetler died in the home of her son Samuel in the village of Oak Grove, White Oak, McLean County April 19, 1897. She was buried in Lantz Cemetery as Sara Lantz.

Children of John Lantz and his second wife Sarah Hostetler include:

6. Eli Lantz was born in Mifflin County March 27, 1838, and died at MacClenny, Florida Aug. 21, 1896. On Jan. 5, 1860 in McLean County he married Lydia Stutzman. She was born at Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio May 25, 1841, and died at Brady's Crossing, Nebraska Jan. 9, 1888, a daughter of Henry Stutzman and Hannah Lantz. She is buried as Lydia S. Lantz in Evergreen Cemetery at Lexington, Nebraska.

7. Samuel Lantz was born in Mifflin County July 10, 1840, and died in the village of Oak Grove at White Oak, McLean County Feb. 28, 1888. On April 18, 1867 in McLean County he married his cousin Emma Yoder. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Jan. 15, 1841, and died Jan. 7, 1927, a daughter of Joseph Yoder/Joder and Catherine Lantz. They farmed at Oak Grove, White Oak, where Samuel served as town clerk and school treasurer. Samuel is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County, where his headstone is partially illegible.

8. Magdalena 'Malinda' Lantz was born or adopted at Congerville, Woodford County May 23, 1855. On June 6, 1880 she married John Russell Moore. He was born circa 1855. They are found in the Gear household on the 1910 census of Washington, Iowa as John R. Moore, 55, Indiana, parents born in Ireland and Ohio; and Malinda Moore, 55, Illinois, parents born in Pennsylvania.

382 The river route would soon be superceded by rail travel. Mifflin, Borough of Lewistown (1886): "The first canal-boat arrived in Lewistown the first week in November, 1829, which event gave a great impetus to agricultural productions as well as business that continued until the opening of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in 1849. This road, with its branches, has curtailed all centres of previous business, the quantity of grain now shipped from Lewistown being less than a tenth of what it was in canal days." By the commencement of the Civil War Pennsylvania had over 30,000 miles of track.

383 Oak Grove straddled the line between McLean County and Woodford County. When a rail station was constructed at what is now Carlock, its importance began to diminish. Most of its businesses moved to Carlock in 1888.
Kauffman of Mifflin County

Kauffman males are Y-DNA haplogroup R-M269, subgroup U106, indicating descent from the Franks. See STAKER, BARBARIANS for background on this genetic identification.

Two Kauffman brothers arrived in Woodford County after 1850. One married and settled at Congerville, where he succumbed to the Asiatic Cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855. He died on Aug. 5, 1855 - the same day as John Lantz of Congerville (see LANTZ). The other married and established a family in McLean and later Woodford Counties.

When we began to look at this family, we expected to find that the brothers were descendants of Isaac Kauffman, an exile who is prominent in Anabaptist history. Isaac came from Homberg adjacent to Steffisburg, Canton Bern (now called Homberg bei Thun). His descendants arrived on the Virtuous Grace in 1737 and settled in Lancaster, Berks, and Mifflin Counties in Pennsylvania.

John F. Murray's excellent article Searching for the Roots of Jacob Kauffman upset that premise. Murray looked specifically at the great-grandfather of our Woodford County settlers. He stated that DNA results had surprisingly shown no descent from Isaac's branch. Murray tentatively proposed descent from minister Hans Kauffman (or 'Hans Kauffman,' as he signed his own name). Hans was born in Canton Zurich (judging from those around him) circa 1680, and migrated to the area of Kaiserslautern in the Palatz before 1711.

In 1711 Hans made a significant journey with minister Christian Zaug (as he signed his own name). Zaug leased the Wilensteinherof estate at Trippstadt, only 12 miles below Kaiserslautern. The two joined a group of Palatine Amish Mennonites to meet with moderate Reist faction Anabaptists 120 miles to the south at Heidolsheim, Lower Alsace.

Recall from ROPP that the Amish Mennonites "...Desired an accord, provided they would be allowed to practice the Meidung [practice of exclusion] and foot washing. The Reist followers then wrote to ministers in the Old Swiss Confederacy for advice. In spite of a negative response, they finally decided to receive into fellowship Üli Amman [Jacob's younger brother] and Hans Gerber, two of the petitioners. This had no effect on the larger division which continued unresolved."

A 1717 census shows Hans Kauffman living at Oberamt Lautern [the municipality of Kaiserslautern]. Murray further proposed that a son of Hans Kauffman was Christian Kauffman. He came to America on the Brotherhood. That ship sailed with Palatine passengers from Rotterdam via the tax station at Cowes, and arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 3, 1750.

Other familiar surnames on the Brotherhood list include Albrecht, Blaich and Blauch [Blough], Burckh [Bürki], Dielebach [Dallenbach], Farn and Fahme [Farni], Frey, Gundelfinger [Gundelspurger/Gindlesberger], Hertz [Hertzler?], Holly [Hölli], Knebel [Kneubühl], König, Lichty [Liechti], Lugenschieh [Luginbühl], Maag [Mast], Mühler [Müller], Naftziger [Nafziger], Rub [Rupp], Schowalter, Stuky [Stücki], and Zorr [Zehr?]. Many of these were Amish Mennonite immigrants who settled in the area known as the Northkill Creek Amish settlement in Lancaster County (overlapping what is now Berks County, which was carved from Lancaster County in 1752).

The first generation that is known with certainty is Jacob Kauffman. He was born circa 1737.

If Jacob was the son of Christian, he would have accompanied him on the Brotherhood. However, as a 13-year-old he would not have appeared on the Oath of Abjuration list.

A 1763 tax list for Cumru, Berks County lists Jacob Kauffman as a single male. In the fall of 1763 at Cumru he married Elizabeth Zug/Zook. She was born circa 1744, and may have died in childbirth in 1792, a daughter of Christian Zug/Zook (senior) and his first wife Anna Kneubühl/Kanabel.

385 Further, Jacob was linked by DNA to early immigrant Michael Kauffman, though their relationship could not be determined. Michael is thought to have been born at Grunstadt, Hesse March 14, 1674. He arrived at Philadelphia in 1717 (see YODER on the arrivals that year). He died at Little Conestoga (now East Hempfield Township), Lancaster County, Pennsylvania the following year. He left a widow Anna Kneissle/Knesley, and a son Martin Kauffman (senior). His widow Anna was born circa 1688, and died June 24, 1758. His son Martin was born at Landisville, Little Conestoga June 21, 1714, and died in Rockingham County, Virginia Dec. 21, 1788. He married Barbara Haldeman and Madlena Stauffer/Stover. He became a Mennonite minister. In 1732 he took his family to the Massanutten settlement in Page County in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The best known of his children was Martin Kauffman (junior). He was born at Massanutten in 1743, and died in Page County before April 5, 1805. He married Mary Lionberger, and they had eight children. In 1760 they built the White House as a residence and Mennonite meeting house. It still stands, and has been listed by the Virginia Department of Historic Places. In 1770 he converted from Mennonite to Baptist.
Murray's suggestions would mean that Christian Zug/Zook (senior) was not only the father-in-law of Jacob Kauffman; he would also have been the grandson of Christian Zaug, the minister who knew Jacob's grandfather.

Background on the family that provided Jacob Kauffman's wife, father-in-law Christian Zug/Zook, and business partner, minister Christian Zug/Zook (junior):

**ZAUG TO ZUG/ZOOK**

Christian Zaug is thought to have been a carpenter from Signau, Canton Bern, born circa 1650 (the very rough estimate of genealogist John F. Murray). He signed leases on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt in 1688 and 1720.

The first lease offered by Elector Philip Wilhelm was co-signed with Michel Müller. It included requirements to construct new buildings. The second lease offered by Baron Ludwig Anton von Hack was co-signed with Christian Stauffer.

One of Christian Zaug's sons was named Hans Zaug. He was born circa 1684, and died in 1721. He left a widow (thought to be named Christine Haslibacher), two sons, and two daughters. Circa 1738 his widow remarried to day laborer Jakob Guth. Guth had four children of his own from a prior marriage.

Guth had come from Mehligen in September of 1837 to work for Amish Mennonite Ulrich Gundelsperger in the Salingsmühle, a mill at Kaiserslautern. He cultivated one-quarter of Gundelsperger's land, and Gundelsperger in turn used this income to pay one-quarter of his own Schutzgeld religious protection fee. Guth did not pay the fee. This arrangement contradicted laws that required every head of household to pay one fee - since Guth paid nothing for his own protection.

The details of a civil investigation are detailed in Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*. Guth claimed to have had the tacit approval of the town treasurer. He may have avoided punishment by moving out of the district and onto the Wilensteinerhof estate.

Jakob Guth sailed with his wife on the *Frances and Elizabeth* from Rotterdam via Deal. They arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742.

The *Oath of Abjuration* list created at the Philadelphia court house the day of arrival shows only the male passengers 16 years of age or older. It includes Jakob Guth, stepson Johannes Zug, stepson Christian Zug, and Moritz Zug (presumed to be a cousin); Jacob Kurtz (a brother to deacon Abraham Kurtz); and three Yoders (representing the 'widow Barbara' family - the father had died at sea).

Stepson Christian Zug/Zook (senior) (also known as Zuck and Sook) was born on the Wilensteinerhof estate Feb. 21, 1718, according to a family Bible. Circa 1740 he had married Anna Kneubühl/Kanabel, and she had accompanied him with two of their children on the *Frances and Elizabeth*.

According to John F. Murray, Christian purchased land at Bern Township from his brother Johannes (now called John) Nov. 30, 1744. Nevertheless on May 22, 1746 he obtained a land warrant for 30 acres at Bern Township (what is now Shartlesville). Their entry is found in the Lancaster County register under 'Christian Sookie.'

Christian appears on the tax lists of Bern Township, Lancaster County in 1752 and 1754. Recall from KING and LANTZ that, "The Northkill Creek settlers dispersed to the south and southeast around the time of an incident that came to be known as the Hochstetler Massacre. The Hochstetter family lived about a mile west of present day Shartlesville in Upper Bern. Late at night on Sept. 19, 1757, their cabin was surrounded by 10 Delaware and three French scouts. The cabin was set afire, the mother and two children were killed and scalped, and the father and two sons were taken captive for several years."

Christian obtained another land warrant for 200 acres at Bern Township Dec. 11, 1758. Anna Kneubühl/Kanabel died before 1760. Christian was naturalized at Philadelphia Sept. 10, 1761. It is likely that the oath took place as he was preparing to sail to Europe, a trip known to have occurred about this time. A pass down story says that he returned to Europe to remarry to Dorothea Kneubühl/Kanabel, a sister of his first wife, who was the widow of a Mischler (this may have been Baden-Durlach deacon Hans Mischler).

Christian and Dorothea initially settled at Cumru, Berks County. In 1772 they relocated to East Whiteland, Chester County. History of Chester County notes landowners Christian Zook, John Zook, and Michael Lapp at East Whiteland in 1774, and Moritz Zook at West Whiteland in the same year. For background on these communities and adjacent Tredyffrin in the Revolutionary War, see KING.

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386 'Gundelsperger' is the original spelling found by Hermann Guth on Kaiserslautern legal documents and in common use in Germany today. 'Gindlesperger' is found in Colonial America. Ulrich Gundelsperger sailed from Amsterdam via Cowes and arrived at Philadelphia on the Phoenix Sept. 15, 1749. His name appears on the passenger list as Ulrich Kindlishberger. He initially settled in the Northkill Creek Amish settlement, and died at Quemahoning Township, Bedford County (in a part that is now in Somerset County) in February 1783. He is buried in Gindlesperger Cemetery at Stonycreek Township, Somerset County.

387 Lancaster County land warrants include 100 acres for Hans Zoug at Bern Township March 15, 1743; and 25 acres for Maurice Zuch at Bern Township April 11, 1751.

Berks County was carved out of Lancaster County in 1752. The Berks County register shows 'Jacob Good' obtained land warrants for 50 acres each on April 4 and April 24, 1754. The parcels were located in Bern Township, overwritten as Upper Tulpehocken. The warrant of Christian Zug for 200 acres at Bern Township Dec. 11, 1758 immediately follows an entry for 'Maruck Zug,' who warranted 15 acres at Bern Township Sept. 27, 1758.
After 1781 and before 1785 Christian married a third time to Anna, the widow of Hans/John Reichenbach. He died at East Whiteland Dec. 17, 1787; his will calling him 'Christian Zug' was executed Dec. 19, 1787. Executors were son John and friend Michael Lapp. Witnesses were Daniel Durborow and John Lapp.

His son Christian Zug/Zook (junior) was Jacob Kauffman's brother-in-law and business partner. He can be recalled from ROPP, as the person who took in the immigrant family immediately after their arrival at Philadelphia in 1826; or from GERBER AND GARBER, as the person who paid off the redemptioner contract on John Garber and employed him for two years.

He was born at what is now Centre Township, Berks County April 20, 1752. He died on his farm at East Whiteland Township, Chester County Oct. 8, 1826. He married Magdalena Blank, who was born at what is now Heidelberg Township, Berks County in 1751, and died in Chester County Aug. 14, 1833, a daughter of Hans Blank and Magdalena. They are buried in Union Hall Cemetery (also called Union Cemetery or Plank Cemetery) at East Whiteland Township.

They purchased a farm at East Whiteland from their father in 1775. It was situated on the Valley Creek, very near the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road, near the farm of Jacob Kauffman and Elizabeth Zug/Zook. Zug/Zook is remembered not only for his exemplary life, but as the minister of the first Amish Mennonite meeting house in America at a time when meetings were held in homes.388

Jakob Guth's former employer Ulrich Gundelsperger also came to America. Coincidence or not, he arrived at Philadelphia on the Brotherhoold Nov. 3, 1750 - the same voyage that brought Christian Kauffman and presumably his son Jacob.

On Dec. 2 or 27, 1774 Jacob Kauffman and Elizabeth Zug/Zook purchased a farm at East Whiteland, Chester County (in what is now the borough of Malvern) from her father, who had purchased it as an investment only a year earlier. The property cost 440 pounds (about $78,000 in modern buying power). It was situated very near the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road, in an area that was known as the Welsh Tract. A number of Amish Mennonite families had already moved there, following the example of Moritz Zug/Zook in 1770 (his stone home at Exton still stands, and is found on the National Register of Historic Places).

General Washington massed troops there in September 1777, anticipating an event that never happened. The ‘Battle of the Clouds’ was called off because of rain (wet gunpowder) and poor visibility. Peter Mather, the Loyalist owner of the Warren Tavern at East Whiteland, may have been the person who tipped off British General Howe before the Paoli Massacre later that month (see KING).

'Jacob Coffman' is found on the 1790 census of East Whiteland as the head of a household holding three males 16 years of age or older; five males below 16; and six females. His entry was only one family removed from Christian Zug. His entry shows two males over 16 years of age; two males below 16; and six females. Other entries on the same page include Jno. Coffman, Christian Coffman, and Michael Lapp.

Jacob was ordained as a minister in Chester County in 1792. Elizabeth Zug/Zook may have died that year from complications in the birth of son Samuel, or shortly after. Jacob died at East Whiteland April 2, 1818.

Children of Jacob Kauffman/Kauffman and his first wife Elizabeth Zug/Zook include:

1. Christian Kauffman was born at Cumru, Berks County May 25, 1764, and died at Union Township, Mifflin County in 1830.
2. Barbara Kauffman was born at Cumru Oct. 25, 1765, and died in Chester County Nov. 6, 1828. On March 3, 1789 she married Christian Kurtz. He was born in Lancaster County Dec. 22, 1766, and died in Chester County Nov. 8, 1831, a son of Christian Kurtz and Barbara Sollenberger.
3. Jacob Kauffman was born at Cumru Oct. 28, 1766, and died in Juniata County Sept. 22, 1831. In 1790 in Chester County he married Mary Kurtz. She was born circa 1771. In 1803 they purchased 136 acres at Union Township, Mifflin County from John Lantz. In 1812 they resettled in Juniata County. Jacob is buried in Sieber-Renno Cemetery in Juniata County.
4. Heinrich/Henry Kauffman was born at Cumru July 25, 1770, and died at Walker Township, Juniata County Feb. 22, 1843. He married Catherine. 'Henry Coffman' died Feb. 22, 1843, age 73, and 'Catherine Coffman' died Sept. 11, 1843, age 73, are buried in Flat Road Amish Mennonite Cemetery.
5. David Kauffman was born at Cumru June 22, 1771, and died at Fermanagh Township, Mifflin County in March 1817. Circa 1794 in Chester County he married Barbara Kurtz. She was born in Berks County circa 1772, and died at Delaware Township, Juniata County Jan. 18, 1837 (age 65 according to the Juniata Journal, Jan. 30, 1837), a daughter of Jacob Kurtz and Barbara Ritter. In 1800 they purchased 105 acres at Union Township, Mifflin County, though they may not have lived there. The following year they sold 50 acres. They relocated from Chester County to Fermanagh, Mifflin County in 1802. Fermanagh would now be described as a township in Juniata County, which was carved out of Mifflin County in 1831.

388 Someone interested in minister Christian Zug/Zook might read his anti-war document Vote for the Friends of Peace in John A. Hostetler's Amish Roots, which can be found online.
6. Daniel Kauffman/Coffman was born at Cumru Jan. 27, 1773, and died at Mifflintown, Juniata County on or before Oct. 19, 1853 (date of probate). Circa 1799 in Mifflin County he married Sarah Yoder. She was born in Berks County March 1, 1776, and died in Mifflin County in 1812, a daughter of John 'Hannes' Yoder and Anna Berkey. In the same year they warranted 146 acres along Jacks Mountain (now Chestnut Ridge) in Mifflin County and relocated there. One sources says they purchased land at Union Township from William Fleming in the same year. In 1813 Daniel remarried to Christiana Hooley. She was born in 1774, a daughter of John Holly and Catherine Blank. He married a third time to Jane Brandt. Daniel's will said they were residents of Beale Township (adjacent to Mifflintown), Juniata County.

7. John Kauffman/Coffman was born at Cumru June 20, 1774, and died in Chester County July 19, 1846. Circa 1799 in Chester County he married Barbara King. She was born in Allensville, Union Township, Mifflin County.

8. Abraham Kauffman was born at East Whiteland in 1776, and died after 1819. Circa 1796 in Chester County he married Veronica Kurtz. She was born in Berks County circa 1777, a daughter of Jacob Kurtz and Barbara Ritter. He may have been the Abraham Kauffman who received a land warrant for four acres at Fermanagh Township, Mifflin County June 10, 1816. The final payment was made in his name Feb. 26, 1823.

9. Joseph Kauffman/Coffman was born at East Whiteland in 1779, and died in Chester County April 8, 1815. In 1805 he was taxed on 102 acres at Charleston and 50 acres at East Whiteland. Before 1810 he married Phoebe Zug/Zook. She was born in Chester County Jan. 20, 1776, and died Dec. 13, 1861, a daughter of Henry Zug/Zook and Barbara Kurtz. She inherited the East Whiteland property, and the Charleston property was divided among their children. Their five minor children were assigned guardians in orphans court April 30, 1616: two children to Jacob Beiler, and three children to Henry Zook (senior). His headstone in Flat Road Amish Mennonite Cemetery describes him as Joseph Coffman, who died April 8, 1815, age 36.

10. Anna Kauffman (twin) was born at East Whiteland Nov. 25, 1782. Circa 1805 she married Christian Lapp. He was born in Chester County Nov. 14, 1779, and died at East Whiteland Jan. 22, 1861, a son of Michael Lapp and Mary Zug/Zook. Christian is buried in Flat Road Amish Mennonite Cemetery; Anna may be buried there.

11. Mary Kauffman (twin) was born at East Whiteland Nov. 25, 1782. Circa 1814 she married Abraham Lapp. He was born in Chester County Jan. 22, 1782, and died at East Whiteland Feb. 24, 1860, a son of Michael Lapp and Mary Zug/Zook. Abraham is buried in Flat Road Amish Mennonite Cemetery; Mary may be buried there.

12. Magdalena Kauffman was born at East Whiteland April 27, 1789, and died in Chester County in April 1811. She married John Oberholtzer. He was born March 21, 1782, and died in Juniata County July 24, 1828. They settled at Mattawanna, Bratton Township, Mifflin County. After Magdalena's death John remarried to Mary Walter and relocated to Juniata County. He is buried in Lost Creek Mennonite Cemetery at Oakland Mills, Juniata County.

13. Samuel Kauffman/Coffman was born at East Whiteland June 7, 1792, and died in 1868.

Circa 1793 Jacob remarried to Freni/Veronica/Fanny Yoder. She was born in the Northkill Creek Amish settlement (at what is now Tilden Township, Berks County) circa 1748, and died in Chester County in 1802, a daughter of 'Strong Jacob' Yoder and Anna Beiler.

The Kauffmans would have taken their grain to Gunkle's Mill to be ground. That structure was constructed at East Whiteland in 1793, is still standing, and can be found on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1800 census of East Whiteland shows Jacob Coffman as the head of a household with 15 residents. On the same page we found David Coffman (seven residents) and Christian Zook (11 residents). The 1810 census of East Whiteland shows the Jacob Kauffman residence with 10 residents.

The will of 'Jacob Coffman' was created Dec. 17, 1816, and executed at East Whiteland May 22, 1818. His estate was valued at $37,778 (about $725,000 in modern buying power). It was divided equally among his children. Executors were son John Coffman, son-in-law Christian Lapp, and John Malin. Witnesses were Christian Zug, Henry Ruth, and Jac. Dillworth.

Jacob and Elizabeth attended a meeting house made of stone. It may have been the first Amish Mennonite meeting house in North America when it was contructed in 1795, breaking with the tradition of meeting in homes.

Mr. Christian Zug/Zook (junior) died in the fall of 1826. One of his brothers petitioned the state legislature for permission to sell the meeting house. His explanation: 'The Great Valley Ominist Society by deaths and removals had become nearly extinct.' A sale to John Malin was arranged in March 1827, and the property was deeded out to be used as a school and later as a Baptist Church.

A Bible containing Zaug family birth entries from the Pfalz was retrieved from the structure by a descendant in the 1890s. The structure was destroyed by fire in 1895, and the ruins were leveled in 1937.

Jacob, Elizabeth, and Fanny are buried in Flat Road Amish Mennonite Cemetery (also called the Union Hall Graveyard). The Kauffman's farm was located below the cemetery and meeting house. The cemetery, meeting house, and farm would now be described as sites on the south border of East Whiteland Township with the borough.

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389 John Malin (1780-1854) was a Chester County commissioner, and a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers).
of Malvern, about four miles northwest of the Malvern intersection. (The borough of Malvern was not formed until 1873, and was not incorporated until 1889).

The last Amish Mennonites in Chester County departed when the family of minister Christian Zug/Zook junior's son Henry and Henry's wife Christiana Kurtz relocated to Lancaster County in 1834.

Records in Chester County spelled Zaug or Zug as Zook, and Kauffman as Coffman. Children of Jacob Kauffman and his second wife Freni/Veronica/Fanny Yoder born at East Whiteland include:

15. Hannah Kauffman/Coffman was born in 1796, and died in 1847. She married Henry Kurtz. He was born at East Whiteland July 10, 1792, and died at Malvern Jan. 29, 1873, a son of Joseph Kurtz and Veronica/ Frances Miller. They are buried in Malvern Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Christian Kauffman** was born at Cumru, Berks County May 25, 1764. His will was executed at Union Township, Mifflin County in May 1830.

Circa 1788 he married Anna 'Nancy' Fisher. She was born in Chester County circa 1766, and died in Mifflin County in 1804, a daughter of Christian Fischer and Magdalena Yoder.

On May 1, 1802 they purchased 213 acres at Belleville, Union Township, Mifflin County. They relocated there from East Whiteland circa 1804.

A memorial for this couple stands in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County.

Their children include:

1. Magdalena 'Martha' Yoder was born at East Whiteland April 27, 1789. She married David Hartzler. He was born in Berks County June 4, 1786, and died in Mifflin County in May 1857, a son of John Hartzler and Anna Rickenback.
2. Jacob Kauffman may belong in this family. He was born Feb. 7, 1790, and died in 1806.
3. **David Kauffman** was born at East Whiteland Aug. 24, 1792, and died in Champaign County, Ohio April 12, 1884.
4. Elizabeth Kauffman was born at East Whiteland July 5, 1794, and died there March 28, 1856. She married Christian Hartzler. He was born in Mifflin County April 29, 1793, and died there July 7, 1870, a son of John Hartzler and Anna Rickenback. They are buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. **Herald of Truth**, August 1870: "On the 7th of July, in Union Township, Mifflin Co., Pa., Christian Hartzler, aged 77 years, two months, and eight days. He was buried on the 11th, on which occasion a funeral discourse was delivered by Samuel Yoder, from John 5:23, 24. He remained firm in his faith unto his end, frequently during his illness expressing a desire to depart and be with him in whom he put his trust."
5. Christian Kauffman was born at East Whiteland April 4, 1796, and died in Mifflin County March 3, 1872. He married Anna 'Nancy' Hartzler. She was born in Mifflin County July 14, 1800, and died there March 31, 1877, a daughter of John Hartzler and Anna Rickenback. They had children at what is now Menno Township 1821-32. They are buried in Allensville Mennonite Cemetery at Allensville, Mifflin County.
6. Samuel Kauffman was born at East Whiteland April 4, 1796, and died at Gordonville, Lancaster County Sept. 15, 1879. He married Sarah Lapp. She was born in Lancaster County Jan. 15, 1801, and died there Nov. 23, 1879, a daughter of John Lapp and Mary Rickenback. **Herald of Truth**, November 1879: "Sept. 15th, in Gordonville, Lancaster Co., Pa., of bronchial consumption and the infirmities of old age, Bro. Samuel Kauffman, aged 82 years, having died on his 82nd birthday. He bore his affliction with great fortitude, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. He was frequently asked if he was lonesome and always replied that he was not, and that he thought of the hymn, "Allein und doch nicht ganz allein, Bich ich in meiner Einsamkeit: Und ob ich schon verlassen schein, Vertritt uns Jesus selbst die Zeit." He said that he had seen so much of the glory beyond a multitude arrayed in white garments; and that he was at peace with all men. He was married 58 years and leaves a deeply afflicted widow. He was a member of the Amish Church for nearly 70 years. Funeral services, according to his own request, were conducted by Henry Lantz and Daniel Lantz from 2 Tim. 4:7, 8. He leaves eight children, 53 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren." Samuel is buried in Gordonville Cemetery at Gordonville, Lancaster County.
7. Anna 'Nancy' Kauffman (twin) was born at East Whiteland Aug. 17, 1800, and died in Mifflin County Dec. 10, 1873. She is buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County. She married Jacob Yoder. He was born in Pennsylvania May 2, 1795, and died in Mifflin County in 1828, a son of Jacob Yoder and Catherine Blank.
8. Freni/Veronica/Frany Kauffman (twin) was born at East Whiteland Aug. 17, 1800, and died in Champaign County, Ohio March 20, 1868. She married Christian L. Yoder. He was born in Pennsylvania April 2, 1799, and died in Champaign County, Ohio March 13, 1872, a son of Christian 'County Line Christian' Yoder and Magdalena Yoder. **Herald of Truth**, April 1872: "On the 15th of March in Mifflin Co., Pa., while on a visit to friends, Christian Yoder Sr. of Champaign Co., Ohio. Aged 72 yrs., 11 mos., and 18 days. His remains were buried on the 17th in the Amish
David Kauffman was born at East Whiteland, Chester County, Pennsylvania Aug. 24, 1792. He died at Salem, Champaign County, Ohio April 12, 1884.

In 1817 in Mifflin County he married Freni/Veronica/Frany Schmucker. They are buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville.

He remarried to Elizabeth Kauffman. She was born in Centre County, Pennsylvania Nov. 19, 1813, and died Dec. 25, 1897, a daughter of Jacob Kauffman and Anna Yoder.

The 1870 census of Salem shows retired farmer David Kauffman, 77, Pennsylvania; and Frances Kauffman, 64, Pennsylvania.

He remarried to Elizabeth Kauffman. She was born in Centre County, Pennsylvania Nov. 19, 1813, and died Dec. 25, 1897, a daughter of Jacob Kauffman and Anna Yoder.

The 1870 census of Salem shows retired farmer David Kauffman, 77, Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth, 57, Pennsylvania. They lived next door to son Christian.

Herald of Truth, May 1884: "Died - At his residence in Salem Township, Champaign County, Ohio, April 12th, 1884, David Kauffman, aged 91 years, 7 months and 18 days. David Kauffman was born in Chester County, Pa., August 24th, 1792, of German parentage. At the age of 12 years, his father moved to Mifflin County, Pa., and settled on a farm in Kishacoquillas Valley, where he grew to manhood and was joined in wedlock with Fannie Yoder which union was blessed with seven children, six sons and one daughter. In March 1845 he sold his farm in Pennsylvania, and moved to Logan Co., O., where his two sons, Joseph and Christian had previously emigrated. In the same year, he purchased of Henry Enoch the farm situated in Salem Township, Champaign County, where he resided with his family until one by one had arrived at maturity, and left the old homestead, to build and maintain homes for themselves. The wife and mother died at the old homestead, of heart disease, June 7th, 1861 at the age of 64 years, 7 months and 2 days. Subsequently he was joined in wedlock with Elizabeth Kauffman, who proved a kind, affectionate, and most dutiful helpmate, conducting largely to carry him beyond the four score years and ten. He became a professor of religion in early manhood and continued through life a prominent and faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church, and died in the firm faith of a redeeming Savior. Physically and mentally he was remarkably healthy and vigorous retaining great strength of body and mind, until the moment of his death, peacefully and quietly breathing his last at 7 o'clock A.M. on Saturday the 12th. The funeral took place on Monday the 14th, with religious services at the church where he so long and regularly attended. The services were conducted by John Weree, in German, and by L.I. Drake of the Presbyterian Church of West Liberty, in the English language. Text, 90th Psalm, 12th verse - 'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.' The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people, his old neighbors, friends and relatives, who came to assist in the last sad rites. He leaves a wife, six children, forty-six grand-children, sixty-two great grand children, and one great-great grand-child. All of the children now living (six in number), except one son (David who resides in Washington Territory) together with a large number of the grand and great-grand-children were present, and followed the remains to their last resting place. West Liberty Banner."
the first settled county to his present location in Bethel Township, Clark Co., where he serves his church. His life throughout, until 1862, was devoted to farm labor, but for the last eighteen years his time has been spend on behalf of his church, and no doubt much good has grown out of his labors. He is now over three score years of age, and an active worker in the cause of religion." The 1850 census of Wayne, Champaign County, Ohio shows farmer Joseph Kauffman, 32, Pennsylvania; Marth, 32, Pennsylvania; Frances, 8, Pennsylvania; Nancy, 6, Pennsylvania; Lydia, 4, Ohio; John, 2, Ohio; Levi, 1, Ohio; Jonas Kauffman, 24, Pennsylvania; and Wm. Davis, 16, Ohio. Joseph and Magdalena are buried in New Carlisle Cemetery at New Carlisle, Ohio.

2. Magdalena/ Martha/Mattie Kauffman was born Oct. 15, 1819, and died at West Liberty, Ohio Aug. 19, 1897. On Feb. 20, 1840 she married Jacob Hooley. He was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania May 30, 1817, and died at West Liberty, Ohio Sept. 4, 1898, a son of David Hooley and Catherine King. They settled at West Liberty, Ohio. They are buried in Hooley Cemetery/Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery at West Liberty.

3. Christian Kauffman was born Nov. 27, 1821, and died at Salem, Champaign County, Ohio March 30, 1894. On Jan. 7, 1844 in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania he married Mary Hooley. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Dec. 9, 1820, and died in Champaign County March 14, 1902, a daughter of David Hooley and Catherine King. In 1845 they relocated to Ohio. They are found next door to his parents on the 1870 census of Salem as farmer Christian Kauffman, 47, Pennsylvania; Mary, 48, Pennsylvania; and nine children born in Ohio. Herald of Truth, June 1894: "Christian Kauffman died suddenly of heart disease on Friday evening March 30th, 1894, at his home near West Liberty, Ohio, at the age of 72 yrs., 4 mo., 3 days. He was born in Mifflin County, Pa., Nov. 27th, 1821, and at the age of 19 years united with the Amish Mennonite church in which faith he continued through life. He was married to Mary Hooley Jan. 7, 1844, and a few months later they migrated to Logan Co., Ohio, where they lived 15 years. They then moved to the old homestead of his father in Champaign Co., where they lived for 35 years until death separated them. Funeral services were held on Monday, April 2d at the Oak Grove church by John Warye in German and Abednego Miller in English." They are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery (formerly Hooley Cemetery) at Kennard, Champaign County, where Mary's headstone says she was, "Mary Kauffman, died March 14, 1902, aged 81 Y. 3 M. 5 D."

4. David Jefferson Kauffman was born Jan. 25, 1824, and died Feb. 14, 1922. Circa 1845 he married Mary Hooley. She was born in Mifflin County Sept. 30, 1825, and died in Champaign County, Ohio March 4, 1850, a daughter of David Hooley and Mary Hertzler. Circa 1852 he remarried to Elizabeth Yoder. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Jan. 5, 1825, and died between 1876 and 1880, a daughter of minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena Wagner. They settled at Bloomington in McLean County, then relocated to Colorado and Washington; David later living as a widower in California. The 1880 census of Columbia, Washington shows a combined household with a third wife: farmer David Kauffman, 56, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; daughter Jessie E., 10, Illinois; son Bertie J., 5, Colorado; son Charles B., 4, Colorado; son-in-law Samuel Hilton, 26, Massachusetts; son Joash, 20, Illinois; wife Sarah M., 32, Virginia; daughter Fannie, 7, Colorado; and daughter Sara A. Hilton, 23, Illinois. David is found as a 96-year-old father-in-law in the household of William H. Shaw and wife Jessie on the 1920 census of Snelling, California. He is buried in Snelling Cemetery.

5. Jonas Kauffman was born June 18 or 19, 1826.

6. Jonathan Kauffman was born Sept. 28, 1828, and died in McLean County March 4, 1910.

7. Solomon Kauffman was born Jan. 6, 1832, and died at Burlington, Kansas in December 1909. He married Melissa Jane 'Lissi' Patton. She was born at West Elkton, Ohio July 7, 1844, and died at Garnett, Kansas March 3, 1922, a daughter of Peter Patton and Hannah Oglesby. He was a 1st Lieutenant, Co. L, 3 Ind. History of Anderson County, Kansas: "Solomon Kauffman, postmaster, was born in Mifflin County, Pa., January 6, 1832. In 1845 his parents immigrated to Champaign County, Ohio, where he was reared on a farm. At the age of eighteen he learned the trade of carpenter and in 1853 moved to McLain County, Ill., where he worked at his trade a year, then to Iowa City, and in Marshall County, Iowa, for about two years. In May 1856 he came to Anderson County, Kan., pre-empted 160 acres in Reeder Township, which he improved, and purchased other lands adjoining until he owned 345 acres. He was elected to the office of County Judge in 1857, but refused to qualify under the 'bogus laws' then in force. In 1858 he served as a member of the County Board of Supervisors. He took an active part with the Free-State men of Kansas in the troubles of 1856. In December of that year he was instrumental in bringing to the county a colony of eighty-six men who had been in the Free-State army and they established the town of Hiatt. On August 6, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Third Kansas Infantry. This regiment was afterward consolidated into the Tenth Kansas and he was placed in Company C, of that regiment. On the 11th of September, 1862, he was promoted to First Lieutenant of Company L, Third Indiana Regiment and on Mary 28, 1863, to Captain and placed in charge of a battery attached to the Indian Brigade. He was mustered out May 31, 1865, and returned to his farm. On the 29th day of August, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Mellissa J. Patton, who still continues to share the joys and hardships of life with him. In 1868 he was elected to the office of Clerk of the District Court and moved to Garnett. He served as Clerk one term. In 1870 he embarked in the real estate business and three years later associated with him in that business George W. Iler. In 1874 they purchased the Plain Dealer and continued to conduct both businesses until February 1878, when they dissolved and Mr. Kauffman took the paper and published it alone until he admitted his present partner, H. M. Brook, in 1881. On June 14, 1878, Mr. Kauffman was appointed postmaster of Garnett, which position he still occupies. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Burlington, Kansas. There a newer joint
Older brother Jonas Kauffman

Jonas Kauffman was born at Union Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania June 17, 1826, and died at Congerville, Montgomery Township, Woodford County Aug. 5, 1855. His headstone in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County says he was aged 29 yrs., 1 mo., 18 ds.

Jonas appears on the 1850 census of Wayne, Champaign County, Ohio as a 24-year-old from Pennsylvania in the household of his uncle and aunt Joseph Kauffman and Magdalena ’Martha' Yoder.

In the spring of 1851 he and his younger brother Jonathan accompanied minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and his wife Magdalena Wagner to Central Illinois. Yoder became elder of the Rock Creek meeting in McLean County, drawing members from the Mackinaw meeting. See STAKER for background on this couple.

The Lantzes came to Congerville directly from Union Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. The Kauffman brothers were also born there, but only arrived after spending several years in Ohio. Jonas was only 18 when he left Pennsylvania; his younger brother Jonathan was 16. When they arrived in Illinois they were 24 and 22 years of age respectively

On Feb. 22, 1852 in Woodford County Jonas married Miriam Rebecca Yoder/Joder. She was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania Oct. 30, 1829, a daughter of Joseph Yoder/Joder and Catherine Lantz. Joseph was the school teacher brother of minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder.

Jonas Kauffman died at Congerville, Montgomery Township, Woodford County Aug. 5, 1855 - the same day as neighbor John Lantz. See SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING for background on the Asiatic Cholera epidemic in the area. Although Jonas and Miriam had already had two children, Miriam was left pregnant with the only child who would grow to adulthood.

The 1860 census of Kansas Township, Woodford County shows Miriam in the household of her parents: Joseph Joder, 63, Pennsylvania; Cathrina [Lantz], 53, Pennsylvania; Mirriam Coffman, 30, Pennsylvania; Idda Joder, 21, Pennsylvania; Emma Joder, 18, Pennsylvania; and Jonas Coffman, 4, Illinois [Miriam's son].

The following year Miriam's parents purchased an 80-acre farm at Dry Grove, McLean County. When her mother Catherine Lantz died in 1862, Miriam moved there to do housekeeping for her widowed father Joseph Yoder/Joder. In 1868 she purchased the south 40 acres of the farm from her father. He gave her the balance before 1870, when their property value appears on the census after her name.

The 1870 census of Dry Grove shows book agent Joseph Yoder, 73, Pennsylvania; housekeeper Mina Caufman, 40, Pennsylvania; Jonas Caufman, 14, Illinois 'works on farm'; and farmer Benj. Lantz, 27, Ohio. Later on the same page we find the household of Simeon Lantz (see LANTZ).

On Sept. 26, 1876 in McLean County Mariam remarried to Adam Zook; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Zook was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania Oct. 5, 1829, and died at Carlock, McLean County-May 8, 1907, a son of Yost Zook and Susanna Hostetter. He had come to McLean County with his parents in 1850.


Adam and Miriam farmed 140 acres at Dry Grove. They also raised Frank Noel Burns (1883-1946), a son of neighbor Jonathan Burns. Noel's mother had died when he was two years of age.

Adam and Miriam relocated to Carlock in 1891. Miriam died there on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 22, 1898. We last find Adam on the 1900 census of White Oak, Mclean County, as a 70-year-old born in Pennsylvania in October 1829 in the household of his son Adam Jr.

Jonas and Miriam had two sons who died young. The third was Jonas Kauffman (junior). He was born at Congerville in November 1855 (consistent with censuses), three months after the death of his father, though his erroneous death entry differs.

The 1900 census of Dry Grove has the household of day laborer Benjamin Lantz, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania in February 1843; his wife and four children; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Ida and Linneus Troyer; and boarder Jonas Kauffman, 44, born in Illinois in November 1855 to parents from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

He is also found on the 1910 census of Delaware Township, Defiance County, Ohio as Jonas Kauffman, 54, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania. The American Aberdeen-Angus Herd Book (1910) lists him as a cattle breeder at Sherwood, Ohio. Sherwood village is located along the B&O Railroad in Delaware Township.

His death entry was created in Defiance County. It stated that single farmer Jonas Kauffman had died there Feb. 23, 1920. His birth date was given as Jan. 3, 1853, and his parents were described as Jonas Kauffman, born in Ohio, and Marion Joder, born in Pennsylvania. We could not identify a place of burial.
Younger brother Jonathan Kauffman

Jonathan Kauffman was born Sept. 28, 1828, and died in McLean County March 4, 1910.

In the spring of 1851 he and his older brother Jonas accompanied minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena Wagner to Central Illinois. He presumably lived with Jonas at Congerville until marriage.

On Feb. 17, 1856 in McLean County he married Dorcas 'Tabitha' Yoder. She was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania circa 1835, and died in McLean County Jan. 2, 1868, a daughter of Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder. They appear on the 1860 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as farmer Johnathan Kaufman, 30, Pennsylvania; Dorcas, 23, Pennsylvania; Ann, 3, Illinois; and Nancy, Illinois [this was certainly daughter Magdalena; 'Nancy' is a nickname for Ann].

Children of Jonathan Kauffman and his first wife Dorcas 'Tabitha' Yoder include:

1. Ann Kaufman was born at Dry Grove, McLean County Nov. 13, 1858, and died Dec. 3, 1879. She is buried in Fairmount Lone Star Cemetery in Butler County, Kansas, where her headstone calls her 'Nancy M. Kauffman.' See FARNY for more on this location where she is buried near Farmys and Ropps.
2. Magdalena 'Malinda' Kauffman was born at Dry Grove May 24, 1860 (per her death entry), and died at White Oak, McLean County Jan. 9, 1926. On Feb. 15, 1881 at Danvers she married Joseph E. Zook; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Zook was born at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township Dec. 12, 1856, and died at Limestone, Peoria May 31, 1945, a son of Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook and Barbe Stecker/Barbara Staker. His death entry described him as a farmer at East Peoria. Her death entry described her as Malinda A. Zook, 65, a daughter of John Kauffman, who was born in Pennsylvania. They are buried under a joint marker in Imhoff Cemetery as 'father Joseph E. Zook, 1855-1945,' and 'mother Malinda S. Zook, 1863-1926.'
3. Sarah Kauffman was born at Congerville Oct. 13, 1863 (per her death entry), and died at Danvers Nov. 1, 1934. On Sept. 7, 1887 in McLean County she married widower Jonathan D. Plank. He had first married her sister Amanda. Sarah's death entry named her as Sarah Plank, 71, and described her parents as Jonathan Kauffman, born at Mifflin, Pa., and Tabitha Yoder, born at Hamilton, Ohio. Sarah and Jonathan are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.
4. Amanda V. Kauffman was born circa March 20, 1865, and died in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania April 11, 1886. Circa 1885 she married Jonathan D. Plank there. He was born at Port Royal, Juniata County, Pennsylvania Nov. 2, 1850, and died Oct. 3, 1902, a son of Samuel Plank and Catherine Yoder. Herald of Truth, May 1886: "On the 11th of April, in the Kishoquillas Valley, Mifflin Co., Pa., Amanda, wife of Jonathan D. Plank, aged 20 years and 21 days. She came to this valley about four months ago from McLean Co., and some time afterwards married was married to Plank. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church. Funeral was held on the 12th; services were held by John Hartzler and J.H. Byler from 1 Pet 1:24, 25. A loud call to the young." Her headstone in Allensville Mennonite and Amish Cemetery says she was 'Amanda V., wife of Jonathan D. Plank, died April 11, 1886, age 23 yrs. 20 ds.'

On Dec. 27, 1868 in McLean County Jonathan remarried to Catherine Gertrude Sharp. She was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania March 6, 1841, and died at Montgomery Township, Woodford County June 30, 1916, a daughter of John Sharp and Leah Yoder.

A single page of the 1850 census of Montgomery Township shows the Yost Yoder family with 16-year-old Derkas (Dorcas Yoder, Jonathan's first wife); the John Sharp family with 9-year-old Catharine (Catherine Gertrude Sharp, Jonathan's second wife); the Christian Farny family (as 'Christian Forney'), and the Peter Farny family (as 'Peter Forney'). Jonathan lived with Gertrude at Congerville after marriage, though we could not identify them on the 1870 census.

The 1880 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Jonathan Kauffman, 52, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Gertrude, 39, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Sarah, 16; Amanda, 14; Annie, 9; David, 8; Emma, 4; Mary, infant; Amelia, 5; Rachel, 10; and Fannie, 6; all children born in Illinois. They appear on the 1900 census of Kansas and Montgomery Townships, Woodford County as farmer Jonathan Kaufman, 71, born in Pennsylvania in September 1828; Gertrut, 59, born in Pennsylvania in March 1841; Irene R., 30, born in Illinois in October 1869; David A., 28, born in Illinois in October 1871; Emma R., 23, born in Illinois in March 1877; and John F., 16, born in Illinois in October 1883. Next door was Catherine Gertrude's father John Sharp, 81, born in Pennsylvania in September 1818 to parents from Pennsylvania; and his granddaughter Amelia J. Kauffman, 25, born in Illinois in April 1875. Jonathan and Catherine Gertrude are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

Children of Jonathan Kauffman and his second wife Catherine Gertrude Sharp born at Congerville, Montgomery Township, Woodford County include:
Tabitha Esabel Kauffman was born Jan. 2, 1869, and died at Loda, Iroquois County Aug. 19, 1838. She married Rudolph P. Gingerich. He was born at Dry Grove, McLean County in 1853, a son of Jacob Gingerich and Jacobine Jotter of Dry Grove. Their joint headstone in Pine Ridge Cemetery at Loda describes them as "Rudolph P. Gingerich, 1853-1927, and Tabitha E., 1868-1938."

Irene Rachel Kauffman was born in October 1869, and died in 1953. In 1902 she married Paul Reaba. He was born at Congerville Jan. 25, 1873, and died at Normal, McLean County June 16 or 17, 1946, a son of Henry Reabe and Dora Tiege. They lived at Danvers, McLean County in 1900, then at Montgomery, Woodford County. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery, where she is found as 'Irene K. Reaba'.

Anna Leah 'Annie' Kauffman was born Oct. 24, 1870, and died July 7, 1949. On March 3, 1891 at Danvers she married John D. Zook; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Zook was born at Deer Creek Nov. 29, 1857, and died there Sept. 17, 1936, a son of Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook and Barbe Stecker/Barbara Staker. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

David Andrew Kauffman was born Oct. 6, 1871, and died Dec. 10, 1962. On Dec. 20, 1904 at Carlock, McLean County he married Bertha L. Maurer. She was born at Dry Grove, McLean County Oct. 13, 1878, and died in McLean County June 15, 1952, a daughter of Henry Maurer and Susan Ummel. They farmed at Montgomery Township. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

Amelia Jane Kauffman was born April 9, 1875, and died at Montgomery, Woodford County Feb. 1, 1934. After 1910 and before 1920 she married John E. Hostetler. He was born at Troy Grove, Lasalle County circa 1861, and died at Olio, Woodford County Dec. 31, 1948, a son of Johann Hochstatter and Anna Fettes. They are found on the 1920 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as John E. Hostetter, 59, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Amelia J., 48, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania. Amelia is buried in Imhoff Cemetery as "Amelia Kauffman Hostetler, 1875-1934." Amelia's death entry gives the place of birth of her parents Jonathan Khuffman and Gertrude Sharp as 'Midland, Pennsylvania,' s garbling of 'Mifflin.'

Emma R. Kauffman was born March 25, 1877, and died Jan. 11, 1906. She is buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

Fancy A. Kauffman was born Sept. 27, 1878, and died May 10, 1883. She is buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

Mary J. Kauffman was born Dec. 27, 1879, and died Nov. 10, 1889. She is buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

John Franklin Kauffman was born in October 1883, and died at Jefferson, Iowa in 1956. In 1907 he married Emma Alice Burnell. She was born at Madison, Kentucky Feb. 7, 1889, and died at Jefferson in March 1964, a daughter of Lewis Jackson Burnell and Lucinda Sigmund. Her family came to Congerville in 1889. They are found on the 1930 census of Dodge, Iowa as Frank Kauffman, 46, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania; Emma, 41, born in Kentucky to parents from Kentucky; Inez M., 21, Illinois; Eugene A., 12, Iowa; and Shirley A., Iowa. They are buried in Jefferson Cemetery at Jefferson, Iowa where a joint headstone names them as J. Frank Kauffman, 1883-1956, and Emma Burnell, 1889-1964.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Sharp: Scharf of the Pfalz

In Germany a Scharf is a clever and witty person. The Pfalz (also known as the Palatinate) is a region in southwestern Germany. It covers approximately a quarter of the modern German state of Rheinisch-Pfalz (in English Rhineland-Palatinate). Swiss immigrants from southwestern Germany and the Rhine Valley wine-growing region fall in the catch-all category 'Palatines.'

From 1701 to 1714 Europe was racked by the War of the Spanish Succession. The Electorate of Bavaria and France sided with supporters of the eventual King Philip V of Spain against an alliance of Great Britain, the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch Republic, and Portugal.

In 1709 the war was going badly for the eventual victors. The French had been defeated decisively twice, and King Louis XIV was negotiating for peace. Nonetheless his soldiers were wreaking havoc in the Pfalz. Protestant refugees fled the area into Holland, and through Amsterdam to England assuming they would be protected by the Protestant Queen Anne. 390

In London authorities provided 1,600 tents for 10,000-30,000 refugees.

At about this time representatives of New York tribes visited London. When they saw people camping in tents, they offered land in New York. Or at least this was the story told by the government. Colonel Robert Hunter had approached the royal advisors with a Naval Stores Project plan to alleviate the problem. The refugees would be shipped to what is now New York, with the idea that they would repay their fares by producing products for the war effort.

A Board of Trades report created Dec. 5, 1709 shows that the plan came with an incentive. In exchange for a period of labor, each family would receive 40 acres of land free from taxes for seven years. This incentive was never realized.

“…We have considered the proposals made to us by Colonel Hunter for settling 3,000 Palatines at New York, and Employing them in the Production of Naval stores, and thereupon humbly Represent to your Majesty … the most proper Places for the seating them in that Province, so as they may be of benefit to this Kingdom by the Production of Naval Stores, are on the Mohaques River, and on the Hudsons River … A Tract of land lying on the Mohaques River containing about 50 miles in length and four miles in breadth, and a Tract of land lying upon a creek [Schoharie Creek] which runs into the said River, containing between 24 and 30 Miles in length. This land mentioned, land of which your majesty has the possession, is claimed by the Mohaques, but that claim may be satisfied on very easy terms… We therefore humbly offer that the governor or commander in chief be Directed upon their Arrival… to grant under the Seal of that Province, without fee or Reward, 40 acres per head to each family, after they shall have repaid by the produce of their Labour, the charges the publick shall be at in setting and subsisting them there…. As these people are very necessitous, they will not be able to maintain themselves there, till they can reap the benefit of their labour which will not be till after one year at the soonest… Lastly, we humbly offer that the said Palatines upon their arrival there, be naturalized… that they may enjoy all such privileges and advantages as are Enjoyed by the present Inhabitants of that province.”

For the crown, the offer seemed to serve three purposes: 1) Queen Anne would be seen as a protector of Protestantism against Catholicism, strengthening her home support; 2) the refugees would become a source of future tax revenues; and 3) shortly after arrival, before the families were permanently settled, the adult males would be solicited to serve in the French and Indian War of 1709-13, also called Queen Anne's War (the war pitted the English in North America against French troops arriving through Canada; Native Americans took part on both sides).

Palatine Protestants boarded 10 ships in London's harbor on Christmas Day of 1709. They were accompanied by newly-appointed governor of New York Robert Hunter, the formulator of the plan.

Sailing in December meant heading north to the North Sea to avoid southerly incoming currents, waiting for a wind shift, and then heading west. The ships were often blown back several times before finding a successful course. Each turnback meant a port call to replenish fresh water supplies, which had to be full for the crossing. Some of the lengthy times associated with winter crossings were reflective of two or more starts after leaving the main port.

390 Queen Anne's father was King James. His Catholicism was unpopular, and three months into his reign he was deposed. Anne's Protestant cousin William III became king to rule jointly with Anne's older sister Mary II. After their deaths in 1694 and 1702, Anne succeeded to the throne. She had an Anglican baptism, and was raised as a Protestant. Under her reign England and Scotland were united as the Kingdom of Great Britain. She may have had a form of lupus that affected her health. Despite 17 pregnancies in 17 years, she died childless Aug. 1, 1714, the last of the House of Stewart. A special act had determined that she would be followed by a Protestant. She was succeeded by George I of the House of Hanover.

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All of the ships came into New York harbor on June 13 and 14, 1710. As many as 500 of the 3,000 overcrowded passengers may have died at sea on the prolonged and bitterly cold voyages. Then, because of typhus onboard, the ships were quarantined at Nutten Island for two months.\footnote{Now Governor's Island.}

In the late fall of that year approximately 1,400 Palatines were taken 100 miles up the Hudson River to Kingston, then 50 miles inland to Livingston Manor. The 160,000-acre estate was lorded by colonial administrator Robert Livingston the Elder, who had made his wealth in the fur trade.\footnote{The estate later became the communities of Livingston Manor, Germantown, and Saugerties.}

They were expected to grow hemp for rope, and help in the manufacture of products derived from trees, such as turpentine, and tar and pitch for lamps and shipping. \textit{Antonius Scharf} is found on a list of male Palatines above 21 years of age who were staying in Livingston Manor in the winter of 1710 and summer of 1711.

Hunter was a Tory, while Livingston was a Whig. The Whigs had come into the majority in Parliament while the 10 ships were at sea. They declined to fund the project further.

While Livingston was charged with providing subsistence, initially this was not an issue. Deer were plentiful. But then approximately one-third of the men volunteered to serve in the French and Indian War. In their absence, the remaining families had difficulty feeding themselves.

Road paths were cleared, and approximately 100,000 pine trees were felled and stripped of their bark for pitch. But no one on hand had any knowledge of the refining processes.

Governor Hunter had provided some subsistence funds, but these ran out in the fall of 1712. Notes from the family register of immigrant John Conradus Weiser, a passenger on the \textit{Fame}: \footnote{Another \textit{Fame} passenger was Johannes Valentine Bressler, the sixth great-grandfather of Elvis Presley.}

"In the year above mentioned, namely in 1709, my father moved away from Great Astach on the 24th June, and took eight children with him. My eldest sister Catrina remained there with her husband... My father sold them his house, fields, meadows, vineyard and garden, but they could only pay him 75 gulden, the remainder 600 gulden was to be paid to my father at a subsequent period, which was never done, so it was made a present to them.

In about two months we reached London in England, along with several thousand Germans whom Queen Ann, of glorious remembrance, had taken in charge, and was furnishing with food.

About Christmas day we embarked, and ten ship loads with about 4,000 souls were sent to America. The 10th June, 1710, we came to anchor at New York in North America, and in the same autumn were taken to Livingston's manor at the expense of the Queen.

Here in Livingston's, or as it was called by the Germans Loewenstein's manor, we were to burn tar, and cultivate hemp, to repay the expenses incurred by the Queen in bringing us from Holland to England, and from England to New York.

We were directed by several commissioners... But neither object succeeded, and in the year 1713 the people were discharged from their engagements and declared free. Then the people scattered themselves over the whole province of New York. Many remained where they were."

In 1713 approximately 150 of the families abandoned Livingston Manor and set off on foot 75 miles northeast to the fur-trading outpost Schoharie in the Mohawk Valley. They did this because of the original promise of land. Nevertheless, they paid the local tribe a sum in pounds equivalent to $300 for the right to live there.

At Schoharie the Palatines unintentionally embittered a fur trader named Jacob Vroman. Two years earlier Vroman had visited from Schenectady to barter for land with the local tribe. He paced off what he said was 400 acres. They agreed on a price of 110 gallons of rum and blankets.

When the Palatines came they let the tribe know that the claim was considerably more than 400 acres. This hurt Vroman's reputation, causing him financial loss.

On July 9, 1715 Vroman wrote a letter of complaint to Governor Hunter. He accused immigrant John Conradus Weiser of prompting the Palatines to trespass on his land, causing the collapse of a house that was under construction, purchase land from the local tribe against instructions, and making them drunk to exploit them, resulting in an assault on his son. Of course part of this echoes some complaints against Vroman himself.

The governor responded by issuing an arrest warrant for Weiser, "...Guilty of several mutinous, riotous, and other disobedient and illegal practices." But Weiser had already departed for Boston.

When the letter became publicly known Vroman was in Schenectady. While he was there new Palatine settlers became the majority in Schoharie. When he finally returned to Schoharie in 1718 he was immediately placed under house arrest.

Before Governor Hunter left office in 1722, he was obliged to make up a document showing that he had provided for the Palatine settlers. When a representative took it to Schoharie, the residents recalled the deaths at
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sea, their neglect at Livingston Manor at the expense of the landowner, and the broken incentive promise. They refused to sign.

John Conradus Weiser did not return to Schoharie until 1723. He told a story that he had gone to London with two companions to voice their grievances. They were robbed by pirates, and when they reached London they were put in debtor's prison. The two companions died there. Whether or not the story was true, it served the purpose of excusing him from past charges.

Because of all of this, coupled with Queen Anne's death in 1714, colonial authorities limited the Palatines' right to land ownership to only 10 acres. This was insufficient to feed extended families.

History of Bethel and Tulpehocken Townships (1976) says Antonius initially went from Livingston Manor to Schoharie, and from there into Penn's Wood (now Pennsylvania) with 33 families in the spring of 1723. The group walked on forest paths from Livingston Manor and Schoharie to the Susquehanna River. There they constructed rafts to carry their possessions.

The German Emigration from New York Province into Pennsylvania (1899) has an account of this journey:

"Guided by the Indians, and not under the leadership of either the elder Weiser, or his gifted son, as some suppose, both of whom came later, the pioneers of 1723, with much toil and labor, cut their way through the forest, after which, with their wives, little ones and animals, they followed, by day, the scanty track they had made in the woods and slept at the foot of it's trees, woeed to slumber by its ceaseless noises, during the night, until the forty or fifty miles, which separated them from the (Susquehanna) river, had been traversed.

Then came the building and launching of the heavy rafts, to contain their domestic utensils, and of the light and speedy canoes for themselves, on which they were to continue their long journey to the haven of rest, accompanied slowly by their cattle driven along the river's banks...  

...They little reckoned that they had swept by the spots where the flourishing towns of Binghamton and Oswega were later to stand...  As they exchanged greetings with the Indians in their village of Shamokin can it be that there rose up before any one of them a picture of the hideous scenes of their near future, or any foresight of their murdered sons and daughters and the blackened ruins of the homes towards which they were hastening...

...Until they came to where the Swatara Creek joined its waters with those of its mighty brother, and at the spot where Middletown now stands, our wanderers at last changed course and entered the stream which told them they were drawing near the goal towards which they had been hastening for so many weary days.

To reach this goal was to endure a few more hardships and trials, and when in the lovely Tulpehocken (which means 'land where the turtle sang and woood') region, nestling at the foot of the Blue Mountains and wavered by its numerous streams, they pitched their camp for the last time."

The families actually began to disperse at Middletown (later Womelsdorf, Berks County). Many of their descendants still populate the area.

Antonius chose to build a home at Tulpewahaki, the 'land of the turtles,' located in Chester County on the edge of the frontier. At the time it extended from the Blue Mountains in the north down to the village of Reading. Tulpehocken became part of Lancaster County in 1829. In 1752 Berks County was created out of parts of Chester, Lancaster, and Philadelphia Counties.

More Palatine families arrived at Tulpehocken in 1728. These included Conrad Scharf, who may have been a younger brother or son of Antonius.394 Some may have been holdovers from Livingston Manor, where Robert Livingston the Elder had died that year.

Petition to the Provincial Council at Philadelphia, June 5, 1728

"To his Excellency, William Keith, Baronet, Governor of Pennsylvania, & the Honourable Council: The petition of us, the subscribers, being thirty-three families in number at present inhabiting Tulpehaeca creek, sheweth that your petitioners, begin natives of Germany, about 15 years ago, were by great goodness and royal bounty of her late majesty, Queen Anne, relieved from the hardships which they then suffered in Europe, and were transported into the colony of New York, where they settled.

394 Conrad Scharf was born in the Pfalz-Zweibrücken March 22, 1697, and died in Berks County May 15, 1776 (per History of Berks County). From Womelsdorf he settled at what is now Stouchsburg, Marion Township, Berks County. He married Maria Margarettha. She was born July 28, 1721, and died April 20, 1781. He was naturalized Sept. 13, 1741. In 1771 a Conrad Scharf was given a land warrant for 175 acres in Union Township in the Buffalo Valley in what is now Union and Snyder Counties; however, this may have been a Conrad Shiff/Conrath Scharff who immigrated on the Pink Plaisance Sept. 21, 1732, age 34 (roughly the same name and age). We assume this because Conrad was living at Heidelberg, Berks County Oct. 10, 1772 (Heidelberg had been carved out of Tulpehocken in 1734). They are buried as Conrad Scharff and Maria Margared Scharff in Little Tulpehocken Cemetery at Bernville, Berks County.
But their families increasing and being in that government confined to the scanty allowance of ten acres of land to each family, whereon they could not well subsist, your petitioners, being informed of the kind reception which their countrymen usually met within the Province of Pennsylvania, and hoping they might, with what substance they had, acquire larger settlements in that province, did last year leave their settlements in New York government and came with their families into this province, where, upon their arrival, they applied themselves to his Excellency, the Governor, who of his great goodness permitted them to inhabit upon Tulpha Creek (being the farthest inhabited part of the province NW from Philadelphia) on condition that they should make full satisfaction to the proprietor or his agents for such lands as should be allotted them when they were ready to receive the same.

And now your petitioners, understanding that some gentleman agents of the proprietor, have ample powers to dispose of lands in this province, and we, your petitioners, being willing and ready to purchase, do humbly beseech your Excellency and council to recommend us to the favorable usage of the proprietor's agent, that upon paying the usual prices for lands at such a distance from Philadelphia, we may have sufficient rights and titles made to us for such lands as we shall have occasion to buy, that our children may have some settlement to depend on hereafter, and that by your authority we may be freed from the demands of the Indians of that part of the country, who pretend a right thereto.

And we humbly beg leave to inform your Excellency and council that there are fifty families more who, if they may be admitted upon the same conditions are desirous to come and settle with us.

We hope for your favorable answer to this, our humble request, and as in duty bound, shall ever pray."

The fourth name on the petition was 'Antonis Sharb,' written in German script.

Antonius Scharf may be buried near Conrad Scharf in Little Tulpehocken Cemetery at Bernville, Berks County.

His son Peter Sharp was born at Tulpehocken circa May 29, 1729, and died at Leacock, Lancaster County April 29, 1795 (his headstone gives his age as 65 years, 11 months).

Peter married a Mary who could not be further identified. She was born circa 1733, and died in Lancaster County May 23, 1799 (her headstone gives her age as 66).

They are buried in Lighter-Sharp Cemetery at Leacock, Lancaster County. This cemetery served the nearby Christ Protestant Episcopal Church.

Their children born at Leacock include:

1. Christian Sharp was born Dec. 28, 1758, and died in Lancaster County March 1, 1836. On Feb. 17, 1788 he married Rebecca Lightner. She was born June 13, 1762, and died in Lancaster County Aug. 9, 1842, a daughter of John Lightner and Barbara Rutter. They are buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

2. Elizabeth Sharp was born circa 1761, and died in Lancaster County April 12, 1796 (her headstone gives her age as 35). She is buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

3. John Sharp. Some sources say he was born April 23, 1763, but this date would conflict with his sister Mary. (The dates on his headstone are illegible). He died at Manheim, Lancaster County Sept. 2, 1832, and is buried in Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery at Leacock. He married Barbara, who was born June 17, 1775; he remarried to Julia Ann Lightner. Julia Ann was born Sept. 10, 1782, and died at Manheim March 3, 1880. She is buried in Lancaster Cemetery. They were living at Manheim after 1828. Lancaster Daily Intelligencer, March 5, 1880: "Another Centenarian Called Home. Mrs. Julia A. Sharp died yesterday at the residence of her son-in-law, Emanuel P. Keller, Manheim Township, at the advanced age of 98 years. She leaves two daughters, the wives, respectively of ex-County Commissioner Emanuel P. Keller and B.F. Ruth, of this city. The late John L. Sharp, a prominent citizen of Manheim Township, was her son... Mrs. Sharp was a happy, cheerful woman, and a pleasant companion almost up to the day of her death. She led a quiet unobtrusive life, always looked on the brightest side of life, and always had a word of encouragement for the despondent. To these amiable characteristics, no doubt, she partly owed her remarkable good health and her lengthened days. Her funeral will take place from the residence of Emanuel P. Keller, on the Litzir turnpike, on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to proceed to Lancaster Cemetery."

4. Mary Sharp was born Sept. 25, 1763, and died in Lancaster County March 25, 1776 (her headstone gives the age 12 years, 6 months). She is buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

5. Peter Sharp was born circa 1765, and died at Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania in December 1796.

6. Moses Sharp was born circa Dec. 31, 1766, and died in Lancaster County April 12, 1821 (his headstone gives his age as 54 years, 3 months, 12 days). He is buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

7. Barbara Sharp was born circa 1768, and died in Lancaster County May 23, 1808 (her headstone gives her age as 40). She is buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

8. Anna Sharp was born Feb. 25, 1770, and died in Lancaster County Feb. 15, 1855. She is buried in Lightner-Sharp Cemetery.

9. Jacob Sharp was born Dec. 9, 1776, and died in Lancaster County Aug. 23, 1860. He married Lydia Norris. She was born Feb. 27, 1790, and died in Lancaster County Jan. 7, 1865. They are buried in Zeltenreich Reformed Church Cemetery of New Holland, Earl Township, Lancaster County.
Peter Sharp was born at Leacock, Lancaster County circa 1765, and died at Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania in December 1796.

On Nov. 3, 1789 in the First Reformed Church at Lancaster, Lancaster County he married Anna 'Anny' Yoder. She was born in 1768, and died in Mifflin County before 1819, a daughter of Michael Yoder and Mary Young (see YODER for more on this couple).

In 1794 they purchased 115 acres in the Kishacoquillas Valley of Mifflin County. By July 1796 they had resettled at Brady, Huntingdon County. When Peter died in December 1796 his will was probated at Huntingdon, the county seat 395.

Circa 1798 Anna remarried to widower Johannes Zug/John Zook. He was born May 15, 1756, and died March 11, 1823, a son of Johannes Zug and Veronica Yoder. He had been married to Magdalena Fischer/Fisher. After Anna's death in 1819 he married a third time to widow Barbara Mast. She was born Dec. 9, 1765, and died in August 1849, a daughter of Jacob Mast and Magdalena Holly/Hooley. Barbara had been married to John Hostetler.

It is not clear whether Peter accepted adult baptism (one source says this is implied in his will), or his children were influenced by their stepfather Johannes Zug/John Zook. All four children adopted Amish Mennonite customs.

Peter and Anna are thought to be buried in the Detweiler Family Cemetery at Sharpsburg, Huntingdon County. Children of Peter Sharp and Anna 'Anny' Yoder include:

1. Samuel 'Shem' Sharp was born at Leacock, Lancaster County Aug. 14, 1790, and died at West Liberty, Logan County, Ohio May 13, 1865. Circa 1817 he married Magdalena/Martha/Matty Hochstetler. She was born in Berks County July 6, 1796, and died in Logan County June 5, 1865, a daughter of Joseph Hochstetler and Barbara Mast. They are found on the 1850 census of Union, Mifflin County as Samuel Sharp, 60, Pennsylvania; Martha, 54, Pennsylvania; and Ann, 24, Pennsylvania. They are buried in Yoder Cemetery at West Liberty.

2. Solomon Sharp was born at Leacock, Lancaster County Sept. 11, 1792, and died at Brady, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania May 5, 1871. He married Magdalena Zook. She was born in Mifflin County June 10, 1797, and died in Huntingdon County July 10, 1870, a daughter of Johannes Zug/John Zook and Catherine Weidman. They are found on the 1850 census of Brady, Huntingdon County. Solomon was one of six directors of the Brady school board in 1847. He was one of three town supervisors at Brady in 1851. They are buried in Allensville Mennonite Cemetery at Allensville, Mifflin County.

3. Peter Sharp was born at Leacock, Lancaster County Dec. 11, 1793, and died at Brown, Mifflin County May 11, 1875.

4. Leah Sharp was born at Brady, Huntingdon County July 10, 1796, and died in Mifflin County Sept. 7, 1832. She married Solomon Zug/Zook. He was born in Mifflin County May 12, 1794, and died there May 20, 1863, a son of Christian Zug/Zook and Barbara Kurtz. Solomon is found as 55-year-old Solomon Zook on the 1850 census of Union, Mifflin County. They are buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville, Mifflin County as Leah Zug and Solomon Zook.

Peter Sharp was born at Leacock, Lancaster County Dec. 11, 1793, and died at Brown, Mifflin County May 11, 1875.

In 1816 at Mifflin County he married Gertrude 'Charity' Zook. She was born in Berks County Jan. 21, 1793, and died at Brown March 28, 1885, a daughter of Johannes Zug/John Zook and Magdalena Gnaegi.

They are found on the 1850 census of Brown as farmer Peter Sharp, 57; Charity, 60; laborer Gideon, 27; and Leah, 16; all born in Pennsylvania. In 1860 they appear as farmer Peter Sharp, 67; Gertrude, 60; domestic Martha, 30; domestic Gertrude, 25; and laborer Leah, 22; all born in Pennsylvania.

Mother Gertrude 'Charity' Zook is last found as an 86-year-old on a Brown census in 1880, when she was living with her children Magdalena and Noah.

Peter and Gertrude are buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, within Brown Township. Their children born at Brown include:

1. Anna Sharp was born April 1, 1817, and died at Neshannock Falls, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania Nov. 26, 1881. Circa 1838 she married John Miller. He was born in Lancaster County circa 1817. They are found on the 1850 census of Neshannock as farmer John Miller, 33, Pennsylvania; and Anna, 33, Pennsylvania.

2. John Zook Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County Sept. 2, 1818, and died in Woodford County Aug. 31, 1913.

3. Christian Sharp was born April 4, 1820, and died at Belleville, Mifflin County June 13, 1866. He is buried in Locust Grove Cemetery at Belleville.

4. Gideon Sharp was born Feb. 7, 1822, and died July 8, 1871. He is buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township. Herald of Truth, October 1871: "In Kishacoquillas valley, Mifflin Co., Pa., July 8th, after a
lingering illness, Gideon Sharp, aged about 42 years. He was a member of the church near Belleville. He was a pleasant
companion and unpretending in his manners. He was unmarried, but leaves an aged and infirm father and
mother.*
5. Esther Sharp was born Nov. 30, 1823, and died at Orrville, Wayne County, Ohio Aug. 14, 1898.
6. David Sharp was born Sept. 7, 1825, and died at Harrisonville, Missouri April 15, 1916. He is buried in Clearfork
Cemetery at Garden City, Cass County, Missouri. He is found in the household of Christian Farny on the 1850
census of District 56 (Wodford County) as farmer David Sharp, 25, Pennsylvania. On Nov. 17, 1850 in Woodford
County he married Susanna Yoder. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Jan. 28, 1828, and died at
Harrisonville March 9, 1894, a daughter of Joseph Yoder/Joder and Catherine Lantz. Gospel Herald, May 1916:
"David Sharp was born in Mifflin Co., Pa., Sept. 9, 1825; died in Harrisonville, Mo., April 15, 1916; aged 90 y. 9 m.
6 d. He united with the Mennonite Church in early life, in which faith (he often said in the close of his earthly
journey) he wished to live and die. He said he was ready, and seemed anxious to depart this life. He was a member
of the Sycamore Grove Church until he with his second wife moved to Harrisonville, Mo. He then took out his
church letter, which he held at the time of his decease. While in Harrisonville he worshiped with the First Baptist
Church. On Nov. 17, 1850, he was married to Susanna Yoder. Six children were born, of whom three survive (Mrs.
Emma Zook, A. J.; and Iddo Sharp). He also leaves seven grandchildren and one sister (Mrs. Lea Zook) of
Belleville, Pa. Funeral services at the First Baptist Church of Harrisonville, Mo., by Geo. C. Monroe. Interment in
Clearfork Cemetery."
7. Magdalena/Martha/Mattie Sharp was born Aug. 3, 1827, and died March 2, 1915. She is buried in Long Lane
was born Aug. 3, 1827; died March 2, 1915; aged 87 y. 6 m. 29 d. She had been confined to her house for over three
years, though not bedfast all that time. She longed to go home and be at rest. 'A precious one from us is gone, A
voice we loved is stilled'; Yet we need not mourn as those who have no hope."
8. Frances Sharp was born in 1829.
9. Joel H. Sharp was born July 4, 1831, and died at Garden City, Missouri April 18, 1900. He married Anna B. Plank.
She was born in Wayne County, Ohio April 24, 1839, and died April 9, 1921, a daughter of John Plank and Elizabeth
Schrock. They are found on the 1870 census of Prairie, Iowa as carpenter Joel Sharp, 38, Pennsylvania; Ann, 31,
Ohio; Mary E., 11, Illinois; and five younger children born in Iowa. Joel and Anna are buried in Clearfork Cemetery
at Garden City, Missouri near their older brother David and Susanna Yoder.
10. Leah Sharp was born Sept. 16, 1833, and died May 22, 1917.
11. Gertrude Sharp was born Feb. 8, 1835, and died Dec. 29, 1909.
12. Noah Sharp was born June 17, 1837, and died Dec. 8, 1915. He is found on the 1850 census of Brown as a 14-year-
old in the household of Christian Yoder. The 1880 census of Brown shows a household composed of Noah Sharp,
42; his sister Magdaline, 52; and his mother Gertrude, 86. In 1900 and 1910 he was still living at Brown. He is
buried in Long Lane Cemetery at Reedsville, Brown Township. Gospel Herald, December 1915: "Noah Sharp was
born June 17, 1837; died Dec. 8, 1915; aged 78 y. 5 m. 21 d. He died just 5 months and 6 days after his Sister
Mattie's death. These two had lived together for more than 26 years. Pneumonia and a weak heart were the cause of
his death. Neither brother nor sister was ever married. They had many warm friends and are greatly missed in the
home and in the community, but we trust our loss is their eternal gain, and may our end be as theirs. A Niece."

John Zook Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Sept. 2, 1818, and died in
Woodford County Aug. 31, 1913.
Circa 1847 in Mifflin County he married Leah Yoder. She was born in Lancaster County March 28, 1818, and
died at Congerville, Woodford County Sept. 14, 1894, a daughter of minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder and Magdalena
Wagner (see STAKER for more on Yony).
Perhaps John read correspondence or talked with the families of Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder of Brown, who
arrived in Woodford County in 1848. A family story says that in 1850 John walked from Pennsylvania to Illinois to
buy land. Descendants still possess his walking stick, compass, and watch from the trip.
In Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929, Harold S. Bender listed Amish Mennonite
families at Farnisville, then added, "...Then there were also several Pennsylvania among them, who spoke only
German, such as John Sharp, Lantz, Schantz, and others."
The Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database shows that John made two purchases on May 25, 1850. The
lots were the SWSE 40 acres of Section 15, and the SESW 40 acres of Section 15, in Township 25N [later
Montgomery Township]. He paid $1.25 an acre, a $100 total.
He then returned to Pennsylvania for his family. Accounts differ on whether the second trip to Illinois was
taken by wagon and flatboat, or train. John Zook Yoder of Brown may have accompanied him (though he may also
have come earlier with Yost and Leah).
We suspect that most of the second journey was made by train, which then ran as far as Chicago, because the
Sharps arrived in time to be tallied on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). They appear as farmer
John Sharp, 40, Pennsylvania; Leah, 30, Pennsylvania; Catherine, 9; Johnathan, 7; Peter, 5; and Rachel, 2; all
children born in Pennsylvania; and farmer Christian Hotel, 35, Germany. They appear on the same census page as the Peter Farny family; the Christian Farny family; John's younger brother David Sharp; Abraham Yoder; and the Yost Yoder family. This indicates that they were living near Farnisville in what became Montgomery Township.

The 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County shows farmer John Sharp, 42, Pennsylvania; Leah, 42, Pennsylvania; Gertrude, 19, Pennsylvania; Johnathan, 16, Pennsylvania; Peter, 13, Pennsylvania; Rachael, 11, Pennsylvania; Anna, 4, Illinois; and John, 2, Illinois.

*History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* says that Leah's father minister Jonathan 'Yony' Yoder spent his last years in their home: "His death came in rather an unusual way. A ministers' meeting was held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Sharp, in the latter part of January, 1869. At the noon hour when Mrs. Sharp invited the ministers to the dining room, Rev. Yoder said he did not care to eat and would rather lie down and rest. The other ministers went to the table, and after dinner when they came back into the room they found that he was passing away. He died January 28, 1869, at the age of seventy-four years and was buried in the Lantz Cemetery a few miles southeast of Carlock."

The 1870 census of Montgomery shows farmer John Sharp, 52, Pennsylvania; Louisa, 52, Pennsylvania; Rachael, 21, Pennsylvania; Annie, 14, Pennsylvania; John, 12, Illinois; and Barbara Caughman [Kauffman], 2, Illinois. They lived next door to farmer Peter Sharp, 24, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 20, Illinois; and Evi [Eli], 1, Illinois.

The 1873 plat map indicates that John was still farming his 80 acres. Some of the surrounding neighbors were Michael Zimmerman, Christian Kohler, Nicholas Maurer, John Gerber, Peter Naffziger, and John Saltzman.

*Herald of Truth*, October 1894: "On 12 September 1894, near Congerville, Woodford Co., IL, of the infirmities of old age, sister Leah Sharp, maiden name Yoder, aged 77 y., 5 m. She leaves an aged companion & 6 children. Buried on the 14th at the North Danvers M. H. Funeral services by Peter Schantz & John Stahley. She was steadfast in the faith, a consistent member of the church of her choice."

The 1900 census of Montgomery shows capitalist John Sharp, 81, born in Pennsylvania in September 1818; and granddaughter Amelia J. Kauffman, 25, born in Illinois in April 1875 to parents from Pennsylvania. Amelia's family (Jonathan Kauffman and Catherine Gertrude Sharp and four other children) lived next door.

In 1910 widower John was living at White Oak, McLean County as a 91-year-old in the household of his daughter Rachel and her husband Christian R. Miller.

John Sharp and Leah Yoder are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Gertrude Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County March 6, 1841, and died in McLean County June 30, 1916. On Dec. 27, 1868 in McLean County she married widower Jonathan Kauffman. He was born at Union Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Sept. 28, 1828, and died in McLean County March 4, 1910, a son of David Kauffman and Freni/Veronica/Frances/Fanny Yoder. For background on this couple see KAUFFMAN.

2. Jonathan Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County Dec. 20, 1843, and died at Danvers, McLean County April 24, 1924 (headstone dates). Circa 1878 he married Sarah M. Zook. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Dec. 24, 1841, and died April 20, 1892, a daughter of Joshua Zook and Magdalena 'Martha' Troyer. Her headstone calls her 'Sarah M.' On Sept. 22, 1892 Jonathan remarried to Catherine 'Katie' M. Stuckey. She was born at Danvers Dec. 21, 1853, and died there Feb. 24, 1942, a daughter of Christian Stuckey and Magdalena Miller. All three are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

3. Peter Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County May 6, 1846, and died in McLean County Dec. 29, 1923. On Jan. 10, 1869 in Woodford County he married Barbara Gerber/Garber. She was born at what is now Congerville May 4, 1850, and died Nov. 5, 1916, a daughter of John Gerber/Garber and Barbara Schmitt. We have already mentioned their household on the 1870 census. They can be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer Peter Sharp, 33, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 28, born in Illinois to German parents; Eli, 10, Illinois; and Benjamin, 6, Illinois. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

4. Rachel Sharp was born at Brown Township, Mifflin County March 30, 1849, and died in McLean County March 23, 1926. She married Christian R. Miller. He was born in Germany Nov. 16, 1845, and died in McLean County Jan. 23, 1915, a son of Peter Müller and Elizabeth Wolber. They farmed at White Oak, McLean County. They are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.

5. Anna/Ann Sharp was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County Oct. 23, 1855, and died at Congerville, Woodford County Dec. 14, 1907. On June 24, 1890 in McLean County she married John Lantz; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Jefferson, Wayne County, Ohio Oct. 6, 1855, and died at Royal Oaks, Michigan Sept. 20, 1951, a son of Emanuel Lantz and Martha Jane Miller. He is buried in Oakview Cemetery at Royal Oaks.

396 A capitalist was someone who lived on payments, interest, or dividends.
6. John Yoder Sharp was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County in April 1858, and died at Normal, McLean County in 1952. On March 4, 1884 in McLean County he married Mary Miller; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born in Germany in January 1859, and died in McLean County in 1937, a daughter of Peter Müller and Elizabeth Wolber. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.
Grubb: Kropp of Hartzviller

The Kropp family of Hartzviller, Moselle was almost certainly descended from the many Anabaptist Kropfs residing around Lake Thun in Canton Bern. In 1667 Anabaptist Hans Lörtscher was confined to the Waisenhaus [orphanage] in the city of Bern. There he had access to the Turmbücher, a prison record. He surreptitiously created a list of Anabaptists who had been imprisoned or executed. This was given to his cousin Christian Kropf. A transcribed copy later reached printers at Ephrata, Pennsylvania. In 1748 it appeared in the first German-language version of Martyrs' Mirror sponsored by minister Johannes/Hans Nafziger.

Johannes/Hans Kropf and Anna Voegli lived at Steffisburg, Canton Bern. In 1693 the names of two of their sons were noted in records of the church morals council [Ger. Chorgericht] at the city of Thun. They had not attended church. Hans Kropf was baptized at Steffisburg July 1, 1637, and married Anna Ochsenbein. Anthoni Kropf was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 28, 1640, and married Anna Stagman.

A list of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-mines in 1697 includes Anti Kropf and Christe Kropf. This was the same Anthoni from the city of Thun, who was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 31, 1648. The 1703 list shows two Christen Kropfs; in 1704 two Christen Kropfs; and in 1708 Antoni Kropff, Christen Kropff, and Christe Kropff. Christe Kropf appears in the notary's record of Jacob Hochstetter in 1723 and 1727. A list of Anabaptists on land belonging to the Ribeauvielle family in 1732 includes Anti Kropf and Christe Kropf.

The second Christian at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines was a nephew to Anthoni and Christian. His parents were Hans Kropf (in trouble in 1693) and Anna Ochsenbein. This Christian was baptized at Schwarzenegg May 15, 1670; he married Catherine Jaberg and Barbara Linder.

In Both Sides of the Ocean, author J. Virgil Miller says that Anabaptist families living in or near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1763 included Anton Kropf and Christe Kropf, representing a later generation. The coincidence of name and place suggests that Anthoni/Antoine Kropp was a descendant. He was born circa 1756, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 12, 1816. He married Marie Baecher. Their oldest daughter married Nicolas Maurer (they were the parents of Nicholas Maurer of Woodford County, noted in MAURER); daughter Catherine married André Schertz, and daughter Barbe married his brother Pierre Schertz (they were the parents of the family noted in SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF BIHL).

The first Amish Mennonite Kropf to arrive in America may have come from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Joseph Kropf sailed from Rotterdam via Plymouth on the St. Andrew, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1752. One of the passengers with him appears on the Oath of Allegiance list as Jacob Blanck; he was certainly from there.397 Johannes/Jean Kropf and his wife Anne Engel are known to us only from a mention on the 1793 marriage entry of their son Pierre. It describes them as Jean Cropfe, who was deceased, and Anne Eingle.

Their son Pierre Kropp was born at St. Louis, Upper Alsace circa 1766, and died at Deneuvre, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 9, 1831. On Oct. 22, 1793 at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Susanne Ringenberg. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Pierre Cropfe, 27, a miller in the community of Valche, born at St. Louis in Alsace. The bride was described as Suzanne Reinquepergue, 21, a daughter of the deceased André Reinquepergue and Madeleine Chwarstse. They were both described as annabatiste. One witness was brother-in-law Pierre Suisse.

Suzanne was born circa 1772, and died at Senones, Vosges July 7, 1823, a daughter of André Ringenberg and Madeleine Schwartz of Rhodes, Moselle. Her civil death entry described her as Suzanne Ringuenberger, 56, wife of miller Pierre Groppe, 50. Pierre signed as ‘P.K.’, indicating that he was illiterate. Suzanne had died in the home of fabric dyer [Fr. teinturier] Joseph Claudel Marchand.

Their first two children were born at Vieux-Lixheim, Moselle. Between 1796 and 1801 the family relocated 10 miles south to Hartzviller. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 listed Pierre Krop of Hartzviller as the head of a household containing 11 residents.

Children of Pierre Kropp and Suzanne Ringenberg include:

1. Pierre Kropp was born at Vieux-Lixheim, Moselle Dec. 12, 1794. On July 25, 1829 at Deneuvre he married Madeleine Goerig [Görig]. She was born at Dambach, Lower Alsace Oct. 1, 1808, a daughter of André Goerig and Elisabeth Sommer.

397 In addition to the Ste. Marie-aux-Mines exiles there was a boat passenger. Exile boats were supposed to take Anabaptists to the Netherlands in 1711, though many passengers disembarked along the Rhine River. Among the passengers were "Christian Kropf with his wife, three sons, ages ten, two and one, a shoemaker”

398 The 10-year index of civil marriage entries calls them Pierre Cropff and Susanne Rinqueperger. The actual entry
2. Joseph Kropp was born at Vieux-Lixheim May 1, 1796, and died at Deneuve Oct. 10, 1854. On Dec. 5, 1826 at Deneuve he married Anne Schertz (also found as Chertz). She was born at Gondrexange, Moselle Feb. 16, 1792, and died at Deneuve Oct. 24, 1864, a daughter of Schertz and Barbare Reiderig.

3. André Kropp was born at Hartvviller, Moselle April 11, 1801, and died as an infant.

4. André Kropp was born at Hartvviller May 14, 1802.

5. Marie Kropp was born at Hartvviller Nov. 6, 1803. While working as a servant at Nompatelize, she had an illegitimate son Pierre born Oct. 30, 1824. He died there Nov. 25, 1824. The civil death entry described declarant André Kropp as the uncle of the infant. She was likely also the Marie Kroppe, 25, found as the mother on the birth entry of daughter Catherine at Nompatelize Oct. 11, 1830. Her husband was described as Jean Pierre Chipach [Schlabach], 50.

6. Valentin Kropp was born at Hartvviller Sept. 13, 1805, and died at Anould, Vosges Feb. 6, 1871. On April 23, 1832 at Plaine, Vosges he married Marie Beller. She was born at Les Quelles near La Broque Sept. 5, 1800, and died at Anould Nov. 22, 1868, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Marie Sommer.

7. Barbe Kropp was born at Hartzviller March 23, 1807, and died at Deneuve April 20, 1876.

8. Christian Kropp was born at Hartvviller Jan. 11, 1809. On April 1, 1836 at Saulxures-lès-Nancy (a suburb of the city of Nancy) he married Marie Catherine Salzmann. She was born at Grostenquin, Moselle Jan. 6, 1799, and died at Saulxures-les-Nancy Sept. 22, 1849, a daughter of Jean Salzmann and Marie Moser. On Dec. 27, 1849 at Saulxures-les-Nancy he remarried to Catherine Schertz. She was born at Sarralbe, Moselle Jan. 10, 1812, a daughter of miller Joseph Schertz and Barbe Naufziger. For details of their marriage entry see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF SARRALBE.

9. Catherine Kropp was born at Hartvviller April 27, 1811, and died at La Salle, Vosges Sept. 8, 1846. On April 16, 1833 at La Salle she married Michel Dieudonne. He was born there Feb. 17, 1810, a son of Michel Dieudonne and Marie Marguerite. Their civil marriage entry provided the dates of death of her parents. On Nov. 11, 1847 at La Salle Michel remarried to Anne Gachenot.

10. Nicolas Kropp/Nicholas Grubb was born at Hartvviller May 26, 1813, and died at Elm Grove April 8, 1881.

**Older brother André Kropp/Andrew Grubb**

André Kropp was born at Hartvviller, Moselle May 14, 1802, and died as Andrew Grubb at Elm Grove in February 1865.

To visualize some of the next few locations, it is helpful to know that the communities of La Salle, Nompatelize, and St. Michel-sur-Meurthe form a chain west-to-east about five miles northwest of the city of St. Die in the department of Vosges, France.

In 1823 André was working as a farmhand at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe. On Oct. 21, 1823 at La Salle André married the first of his three wives.

Elisabeth Roupe/Roppe (mentioned earlier in ROPP) was born at Plaine, Lower Alsace circa 1791, and died at Nompatelize Sept. 16, 1828, a daughter of André Rūp and Barbe Reber. She was a cousin to Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Central Illinois Ropp family. Her first husband Jean Sommer had died at La Chapelle, Meuse-et-Moselle July 27, 1818.

Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as farmhand André Croppe, age 21 years, five months, and nine days; born at Hartzviller; a resident of St. Michel; a son of Pierre Croppe and the deceased Susanne Crinkenberg, who had died at Senones the prior July 7. The bride was described as Elizabeth Roup, 32, born at Plaine, widow of Jean Sommer. She was a daughter of André Roup, who had died Jan. 5, 1795, and Barbe Raber, who had died Feb. 8, 1794, former residents of Plaine.

The birth entries of their children describe André as a wheel wright [Fr. charron].

Children of André Kropp and his first wife Elisabeth Roupe/Roppe born at Nompatelize, Vosges include:

1. Joseph Kropp was born April 14, 1825, and died there Jan. 20, 1828.
2. Pierre Kropp was born Jan. 25, 1827, and died the same day.
3. A female child was stillborn Feb. 26, 1828.

Elisabeth Roupe/Roppe died at Nompatelize Sept. 14, 1828. The civil death entry described her as Elizabeth Roppe, 37, born at Plaine, a daughter of André Roppe and an unknown mother. The widower was described as André Kropp, a 27-year-old wheelwright [Fr. charron].

On Jan. 17, 1829 at Plaine, Lower Alsace, André remarried to Madeleine Beller. She was born at La Broque, Lower Alsace Jan. 29, 1796, and died at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe, Vosges Jan. 18, 1838, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Marie Anne Lehmann. Their marriage entry described the groom as André Krop, age 26 years, eight months, four days; born at Hartzviller May 13, 1802; a resident of Nompatelize; a son of farm operator Pierre Krop, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Susanna Crinkenberg; and the widower of Elisabeth Roppe, who had died at Nompatelize Sept. 15, 1828. The bride was described as Magdelaine Beller, 32, born at La Broque Jan. 29, 1797;
a resident of Bambois [a clearing at Plaine]; a daughter of local resident Jacob Beller, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Lemann. André's signature was extremely primitive; although the letters 'krop' are clear, the first name is made up of unrecognizable symbols (some are reversed letters), indicating he was illiterate.

After their marriages André and his brother Valentine were described as millers at *La Vacherie* in St. Michel-sur-Meurthe. *La Vacherie* was one of three rivers flowing into the Meurthe at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe. The space where the mill once stood beside it is now the town square.

On Madeleine's civil death entry she was called Magdalena Peller. Unlike their marriage entry, her death entry said she was born at Bambois, Plaine (which was in the district of La Broque). In the mid-1700s this location was the site of a sawmill that employed the Ropp and Ulrich families. Her husband was described as André Krop, 37, a miller at *La Vacherie*.

Children of André Krop and his second wife Madeleine Beller include:

4. André Krop was born at Nonpatelize, Vosges Jan. 13, 1830, and died at Elm Grove Jan. 22, 1867. On Feb. 7, 1858 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Maurer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born in France in May 1827 (per the 1900 census), immigrated in 1832, and died at Elm Grove Dec. 6, 1907. She may have been a daughter of Joseph Maurer, who is found as a 79-year-old from France in her household on the 1870 census of Elm Grove. Their household is shown on the 1860 census of Elm Grove, though the ages of the adults were drastically wrong: farmer Andrew Krup, 32; France; Barbara, 33, France; George [Joseph], 2, Illinois; and Fannie, one month, Illinois. The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows the property of A. Grubb Jr. as 80 acres in SW Section 9, next door to uncle Peter Unsicker, Joseph Risser, Jacob Ropp, and John Schrock. Ben C. Allensworth's *History of Tazewell County* describes Andrew Grubb as "...a farmer by occupation, died young, and is survived by his wife." Their children born at Elm Grove include:
   a. Joseph Grubb/Grub was born Feb. 10, 1859, and died in Reno County, Kansas Aug. 3, 1945. On Aug. 11, 1881 in Tazewell County he married Anna Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Geig. She was born at Pekin July 20, 1861, and died in Reno County June 23, 1911, a daughter of John Geig and Gerda Federick. They are found at Grove, Reno County in 1900; and widower Joseph is found at Hayes, Reno County in 1930 and 1940. They are buried in Sylvia Cemetery at Sylvia, Reno County as "Joseph 1859-1945" and "Anna L. wife of Joseph Grub July 20, 1861-June 23, 1911."
   b. Veronica 'Fannie' Grubb was born May 14, 1860, and died in Tazewell County Sept. 27, 1915. On June 11, 1878 in Tazewell County married Jacob Stockert. He was born at Hainstadt, Hesse-Darmstadt Feb. 24, 1850, and died in 1912, on of Jacob Stockert and Maria Swinn. He immigrated in 1854. He operated a threshing machine and mill, and farmed 180 acres, at Cincinnati, Tazewell County. Fannie and Jacob are buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin.

   Magdalena/Malinda Grubb is found with this family on the censuses of 1870 and 1880. She may belong as a daughter, or as a niece/cousin - a daughter of Nicholas Kropp/Grubb and Jakobina 'Bena' Unsicker who was born in 1866 and lived nearby.

On July 5, 1870 in Tazewell County widow Barbara Maurer remarried to widower Carl/Charles Fahsbender. See FAHSBENDER in the Appendix for background on her second family.

5. Magdelena/Madeleine Kropp was born at Nonpatelize May 15, 1831, and died at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe May 6, 1838.

6. Elisabeth/Elizabeth 'Louisa' Kropp was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe March 14, 1833, and died in Livingston County May 5, 1894. On April 17, 1855 she married Jean Farny/John Forney in the Dillon Creek meeting; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. See RISSER/REESER for more on this couple including her obituary.

7. Joseph Kropp/Krob was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe July 22, 1835, and died at Aline, Oklahoma March 15, 1913.

8. 'Véronique Krop' was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe May 16, 1837, and died at Rooks Creek, Livingston County Jan. 5, 1869. Her civil birth entry identified her parents as André Krop, 36, a miller at la Vacherie, and Magdeleine Peter, 40. She was later known as Veronica, Ann, or Fanny. On July 11, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Christian Sommer; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. He was born June 11, 1831, and died in Livingston County Feb. 6, 1892. He may be the 'Christ Sommer, 24, Switzerland' who sailed on the *Metropolis* and arrived at New York in May 1855. They are found on the 1860 census of Dillon as farmer Christian Sumer; 30, Switzerland; Fanny, 23, France; and Malinda, 10 months, Illinois. Fanny is buried near her older sister Elisabeth/Elizabeth in Pike Township Cemetery at Graymont, Livingston County as 'Veronica, beloved wife of Christian Summers, died Jan. 5, 1869." Christian is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

Madeleine Beller died at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe Jan. 18, 1838.

On Nov. 18, 1838 at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe André married a third time. The civil entry described the groom as miller André Krop, living at *La Vacherie*, born at Hartzviller May 13, 1802; widower of Magdelaine Peller; 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 [Moselle] 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.

The entry did not mention that Anne Marie had been married earlier (to Jacob Schlabach), and a false death entry had been entered in her name at Bionville, Meurthe-et-Meuse in 1837. See SCHWEIZER, CANADIAN SCHWEITZERS for details.

The child of André Kropp and his third wife Anne Marie Suisse/Schwitzer was:

10. Jean Kropp was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe Oct. 12, 1839, and died there May 21, 1840.

The only child of this family who lived until the 1900 census, and thus left a record of his immigration year, was Joseph born in 1835. Unfortunately, his immigration year was incorrectly written as 1832, three years before his birth in Vosges.

The Kropps may have lived in Ontario before arriving in Butler County, Ohio in 1848 (see ONTARIO KROPFS for background on the family living there). They resettled at Elm Grove in 1849, perhaps because of their association with the Schrocks and Ropps.

Their household can be found on the 1850 census as farmer Andrew Grubb, 55; Mary, 50; Elizabeth, 18; Andrew, 16; Joseph, 14; and Ann, 9 [we might expect to find 13-year-old Fanny here]; all born in France. John Schrock is found on the prior census page, indicating that they were living in a part of Pekin that would become Elm Grove the following year.

As a prelude to the Civil War, delegates from eight southern states walked out of the Democratic party convention in April 1860. The remaining delegates nominated Illinois senator Stephen A. Douglas. The Republican National Convention nominated Abraham Lincoln on the third ballot May 18. The perceived threat of imminent military conscription had significant effects on the 1860 federal census.

All responses were supposed to reflect households as they stood on June 1. One entry shows an Elm Grove household composed of farmer Andrew Krop, 41, France; and Mary, 45, France. Their ages are drastically reduced. They were living next door to their son Andrew and daughter-in-law Barbara Maurer with two children. The ages of son Andrew and Barbara are exaggerated (32 and 33). Thus father and son give the appearance of being brothers.

Abraham Lincoln was elected with less than 40 percent of the popular vote Nov. 6, 1860, and South Carolina seceded from the union in January 1861. André died at Elm Grove in February 1865; he is thought to be buried in Railroad Cemetery there. General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox courthouse April 9, 1865, and Abraham Lincoln was assassinated five days later.

Andrew [Jr.] died in 1867, and his widowed mother Ann Marie turned her home over to Andrew's widow Barbara Maurer. On July 5, 1870 Barbara remarried to Charles Fahsbender. As noted earlier, the 1870 of Elm Grove shows Charles Fasebender [Fahsbender], 36, Prussia; Barbara, 39, France; Joseph, 10, Illinois; Veronika, 9, Illinois; Magdalene, 5, Illinois; Joseph Maur, 79, France; and Mary Schweizer, 71, France.

Anne Marie died at Elm Grove Feb. 18, 1873; she is thought to be buried with André in Railroad Cemetery. **Joseph Kropp/Krob** was born at St. Michel-sur-Meurthe, Vosges July 22, 1835, and died at Carmen, Oklahoma March 15, 1913.

On April 14, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Maria/Mary Wenger; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Reids, Paulding County, Ohio July 2, 1839, and died at Aline July 5, 1912, a daughter of Christian Wenger and Magdalena.

The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Joseph Krop, 22, Ohio; Mary, 22, Ohio; Christian, five months, Illinois; and widow Malinda - [illegible, looks like Fano, may be Maria's mother], 56, Switzerland.

Joseph Kroop is found at Pike, Livingston County on the 1865 state census of Illinois. The next name on the census page is his brother-in-law Christian Summers. The 1870 census shows farmer Joseph Groupe, 35, France; Mary, 30, Ohio; Chris, 10, Illinois; Melinda, 9, Illinois; Anna, 7, Illinois; Amy, 5, Illinois [marked as female; should have been Andrew marked as male]; Fred, 3, Illinois; and Barbara, seven months [should have been Joseph].

The 1880 census of Hayes, Kansas shows the entire family: farmer Joseph Kroob, 44; France; Mary, 40, Ohio; Christian, 20, Illinois; Melinda, 18, Illinois; Annie, 16, Illinois; Andrew, 14, Illinois; Fred, 13, Illinois; Joseph, 12, Illinois; Susanna, 10, Illinois; Soloma, 7, Illinois; John, 4, Illinois; and Henry, Kansas.

The 1900 census of Galena, Oklahoma shows Joseph Kroob, 64, born in France in July 1835, immigration in 1832; Mary, 60, born in Ohio in January 1840 to Swiss parents; and son Henry, 21, born in Kansas in June 1878. Joseph and Maria/Mary are buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery at Aline, Oklahoma.
Children of Joseph Kropp/Krob and Maria/Mary Wenger include:

1. Christian Krob was born at Elm Grove Feb. 14, 1860, and died at Loda, Kansas Oct. 28, 1931. On April 1, 1884 at McPherson, Kansas he married Barbara Ellen Krehbiel. She was born at Zhitomer, Russia Dec. 28, 1857, and died at Loda Oct. 11, 1826. They are buried in Lerado Cemetery in Reno County, Kansas.
2. Magdalena/Lena/Melinda Krob was born at Elm Grove March 29, 1861, and died at Aline, Oklahoma March 5, 1930. On Oct. 12, 1897 at Alva she married Gustave August Reiner. He was born at Stuttgart, Germany March 15, 1862, and died at Aline June 16, 1938. They are buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery at Aline.
3. Anna/Annie Krob was born at Chenoa, McLean County Jan. 18, 1863, and died at Sterling, Kansas July 20, 1938, a son of George Kleck Jr. and Barbara Marie Müller. On Nov. 15, 1887 at Reno, Kansas she married widower George Kleck III. He was born at Thayngen, Switzerland Oct. 18, 1840, and died at Sterling, Kansas July 18, 1929. His first wife was Elizabeth Hubser. Elizabeth had a dozen children; Magdalena had 11. Anna/Annie may be buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas.
4. Andrew Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County in October 1864, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas June 3, 1936. On Nov. 13, 1892 at Walnut, Kansas he married Barbara Guth. She was born in July 1868, and died in Reno County Dec. 5, 1947. They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery at Hutchinson, Kansas.
5. Frederick 'Fred' Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County in 1867, and died at Laveen, Arizona June 13, 1953. He is buried in Tempe Double Butte Cemetery at Tempe, Arizona.
6. Joseph Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County April 18, 1870, and died at Phoenix, Arizona Aug. 7, 1912. He is buried in Greenwood Memory Lawn Cemetery at Phoenix.
7. Susanna/Susan Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County Oct. 13, 1871, and died at Phoenix, Arizona June 1, 1945.
8. Saloma Sylvia Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County Nov. 7, 1874, and died at Aline Aug. 5, 1960. On Oct. 2, 1899 at Aline she married Christian J. Wied. He was born in Germany May 3, 1866, and died at Aline May 19, 1930. They are buried in Eagle Chief Cemetery at Aline.
9. John Krob was born at Pike, Livingston County Sept. 28, 1876, and died at Alva Aug. 12, 1956. On March 5, 1899 at Belle, Oklahoma he married Mae Alice 'Fannie' Cook. She was born at Sedalia, Missouri Nov. 6, 1884, and died at Alva May 21, 1971. They are buried as John and Fannie Krob in Pleasant View Cemetery in Woods County, Oklahoma.
10. Henry Krob was born at Hayes, Kansas June 3, 1879.

Younger brother Nicolas Kropp/Nicholas Grubb
Nicolas Kropp/Nicholas Grubb was born at Hartzviller May 26, 1813, and died at Elm Grove April 8, 1881. On Feb. 17, 1850 in Tazewell County he married Jakobina 'Bena' Unsicker; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl in the Schwetzingen District south of Mannheim, Baden Dec. 2, 1829, and died at Elm Grove Feb. 4, 1905, a daughter of Jacob Hunsicker/Unsicker and Barbara Eyer.

The 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County shows wagon maker Nicolas Gruff, 35, Germany; and Jacobine, 28, Germany. They appear on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as farmer Nicholas Kroup, 45, France; Jacobina, 25, Baden; Barbara, 4, Illinois; John, 1, Illinois; Fred Barthy, 20, Illinois; and Catharine Unsicker 30, Baden (Jakobina's older sister Katharina).

The father's name appears on the 1864 plat map of Elm Grove as 'N. Grubb.' He owned two 40-acre parcels in Section 7. They appear on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer Nicholas Cropp, 54, France; Jacobina, 25, Baden; Barbara, 4, Illinois; John, 1, Illinois; Fred Barthy, 20, Illinois; and Catharine Unsicker 30, Baden (Jakobina's older sister Katharina).

Children of Lambdin Grubb and Joanna 'Jinny' Henry include:

1. John Grubb was born Jan. 27, 1859, and died at Elm Grove Aug. 2, 1940. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Grubb, 41, born in Illinois in January 1859 to German parents; brother Jacob, 23, born in Illinois in February 1877 to German parents; and mother Benna, 71, born in Germany in December 1829, immigrated in 1845. John was a lifelong resident of Elm Grove, and last appears on the 1940 census. He is buried in Antioch Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Children of John Grubb include:

1. John Grubb was born Jan. 27, 1859, and died at Elm Grove Aug. 2, 1940. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Grubb, 41, born in Illinois in January 1859 to German parents; brother Jacob, 23, born in Illinois in February 1877 to German parents; and mother Benna, 71, born in Germany in December 1829, immigrated in 1845. John was a lifelong resident of Elm Grove, and last appears on the 1940 census. He is buried in Antioch Cemetery at Elm Grove.

Children of John Grubb include:

1. John Grubb was born Jan. 27, 1859, and died at Elm Grove Aug. 2, 1940. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Grubb, 41, born in Illinois in January 1859 to German parents; brother Jacob, 23, born in Illinois in February 1877 to German parents; and mother Benna, 71, born in Germany in December 1829, immigrated in 1845. John was a lifelong resident of Elm Grove, and last appears on the 1940 census. He is buried in Antioch Cemetery at Elm Grove.
March 15, 1898, a daughter of Christian Rupp and his first wife Sarah Elizabeth Wineburner (see ROPP for background on her family). The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Grubb, 39, born in Illinois in May 1861 to German parents; Louisa, 14, born in Illinois in May 1886; Benjamin, 12, born in Illinois in March 1888; Marianne, 9, born in Illinois in February 1890; Minnie, 8, born in Illinois in April 1892; and Peter, 4, born in Illinois in February 1896. Peter and Josephine are buried in Antioch Cemetery at Tremont.

3. Magdalena/Malinda/Lena Grubb was born July 6, 1866, and died at Pekin March 16, 1939. On Jan. 29, 1891 in Tazewell County she married George Rapp. George was born Dec. 2, 1866, and died at Pekin July 26, 1955. We suspect George's family is found on the 1870 census of Sand Prairie. One household is headed by farmer Adam Rapp, 30, of Darmstadt, and Margaret, 28, of Darmstadt; there is a 4-year-old son George born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows farmer George Rapp, 34, born in Illinois in December 1865 to German parents; Lena, 34, born in Illinois in July 1865 to German parents; May, 7, born in Illinois in December 1892; Henry, 6, born in Illinois in September 1893; Frederick, 4, born in Illinois in December 1895; and Jacob, 3, born in Illinois in September 1897. They were still living at Elm Grove in 1930. The Obituary Card Index for the Pekin Times provides her birth and death dates; the obituary published March 17, 1839 called her Malinda Grubbe Rapp. Widower George was living at Pekin in 1940. They are buried in Miars Cemetery at Elm Grove.

4. Christian Grubb was born circa 1864. We could not follow him after the 1880 census.

5. Lydia Grubb was born in October 1874. On July 15, 1897 in Tazewell County she married Gregory Herberger. He was born in Tazewell County in March 1876, a son of Gregor Herberger and Dorothy Stevens. They are found on the 1900 census of Elm Grove as Gregory, 24, born in Illinois in March 1876 to a father from New York and a mother from England; Lydia G., 26, born in Illinois in October 1874 to German parents; Dorothy, 2, Illinois; and Gregory, 1, Illinois. They also appear on the 1920, 1930, and 1940 censuses of Mackinaw.

6. Jacob Grubb was born Feb. 20, 1877, and died at Limestone, Peoria Sept. 24, 1928. He is found living with his mother and brother John on the 1900 census of Elm Grove. On Feb. 23, 1914 in Hardeman County, Tennessee he married Daisy King. She was born in Tennessee Feb. 25, 1887, and died Dec. 31, 1982. According to his World War I draft registration card he was living at Pekin; he was described as short in height, medium build, with blue eyes and brown hair; he named Daisy as his next of kin. The 1920 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Jacob Grubb, 43, born in Illinois to a father from Alsace-Lorraine and a mother from Baden; Daisy, 33, born in Tennessee to a father from Georgia and a mother from Pennsylvania; and seven children born in Illinois. His death entry says that in 1928 he was farming at Glasford, Peoria County. Jacob was initially buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove; on April 26, 1979 his body was removed to Maple Ridge Cemetery in Peoria County by Noel Henderson. He is now buried with Daisy under a joint headstone.

**Ontario Kropfs**

Some sources place the Kropps in Ontario, and we provided that information in an earlier version of this text. But we now suspect the idea is only a reflection of their association with John Forney, who relocated from Waterloo, Ontario to Lemon, Butler County, where he met his future wife Elizabeth Kropp. John's sister Magdalena Forney remained at Waterloo, where she married Joseph Lichti. Three of their children married Mennonite Kropfs. Those Kropfs were the children of Heinrich/Henri/Henry Kropf and Anne/Anna Jantzi. Though André Kropp and Heinrich/Henri/Henry Kropf may have shared distant connections to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, they were certainly not closely related.

**Christian Kropf** was born in 1736, and died on the Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig, Lower Alsace Nov. 17, 1802 (his civil death entry was witnessed by sons Heinrich and Christian Kropf).

He married Elisabeth Goldschmidt. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1741, and died at Sélestat, Lower Alsace Feb. 3, 1819. Her civil death entry describes her as Elisabethe Goldschmitt, 78, the widow of deceased laborer Chrétien Kropf; it also states that she was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, a daughter of the deceased Jacques Goldschmitt. It was witnessed by shopkeeper Joseph Sommer, 48.

According to research by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, they farmed at Bernardsviller, Lower Alsace; Pfastatt; Upper Alsace; and Rouffach, Upper Alsace before leasing the Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig, Lower Alsace in 1779. Their children include:

1. Joseph Kropf was born at Hegenheim, Upper Alsace March 18, 1767. On Nov. 20, 1798 at Epfig he married Maria Anna Rothacker. She was born at Algolsheim, Upper Alsace Jan. 13, 1780, and died at Epfig March 27, 1820, a daughter of David Rothacker and Barbara Wittner. In 1825 Joseph remarried to Maria Dettweiler. She was born circa 1783, a daughter of Jacob Dettweiler and Maria Rothacker.

2. Christian/Chrétien Kropf was born at Reichsfeld, Lower Alsace April 21, 1769. On Oct. 7, 1793 at Rosheim, Lower Alsace he married Barbe Fritz. She was born circa 1775, and died at Gresswiller, Lower Alsace June 8, 1823, a
daughter of Joseph Fritz and Anne Schantz. On Oct. 8, 1823 at Bellefosse, Lower Alsace he remarried to Catherine Wagner. She was born at Bellefosse June 24, 1798, a daughter of the deceased Jean Wagner (born at Salm, he had died at Grandfontaine Oct. 17, 1801) and Elizabeth Yaoussi (presumably Jaussi; she had died, age 36, at La Broque March 18, 1803, though she is found on that entry as ‘Elisabeth Yazig’ widow of Jacques Wagner). Witnesses included cultivator Jacob Prechpiel [Brechbühl], 59, and cultivator Nicolas Martin, 25.

3. Heinrich (as he signed his own name)/Henri/Henry Kropf was born circa 1772, and died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Aug. 14, 1853. On Dec. 6, 1806 at Epfig he married Véronique Schlatter (he was 34, she was 17). She was born circa 1789, and died in 1857, a daughter of Daniel Schlatter and Catherine Hundisinger. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by brothers-of-the-groom and cultivators Joseph Kropf, 37, and Jacques Kropf, 23; as well as brother-in-law and laborer Christian (as he signed his own name)/ChrétienSommer, 38. The bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate. His civil death entry, identified by French genealogist Jean François Lorentz, was witnessed by his son day laborer Daniel Kropf, 34, and farmer Joseph Eicher, 38. It stated that he had been a resident of No. 2 La Bussière in Staffelfelden, and had died on La Bussière farm.

4. Magdalena Kropf was born at Rouffach, Upper Alsace circa 1776, and died at Illhaeusern, Upper Alsace Dec. 16, 1840. On Dec. 10, 1798 at Sélestat she married Joseph Sommer. He was born at Steinthal (now in the department of Vosges) circa 1768, and died at Sélestat Nov. 15, 1827, a son of Jacob Sommer and Barbara Gerig. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Chrétien Somer, Jean Somer, and Henry Kropf.

5. Anne Kropf was born at Hattstatt, Upper Alsace circa 1776, and died at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace Nov. 10, 1809. She married Christian/Chrétien Sommer. He was born at Schirmeck April 4, 1768, and died at Bergheim, Upper Alsace March 5, 1814, a son of Christian Sommer and Barbe Gerber/Karbre.

6. Barbara/Barbe Kropf was born on Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig circa 1781. On April 12, 1802 at Epfig she married Joseph Rees/Riss. He was born on the Schoppenwihre estate at Ostheim, Upper Alsace circa 1773, a son of Melchior Rees and Elisabetha Gerig.

7. Jacob Kropf was born on Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig Dec. 3, 1784, and died at Wilmot Township, Ontario Jan. 29, 1875.

8. Elisabeth Kropf was born on Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig circa 1787.

Jacob Kropf was born on the Gollweilerhof estate at Epfig Dec. 3, 1784, and died at Wilmot Township, Ontario Jan. 29, 1875.

On April 14, 1811 at Epfig he married Magdalena/Madeleine Rothacker. She was born at Freisenheim, Lower Alsace Aug. 7, 1786, and died at Wilmot Township May 24, 1878, a daughter of David Rothacker and Magdalena Boshart. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Jaques Kropff, 27, born at Epfig in February 1784, a son of deceased laborer Chrétien Kropff and Elisabeth Goltschmitte, who was present and consenting. Witnesses included laborer Henry Kropff, 38, brother of the groom; Joseph Kropff, 40, brother of the groom; and Chrétien Gruber, 27, friend of the bride. Signatures included Jacob Kropf, Heinrich Kropf, Joseph Kropf, Magdalena Rothacker, and Christian Gruber.

They farmed at Baldenheim, Lower Alsace. They applied for a passport at Strasbourg Feb. 22, 1819, and sailed in 1820. They initially settled at Leacock, Lancaster County (known from the birth of daughter Elizabeth there Jan. 22, 1822).

In The Amish and their Neighbors, The German Block, Wilmot Township 1822-1860 Lorraine Roth wrote that they accompanied the Breman family to Ontario in the fall of 1823. The Krops initially settled at Woolwich. Jacob Kropf became the deacon of the local congregation ministered by Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith and Johannes Brenneman. They were ordained by Lancaster County minister and elder Johannes/John Stolzfus and minister Christian König/King during their visit in 1824.

In 1830 Jacob had a claim on Lot 13 next to the Goldsmiths on the north side of Snyder's Road in Wilmot Township (see ROPP for background on this location). When the Goldsmiths left for Butler County, Ohio in 1831, Jacob purchased their sawmill and 50 acres. On July 20, 1835 they had completed timber clearing duties and obtained land warrants. Jacob and his sons operated the sawmill until it was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1853. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot Township as Mennonite farmer Jacob Kropf, 68, Alsace; and Mennonite Magdalena, 68, Alsace. They are also found at that location on the 1861 and 1871 censuses.

Herald of Truth, February, 1875: "Jan. 29, in Waterloo Co., Canada, Bro Jacob Kropf, at the advanced age of 90 years, 1 month and 26 days. He enjoyed remarkably good health up to the 26th of December, 1874, when he had..."
a stroke of palsy whereby his right side and also his tongue became paralyzed. He served as deacon in the Amish Church in Canada about 50 years, during which time his seat was seldom vacant when he was able to go. He leaves an aged widow about two years his junior, with whom he lived in matrimony 64 years. Berliner Journal, June 6, 1878: "Magdalena Kropf, May 24, 1878. Magdalena Kropf in Baden, widow of Jakob Kropf died at the age of 93 years. She was one of the oldest residents in Wilmot. Jacob and Magdalena/Madeleine are buried in Old Baden Cemetery at Baden, Wilmot Township, Ontario. The cemetery was formally chartered in 1866; the land around it had been part of the Kropf family farm, and also held a school.

Their son Heinrich/Heini/Henry Kropf was born at Baldenheim, Lower Alsace Sept. 28, 1817, and died at Wilmot Township, Ontario Nov. 16, 1855. His civil birth entry called him Henry Kropf. It described his parents as laborer Jacques Kropf, 33, and Magdelaine Rothacker, residents of Baldenheim.

On Dec. 13, 1840 at Wilmot Township he married Anna Ruhl. She was born circa 1820, and died at Blake, Huron County, Ontario April 8, 1900.

They appear on the 1851 census of Wilmot as farmer Henry Kropf, 35, Alsace, Mennonist; Anna, 30, Alsace, Mennonist; Jacob, 11; Christian, 10; David, 8; Henry, 5; Peter, 3; and Joel, 2; all children born in Canada and Mennonist.

Henry is buried in Old Baden Cemetery, where his headstone gives he dates 1817-1855. The 1861 census of Waterloo County has farmer Anna Kropf, 42, Switzerland, widow, Methodist; Jacob, 19; Christian, 15; David, 15; Henry, 13; Peter, 11; John, 9; Solomon, 8; Magdalena, 5 [all children born in Canada and Methodist]; and servant Elizabeth Zimmerman, 17, USA, Methodist. Anna is buried in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery at Blake.
Beller of Ste. Croix-aux-Mines

The Swiss root surname Beÿeler has evolved into Beyerli, Byler, Beiler, Beyler, and the French form Beller (also occasionally found as Belleur). The Heimat or legal place of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname is Sigriswil on Lake Thun, Canton Bern.

Jean Beller was born circa 1732. He married Anne Schneider or Brunner.401 They were the parents of farmer Pierre Beller. He was born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace (adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) Dec. 6, 1766, and died at Valmont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1831.

Ste. Croix-aux-Mines is a rural village adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. In the 1700s its economy focused around a system of coal mines. In both places Amish Mennonites provided dairy products for the labor force.

According to Reconstitution des Familles de St. Avold 1645-1872, Jean became a miller and farmer at Marthille in the district of St. Avold (in what became Moselle). Marthille is actually 20 miles southwest of the village of St. Avold. It is located on the west side of Baronville and Morhange.

On May 7, 1793 at Faulquemont (11 miles north of Marthille) Pierre married Barbe Hirschi. She was born in Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bénin-lès-Harprich) Oct. 20, 1771, and died at Maizeroy, Moselle March 28, 1833, a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny.

They worked at the Oderfang mill at St. Avold with Christian Oesch and Barbara Zehr. The land surrounding the mill produced potatoes to be ground into flour. 402 Their children include:

1. Anne Beller was born at Pontpierre (adjacent to Faulquemont) April 6, 1794 (though her marriage entry appears to say Dompierre), and died at St. Avold Jan. 7, 1818. On April 22, 1817 at St. Avold she married miller Joseph Zehr. He was born at Ottweiler, Lower Alsace June 8, 1791 (per their marriage entry), and died at Woolwich, Ontario Jan. 29, 1845, a son of Joseph Zehr and Barbe Eymann. They sailed from Amsterdam on the brig Margaret, and arrived at New York Aug. 18, 1825. The passenger list calls them ‘Swier.’ In 1826 they migrated north from Lancaster County with a group that included Christian Farny (one of ‘the Amishmen who hired Abraham Lincoln’) and Andreas Ropp. They settled at Woolwich Township, Ontario, on land that had originally been purchased for settlement by minister and elder Johannes/John Stoltzfus and minister Christian König/King of the Mill Creek congregation of Lancaster County. Anne is buried in Steinman Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot.

2. Jean Beller was born at Pontpierre June 1, 1795.

3. Barbe Beller was born at Pontpierre March 6, 1797 (per her marriage entry, though no entry is found there), and died at Hombourg-Haut, Moselle Sept. 17, 1829. On Jan. 27, 1821 at St. Avold she married miller Michel Jantzi (#3). He was born at St. Avold April 10, 1795, and died at Maicheren Jan. 31, 1848, a son of Michel Jantzi and Barbe Neuhauer. For background on this couple see JANTZI.

4. Pierre/Peter Beller was born on Berfang farm at Folschviller, Moselle June 20, 1800.

5. Marie Beller was born on Berfang farm at Folschviller June 13, 1802, and died at Beldorf, Luxembourg Feb. 13, 1862. On April 12, 1824 at Maizeroy she married Daniel Oesch. He was born on the Gunstal estate above Langensoultzbach, Lower Alsace Feb. 2, 1795, and died on the Spittelhof estate at Flachweiler, Luxembourg April 14, 1852, a son of Christian Oesch and Barbara Zehr.

6. Catherine Beller was born on Berfang farm at Folschviller May 7, 1804, and died at Dieuze, Moselle April 22, 1878. On April 15, 1826 she married Joseph Blanck, a son of Nicolas Blanck and Anne Schwartz. He was born at Lucy, Moselle Nov. 3, 1801, and died in Algeria Dec. 7, 1857.

Pierre/Peter Beller was born on Berfang farm at Folschviller, Moselle June 20, 1800.

On Feb. 25, 1826 at Valmont, Moselle he married Barbe Gasser. She was born at Azoudange, Moselle Aug. 13, 1805, and died before 1850, a daughter of Christian Gasser and Elisabeth Müller/Mourer. They farmed at Germiny, Meurthe-et-Moselle, a village 20 miles southwest of Nancy.

Pierre/Peter served as a witness for two weddings at Germiny on May 16, 1843: the first ceremony Joseph Goldschmidt, 24, son of Joseph Goldschmidt and Anne Mosimann, and Magdalene Springer, 23, daughter of André Springer and Catherine Esch; and the second ceremony Joseph Rouvenacht (found as ‘Riebennacht’), 27, son of

401 The name Anne Schneider appears as the parent on Pierre’s marriage entry. His death entry shows Anne Bronner, but a death entry is a much less reliable source.

402 Efforts to ‘smooth out’ these Bellers and merge their descendants with a family that came to Lewis County, New York falter on a single entry. A death entry recorded at Grostenquin said that Jean Beller, who was born in May of 1736, had died Aug. 17, 1737. The parents were identified as Jean Beler and Magdelin Rolle au Chateau Hinguesange, who were anabaptiste. Hingsange is now a village below Grostenquin. Nevertheless, there was likely some relationship farther back; Grostenquin is only 11 miles south of St. Avold.

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Pierre Rouvenach and Catherine Saltzman, and Anne Goldschmit, 23, daughter of Joseph Goldschmidt and Anne Mosimann. The marriage entries gave Pierre's age as 43.

Barbe Gasser died at Germiny Jan. 12, 1847. Her civil death entry stated that she was 43, a daughter of the deceased Christophe Gasser and Elisabeth Mourer, and the wife of 47-year-old Pierre Beller, a miller in the mill at Germany.403 His four children sailed from Le Havre on the Massachusetts, arriving at New York June 8, 1849. The passenger list shows Pierre Beller [Jr.], 22; Barbe, 21; Catherine, 19; and Magd., 17; all from France.

Son 'Peter Beller, 24, labourer' is listed in the household of Joseph Hodler on the 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County, Ohio. Joseph was the younger brother of Jean Hodler, Peter's uncle by marriage (see the footnote on Catherine Gasser for background on Jean Hodler; see STAKER for background on Joseph Hodler).

Pierre/Peter Beller soon followed his children. He sailed from Le Havre on the Gallia, arriving at New York May 9, 1850.404 The passenger list gave his age as 50.

The father Pierre/Peter and his four children settled in Woodford County before July 1851. On Oct. 8, 1854 in Tazewell County Pierre/Peter remarried to newly-arrived Barbe Roschli/Barbara Roeschley; the ceremony was performed by minister John Nafziger. She was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace Nov. 4, 1808. Her civil birth entry called her 'Barbe Röschlé.' It described her parents as cultivator Jean Roschlé, 39, and Elisabeth Wagler, and was witnessed by weaver Jean Wagler, 69, living at Mussig (Elisabeth's father). She sailed from Le Havre on the Mercury with members of her family, and arrived at New York May 20, 1854. For more on her family see ROESCHLEY.

Pierre/Peter became a minister of the Partridge Creek meeting. The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows Peter Beller, 60, France; and Barbara [Röschli], 51, France.

He was naturalized in Woodford County Oct. 25, 1867; witnesses included Joseph Bachman and Nicholas Partman. The 1880 census of Minonk, Woodford County shows gardener Peter Bellor, 78, France; and Barbara, 68, France. They were living next door to their daughter Magdalena and son-in-law Jacob Saltzman.

On the 1873 plat map of Worth Township 'P. Beller' is shown as the owner of 40 acres in Section 29 (in what is now Germantown).

Pierre/Peter died at Minonk Jan. 8, 1883. His headstone gives his age as 83 years, 7 months. Barbara died in Woodford County March 12, 1887 (headstone date) or March 13 (obituary). Herald of Truth, April 1887: "On the 13th of March, in Woodford County, Illinois, of the infirmities of old age, Sister Barbara Beller, widow of Peter Beller, aged about 79 years. She was buried on the 15th in the Bachman's grave-yard, followed by many friends. Services by Joseph Wagner, Joseph Ackerman, and John P. Schmidt from 1 Cor. 15. The departed sister often wished to depart this life and be with Christ and she passed away quickly." Her headstone in Baughman Cemetery at Panola gives her age as 79 years, 4 months, 10 days.

Children of Pierre/Peter Beller and his first wife Barbe Gasser include:

1. Pierre/Peter Beller [Jr.] was born at Valmont, Moselle April 14, 1827 (per 10-year civil index). He is listed in the household of Joseph Hodler as 'Peter Bellear, 24, labourer' on the 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County, Ohio. He

403 The 10-year index for civil entries mistakenly calls her Elisabeth Gasser, but the actual entry correctly calls her Barbe Gasser.

404 The Massachusetts passenger list shows 'Pierre Detwiller, 20' on the same page as the Beller children; the Gallia list shows 'John Bettwiller, 12' on the same page as Pierre Beller. The Gallia list has some familiar surnames following Pierre Beller: Jakob Muller, 39; and Magdalena, 44; John Detwiller, 12; Andre Zehr, 29, and family; and Catharina Boky [Birky?], 60. André Zehr was born at Autrey, Voges Oct. 26, 1820, and died at Croghan, New York Dec. 5, 1866, a son of Christian Zehr and Barbe Mosiman. André married Catherine Springer. André may have been a nephew to Pierre Beller; Pierre's sister Anne had married Joseph Zehr.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

died in Tazewell County July 11, 1851. At last reading his partial headstone in Union Cemetery at Washington said that he had died on July 11 at 24 years of age, though the year of death was illegible.

2. Barbe/Barbara Beller was born at Valmont July 20, 1828 (per 10-year civil index), and died at Peoria Jan. 17, 1916. The 1860 census of Partridge shows Barbara Beller, 28. On March 19, 1861 in Peoria County she married Henry Gauger. Her household is found on the 1870 census of Peoria as Barbra Gauger, 37, Prussia [Alsace- Lorraine was occupied 1870-1918]; and Frederick, 7, Illinois. She is found in the Peoria Directory (1890) as 'Barbara Gauger, widow of Henry.' She may be the 'Barbry Gauger' found as a boarder with the Fancy family on the 1900 census of Aurora, Nebraska. That census describes a widowed native of France born in 1828. The 1910 census of Peoria shows Barbara Gauger, 81, as an 'inmate' of the J.C. Proctor Endowment, a lifetime-care retirement home established in 1906. She is buried as Barbara Gauger in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.

3. Catherine Beller was born at Germiny, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 29, 1830. The 1860 census of Metamora shows Catherine Beller, 29, domestic in the household of druggist John L. Causey.

4. Madeleine/Magdalena 'Malinda' Beller was born at Germiny Aug. 20, 1831 (headstone), and died Feb. 29, 1916 in the home of son-in-law Joseph Stalter at Flanagan. In Woodford County Oct. 29, 1857 she married Jacob Saltzman. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine Dec. 1, 1833 (headstone), and died in Woodford County June 23, 1909. He immigrated on the 1854 voyage of the Mercury; he is found on the passenger list as Jacob Salzmann, 19. They are found on the 1870 census of Minonk as farmer Jacob Saltzman, 35, France; Malinda, 38, France; and five children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Minonk shows them as landlord Jacob Saltzman, 65, born in France in September 1834 (likely December 1833) and immigrated in 1845 (actually 1854); and Lena, 67, born in France in August 1832 (actually 1831) and immigrated in 1850 (actually 1849). Gospel Herald, July 1909: "Jacob Saltzman was born in Alsace-Lorraine Dec. 1, 1834; and died at his home in Woodford County, Ill. June 23, 1909, aged 75 years, six months, and 22 days. At the age of 21, he came to this country and settled in Woodford County, where he spent the remainder of his life. In early years he united with the Mennonite Church, of which he was a faithful member until the end. In 1857 he united in marriage with Magdalena Beller, who survives him. He leaves to mourn his departure a bereaved wife, four sons, two daughters, 33 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Four grandchildren and one great-grandchild preceded him to the spirit world. Peace to his ashes. He was buried June 26, in a cemetery near his home. Funeral services conducted in German by Bro. Peter Zimmerman and Bro. Jonas Litwiler, and in English by Bro. George Sommer." Gospel Herald, March 1916: "Magdalena (Bellar) Saltzman was born in Lorraine, France, Aug. 20, 1830; died at the home of her son-in-law, Joseph Stalter, near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 29, 1916; aged 85 y. 6 in. 9 d. At the age of 12 she united with the Amish Mennonite Church and remained a faithful member until called up higher. She came to this country in 1843 and in 1857 was married to Jacob Saltzman who preceded her in death June 23, 1909. To this union were born four boys and two girls, five of whom survive her (Peter, John, Benjamin, Mary M. Schertz, Elizabeth A. Stalter). One son Joseph and five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren preceded her to the spirit world. She has not been able to leave home for a number of years. She bore her sufferings patiently. Her desire was to depart and be with Christ. Funeral services were held at the house Mar. 2nd, by Bro. D. W. Slagel and Bro. George Summer. Text, Mark 14:8, latter clause. She was laid to rest in the Baughman Cemetery. Peace to her ashes."
**Ackerman: Ackermann of Wartenberg-Rohrbach**

In Germany an Ackermann is a field worker, although it is sometimes interpreted specifically as a plowman. In the 18th century the Ackermann family is found at Wartenberg-Rohrbach (adjacent to Sembach, 10 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern). According to the *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*, "The original families of the congregation — Krehbiel, Eymann, Eichelberger, Wurtz, Schnebele, Beutler, Latschar, Kinzinger, Höfli — emigrated from the Emmental, Switzerland, in 1660-1710... Religious services were held in private homes in Sembach, Wartenberg, Fischbach, and Diemerstein until 1777, when the church was built.... Until circa 1780 the present congregation of Sembach was called either simply Wartenberg or Wartenberg-Sembach, because so many ministers and elders came from that location." In 1769 the number of Anabaptists attending services in Wartenberg-Rohrbach and adjacent Sembach was estimated to be 250.

The next location of some family members may have been arranged by Catherine Ackermann, whose family relationships could not be determined. Recall from BIRKEY/BIRKY the 'Little Red Birky' chain. Circa 1801 Catherine Ackermann married André/Andrew Burkey, who was born circa 1778. They had six children before emigrating from Europe in 1835, and settling at what is now Worth, Woodford County. André/Andrew Burkey was an older brother or half-brother to Valentine Birky, of the 'Little Red Birkys.'

This couple lived at Söcking, inland from Castle Berg on Lake Starnberg below Munich. The Archduchess Maria Leopoldine was a Habsburg princess born in Italy in 1776. In 1795 she was forced to marry Charles Theodor, Elector of Bavaria. He was 52 years older. She refused his advances, but had affairs with a number of courtiers. She renounced her claim to succession after her husband died in 1799. She settled in as a permanent resident of the castle. Thus she may have been the employer of André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine Ackermann, or at least she was the most influential figure in their community.

The Archduchess originated the idea of inviting Anabaptists to drain and cultivate the marshes along the Danube River [Ger. *Donaumoos*]. A religiously-tolerant resettlement law was enacted as the *Bavaria Electoral General Directorate* [Ger. *Chufürstliche General-Landesdirektion*] on March 6, 1802.

The Archduchess correctly guessed that the measure would enhance the value of properties she owned at Steppberg, 20 miles west of Karlskron. The villages of Josephenburg and Probefeld in the district of Karlskron became home to Anabaptist Gascho, Güngerich, Hage, Ingold, Oesch, Pechler, Springer, and Sutter families. They traded years of service for exemptions from military service, then stayed on for exemption from taxes. In some cases it would prove to be their last address before emigrating from Europe.

We assume but cannot prove a connection between Anabaptist Catherine Ackermann at Söcking and Anabaptists who accepted the offer of the Archduchess.

The index to the *Karlskron Familienbuch* names Johannes Ackermann as a Mennonit residing at Josephenburg, married to Magdalena Baumann. Her first husband had been Georg Ingold. His first wife may have been Barbara Albrecht.

The children listed under the names of Johannes Ackermann and Magdalena Baumann (though they may actually have been born to his first wife Barbaa Albrecht) are:

1. Maria Ackermann, married to Joseph Hage. According to Hage family records, she was born at Wartenberg [Wartenberg-Rohrbach] Feb. 28, 1781, and died at Josephenburg Nov. 26, 1833. At Kaisheim (16 miles west of Stepperg) in 1805 she married Josef Hage. He was born at 'Gunthersburg, Lothringen' (likely...
Gentersbourg, in German Gendersbergerhof, a farm property attached to Château Gentersberg at Hanviller, Moselle that was home to Unzickers and Esches Sept 15, 1781, and died at Karlskron June 24, 1833, a son of Friedrich Hage and Elisabeth Anna Schultz.

2. Heinrich Ackermann, married to 'Barbara Burk.' On June 28, 1802 at Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace he married Barbara Bircki. Their civil marriage entry describe the groom as Heinrich Ackermann, 28, of Wartenberg; he was a son of Johannes Ackermann, 62, and Barbara Albrecht, residents of Wartenberg. The bride was described as Barbara Birki, daughter of the late Johannes Birki and his still living wife [his second wife] Barbara Birki (born a Birki), 50, of Buscherhof, community of Rimsdorf. Johannes Birki, 26, and Andreas Birki, 23, attested that the bride was 20 years of age. It was signed 'Johannes Birki.'

3. Jakob Ackermann, married to 'Anna Birk' [Anna Maria Birki]. He was born in 1785, and died at Köfering in 1851.

Jakob Ackermann was born in 1785, and died at Köfering in 1851. In 1798 he married Anna Maria Birki. She was born in 1793, and died at Josephenburg Jan. 19, 1814 (aged 20 years, five months).

Children of Jakob Ackermann and his first wife Anna Maria Birki born at Josephenburg include:

1. Katharina Ackermann was born July 15, 1810.
2. Magdalena Ackermann was born Aug. 14, 1811, and died the following day.
3. Johann Ackermann was born July 12, 1812, and died at Josephenburg Dec. 13, 1813.
4. Christian Ackermann/Ackerman was born Dec. 13 (Karlskron Familienbuch) or Dec. 25 (headstone), 1813, and died at Morton March 29, 1903.

According to Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany, Jakob remarried to Katharina Reidiger in 1814. She was born on the Ottenweiterhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden in 1783, a daughter of Joseph Reidiger and Katharina Hunzinger.

They initially farmed at Josephenburg. Circa 1817 they leased a large farm at Köfering, 30 miles west of Josephenburg and three miles southeast of Regensburg. This is confirmed by Königlich Bayerisches Intelligenzblatt für die Oberpfalz und von Regensburg, naming Jakob as a leaseholder as late as 1838.

Jakob became the first ordained minister for the congregation in the Regensburg area. According to The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, "Since the beginning of the 19th century there has been a Mennonite congregation with Regensburg as its meeting place. It was formed by families from Alsace and Lorraine who leased the larger farms in the vicinity of Regensburg; most of the members are still farmers."

Children of Jakob Ackermann and his second wife Katharina Reidiger were likely born at Köfering. They include:

5. Jakob Ackermann was born May 10, 1816, and died at Irlbach (40 miles southeast of Regensburg) May 27, 1870. He married Katharina Suttor.
6. Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman, also known as John Ackerman of Groveland, was likely born at Köfering May 24, 1817, and died at Groveland Oct. 28, 1891.
7. An infant son died July 10, 1818.
8. An infant daughter died Sept. 3, 1821.

On Oct. 31, 1824 at Alteglöfsheim (adjacent to Köfering) Jakob married a third time to Katharina Birky. Their children were likely born at Köfering. They include:

9. Magdalena Ackermann was born Sept. 3, 1825, and died May 9, 1856. She married Christian Güngerich.
10. Benjamin Ackermann was born June 16, 1827, and died June 22, 1867. Presumably he was named after Katharina Reidiger's uncle Benjamin Reidiger (born 1758) or cousin (born 1787, immigrated in 1834) of the same name (see REDIGER).
11. Elisabeth Ackermann was born May 19, 1830.
12. Veronika Ackermann was born April 11, 1832.

Older brother Christian Ackermann/Ackerman

Christian Ackermann/Ackerman was born at Josephenburg, Bavaria Dec. 13 (Karlskron Familienbuch) or 25 (headstone), 1813, and died at Morton March 23, 1903. He is found as 'Christian Ackermann' on the steerage passenger list of the Bark Atlantic. The ship sailed from Bremen and arrived at New York Sept. 12, 1838. He sailed with his second cousin Peter Ringenberger, who later lived at Elm Grove.
According to a brief biography collected by Sam Ackerman, Christian went directly to Butler County, Ohio. His obituary says he lived 'near Hamilton.' He remained there six months before heading on to Spring Bay.

On May 25, 1839 in Tazewell County Christian married Anna/Anne Belsley. She was born on Neuhof farm at Bihl, Moselle (later Buhl Lorraine) March 28, 1819 (her obituary says Strasbourg, May 1820), and died at Morton May 2, 1903, a daughter of Michael/Michel Bältzli/Belsley and Catherine Schertz.

The 1840 census of Tazewell County shows the household of 'Christian Acrement.' The four names listed before him were Peter Summers [Sommer], Joseph Belsey [Belsley], Joseph Kemp [Kempf, later Camp], and M[illegible] Belsy. Although the census does not give exact locations, we know that Joseph Kempf was living in what is now Green Township, Woodford County.

In 1841 they settled at what is now Groveland. Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County: farmer Christian Ackerman, 45 [eight years older than his true age], Germany; Anne, 33, Germany; Christian, 7, Illinois; John, 3, Illinois; Barbara, 1, Illinois; and John Schrock, 50, Germany.

Circa 1852 they resettled on a 40-acre wooded property near Evans Corner at Morton. They built a brick house there. Christian appears on the 1855 state census of Morton, along with other familiar names such as (as written) Joseph Staker, Christian Staker, John Oswald, Jacob Schwarztraub, John Switzer, Peter Belsly, and Jacob Rich (found as Ja. Ritch).

The 1860 census of Morton shows farmer Christian Ackerman, 46, Bavaria; Anna, 41, France; Christian, 16; Barbara, 12; John, 13; Mary, 7; Anna, 5; Lydia, 3; and Madalene, 2; all children born in Illinois. The next three households on that census were those of Thomas Roberts, Robert Roberts, and Daniel Roth and Catherine Ropp (his mother Verena Zimmerman Roth was living with them); see ROTH for background on the abolitionist Roberts brothers. Their property in the southwest quarter of Section 4 is labeled 'C. Ackemann' on the 1864 plat map of Morton.

The 1870 census of Morton shows farmer Christian Ackerman, 55, Bavaria; Anna, 50, France; farm laborer John, 22; Barbara, 19; Mary, 17; Anna, 15; Letty [Lydia], 14; and Magdalena, 11.

In 1880 Christian and Anna were living next door to John Oswald and his son John, and son-in-law Samuel Butler Hirstein and daughter Lydia Ackerman. They appear on the federal census as retired farmer Christian Ackerman, 67, Bavaria; Anna, 61, Bavaria; Barbara, 28; and Lena, 21. The 1900 census of Morton shows: Christian Ackerman, 86, born Dec. 1813, immigrated in 1838, Germany; Anna, 80, born May 1820, Germany; Barbara, 51, born March 1849; and Lena, 41, born July 1858.

Christian and Anna are buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Morton, where their headstones describe them as 'Grandpa' and 'Grandma.'

Their children born at Morton include:

1. Peter Ackerman was born March 17, 1840, and died young.
2. Jacob Ackerman was born March 5, 1842, and died young.
3. Christian Ackerman [Jr.] was born Feb. 12, 1844, and died Sept. 18, 1884. He died from injuries suffered in the explosion of a cider and sorghum mill at Morton three days earlier. On Aug. 30, 1868 in Peoria County he married Maria/Mary Gerber. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio Aug. 23, 1850, and died at Morton Sept. 11, 1908, a daughter of John Gerber and Mathilda Zimmerman. They are buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery.
4. Catherine Ackerman was born Oct. 15, 1845, and died young.
5. John Ackerman was born Feb. 13, 1847, and died at Morton Feb. 22, 1925. On Jan. 23, 1873 in Davis County, Iowa he married Hannah/Nancy Naffziger. She was born at Wilmot, Ontario Oct. 24, 1849, and died at Morton June 24, 1929, a daughter of John Naffziger and Catharina Miller. For background on her family see the Appendix, CHILDREN OF CHRISTIAN NAFZIGER AND MARIA STALTER. In 1878 they donated land for the new Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.
6. Barbara Ackerman was born April 8, 1849, and died March 23, 1913. She is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.
7. Joseph Ackerman was born Dec. 26, 1850, and died young.
8. Mary Ackerman was born Feb. 22, 1853, and died in Kosciusko County, Indiana Nov. 23, 1913. On Sept. 28, 1873 in Peoria County she married Heinrich/Henry Rassi. He was born at Falkenstein near Schweinfurt, Bavaria July 17, 1847, and died in Kosciusko County, Indiana July 18, 1916, a son of Jacob Rassi and Magdalena Musselman. They lived at Cissna Park and later Milford, Indiana. They are buried in Milford Cemetery at Milford.
9. Anna Ackerman was born June 9, 1855, and died Oct. 2, 1903. On Sept. 10, 1876 in Peoria County she married Johann/John Wittmer. He was born at Elgin, Iowa March 24, 1854, and died at Lacrosse, Indiana Jan. 12, 1939, a son of Jacob Wittmer and Mary Reusser. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer John Wittmer, 26, born in Iowa to parents from Switzerland; Anna, 24, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria; and two children born in Illinois. On Oct. 2, 1905 Johann/John remarried to Mattie Naffziger, a daughter of John Naffziger and Catherine Miller.
10. Lydia Ackerman was born Feb. 28, 1857, and died at Morton Jan. 30, 1892. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. On March 21, 1877 in Peoria County she married Samuel Butler Hirstein. He was born at Morton July 22, 1852, and died Sept. 28, 1838, a son of Samuel Herstein and Gertrude Butler. They had 10 children. Samuel Butler Hirstein remarried to Louise Kuehner in Tazewell County Sept. 14, 1892, and they had seven more children. The Hirsteins relocated to Wing (adjacent to Fairbury) in 1874, and Fairbury in 1906.
11. Magdalena 'Len'a' Ackerman was born Aug. 15, 1858, and died April 5, 1945. She is buried as 'Miss Lena' in the Apostolic Christian Church at Morton.
12. Samuel Ackerman was born Aug. 22, 1860, and died young.

Younger brother Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman
Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman was born at Köfering, Bavaria (we found it described as 'near Regensburg') May 24, 1817, and died at Groveland Oct. 28, 1891.
On July 13, 1843 in Bavaria he married Magdalena Birki/Madeleine Birkey. She was born at Arzbach bei Dachau Feb. 26, 1823, and died before 1871, a daughter of Christian Birki and Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho.
John and Magdalena arrived at New York on the packet ship Emerald Sept. 23, 1845. They were accompanied by Magdalena's cousin Andreas/André/Andrew Birky of the 'Little Red Birkys' and George Eichelberger, a future Elm Grove resident.408 The passenger list shows them as 'George Eichelberger, 29; Jean Ackermann, 26; Madeleine, 22; Joseph, 1; and André Burki, 24.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows their household as John Ackerman, 31, Germany; Madeline, 27, Germany; Joseph, 6, Germany; Mary, 4, Illinois; Nancy, 2, Illinois; and Catherine, 1, Illinois. The 1860 census of Groveland shows the birthplace of the parents and oldest son Joseph as Bavaria.

Children of Johann Ackermann/John Ackerman and his first wife Magdalena Birki/Madeleine Birkey included:

1. Joseph Ackerman was born in Bavaria in 1844, and died in Bureau County Oct. 29, 1878; he is buried in Red Oak Cemetery in Bureau County. On Feb. 21, 1867 in Bureau County he married Maria/Mary Albrecht. She was born in Bureau County Sept. 10, 1848, and died there April 8, 1925, a daughter of Jacob Albrecht and Barbara Ringenberg. They are found on the 1870 census of Ohio, Bureau County as a 25-year-old farmer with a 21-year-old wife named Mary, born in Illinois, and a son Jacob, 2. Herald of Truth, October 1883: "Sept. 15th, near Ohio, Bureau county, Ill., of typhoid fever. Jacob Ackerman, son of Wid. Maria Ackerman, aged 15 years, 5 months and 16 days. Funeral sermon by Jos. Buercky. Text, Luke 7:13." On March 31, 1897 in Bureau County Maria/Mary remarried to Joseph D. Hoffert. She is buried in Red Oak Cemetery as 'Mother Mary Hoffert.'
2. Maria/Mary Ackerman was born in Bavaria June 20, 1846, and died June 16, 1910. On Feb. 4, 1867 in Tazewell County she married Peter F. Gerber. He was born in Butler County Aug. 1, 1845, and died June 16, 1910, a son of Christian Gerber and Anna Roth. They farmed at Tremont and are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Elm Grove.
3. Anna 'Nancy' Ackerman was born in Tazewell County Dec. 2, 1847, and died July 12, 1915. She appears on the 1900 census of Tremont, as a 53-year-old sister-in-law in the household of Peter F. Gerber and Mary Ackerman. She is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.
4. Catherine Ackerman was born in 1849.
5. Magdalena Ackerman was born in 1854. On Aug. 25, 1879 in Tazewell County she married John Miller.
7. Andrew Ackerman (twin) was born at Groveland in June 1860. He was four months old at the time of the census.
8. Daniel Ackerman (twin) was born at Groveland in June 1860, and died there Oct. 22, 1942. On June 28, 1885 at Groveland he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Gerber. She was born at Elm Grove July 15, 1856, and died at Morton Jan. 17, 1950, a daughter of Peter Gerber and Barbara Bechler. They attended the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland, and are buried in the cemetery there. Metamora Herald obituary, Jan. 27, 1950: “Mrs. Elizabeth Ackerman, 93, died at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17 in her home in Morton, following a two weeks' illness. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday from the residence and at 1:30 p.m. at the Evangelical Mennonite church at Groveland. Burial was in the church cemetery with three pastors officiating, the Rev. Paul Rupp, the Rev. Emanuel Rocke of Woodburn, Ind., and the Rev. Albert Hager of Indianapolis, Ind. She was born at Elm Grove July 15, 1856, a daughter of Peter Gerber and Barbara Bechler. She was married to Daniel Ackerman in Groveland township in 1884. He died Nov. 24, 1932 [see above]. Surviving are one daughter, Miss Marianne Ackerman of Morton, two sons, Reuben of Morton and Roy of Groveland, three grandchildren, one great grandchild, and four sisters, Mrs. Katie Meyer and Miss Anna Gerber, both of Peoria, Mrs. Lydia Zolz of Gibson City and Mrs. Josephine Staker of Pekin. Three brothers and two sisters preceded her in death. She had lived in Morton for the past 25 years in Groveland township. She was a member of Groveland Evangelical Mennonite Church.”

408 On Jan. 5, 1851 in Tazewell County he married Veronika Stalter, the youngest daughter of Heinrich Stalter (junior) and Jakobine Stalter, owners of the Gern estate. See STALTER, THE STALTERS OF GERN for more on this couple.

Johann/John remarried to Elisabeth Sutter Miller in Tazewell County Feb. 9, 1871. Elisabeth was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Bavaria March 1, 1836, and died June 30, 1884, a daughter of Johannes Sutter and Barbara Oesch. She had first married Joseph Miller in Tazewell County Jan. 8, 1864; he died Sept. 11, 1868.

Johann/John and Elisabeth are found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer John Ackerman, 61, from 'Labiern'; Elizabeth Akerman, 45, from 'Albiern' [Altbayern or Oberbayern, the governmental district where Munich and Augsburg are located]; Daniel Akerman, 21; Katie Akerman, 29 [this was meant to be 19]; Susan Akerman, 17; Sara Akerman, 7; Abraham Akerman, 6; stepdaughter Elizabeth Miller, 17; and stepdaughter Mary Miller, 14; all children born in Illinois.

Johann/John and Elisabeth are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
Martin of Zilling

See the preface to ZIMMERMAN for new information about the genetic background of the Martin family.

We found three Amish Mennonite Martins living in adjacent villages in the northeast corner of what became the department of Moselle. They are thought to have been siblings, though there was a marriage link between their children.

1. Nicolas Martin was born circa 1732, and died at Gosselming, Moselle Jan. 19, 1814. He married Jacobée Roqui/Rogi/Rogy. She was born circa 1735, and died at Bickenholtz July 11, 1798. They farmed at Hangviller (now near the northeast border of the department of Moselle with Lower Alsace) from 1773 or earlier. In 1792 they relocated to Bickenholtz (four miles west of Hangviller). Nicolas remained there after Jacobée's death. In 1806 he relocated to Gosselming (five miles west of Bickenholtz). Their children include:
   - Jean Martin may be a member of this family (he is also found as Martinne). He died on Rinting farm at Bébing, Moselle Aug. 28, 1790. He married Anne Litwiller (found as Litviller). She was born circa 1764, and died at Hellering, Moselle (now Hellering-lès-Fénétrange, 11 miles northeast of Diane-Capelle) April 25, 1804. She was likely a daughter of Christian Leutweiler and Elisabeth Wagner. Her civil death entry gave her age as 40 and her birth place as 'Emering, Autriche' [Emmendingen or Emeringen, Baden?]. They were described as Anabaptists.
   a. Barbara/Barbe Martin was born in November 1767, and died at Pisdorf, Lower Alsace Feb. 5, 1821. Her civil death entry described her as Barbara Martin, aged 53 years, two months, and two days; a daughter of Nicolas Martin and Jacobie Rogi; witnessed by miller Chrétien Sommer, 48; and Pierre Sommer, 23. Circa 1798 she married widower Joseph Sommer. He was born at Neuville-la-Roche, Lower Alsace circa 1745, a son of Jean Sommer and Marie Barbe Neuhauser. His first wife had been Catherine Güngerich.
   b. Catherine Martin was born circa 1770. On Oct. 7, 1797 at Bickenholtz she married Jean Rigard. He was born circa 1772, a son of Leonard Rigard and Catherine Jaquin.
   c. Marie Martin was born circa 1770. On Nov. 10, 1796 at Bickenholtz she married Jacob Schertz. He was born at Bickenholtz circa 1774, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle Oct. 21, 1844, a son of Jean Schertz and Anne Marie Riche.
   d. Madeleine Martin was born at Hangviller March 23, 1773, and died at Pisdorf, Lower Alsace April 16, 1833. Her civil death entry described her as Madeleine Martin, 62, born at Hangenweiler, Meurthe [Hangviller, Moselle], a daughter of the deceased Nicolas Martin and Jacobie Rogi; witnessed by miller Chrétien Hauter, 26. On Dec. 29, 1793 at Bickenholtz, Moselle she married Christian Sommer. He was born at Sparsbach, Lower Alsace April 24, 1773, a son of Joseph Sommer and his first wife Catherine Güngerich.
   e. Joseph Martin was born at Hangviller Nov. 30, 1775. On March 5, 1804 at Rhodes, Moselle he married to Barbe Abresol. She was born at Rhodes Aug. 13, 1779, a daughter of Joseph Abresol and Barbe Vercler. They sailed from Le Havre on the St. Nicholas. Barbe died before the ship arrived at New York Jan. 4, 1847. The passenger list shows J. Martin, 70; Barbe, 7; André, 6; André, 6; Cath., 5; Joseph, 3; and P. Martin, 2 (we can identify Barbara and Andrew as grandchildren, daughters of son Joseph Martin and Barbara Bechler). It is likely that Joseph died at Croghan, Lewis County, New York before the 1850 census.
   f. Jacobé Martin was born circa 1776, and died at Bickenholtz Dec. 7, 1815.
   g. Nicolas Martin was born at Bickenholtz circa 1780, and died at Voellerdingen, Lower Alsace Jan. 5, 1843. His death entry gave his age as 63, and named his parents as the deceased Nicolas Martin and an unknown mother. On July 29, 1806 at Bickenholtz he married Catherine Sommer. She was born at Pisdorf, Lower Alsace Nov. 26, 1781, and died at Reding, Moselle July 14, 1852, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and his first wife Catherine Güngerich. Their daughter Anne Martin married her cousin Joseph Martin, a son of Christian Martin and Elisabeth Zehr.
   h. André Martin was born at Asswiller, Lower Alsace in 1784. On Feb. 15, 1815 at Gosselming he married Catherine Scherrer [Zehr?].

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409 A village in Lower Alsace was named Pisdorf from 1801 to 1952. In 1952 it became Bischtröff-sur-Sarre. In 1972 it was administratively merged with Sarrewerden. It is located nine miles north/northeast of Gosselming.
410 The 1850 census of Croghan shows farmer Joseph Martin, 45, Germany; Barbaray, 38, Germany; Barbaray, 11, Germany; Andrew, 10, Germany; and Catharine, 8, New York.
411 We found sources that say Joseph Martin died in 1844 at Angevillers (likely meant to be Hangviller) or Moussey (one of two locations, either in Moselle or Vosges). No death entry was found at these locations.
2. Madeleine Martin was born at Zilling in 1733, and died at Hanviller April 11, 1805. She married Christian Koch. He was born circa 1731, and died at Bitche, Moselle Feb. 3, 1798. He was a son of Nikolaüs Koch, who settled on the Rauschenbourg estate [Ger. Rauschenburg] at Ingwiller, Lower Alsace in 1742. Nikolaüs was a minister and elder. Madeleine and Christian farmed on the Gentesberg estate at Hanviller, Moselle (adjacent on the north side, and downriver from Bitche). Their daughter Barbara/Barbe Koch married Christian 'Christel' Bürcy/Bircki circa 1781, and died at Hanviller Feb. 13, 1815. Barbara and Christian were the grand parents of the 'Big Birkeys' who came to Tazewell County in 1840. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this family.

3. Christian Martin, was born circa 1737, and died at Imling, Moselle June 8, 1837, age 100.

The younger brother, Christian Martin, was born circa 1737, and died at Imling, Moselle June 8, 1837, age 100.

He married Barbara/Barbe Koch. She was born circa 1750, and died at Zilling Dec. 30, 1822, a daughter of minister Nikolaüs Koch of Ingwiller, Lower Alsace.

Zilling is a tiny village (present population about 270) adjacent to Hangviller. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 lists three heads of household there: Xtiiane Martin (three residents); Jean Esch (six residents); and Michel Bechler (three residents).

Children of Christian Martin and Barbara/Barbe Koch born there include:

1. Katharina/Catherine Martin was born Oct. 17, 1777, and died at Gosselming, Moselle Aug. 19, 1841. On March 28, 1794 at Zilling she married Jean Oesch. He was born on the castle estate Gutenbrunnen at Asswiller, Lower Alsace circa 1770, and died at Gosselming Feb. 12, 1821, a son of Christian Oesch and Barbara Schertz. In 1814 they relocated from Zilling to the Alzing estate at Gosselming. Katharina/Catherine's death entry was witnessed by sons Jean Esch, 34, and André Esch, 27, cultivators on Alzing farm at Gosselming; her age was given as 66, and her parents were described as the deceased Chrétien Martin, who in life had been a cultivator on the farm La Forge, Imling, and Barbe Koch, living at Zilling [although she had died there in 1822].

2. Barbe Martin was born Dec. 20, 1778, and died at Zilling June 3, 1841. On Jan. 10, 1805 at Zilling she married Michel Bechler; her parents were present and consenting at the wedding. Michel was born at Haselbourg July 20, 1779, and died at Zilling Dec. 14, 1841, a son of Joseph Bechler and Marguerite Saltzmann. Marriage witnesses included laborer Jean Oesch of Zilling, 30.

3. Madeleine Martin was born June 24, 1785, and died Dec. 6, 1808. On April 21, 1802 at Zilling she married Joseph Sommer. He was born at Bust, Lower Alsace [found as 'Bustdorf' on the marriage entry] July 15, 1780, and died at Ratzwiller, Lower Alsace Sept. 25, 1835, a son of Jacques Sommer and Catherine Springer (both deceased by the marriage). On July 11, 1810 at Fenétrange, Moselle he remarried to Véronique Mourer (see MAURER).

4. Christian Martin was born Nov. 11, 1789, and died at Imling May 3, 1873.

5. Anne Martin was born May 9, 1793, and died July 23, 1794.

Christian Martin was born at Zilling Nov. 11, 1789, and died at Imling May 3, 1873. On Dec. 13, 1810 at Domèvre-sur-Vezouse, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Elisabeth Zehr. She was born at Hellering, Moselle June 24, 1789, and died at Imling March 11, 1813, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Catherine Littviller.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christianne Martin, a resident of Zilling, a son of cultivator Christianne Martin and Elizabeth Kog [Barbe Koch] who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Elisabeth Zert, a resident of Domèvre, daughter of cultivator Christianne Zert and Catherine Littviller who were present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Christianne Zert, 49, father of the bride; Christian Kerbre [Gerber], 49, friend of the bride living at Herbéviller; Christian Martin, cultivator, 68, father of the groom living at Zilling; and Jean Frey, 40, friend of the groom living at Zilling.

They farmed at Igney, Meurthe-et-Moselle. Circa 1818 they relocated 13 miles north to live on the farm La Forge below Imling, Moselle.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Martin was born at Igney, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 11, 1813.
2. Christian/Christophe Martin was born at Igney Jan. 20, 1815, and died at Hopedale Feb. 22, 1882. His civil birth entry, calling him Christophe Martin, described his father as cultivator Christophe Martin, 26, a resident of Igney; and his mother as Elizabeth Sert, 25. It was signed 'Christian Martin,' and was witnessed by cultivator Nicolas Sert, 40, who signed his name 'Nicolaüs Zehr.'
3. Elisabeth Martin was born at Igney Oct. 14, 1817, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle Dec. 24, 1870. On April 4, 1836 at Gondrexange she married Christian Roth. He was born there Aug. 14, 1808, a son of Christian Roth and Anne Lehman.
4. André Martin was born at Imling, Moselle March 15, 1820, and died at Oberstinzel, Moselle in 1871. On Sept. 1, 1850 at Imling he married Catherine Schertz. She was born at Reherrey, Meurthe-et-Moselle March 31, 1825, and died at Oberstinzel Oct. 25, 1868, a daughter of Jean Schertz and Catherine Abresol.
The two sons Christian and Nicholas came to Tazewell County. They would have known of relatives here not only on the Zehr side but on the Birkey side as well. They were second cousins to Christian Bürcky, the father of the 'Big Birkeys' who had arrived in 1840 (sharing great-grandfather Niklaus Koch).

**Older brother Christian/Christophe Martin**

Christian/Christophe Martin was born at Igney, Meurthe-et-Moselle Jan. 20, 1815, and died at Hopedale Feb. 22, 1882.

On Feb. 22, 1841 at Imling, Moselle he married Marie/Mary Zehr. She was born at Chazelles, Moselle April 22, 1822, and died at Hopedale Feb. 1, 1913, a daughter of Georg Zehr and Barbe Mosimann.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Hanover, and arrived at New Orleans June 16, 1848. The passenger list shows carpenter Christophe Martin, 33, France; Marie, 26; Christophe, 4; and Barbe, 1. They arrived at Pekin via the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers in time for the July 4th celebration.

They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Christian Martin, 35, Germany; Mary, 35, Germany; Christian, 6, Illinois; and Barbara, 4, Illinois. They appear on the census page between Benjamin Goldschmidt and Michael Zimmerman.

The 1870 census of Little Mackinaw shows farmer Chris Martin, 55, France; Mary, 46, France; Jos., 17, Ill.; and Benj., 13, Ill. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer C. Martin, 65, born in France to German parents; Mary, 58, born in France to German parents; Benjamin, 23, works on farm, born in Illinois to German parents; Thomas Crabill, 18, works on farm, born in Russia to Russian parents; servant Lena Oswald, 20, born in Germany to German parents; and Charles Pultzie, 30, works on farm, born in Germany to German parents. Some of the locations may have been unsure because of the German occupation of Alsace-Lorraine 1870-1918, and confusion of ethnicity or language versus nativity.

**Herald of Truth**, March 1882: "On the 22nd of Feb., near Hopedale, Tazewell Co., Ill., Christian Martin, aged 76 years and 26 days. He was a peace-loving member of the Amish Mennonite church. He was buried on the 25th. Services were held at the house by John Naffziger, Joseph Springer, and Christian Naffziger, and at the meeting-house by Noah G. Augspurger. He leaves a widow and four children."

**Gospel Herald**, February 1913: "Mary Zehr was born in Alsace, France April 7, 1822; died Feb. 1, 1913; aged 90 y. 8 m. 24 d. She was married to Christian Martin in 1841. To this union were born three sons and one daughter, all of whom preceded her to the home beyond the grave. She leaves 23 grandchildren and 63 great-grandchildren. She was converted in her youth and united with the Amish Mennonite Church by being baptized upon confession of her faith, and was faithful to the end. She was buried Feb. 4. Sermons by Daniel Nafziger, Samuel Gerber and John C. Birky. Text, Phil. 1:21 and 1 Cor. 15:51-58." Christian and Marie are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Children of Christian/Christophe Martin and Marie/Mary Zehr include:

1. Christian/Christopher Martin was born at Gosseling, Moselle Aug. 25, 1843, and died at Garden City, Dayton Township, Missouri Aug. 16, 1907. On April 3, 1870 in Tazewell County he married Jakobina/Phoebe C./Phoebe Nafziger. She was born at Washington, Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1852, and died at Garden City Jan. 10, 1918, a daughter of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer. They were shown on the 1870 census of Little Mackinaw; on the census page before his parents: farmer Martin Ch.n, 27, France; Jacapina, 20, Ill.; and farm laborer Eversoll Jos., 42, France. They relocated from Little Mackinaw to Garden City in 1875. They are found on the 1880 census of Dayton Township as Christian Martin, 36, born in France to French parents; Phoebe, 29, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; and three children born in Illinois. They are buried in Clearfork Cemetery at Garden City. **Herald of Truth**, March 1882: "Christian Martin was born Aug. 25, 1843, in Alsace, France, came to America in 1848, settled with his parents near Pekin, Tazewell Co. Ill., and was married to Phoebe Nofzinger April 3, 1870. They lived near Hopedale until 1875, when they moved to near Garden City, Mo., where he lived until his death, Aug. 16, 1907; age 63 Y., 11 M., 21 D. Deceased leaves a wife, five children, aged mother, one brother and many friends to mourn their loss, which we believe was his eternal gain. Two daughters preceded him to the spirit world. He was a faithful member of the A. M. church from his youth. His death was due to paralysis, terminating in
other diseases. He was resigned to the will of God, and his desire in his last days was to read God's word and to pray. Funeral services on Aug. 18, at the residence by Pre. C. S. Hauber, and at the Sycamore M. H. by the home ministers, assisted by Pre. Jacob Yoder of Arkansas, where nearly 1,000 people had gathered. Text, 2 Cor. 5:1. "Gospel Herald, February 1918: "Phoebe (Naffsinger) Martin was born near Washington, Ill., Feb. 3, 1852. Died of leakage of the heart, near Garden City, Mo., at the home of her daughter, Sister E.G. Kanagy on Jan. 10, 1918; aged 65y. 11m. 7d. April 3, 1870, she was united in marriage to Christian Martin in Tazewell Co., Ill. To this union were born two sons and five daughters. In the spring of 1875 they left Tazewell Co. and moved to Cass Co., MO., near Garden City. Her husband died at this place Aug. 16, 1907, also two twin daughters (Ida and Phoebe) preceded him. Three daughters and two sons survive to mourn their loss, also 26 grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother amid many other relatives and friends. All but one of the children (Benjamin, of Minot, N.D.) reside in this community and were at the mother's bedside during sickness and death. Sister Martin united with the Amish Mennonite Church early in her youth and remained faithful until death. In her last hours she requested the reading of God's Word and said all was well should the end come. It was always her joy to attend church services, was always cheerful, and ready to lend a helping hand to all. She expressed her willingness to depart or remain - just as the Lord will. Text, (by I.G. Hartzler) Jno. 14:2. Interment in the Clearfork Cemetery."

2. Barbara Martin was born at Gosselming, Moselle Nov. 2, 1846, and died Dec. 22, 1885. On April 6, 1869 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Nafziger. He was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County July 8, 1845, and died at Minier March 16, 1910, a son of Daniel Nafziger and Elizabeth Summer. For more on this couple see NAFZIGER, DANIEL NAFZIGER.

3. Joseph Martin was born at Pekin March 12, 1853, and died Jan. 10, 1900. On Jan. 26, 1882 in Missouri he married Hannah Rebecca Roush. She was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania Dec. 5, 1860, and died at Hopedale Oct. 14, 1927, a daughter of Joseph K. Roush and Anna. Herald of Truth, February 1900: "On the 10th of Jan., 1900, near Hopedale, Ill., after protracted suffering of consumption, Bro. Joseph Martin, aged 46 years, 9 months, 29 days. He greatly longed for the hour of his departure. He was a faithful Christian from his youth and a member of the Amish Mennonite congregation near Hopedale. He was married in 1882 to Hannah Rausch, who with six children, his aged mother, two brothers and many friends mourn their loss, yet not as those who have no hope. Buried at Hopedale A.M. meeting house on the 11th. Funeral services by John Egli, Joseph Litwiller and J.C. Birky."

4. Benjamin Martin was born at Pekin June 26, 1856, and died at Chicago Feb. 13, 1909. On March 3, 1881 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena 'Lena' Oswald. She was born at Ernstweiler in the Pfalz Sept. 17, 1860, and died at Beemer, Nebraska July 1, 1919, a daughter of Peter Oswald and Anna Eichelberger. They are found on the 1900 census of Minier Village, Little Mackinaw Township as farmer Benjamin Martin, 42, born in Illinois in June 1857 to French parents; Magdalena, 39, born in Illinois in September 1860 to German parents; and eight children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, March 1909: "Died, Feb. 13, 1909, in Chicago, where he was taking treatment for nervous troubles, Bro. Benjamin Martin of Hopedale, Ill., aged 52 y. 7 m. 17 d. Death being caused by cerebral hemorrhage. He leaves to mourn a sorrowful wife, seven sons, one daughter and his aged and grief stricken mother who has now seen all her children laid in the grave. May God comfort the bereaved ones. The remains were brought to his home. Buried Feb. 17. Services by Sam. Garber and A. H. Leaman." Benjamin and Magdalena are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

Younger brother Nicolas/Nicholas Martin

Nicolas/Nicholas Martin was born at Imling March 21, 1835 (per his civil birth entry, though History of Tazewell County gives March 15, 1834), and died at Beemer, Nebraska Feb. 19, 1905.

He sailed from Le Havre on the Diadem, arriving at New York May 5, 1854. The passenger list shows Nicholas Martin, 19, France. Elsewhere on the same page was Nicholas Risser, 18 (he would marry Katie Gerber/Garber in Butler County, Ohio March 21, 1858, then remarry to Magdalena Springer in McLean County Dec. 28, 1864; see SPRINGER).

On April 1, 1855 in Tazewell County he married Catherine 'Katie' Litwiller; the ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Ropp. She was born at Milford, Ohio May 21, 1834, and died at Milford, Nebraska May 1, 1930, a daughter of Joseph Litwiller and his first wife Barbe/Barbara Ulrich.

Nicholas initially worked as a farmhand at Pekin. They appear on the 1860 census of Little Mackinaw as Nicholas Martin, 25, France; Catharine, 22, France; Barbara, 4, Illinois; Christian Saulsman, 10, Illinois; and Joseph Martin, 2, Illinois. They are found on the 1870 census of Boynton as Nicholas Martin, 36, France; Catharine, 35, Ohio; Barbara, 14; Joseph, 12; Mary A., 6; Anna E., 3; and Katy J., newborn; all children born in Illinois.

The 1880 census of Boynton shows farmer Nicholas Martin, 46, France; Catharine, 45, Illinois; Joseph C., 22, Illinois; Mary, 16, Illinois; Catharine, 10, Illinois; Jacob Waldner, 24, Russia; Joseph Garber, 9, Illinois; and Emma Martin, 13, Illinois.

412 An obituary for her brother Peter Oswald (1864-1934) says he was born at Regensburg, Bavaria. He and his parents immigrated to New Orleans in 1872, and remained there until relocating at Hopedale in 1876.

On Sunday afternoon. On Monday her remains were taken to her former home at Beemer, Nebr. Services were regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Tit. 3: 5). Short funeral services were held at the home of Bro. Birky on Sunday afternoon. On Monday her remains were taken to her former home at Beemer, Nebr. Services were conducted by J. E. Zimmerman of Milford, Nebr. Text, I Pet. 1: 4, 24, 25.

Their children born at Hopedale include:

1. Barbara C. Martin was born Dec. 25, 1855, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 15, 1944. On Feb. 21, 1878 in Tazewell County she married Andrew D. Birky. He was born in Tazewell County Jan. 22, 1853, and died at Milford, Nebraska May 3, 1940, a son of Christian Birkey and Catherine Mosiman. Gospel Herald, May 1944: "Barbara C. Birky, daughter of Nicholas and Katie Martin was born near Hopedale, Ill., Dec. 25, 1855; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elmer Stutzman, April 15, 1944; aged 88y, 3m, 20d. She accepted Christ in her youth and became a member of the Mennonite Church and lived a faithful life to the end. On Feb 21, 1878, she was married to Andrew Birky, who preceded her in death in 1940. She leaves her eight children all of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Katie Stutzman, Mr. Mary Stutzman, Mrs. Ida Stutzman, and Mrs. Lydia Miller all of Milford, Nebr.; Mrs. Fannie Stutzman, Mrs. Barbara Stutzman, Tofield Alta. Nicholas, Albany Ore.; and Reuben, Hebron, Ind. Her 3 sisters are; Mrs. Mary Burky, Creston, Mont; Mrs. Katie Stoltzfus, Manson, Ia.; and also 39 grandchildren and 74 great-grandchildren. One brother, Joseph, and three grandchildren preceded her in death. She was a devoted companion and a loving mother, who was much concerned about the spiritual welfare of her family. Hers was a life of unselfish, sacrificial service for those about her. Her quiet daily walk with her Savior was one of inspiration d example. Grandma enjoyed good health until a few weeks ago she had the misfortune of breaking her hip. Her intense suffering was born patiently. Funeral services were held April 17, in East Fairview Church in charge of Bros. J. M. Zimmerman and Era Wroth. Burial was in the church cemetery.

2. Joseph C. Martin was born April 14, 1858, and died March 20, 1924. On Feb. 20, 1881 in Tazewell County he married Katherine 'Katie' Birkey. She was born at Hopedale Jan. 5, 1863, and died there April 10, 1928, a daughter of Johannes/John Birkey and Elizabeth Birkey. Gospel Herald, May 1928: "Katharine Birky Martin was born Jan. 5, 1863; died April 10, 1928; aged 65 y, 3 m, 5 d. She was united in marriage to Joseph Martin Feb. 15, 1881, who preceded her in death March 20, 1924. To this union were born three sons and one daughter (John, Daniel, Joseph, and Katie Cripe who passed away Feb. 19, 1915). She leaves three sons, 13 grandchildren, one brother (Chris J. Birky) and a host of relatives and friends. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained faithful to the end. Funeral services were conducted April 13 at the Hopedale, Ill., Mennonite Church, by Bro. Samuel Gerber, assisted by the home ministers. Text, Isa. 38: 1, latter clause.

3. Catherine 'Katie' J. Martin was born July 15, 1869, and died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 8, 1946. On Nov. 13, 1890 at Beemer, Nebraska she married Christian Stoltzfus. He was born in Union County, Pennsylvania April 11, 1870, and died at Fort Dodge, Iowa Dec. 31, 1942, a son of Jonathon Stoltzfus and Lydia Eash. They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery at Manson. Gospel Herald, February 1943: "Christian, eldest son of Jonathan and Lydia (Eash) Stoltzfus, was born in Union Co., Pa., April 11, 1870; died Dec. 31, 1942, at the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Dodge, Iowa. At the age of 13 he moved with his parents to Lyon Co., Kans. where he grew to manhood. The remainder of his life was spent in Decatur Co., Kans.; Beemer, Nebr.; and Manson, Iowa, having lived in Manson for the past twenty-eight years. In 1890 he was united in marriage with Katie Martin. To them were born four children (Mrs. Chris Birky, Nicholas and Chris of Manson, and Emanuel of Lake Park, Iowa). He accepted Christ as his Saviour in early manhood and united with the Mennonite Church. Among the most blessed memories to his family and friends are the peace and confidence expressed during his last illness. Besides his sorrowing companion, children and grandchildren he leaves one brother (Amon) of Wellman, Iowa and one sister (Sara) of Chappell, Nebr. Funeral services were held Jan. 3 at the Manson Mennonite Church, with Bro. Joe E. Zimmerman of Milford, Nebr., officiating. Text, II Tim. 4: 6-8. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery" Gospel Herald, February 1947: "Stoltzfus, Katie
J., daughter of Nicholas and Catherine Martin, was born near Delavan, Ill., July 15, 1869; passed away at the home of her son (Chris), in Manson, Iowa, Nov. 8, 1946; aged 77 y. 3 m. 23 d. At an early age she moved with her parents to Selden, Kans. In 1891 she was married to Christian E. Stoltzfus, who predeceased her on Dec. 31, 1942. In 1907 they moved to Beemer, Nebr., where they resided until the spring of 1915, when they moved to Manson. At the age of eighteen she became a Christian and united with the Mennonite Church. Surviving are four children (Lydia - Mrs. Chris Birky, Nicholas, and Chris, all of Manson, and Emanuel, Lake Park, Iowa), nine grandchildren, two sisters (Mrs. Mary Birkey, Creston, Mont., and Mrs. Emma Birkey, Kouts, Ind.), and other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Manson Mennonite Church, Nov. 11, in charge of George J. Lapp. Interment was made in Rose Hill Cemetery.

4. Mary Ann Martin was born April 9, 1864, and died at Creston, Montana May 27, 1952. On April 12, 1881 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Birky. He was born at Morton Sept. 19, 1855, and died at Calkins, Montana Jan. 12, 1917, a son of Joseph Birkey and Mary Birky. Gospel Herald, July 1952: "Birky, Mary, daughter of Nicholas and Katie (Litwiller) Martin, was born April 9, 1864, at Hopedale, Ill.; died May 27, 1952, at the home of her daughter near Creston, Mont.; aged 88 y. 1 m. 18 d. She was married to Jacob Birky in 1881 at Hopedale, Ill. Surviving are 4 sons (Joe and Eli, Creston, Mont.; Menno and Benjamin, White Sulphur Springs, Mont.), 4 daughters (Amelia Miller, Lincoln, Nebr.; Leah Deeter, Hardin, Mont; Emma Hoestetler and Elizabeth Kauffman, Creston, Mont.), 29 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Two daughters (Katie and Mary) preceded her in death. Her husband died in 1917 at Shickley, Nebr. In 1928, she moved with her son Eli to Creston, Mont., where she spent the remaining days of her life. Early in youth she united with the Mennonite Church in which faith she continued until the Lord called her home. Funeral services were held at the Mountain View Mennonite Church on May 31 by D. D. Brenneman." Jacob is buried in Mayn Cemetery at White Sulphur Springs, Montana; Mary Ann is buried in Conrad Memorial Cemetery at Kalispell, Montana.

5. Emma M. Martin was born Oct. 24, 1865, and died at Kouts, Indiana Oct. 15, 1957. On Sept. 24, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Jacob D. Birkey/Birky. He was born in Tazewell County July 25, 1855, and died at Kouts, Indiana July 12, 1926, a son of Christian Birkey and Catherine Mosiman. Gospel Herald, July 1926: "Jacob D. Birky was born at Morton, Ill., July 25, 1855; died at his home at Kouts, Ind., July 12, 1926; aged 70 y. 11 m. 18 d. He was united in marriage with Emma Martin Sept. 25, 1884. To this union were born seven sons and four daughters, and 23 grandchildren. He was converted when a young man and united with the Amish Mennonite Church. When the first Sunday school was organized at Hopedale, Ill., he was the first superintendent of Sunday school. In 1895 he was ordained to the ministry and seven years later in 1902 he was called to the office of bishop, thus serving faithfully in the ministry for 31 years. He is survived by his wife, seven sons, four daughters, 22 grandchildren, his aged mother-in-law (Mrs. Martin, 92 years old), two brothers (Joseph and Andrew), three sisters (Mrs. Mary Egle; Lizzie, and Mrs. Litwiller). He preached at his home church two weeks before his death. He was sick nearly two weeks, when he quietly passed away. His greatest concern was that his family and congregation be ready to meet their God in peace. Funeral on July 15 at Mennonite Church at Kouts, Ind., where a large number of friends from Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, and Indiana met for the occasion. Services Bro. D. D. Miller, assisted by others." Gospel Herald, November 1957: "Birky, Emma, daughter of Nicholas and Katherine Martin, was born at Hopedale, Ill., Oct. 24, 1865; died Oct. 15, 1957, aged 91 y. 11 m. 21 d. On Sept. 19, 1884, she was married to Jacob D. Birky. She accepted Christ in her youth and was a faithful member of the church until death. As a mother and wife of a bishop she lived an exemplary life at all times. Surviving are seven sons (Amos, Jonas, Dean, Samuel, and Emanuel, all of Kouts, Ind.; Jake, Valparaiso, Ind.; and Emory, Hebron, Ind.), two daughters (Mrs. Mary Good, and Emma-Mrs. Simon Good, of Kouts), 38 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Hopewell Church, Kouts, Ind., Oct. 17, with Samuel S. Miller in charge. Burial in the church cemetery." They are buried in Hopewell Mennonite Cemetery at Kouts.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Imhoff: Imhof of Trippstadt

Because the meaning of Hof has changed over time, it is difficult to say whether the surname Imhof was originally meant to identify someone from a settlement, a jurisdiction, or a farm. But now it is generally understood to describe someone who worked or was born in the courtyard of an estate. The 1682 Mosestafel tableau in the Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg has a coats-of-arms board [Ger. Wappentafel] for Christen Imhoff. It shows a circular Gothic wall enclosing a courtyard.

The early history of this family revolves around estates surrounding the village of Trippstadt, eight miles below the city of Kaiserslautern. At the turn of the 18th century the region that encompassed Kaiserslautern and Trippstadt, between Saarland and the Rhine River, was contested by the Dukes of Lorraine and the Palatine Elector. The dukes considered it part of the formerly Austrian county of Falkenstein, and part of their inheritance.

Wilenstein castle was built on a hilltop circa 1152, then rebuilt a number of times at the same elevation. The last castle used for protection was gutted by sieges during the Thirty Years War, but in the meantime the village of Trippstadt had grown up beside it.

A document created at Heidelberg March 30, 1688 shows that Christian Zug and Michael Müller leased the 17-acre grounds of the ruined castle. The lease signed by Palatine Elector Philip Wilhelm offered very generous terms in exchange for the construction of a dwelling and outbuildings. The property would be known as the Wilensteinierhof estate. This was four years before the Amish division in Canton Bern, suggesting the Zugs may have been part of the wave of emigration from Canton Bern soon after 1670.

On Jan. 5, 1716 the Palatine Elector Johann Wilhelm awarded property east of Trippstadt to Freiherr Ludwig Anton von Hacke. A Freiherr was a free lord of the Holy Roman Empire. He was entitled to hold a domain and judicial authority over its residents.

In 1719 von Hacke made additional purchases including the Wilenstein castle and its grounds, as well as the Aschbacherhof estate on the northern edge of Trippstadt. He added the functions of forest manager and master of the hunt to his appointments as a military colonel and privy councillor.

On Jan. 1, 1720 Amish Mennonites Christian Zug, his wife Barbara, and Christian Stauffer purchased the Wilensteinierhof estate directly from von Hacke. The Freiherr guaranteed them family patrimonial rights - barring a violation of the conditions, ownership could be passed on to their descendants.

"I, Ludwig Anton, Baron von Hacke of Schweinspaint and Trippstadt, privy council, treasurer, and chief hunt master of the Elector of the Pfalz, recognize and make known herewith for myself and my heirs and descendants, that I have endowed Christel Züg and Barbara his spouse and Christel Stauffer, stepson of the deceased Peter Stauffer, and all their heirs, male and female in descending line, as a permanent and solid patrimonial estate, my Willsteiner Hof, both feudal and allodial... including buildings and their court yards, lands, meadows, and fields as well as the grinding mill area located in the meadow valley; and also that they, and their heirs of the patrimonial estate, may keep, use, and enjoy such aforementioned items in the capacity of Domini Utilis, reserving for me, however, authority as Dominum Directum (overlord)."

The economy of Trippstadt depended on the oak trees of the Pfälzerwald [Palatine forest] surrounding it. A foundry was established in 1724. The production of charcoal for smelting supported about 50 families.

In 1733 the question of dominion between the dukes and the elector was resolved in favor of the elector. Duke Franz Stephan of Lorraine gave up his claims in exchange for other land parcels. As the Rheinbayern under the elector the area would retain much of its French influence, and its citizens prided themselves in their relatively progressive attitudes.

On April 20, 1742 sons Christian and Johannes Zug gave up their inherited rights to one-half of the the Wilenstein castle grounds, with the permission of von Hacke. They sailed from Amsterdam to Philadelphia later that year (see KAUFFMAN).

413 A tradition of religious tolerance began at Kaiserslautern when a state called Pfalz-Lautern was partitioned in 1576. Its administrator Johann Casimir attempted to create a Protestant stronghold by accepting Calvinist exiles from other states, and Huguenots from France. Pfalz-Lautern was absorbed into the Pfalz after his death. A short name for the city, Lautern, is found on 18th century censuses.

414 Three years later Duke Franz Stephan became the husband of Austrian Empress Maria Theresa.

415 In the same year Christian/Christel and Johannes Stauffer sold a part that they had inherited from their father (Christel Stuffer) to David Burkhardt and his wife Eva; in 1780 the Burkhards would resell this part to Magdalena Imhof (a daughter of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika/Veronica Rocke/Roggy) and her husband Jakob Jordi.
Die Domäne Trippstadt, the private domain of a Freiherr, was exempted from censuses conducted by Kurpfalz administrators. Thus we do not find an accounting of the Mennonite residents of Trippstadt in the Guth publication Palatine Mennonite Census Lists, 1664-1793 - though we do find the locations surrounding it such as Kaiserslautern, Schmalsen, and the Laubervald.

In 1744 Palatine Elector Karl Theodor issued a concession reducing the mandatory annual protection payment for Anabaptists to six florins. This amended an Edict of Tolerance issued by Palatine Elector Karl Ludwig in 1664. However, Karl Theodor also required a gradual decrease in the number of families in the Pfalz from 240 to 200. New immigrants and sons who wished to marry were required to obtain special permits to remain in the county temporarily. The concession may have been the incentive that first brought Imhofs to von Hacke's domain at Trippstadt. There, they would have been exempt from the concession requirements.

Christian Imhof was born circa 1709. He and his wife Verena may have arrived on the Wilensteinerhof estate shortly after the edict of tolerance requirements were restated.

Freiherr von Hacke died in the court of the elector at Mannheim in 1752, and was buried in the church of St. Joseph at Trippstadt. After his death his son Franz Karl Joseph von Hacke inherited his privileges as a Freiherr. He maintained his father's tolerant acceptance of Amish Mennonites.

When an assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers took place at Essingen in 1759, the Kaiserslautern-Trippstadt area was represented by Johannes/Hans Höflin of Otterberg (just above Kaiserslautern - see EHRISMAN, THE MECHTERSHEIMERHOF for background on Höflin) and Christian Schenk of Schmalsen (adjacent to Trippstadt on its southwest side). But the signature of 'Christen Imhof' was grouped with ministers from the area of Essingen and Eusserthal (about 20 miles southeast of Trippstadt). Other Obere Gemeinde ministers were Johannes 'Hans der alte' Nafziger, Christian Nafziger, Georg Holly, and Jakob Holly. Thus some historians identify him as a representative of the Upper Pfalz [Ger. Pfalzer Oberland], rather than the Kaiserslautern area.

Christian may have been grouped with ministers from the Eusserthal area because he organized occasional services in the remote hamlet of Hofstätten (12 miles southeast of Trippstadt, five miles northwest of Eusserthal).

Marriages tied some of the Amish Mennonite families at Trippstadt to those in the remote hamlet Hofstätten. Christian Imhof and Verena's daughter Veronika Imhof married Johannes Habecker, the first Anabaptist leaseholder there. Subsequently services of one large congregation were held at both locations over the years, as meeting places became available. See HABECKER for background on this location.

In 1764 the Freiherr and his family were occupying the main farmhouse on the Aschbacherhof estate. It was within the boundaries of the northern boundary of the community of Trippstadt, but midway between the actual village and the city of Kaiserslautern.

They initiated construction of a two-story red sandstone manor house in Trippstadt village. It was to be called Maison de la Campagne (but is now better known as Trippstad castle or Trippstadt house).

In 1765 Christian Imhof and his oldest son Peter leased the grounds of the Aschbacherhof estate.

When the Maison de la Campagne was completed in 1767, the von Hackes moved in. Christian Imhof and his oldest son Peter occupied the vacated main farmhouse at the Aschbacherhof estate. In German the main farmhouse would be called Hofhaus. However, this long single-story is still known as the Herrenhaus because of its history and the coats of arms placed above the door since its construction in 1566. It sits on a small hill overlooking the Aschbachtal [oak tree brook valley meadows].

The next-oldest son Christian [Jr.] remained on the Wilensteinerhof estate, retaining his family's paternal inheritance rights. But at some point he too relocated to the Aschbacherhof estate (well before his death in 1793). He then passed down the Wilensteinerhof property to his younger brother Johannes/Hans Imhof.

In 1792 the city of Kaiserslautern was pillaged by French troops.

Saxon and Prussian troops defended the area from the French in the Battle of Kaiserslautern Nov. 28-30, 1793. The Duke of Brunswick deployed his troops on a defensive line with his right flank at Kaiserslautern. An entire division was posted at Trippstadt. For three days his coalition troops engaged poorly-trained French soldiers. They were led by newly-promoted General of the Army of Moselle Louis Lazare Hoche, who only four years earlier had been a corporal. Skirmishes took place at Trippstadt and adjacent Johanniskreuz. Finally the French withdrew with about 1,500 casualties.

\[416\] Our starting point was a model of the first two Imhof generations proposed by German genealogists Otto Schmidt and Alfred H. Kuby, as found in Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Illinois.

\[417\] Christian Imhof may have been related to contemporary Anna Barbara Imhof. She married Christian Schenck and lived at Mehlingen, on the northeast corner of Kaiserslautern.

\[418\] The church of St. Joseph was actually under construction at the time of his death. He had provided the funds for the building.
Hans and his wife Anna Stauffer created a will Jan. 4, 1794. It stated that they held inherited family patrimonial rights to ownership of half of the Wilensteinerhof estate. One quarter had come to Anna from her cousin Christian/Christel Stauffer. The other quarter had come to Hans from the 'Christian Imhof couple' (Hans's older brother and sister-in-law).

On July 13, 1794 French troops returned and captured Kaiserslautern. At the same time they forged ahead on the north side, and troops on the south side reached Trippstadt. The von Hacke family's baroque house in the village was partially destroyed, so that only the basement was habitable.419

The entire engagement became known as the Battle of Trippstadt or the Battle of Vosges. It was militarily and politically significant because the Austrians failed to support their Prussian allies, and the Prussians were forced to withdraw to the east side of the Rhine River.

With the occupation the properties of the von Hacke family were placed into receivership under a French administrator. For seven years private landowners were uncertain whether they would retain their deeds.

Hans and Anna must have died on the Aschbacherhof estate before the creation of a property succession document at Mannheim March 18, 1796. It gave the mother's quarter of the estate to Hans's nephew Johannes Imhoff (oldest son of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rocke/Roggy), and the father's quarter to Hans's nephew Christian Imhof (oldest son of Christian Imhof and Katharina/Catherine Stauffer).

In 1797 Rheinbayern was incorporated into the First French Republic as the department of Mont-Tonnerre [Thunder Mountain], with its capital at Mainz.

In 1800 a census of Trippstadt showed the two property recipients living on the Wilensteinerhof estate: farmer Christian Imhof, 40 [oldest son of Christian Imhof and Katharina/Catherine Stauffer]; his wife Jakobine née Kinzinger, 34; farmer Johannes Imhoff, 36 [oldest son of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rocke/Roggy]; and his wife Magdalena née Jorde [Jordi], 35.420

In 1801 the Treaty of Lunéville ended the state of uncertainty over property rights. French law was instituted across the department. Land holders were reassured that noble families would not return to press claims against them.

In 1802 the prefecture of Mainz reported the number of Anabaptists in the department of Mont-Tonnerre as 1,350 persons.

In July 1802 the French government extended a provisional law allowing involuntary military conscription. Since the government had never limited conscription to those who possessed citizenship, the single males in the department of Mont-Tonnerre found that they could be drafted into the occupying army. By 1810 their rate of call-up far exceeded the French national average. About 80,000 were eventually selected after a preliminary medical examination. According to Michael Rowe's Between Empire and Home Town: Napoleonic Rule on the Rhine, 1799-1814, fewer than half returned from service.

Presumably many of the sons of Amish Mennonite families in the area of Kaiserslautern and Trippstadt found it prudent to migrate to the eastern side of the Rhine River during this time frame. The crossing at Speyer was only 30 miles to the east.

Throughout the latter part of the French occupation residents of the area were severely affected by recurring epidemics of typhus and dysentery.

Reiterating from STALTER:

In June of 1812 Napoleon marched his troops into Russia to head off a threat to Poland. The campaign was an unqualified disaster. During this time Bavarian troops were considered 'unreliable at best' on the battlefield. The king of Bavaria was beginning to reconsider his options.

419 The von Hacke family's ruined home became the property of Alsace in 1803. It changed hands when most of the state-owned farm property at Trippstadt was purchased by industrialist Ludwig von Geinanth (1767-1848) in 1833. He sold the house to the Bavarian state in 1865. It became a state forestry office in 1885, and in 1888 the ruined walls were restored to become a forestry school. In 1987 it became a new office building for the forest research station of the Rheinpfalz.

Von Geinanth's 1833 purchase also brought him partial ownership of the Wilensteinerhof estate. Helmut Gingerich found a sales document dated June 28, 1843 that transferred hereditary paternal ownership rights to a portion of the estate from von Geinanth to couples Johann August Imhof (a son of Christian Imhof and Jakobine Kinzinger) and Katharina Brenneman, and Johannes Güngerich and Elisabeth Imhof (a daughter of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rocke/Roggy). They paid 2,400 Gulden.

420 Other residents on the 1800 census of Trippstadt include farmer's wife Magdalena Jorde, 38, with two children under 12, who we believe to be the wife of Johannes Imhof (a son of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika Rocke/Veronica Roggy); as well as Johann Jorde, 14, and Jakob Jorde, 13, who we believe to have been sons of the deceased couple Jakob Jordi and Magdalena Imhof (Magdalena was a daughter of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rocke/Roggy).
Many Bavarian troops declined to take the field on behalf of the French on the eve of the 'battle of nations' at Leipzig, Oct. 16-19, 1813. Following the battle, Maximilian I made it openly known that he was going over to the allies. He met up with 13,000 Austrian units, and energetically moved his 17,000 troops to block the retreat path of the French at Hanau. Although the French succeeded in passing through his lines on Oct. 30, inflicting 9,000 casualties, the Bavarian king had made the point that he was prepared to sacrifice to aid the allies.

On Dec. 29, 1813 elements of the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian armies crossed the Rhine River from east to west. This ended 19 years of French occupation of Kaiserslautern and Trippstadt. On March 1, 1814 ambassadors of the three countries signed the Treaty of Chaumont, pledging to remain in an alliance against France until victory. On March 31 they entered Paris. On May 30 the Treaty of Paris reduced France to its 1792 borders.

In *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Hermann Guth proposed that Christian Imhof and Verena had seven children. They include:

1. **Peter Imhof** was born circa 1730, and died on the Aschbacherhof estate March 30, 1812. He married sisters Veronika/Veronica and Katharina Rocke/Roggy.
2. **Christian Imhof** was born circa 1735, and died before 1793. He married Katharina/Catherine Stauffer.
3. Anna Imhof was born circa 1735, and died on the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingbach (four miles from Annweiler) in 1809. She married Christian Baumann.
4. Johannes/Hans Imhof. He married Anna Stauffer. He received the inheritance rights to property on the Wilensteinerhof estate when his older brother Christian relocated to the Aschbacherhof estate. They died in 1796, and left the rights to two of Hans's nephews.
5. **Jakob Imhof** was born circa 1740, and died at Hofstätten before 1799. We could not identify the mother of his two children.
6. Josef/Joseph Imhof. He married Anna Habecker, a daughter of Jakob Habecker and Anna Eichelberger of Hofstätten. They farmed at Hofstätten, then on the Antonihof farm at Trippstadt.421
7. Veronika Imhof was born circa 1745. She married Johannes Habecker. See HABECKER for background on this couple.

**Peter Imhof**

_Peter Imhof_ was born circa 1730, and died on the Aschbacherhof estate at Trippstadt March 30, 1812, a son of Christian Imhof and Verena.

In 1762 he married Veronika Rogi/Rocke/Veronica Roggy. She was born circa 1745, and died circa 1763, a daughter of Christian Rogi of the Lauberwald estate.422 They resided on Langensohlerhof farm at Trippstadt.

Children of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika Rogi/Rocke/Veronica Roggy may include:

- Anna Imhof may belong in this family. She would have been born circa 1762, and died before May 8, 1828. Circa 1779 she married weaver Jakob Engel of Diemerstein. He was born circa 1763, and died at Frankenstein in the Pfalz May 8, 1828, a son of Jakob Engel and Anna König; his death entry described him as a widower. He is occasionally confused with another Jakob Engel born in the same community of roughly the same age. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY for background on daughter Elizabeth Engel and her husband Christian Albrecht.

1. Magdalena Imhof was born on the Langensohlerhof farm circa 1760-63, and died Sept. 17, 1787. She married Jakob Jordi. He was born at Eselsfürth (on the northeast outskirts of Kaiserslautern) in January 1758, and died on the Wilensteinerhof estate in 1794, a son of Johannes Jordi and Verena Lang. They purchased the Burkhardt share of the

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421 The Antonihof farm is now a forest genetic resource center.

We were unable to determine the parentage of Johann Imhof (circa 1782-1857), who with Johann Maurer became a minister and elder for an extended congregation meeting above and below Kaiserslautern. After Maurer died in 1850, he rented a hall in a guest house and conducted services every third Sunday at Eselsfürth (now a district on the north side of Kaiserslautern). We suspect but cannot prove that he was a son of Josef/Joseph Imhof and Anna Habecker.

422 Christian Rogi is found living on the Lauberwald estate as early as 1743. The Lauberwald is a forest surrounding the hamlet of Johanniskreuz. Johanniskreuz is located four miles southeast of Trippstadt. It was once owned by the Cistercian order at Eusserthal; in the 1700s it was administered by a government administrative body (Ger. Pflege) set up to oversee confiscated church lands. It is now administered by Trippstadt. The forest is still known locally as the Lauberwald, but in a broader perspective would be called the beginning of the Pfälzerwald (a term agreed upon in 1843 for the forest running through the northern Vosges Mountains). We found considerable confusion over Lauberwald [Lauber forest] and Lauberhof [Lauber farm]. It is generally accepted that in 1762 Christian’s son Christian relocated from the Lauberwald to the Lauberhof, a farm near Trippstadt. However, we found the Lauberhof on a modern map as a location midway between Johanniskreuz and Trippstadt. Thus it is likely that the Lauberwald and the Lauberhof describe roughly the same location at different stages of cultivation.
In 1763 Peter remarried to Veronika's sister Katharina Rogi/Rocke/Roggy. She was born in 1747, died in 1846. They farmed on the Langensohlerhof farm before 1765. In that year Peter and his father Christian jointly leased the Aschbacherhof estate grounds.

Children of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rogi/Rocke/Roggy include:

2. Johannes Imhof was born on the Aschbacherhof estate circa 1764, and may have died March 30, 1812 (this date, found in several sources, coincides with the death of his father). He married Magdalena Jordi. She was born at Eselsfürth circa 1765, and died on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach near Zweibrücken July 24, 1814, a daughter of Johannes Jordi and Verena Lang. They are found on an 1800 census of the Wilensteinerhof estate as farmer Johannes Imhof, 36, and wife Magdalena née Jorde, 35.

3. Katharina Imhof was born on the Aschbacherhof estate circa 1764. She married Benedikt Güngerich. He was born in 1736, and died at Dirmstein (30 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern) in 1814, a son of Christian Güngerich and Magdalena Zug.

4. Elisabeth Imhof was born on the Aschbacherhof estate circa 1770, and died on the Wilensteinerhof estate in 1806. She married Johannes Habecker. He was born at Hofstetten in 1762, a son of Jakob Habecker and Anna Eichelberger. In 1813 on the Wilensteinerhof estate he remarried to Magdalena Steinmann, a daughter of Christian Steinmann and Barbara Uhlmann.

**Christian Imhof**

Christian Imhof was born circa 1735, and died before 1793, a son of Christian Imhof and Verena. Christian married Katharina/Catherine Stauffer. They remained to farm the Wilensteinerhof estate after his father and older brother co-leased the Aschbacherhof estate in 1765.

According to the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, "The Dutch Naamlijst of 1775 mentions a congregation near Kaiserslautern with Christian Schenck and Christian Imhoff Jr. as preachers."

Children of Christian Imhof and Katharina/Catherine Stauffer include: 423

1. Christian Imhof was born on the Wilensteinerhof at Trippstadt circa 1760, and died after 1820. He married Jakobine Kinzinger. She was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1766, and died after 1818, a daughter of Johannes Kinzinger and Maria Magdalena Schwarzenzuber. They farmed on the Mispelsteinerhof farm (now in the village of Espen Steig) and on the Wilensteinerhof estate. They are found on an 1800 census of the Wilensteinerhof estate as Christian Imhof, 40, and wife Jakobine née Kinzinger, 34, with four children (or grandchildren) under four years of age. In a letter from Johannes 'Hans der alte' Nafziger of Essingen written to Christian Schowalter in Pennsylvania in 1787 or 1788, he wrote, "A week ago I and Andres Leienberger were at the Wiltstein near Trippstatt and there ordained Hans Ihmhoff of Wiltstein and Hans Habbecker of Hochstenet as full minister of the book and appointed minister of the book, and also ordained three or four young brethren, to which may the Almighty God give his Grace and blessing." Christian became elder of the Trippstadt/Höstatten congregation. An *Acte de Notorieté* is a document prepared by a notary or probate lawyer. It states all of the documents and facts involving an inheritance, including personal information from potential heirs. Such a document concerning an inheritance from Jakobine's parents created at Speyer Aug. 19, 1818 described her as 'Jakobina Kinsinger, daughter, wife of Christian Imhoff, farmer, living at Wilensteinerhof, by Trippstadt, Kanton Kaiserslautern.' On the Wilensteinerhof estate in December 1820 Christian hand-copied for publication Nafziger's recollections and a letter that Nafziger wrote to Dutch congregations March 26, 1781.

2. Joseph Imhof (as he signed his own name, rather than using the German 'Josef') was born on the Aschbacherhof estate circa 1768 (per the birth entry of son Jean) or 1771 (per the *ban* announcement for his second marriage). He was born circa 1770, and died in House No. 91 at Weisenheim am Berg May 31, 1806, age 35. She married Johannes Kinzinger. He was born at Herxheim am Berg May 5, 1758, and died at

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423 Katharina Imhof may belong in this family, as suggested by Hermann Guth in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*. She was born circa January 1760, and died in the hamlet Neuhof near Kirchheimbolanden (17 miles northeast of Trippstadt) Feb. 6, 1824. Her *Evangelische* death entry says she was age 63 years, 11 months, and 13 days, and was married to Christian Habecker. However, one could also make an argument against her being a child of Christian Imhof and Katharina/Catherine Stauffer. Instead, Katharina could have been a daughter of another Christian Imhof who lived in the hamlet Neuhof with his wife Elisabeth Danner. In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, J. Virgil Miller writes, "1775 - Christian Tanner (Danner?) and his wife Catharina rented Neuhol near Kirchheim Bolanden: in 1777 after the death of the Erbbeständer (hereditary leaseholder) Christian Danner, Christian Imhof, and his wife Elisabeth Danner rented half of Neuhol; in Aug. 1789 the lease was renewed by Christian Imhof." Further, if we assume that the Neuhol leaseholder Christian Imhof was born before 1756 (he would have been at least 21 years of age in 1777), he could not have been a member of the Trippstadt-area family grouping.
Joseph Imhof was born on the Aschbacherhof estate at Trippstadt circa 1768 (per the birth entry of son Jean) or 1771 (per the ban announcement for his second marriage), and died in 1813. He married Magdalena Kinzinger. She was born at Weisenheim am Berg (30 miles northeast of Trippstadt) after 1770, a daughter of Johannes Kinzinger and Maria Magdalena Schwarzentruber. Her sister Jakobina was married to Joseph's older brother Christian Imhof. Her brother Johannes was married to Joseph's cousin Veronika Imhof.

By 1804 they were living on the Espen Steigerhof farm at Hohenecken. The Espen Steigerhof farm and nearby Dansenberg farm had been purchased by Baron von Hacke from Baron Christophe Anton von Hautzenberg in 1786. There is now a village of Espen Steig six miles northwest of Trippstadt, and three miles southwest of Kaiserslautern. The family's civil entries were created at Hohenecken and at district administrative offices in Kaiserslautern. Children of Joseph Imhof and his first wife Magdalena Kinzinger born on the Espen Steigerhof farm at Hohenecken include: 424

1. Elisabetha Imhof. Her birth was recorded at Hohenecken Aug. 11, 1799. She may have been the Elisabetha Imhoff whose death was recorded at Hohenecken Jan. 21, 1805, or she may have been the Elisabetha Imhof whose death was recorded at Hohenecken Nov. 21, 1810.

2. Katharina/Catherine Imhof was born circa 1800. She was identified as Katharina Imhoff on 1818 inheritance documents. The death of Catherine Imhoff was reported at Trippstadt in 1824. She was described as a 24-year-old born at Espen Steig but living on the Wilensteinerhof estate, a daughter of the deceased Josep Imhof and the deceased Magdalena Kinzinger. The witnesses were Jost Engel, 31, a relative of the deceased; and Ludwig Weber, 51. Jost was married to her cousin Magdalena Imhof, a daughter of Christian Imhof and Jakobine Kinzinger.

3. Susanne Imhof was born Aug. 12, 1803. Her birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern Aug. 12, where her parents were named as Joseph Imhof and Madeleine Kinzinger. It was recorded at Hohenecken the following day. In 1825 she was living on the Wilensteinerhof, where she married Christian Rocke/Roggy. Their marriage entry described her as Susanna Imhoff, 22, a resident of Wilenstein, a daughter of the deceased Josef Imhof and the deceased Magdalena Kinzinger. He was described as Mennonite Christian Rocke, 29, born at Hofstätten and a resident of Antonihof farm at Trippstadt, a son of Kaspar Rocke, 55, and Veronica Habecker.

4. Johannes Imhof/John Imhoff was born at midnight on Oct. 11, 1806. His birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern Oct. 13; it named him 'Jean Imhof,' and his parents Joseph Imhof and Madeleine Kinzinger. Joseph was described as a 38-year-old cultivator at Espen Steig, Hohenecken. His birth was also recorded under 'Johannes Imhof' at Hohenecken Oct. 13, 1806.

5. Joseph Imhof was born May 5, 1809, and died as an infant. His birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern.

6. Joseph Imhof was born Oct. 28, 1810, and died as an infant. His birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern Oct. 28, where the entry named his parents as Joseph Imhof and Madelaine Kinsinger. It was also recorded at Hohenecken the following day. He may have been the Joseph found in an index of Hohenecken death entries, having died Feb. 9, 1814.


An Acte de Notorieté document recorded at Speyer Aug. 19, 1818 for the heirs of Johannes Kinzinger (husband of the deceased Maria Magdalena Schwarzentruber) named the surviving children "Katharina, Susanna, and Johannes Imhoff, all living grandchildren representing deceased mother Magdalena Kinsinger, former wife of deceased farmer Joseph Imhoff." Joseph remarried to Anna Katharina Ehresmann Nov. 24, 1811. She was born at Dirmstein circa 1788, a daughter of Christian Ehresmann and Anna Barbara Joder/Jotter. At the time of the marriage she was a resident of Dörmeschel (18 miles north of Kaiserslautern).

Helmut Gingerich found their marriage ban announcements posted Nov. 10 and Nov. 17, and recorded at Kaiserslautern. They described the prospective groom as cultivator Joseph Imhoff, 40, of the hamlet Espen Steig at Hohenecken. He was a son of the deceased Chrétien Imhoff and the deceased Catherine Stauffer, who had been farmers on the Aschbacherhof estate. The bride was described as Anne Catherine Erasmann, 23, a resident of Bickenau (10 miles south of Kaiserslautern).

424 The FHL microfilm collection does not show births at Hohenecken during the period of French occupation. However, microfilm 488955 does contain an index of the deaths, which was entered in a Sterbe Register after the departure of the French. Five Imhof/Imhoff deaths are shown: Magdalena Oct. 1, 1804; Elisabetha Jan. 21, 1805; Magdalena Kinzinger, Joseph's first wife, Oct. 29, 1810; Elisabetha Nov. 21, 1810; and Joseph, Feb. 9, 1814. We do not know the ages of the Magdalena who died in 1804, or the Elisabetha who died in 1810, and cannot place them with certainty as children of Joseph Imhof.

There were no Imhof entries created at Hohenecken after 1814.
Dörrmoschel. Her parents were the deceased Chrétien Erasmann, who had been a laborer at Grunstadt, and Anne Barbe Jotter, a resident of Dörrmoschel. Joseph brought children Katharina/Catherine, Susanne, and Johannes to his second marriage.

Children of Joseph Imhof and his second wife Anna Katharina Ehresmann include:

6. Joseph Imhof was born on the Espen Steigerhof farm Dec. 23, 1812. His birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern Dec. 13; the entry named his parents as Joseph Imhof and Catherine Ehresmann. It was also recorded at Hohenecken Dec. 25.

7. Jacob Imhof was born on the Espen Steigerhof farm Jan. 16, 1814. His birth was recorded at Kaiserslautern; the entry named him Jacques Imhoff, and his parents Joseph Imhof and Catherine Ehresmann. He accompanied his half-brother Peter to America in 1839.

Paul Hart, an American researcher in Germany, has done extensive work on the civil registry documents of Dörrmoschel. He identified a note in the mayoral registry of Dörrmoschel mentioning the death of 'Joseph Imhoff' in 1813.

Following Joseph's death, and the subsequent birth of son Jacob, widow Anna Katharina Ehresmann had two more children: Peter (1816) and Johannes (1824). Their birth entries did not identify the father.

Children of widow Anna Katharina Ehresmann include:

- Peter Kiefer Ehresmann, also called Peter Imhof or Imhoff. His obituary says he was born at Dörrmoschel Sept. 16, 1819. However, his 1839 passenger list suggests a birth in 1816. New information from Paul Hart confirms this: a civil entry from Dörrmoschel describes the birth of a child Nov. 15, 1816 to mother 'Katharina Ehrensmann.' The child is identified as 'Vornamen Peter Kiefer.' Vornamen is the German word for 'first names.' Kiefer is the German word for pine. Thus, seeing how the surname of the mother was spelled, the reader would assume that the child was Peter Kiefer Ehrensmann. The father was not identified. The birth was reported by midwife Elisabetha Katharina Lanzer; witnesses included Martin Egle, 52, and Andreas Egle, 36.

   Peter and his older half-brother Jacob sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Rhone, and arrived at New York June 17, 1839. The passenger list shows Jacob Imhof, 24, and Peter Imhof, 23. The passenger list also shows future Central Illinois settlers Christ Zear [Zehr], 26, Bavaria; and Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller with their family.

   In Butler County, Ohio Peter became a member of the conservative Augspurger congregation. On July 12, 1842 he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born at Seven Mile, Butler County in October 1821, and died at Trenton Oct. 19, 1901, a daughter of minister Jacob Augspurger and his second wife Maria Schlabach.

   Their household is found on the 1850 census of Madison, when they were living next door to Catherine's older brother, minister Nicholas Augspurger. They appear as laborer Peter Emhoff, 31, Germany; Catharine, 29, Ohio; Jacob, 6, Ohio; Mary, 5, Ohio; Peter, 2, Ohio; Barbara Emhoff, 33, Germany; and Catharine Emhoff, 53, Germany. Catherine Ehrißmann Imhof's youngest child Johannes is likely found next door in the household of Nicholas Augspurger as 'John Kingery,' 26, Germany. In 1860 the Madison census shows them as farmer Peter Imhof, 42, Germany; Catharina [Augspurger], 40, Ohio; six children born in Ohio; Barbara Gingrich, 50, Germany; and Catharine Imhof, 72, Germany.

   Peter was ordained as a minister in 1861, and then chosen as elder in 1870. According to W. H. Grubb, "He was a strong preacher, and a man with liberal views. It was one of his fond hopes that the two congregations be united as one, which occurred in less than a year after his death."

   On the 1870 census of Madison, Peter and Catherine still lived next door to minister Nicholas Augspurger: farmer Peter Imhof, 50, Prussia; Catharin, 48, Ohio; eight children born in Ohio; and Catharine, 62, France. In 1880 Peter's birthplace was given as Bavaria, and his next door neighbor was Maria [Iutz] Ehresman, the widow of Christian Ehresman (1821-1867).

   Herald of Truth, April 1897: "Pre. Peter Imhoff was born on the 16th of September 1819 in Darmuschel, Palatine, Germany. In 1840 he came to America, settling in Butler Co., Ohio, where he has since resided a period of 57 years. On the 12th of July 1842 he was united in wedlock to Sister Catharine Augspurger. Of their nine children all but one survive and these were present at their father's bedside, to receive his last words of advice and blessing. As he felt the end drawing near he asked for his Bible that he might once more read with his beloved ones the 8th chapter of Romans. But his eyes were already becoming fixed in death, so that he could no longer see to read, so, giving the book to one of his sons, he said, "Read to us this beautiful chapter." Bro. Imhoff was ordained to the ministry in 1861, and ten years later to the office of an elder or bishop. He was a faithful, conscientious worker, and served his fellow-men as God gave him grace and strength. He preached his last sermon on Feb. 28th, when he was already failing in health. During his pastorate he united 14 couples in wedlock, and received 53 persons into church membership by baptism. His last illness was of short duration, and he calmly fell asleep in Jesus at the age of 77 years and 6 months. The funeral occurred on the 18th, and was very largely attended. Pre. Helle of the Lutheran church, M. Kinsinger of Washington, Ill., who was an intimate friend of the family, J. Mehl of Goshen, Ind., and H.J. Krehbiel of Trenton, Ohio conducted the services. Text 1 John 2:25-28, the parting words of the deceased to his
family and congregation. An infidel who knew the deceased for many years gave this testimony of him, 'He is a good Christian. He will live long in the memory.'

- Johannes Ehresmann/John Gingerich was born at Sippersfeld (11 miles southeast of Dörrmoschel, 14 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern). On April 10, 1823 a civil entry was created stating that a midwife had reported the birth of Johannes Ehresmann to Katharina Ehresmann. His family Bible later missed the date by a year, saying he was born at Sippersfeld 'around Easter time of 1824.'

The child Johannes would later be known in America as John Gingerich. Perhaps he had been raised in the home of Anna Katharina's sister Maria Elisabeth Ehresmann and brother-in-law Georg Gungeric. Or perhaps it was felt that the name change would bring fewer questions.

Upon arrival in 1841, he worked in Cincinnati, remaining there for several years before settling in Butler County. His Declaration of Intent to become a citizen was submitted in Butler County Oct. 9, 1852. His naturalization March 12, 1856 was signed 'John Gingich.

He obtained a marriage license in Clinton County, Indiana Dec. 22, 1857. The ceremony was performed at Trenton, Butler County Feb. 10, 1858 by minister Nicholas Augspurger. His bride Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman was born at Neuhausen Nov. 16, 1834 (according to her family Bible), and died in Carroll County, Indiana May 21, 1903, a daughter of Johann Jakob/Jacob Ehresman and Katharina Ehresmann. Following their marriage the couple lived eight years at Monitor, a small town in Perry Township, Tippecanoe County. They appear on the 1860 census of Perry as farmer John Gingery, 36, Germany; Catherine, 25, Hesse; and Jacob, 1, Indiana. They resettled at Rossville in Ross Township, then Prince William, Carroll County (the deed there was signed in 1873 by 'John Ginery'). They moved to Pettit in Tippecanoe County, then relocated one last time less than a mile over the line into Carroll County. John died in Carroll County Feb. 28, 1898. They are buried in Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery.

John's obituary was found in his family Bible: "During all these pleasant surprises, the busy and unpleasant exchanging of houses, the inclemency of the weather and the impassable roads, that grim monster, death, was wielding his destructive scythe, this time taking from our midst an old and respected citizen, who has contended with the storms for nearly 73 years and eleven months. John Gingrich was born in Germany in 1824, and came to this country with his mother when seventeen years of age, and settled in Ohio with his half-brother, who had preceded him a few years. He came to Indiana forty-one years ago and was married the next year to Miss Katie Ehresman. A widow and nine children survive: Mrs. Lydia Irich [sic], Mrs. Josephine Wentz [sic], John, Gus, Otto and Theodore Gingrich, all live around here. Henry and Christian Gingrich living at Flanagan, Ill. This funeral will take place from the house tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock, arriving at the church at 10 o'clock. Mr. Gingrich belonged to the Amish church and was a lifelong Christian."

Widow Anna Katharina and her son Johannes immigrated with her brother Jacob Ehrismann and four of his children. They sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Oneida, arriving at New York Sept. 20, 1841. Grouped under Ehresman [the letter 'n' was mounted by a line, indicating doubling], the passenger list shows Catharina, 52, and Johannes, 17.

'Cattharine Emhoff, 53, Germany' is found in the household of her son Peter Imhoff at Madison, Butler County, Ohio in 1850. She appears in the same household 10 years later as 'Catherine Imhof, 72, Germany.' The 1870 census of Madison, Butler County has her living with her son as 'Catharine, 82, France.'

It is thought that Anna Katharina Ehresmann died in Butler County Sept. 4, 1870. She may be buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton.

**Johannes Imhof/John Imhoff** was born on the Espen Steigerhof farm at Hohenecken at midnight on Oct. 11, 1806.

The packet ship Charles Carroll departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York April 27, 1832. Its passenger list shows Johannes Emhoff, 25, farmer. On the same page are consecutive entries for Jacob Wagner, 27, France, and Mary Wagner, 21, France.

Johannes traveled directly to Butler County, Ohio, where he had family connections. His father's cousin Veronika Imhof had married Johannes Kinzinger (his mother's older brother). Veronika died at Weisenheim am Berg May 31, 1806, and Johannes remarried and died there May 15, 1828. However, their children, who were Peter's cousins, made a number of marriages with the Augspurger family in Butler County. Jacob Kinsinger (born in 1792) married a sister of Christian Augspurger. Samuel Kinsinger (born in 1799) and Josef/Joseph Kinsinger (born in 1801) married Augspurger's daughters.

On April 1, 1834 in Ohio Johannes, now known as John, married Maria/Mary Wagner. She was born at Stambach (adjacent to Contwig, Zweibrücken, and now administered by Contwig) Nov. 8, 1810, and died at Cazenovia May 28, 1890, a daughter of Johann Michel Wagner and Maria Brenckmann [Brinkmann]. They initially settled on 110 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 11, Milford Township, Butler County, Ohio.

John's half-brother Peter Imhof/Imhoff arrived in Butler County in the summer of 1839.
At the time of the 1840 census the Milford land was occupied by Daniel Corson. However, the deed was not transferred to Corson until March 12, 1841. That entry described the sellers as 'John and Maria Imhoff,' residents of Preble County.

Preble County is adjacent to Butler County on its northern boundary. The 1840 census of Grati, Preble County shows the household of John Vimhoof. It held two males in the 30-39 year age range; three males 20-29; and two males under five; one female 20-29; one female 15-19, and one female under five.

The 1850 census found them at Somers Township, Preble County. Somers Township is immediately west of Grati Township. It borders on Somerville, Butler County; and this has been a source of some confusion for family historians. They appear as farmer John Imhoff, 44, Germany; Mary, 40, Germany; John, 13; Christian, 11; Madeleine, 9; Susan, 7; Catherine, 6; Joseph, 5; Jacob, 3; and Mary, seven months; all children born in Ohio.

The family relocated to Woodford County in 1851 or 1852.

WAGNERS IN WOODFORD COUNTY

Maria/Mary had two brothers who had arrived in the county in 1848.

1) Johann Jacob Wagner was born on the Offweilerhof estate at Contwig, Zweiibrücken April 9, 1809, and died at Partridge, Woodford County May 22, 1875.

He may have been the 'Jacob Wagner, 27' on the Charles Carroll passenger list with his sister Maria/Mary in 1832. If so, he returned to Europe.

He was employed as a day laborer on the Ruppenthalerhof estate (now a neighborhood in Contwig), where he met Maria Susanna Stauter. She was baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Contwig Aug. 16, 1812 (her weathered headstone appears to say she was born Nov. 11, 1811), and died at Spring Bay March 21, 1874, a daughter of Peter Michael Stauder and Maria Katharina Suder. On Nov. 6, 1838 at Contwig they married.

Johann Jacob traveled to America without his wife and children. The passenger list of the Edwina shows Jacob Wagner, 38, Deutschland. It sailed from Antwerp and arrived at New York Oct. 25, 1847. His family followed him to Woodford County the following year. 425

The 1860 census of Partridge shows farmer Jacob Wagner, 50, Bavaria; Mary, 46, Bavaria; farm laborer Daniel, 18, Bavaria; Jacob, 16, Bavaria; Adam, 14, Bavaria; Michael, 10, Illinois; Hannah, 7, Illinois; Peter Stauder, 81, Bavaria; and Catharine Stauder, 85, Bavaria. They are also found on the 1870 census of Partridge as farmer Jacob Wagner, 60, Bavaria; Mary, 58, Bavaria; farm hand Michael, 20, Illinois; and Hanna, 17, Illinois; on the same page as the household of Jacob Wagner Jr. The 1873 plat map of Partridge has 'J. Wagner Jr.' on 160 acres in Section 32 and 160 acres in Section 33. They are buried under a joint obelisk in Spring Bay Cemetery as 'J. Jacob Wagner' and 'Marianne Susan.'

2) Daniel Wagner was born at Stambach Nov. 10, 1823, and died at Partridge Dec. 18, 1881. The Past and Present of Woodford County says he came to this country Aug. 4, 1848. The passenger list of the ship Havre shows a Daniel Wagner, 23, who departed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 15, 1848. Perhaps he arrived in the county Aug. 4, rather than the country.

On March 6, 1853 in Woodford County he married Eva Schuck (a sister to Jacob Schuck, who married Magdalena Imhoff). Their marriage registration is found in county records as Daniel Waggoner and Eve Shook. She was born at Hochspeyer, Germany Feb. 7 or 17, 1835, and died at Partridge Oct. 27, 1906, a daughter of Johann Georg Wagner and Margaretha Vogt. The 1873 plat map shows 'D. Wagner' living next door to the Imhoffs at Cazenovia. They are also found on the 1880 census of Partridge (adjacent to Cazenovia) as farmer Daniel Wagner, 56, Germany; Eva, 45, Germany; Kate, 22; Hannah, 19; Jacob, 17; and Lewis, 13; all children born in Illinois.

Daniel served six years as school director of Partridge Township. The 1900 census of Partridge has widowed landlady Eva Wagner, 65, born in Germany in February 1835; mother of 10 children, six surviving; immigrated in 1837.

425 Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County (1889): "In due course of time he [Johann Jacob] married and settled down in his native land and continued to live there till 1847. In that year he determined to better his condition if possible by emigration to America, and seek in this land the opportunity denied him in his own to build up a comfortable home for his wife and little ones. Leaving his family behind he crossed the ocean, landed at New York, proceeded to Ohio, and after working there a short time came to Woodford County. Here he secured employment by the month or day, carefully saved his earnings, and the following year borrowed more to put with what he had saved, and sent for his family. His faithful, courageous wife braved the perils of the deep with her four little children, and after a long and tedious voyage of fifty-seven days, landed in New York, a stranger in a strange land, meeting on every hand unfamiliar faces and people speaking an unknown language. Her weary journey was not yet ended; many miles lay between her and her husband and the father of her children, and many days would elapse before she would arrive at her future home in the Prairie State. She traveled by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence by the lakes to Chicago, there being no railways in Illinois then, and from the latter city she journeyed by canal and the Illinois River to Lacon, and there the happy family were once more united never again to part in this world. The father had previously leased a tract of land in Partridge Township, which is now included in our subject's homestead. In consideration for the use of the land he was to build a log house on it, clear and fence forty acres of it, and pay taxes on the place. He at once erected a log house, into which the family moved, and at the expiration of eight years he had been so fortunate in his venture that he was enabled to buy the farm, and it remained his home till his death in May, 1874."
Daniel and Eva are buried in Black Partridge Evangelical Cemetery at Cazenovia.

John died Oct. 6, 1852, during the first fall harvest at Cazenovia. He was buried on the family farm, in what became Imhoff Cemetery. His headstone reads, "Johann Imhoff, gestorben 6 Oct. 1852, 46 Jahre alt."

The 1860 census of Cazenovia shows the fatherless household: Mary Imhoff, 50, Wieter burg [Württemberg]; John, 23; Christian, 21; Susanna, 18; Catherine, 16; Joseph, 14; Jacob, 12; Mary, 10; and Daniel, 8; all children born in Ohio.

We could not identify the family on the 1870 federal census of Woodford County. They may have been overlooked by a census taker who was unfamiliar with the area (the township was incorrectly spelled 'Cazanovia' throughout the report). Fortunately, the 1873 plat map of Cazenovia shows 'J. Imhoff' on 160 acres in the lower half of Section 18, equidistant from the village centers Cazenovia and Low Point.

*The Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878) describes widow Mary Imhoff as an 'Ornish' resident of Cazenovia.

The 1880 census of Cazenovia has Joseph Imhoff, 34, born in Ohio to parents from Bulgaria [likely meant to be Bavaria]; Emma, 28, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; Almeda, 4, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; Isaac, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; mother Mary Imhoff, 68, born in Bulgaria to parents from Bulgaria; boarder Charles Stevenson, 22, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Pennsylvania, 'runs a steam sawmill'; and boarder-school teacher Bella Gould, 23, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania.

Maria/Mary was buried on the family farm next to her husband. Her headstone reads, "Mary, wife of John Imhoff, Nov. 11, 1811-May 28, 1890."

Children of Johannes Imhof/John Imhoff and Maria/Mary Wagner include:

1. An infant who died young.
2. An infant who died young.
3. **John Imhoff** was born at Milford, Ohio Aug. 10, 1837, and died at Cazenovia, Woodford County Jan. 9, 1907.
4. Christian Imhoff was born at Milford, Ohio Jan. 29, 1839, and died March 8, 1869.
5. Magdalena Imhoff was born at Milford, Ohio April 22, 1840, and died at Clayton, Woodford County March 5, 1921. On Oct. 11, 1856 in Woodford County she married Jacob Schuck/Shuck. He was born at Hochspeyer, Germany Aug. 16, 1823, and died Sept. 22, 1908, a son of Johann Georg Schuck and Margaretha Vogt. He immigrated with his parents in 1837. Jacob and Magdalena are buried in Minonk Township Cemetery.
6. Susan Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio March 5, 1842, and died at Washington May 19, 1882. On Jan. 22, 1865 in Woodford County she married Joseph Belsley. He was born at Partridge, Woodford County Aug. 14, 1842, and died Jan. 29, 1906, a son of Jean Pelsy/John Belsley and Barbara Roggy. See BELSLEY for background on this couple.
7. Katharina 'Kate' Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio March 1, 1844, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 29, 1871. On Jan. 12, 1868 in Woodford County she married Frederick Householder. He was born at Louisville, Kentucky Feb. 22, 1842, a son of Theibaut Haushalter /Debold Householder and Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr. See HOUSEHOLDER for background on this couple including her obituary.
8. Joseph Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio Dec. 10, 1845, and died at Lowpoint Oct. 30, 1884; he is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Cazenovia. On Dec. 25, 1873 he married Emma J. Webber. She was born in Ohio Aug. 8, 1851, and died in Woodford County Jan. 9, 1881. She is buried as Emma J. Imhoff in Mount Vernon Cemetery at Washburn, Woodford County.
9. Jacob Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio Oct. 21, 1847, and died in Woodford County Feb. 11, 1888. He is buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery at Washburn.
10. Mary Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio Feb. 9, 1850, and died Dec. 1, 1874. On March 7, 1873 in McLean County she married Frederick Householder, the widower of her older sister Katharina; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. See HOUSEHOLDER for background on this couple.
11. Daniel Imhoff was born at Somers, Ohio Nov. 11, 1851, and died in Woodford County Jan. 27, 1878.

**John Imhoff** was born at Milford, Butler County Aug. 10, 1837, and died at Cazenovia, Woodford County Jan. 9, 1907.

On Jan. 20, 1867 in Woodford County he married Mary Smith. She was born in Woodford County March 30, 1845, and died at Eureka, Woodford County May 25, 1927, a daughter of Christian Schmitt/Smith and Catherine Bechler.

John Imhof is listed in the patron's directory of the *1873 Woodford County, Illinois Atlas*. It describes him as a resident farmer of Worth Township who was born in Butler County, Ohio and came to the county in 1852.

426 The *Illinois Statewide Death Index* lists her as Magdalena Shuck.
The 1900 census of Cazenovia shows John Imhoff, 61, born in Ohio in August 1838 to German parents; Mary, 55, born in Illinois in March 1845 to French parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

**Gospel Witness**, January 1907: "John Imhoff was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Aug. 10, 1837; died Jan. 9, 1907, at his home near Low Point, Ill., aged 69 y. 4 m. 29 d. At the age of 15 years he came with his parents to Illinois. On Feb. 20, 1867, he was married to Mary Smith, which union was blessed with 11 children, of whom one preceded him in infancy. He leaves his wife, 10 children, 20 grandchildren, one sister, and many friends to mourn his departure, but not as such who have no hope. During the time he was bedfast, which was 11 days, he patiently bore much suffering. He was a faithful member of the A. Mennonite church from youth until the time of his death. The funeral was held on the 11th. Sam Gerber of Groveland, Ill., spoke in the English language from *I Thess. 4:13-18* and at the Roanoke church from *John 11:28*, last clause. Andrew Schrock spoke in the German from *Heb. 9:27, 28*. May the Lord comfort the bereaved ones and may we all live such lives that we may meet in that land where partings are unknown."

**Gospel Herald**, June 1927: "Mary Imhoff (nee Smith) was born in Woodford Co., Ill., March 30, 1845; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. H. Smith, near Eureka, Ill., May 25, 1927; aged 82 y. 1 m. 25 d. She was united in marriage with John Imhoff in the year 1867, who preceded her in death 20 years ago. To this union were born 11 children. She is survived by 10 children (Mrs. D. H. Schertz, Joseph, Mrs. C. H. Smith, John, Chris, Samuel, Jacob, Mrs. P. B. Schrock, Henry, and Mrs. H. R. Schertz), 41 grandchildren, one adopted grandchild and nine great-grandchildren. One daughter and five grandchildren have gone before. Mother spent her entire life in Woodford Co., serving the church of her choice and her Master faithfully until death. Her quiet, peace-loving, and sociable disposition won her a multitude of friends. For some time she had felt that her life work was finished and had a longing to be at rest with the Lord. Funeral services were conducted by Andrew Schrock and Ezra B. Yordy."

**Jakob Imhof**

Jakob Imhof was born circa 1740, and died at Hofstätten before 1799, a son of Christian Imhof and Verena. His children include:

1. Johannes Imhof was born circa 1774.
2. Barbara Imhof was born circa 1781, and died on the Wilensteinerhof estate in 1839.

**Johannes Imhof** was born circa 1774.

In 1799 at Freinsheim he married Anna Maria Schwarzentruber. She was a daughter of Christian Schwarzentruber and his second wife Katherina Ruby, who were living at Freinsheim. Schwarzentruber had been a representative of the congregations of the lower Pfalz in the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759. 427

In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, J. Virgil Miller mentions a French-language marriage entry but no date or location. It described Johannes as a 25-year-old from Hochstetten [Hofstätten], a son of the late Jakob Imhof. The bride was described as Anna Maria, a 24-year-old daughter of Christel Schwarztruber 'of this place' and Katharina Roby.

After marriage, the Imhofs farmed on the Ormsheimerhof, a small estate on the western outskirts of Frankenthal.

**FRANKENTHAL**

The village of Frankenthal is located 30 miles northeast of Hofstätten, and seven miles northeast of Freinsheim. The northeast corner of the village runs along the western shore of the Rhine River.

It has significance in Anabaptist history as the site of a series of theological debates in 1571. They were sponsored by Palatine Elector Frederick III in an effort to bring the Mennonites in the Pfalz into his Protestant Reformed Church. Mennonite leaders were offered protection and free lodging, but few attended the talks because of their distrust of authorities.

From 1755 Frankenthal held a prospering porcelain factory. After the owners ran into financial difficulties, the manufacturing process and properties were purchased by Elector Karl Theodor. A new owner purchased the business in 1795 and moved it eight miles west to Grünstadt. The original factory finally closed in 1799. 428

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427 It may seem improbable that a 25-year-old Christian Schwarzentruber would have been ordained as a minister by 1759, but he attended the assembly at Essingen with his father Hans, and both signed documents. The two were living at Weisenheim am Berg and adjacent Herxheim am Berg, and later relocated to adjacent Freinsheim.

428 Frankenthal porcelain pieces are now considered collectors items. As this was written, a three-piece dinner service was being offered on *Ebay* for $25,000.
Frankenthal was occupied by French troops in 1794. In 1798 it became part of the department of Mont-Tonnere. It was administered from Speyer until 1815. From 1816 to 1871 the village was a community in the area of Rheinpfalz in the Kingdom of Bavaria. Since 1871 Frankenthal would be considered part of the Rheinland-Pfalz area.

Buildings that stood in the village were largely destroyed by bombing in 1943. A commonly held story says that the village of Frankenthal had no military significance, but was destroyed by accident, as the casualty of an inaccurate allied bombing run. The pilot of a scout plane intended to drop flares on oil and fertilizer plants at adjacent Ludwigshafen. He mistakenly released them early. The quiet village was illuminated, and subsequently destroyed by a French bomber. Thus the day of the destruction can be pinpointed to the first bombing run to reach Ludwigshafen, on Dec. 30, 1943.

However, Keith Jeffery's MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949 puts the story in another perspective. According to his research, Abwehr officer Hans Bernd Gisevius was in contact with Office of Strategic Services representative Allen Welsh Dulles in the city of Bern, Canton Bern in July 1943. He passed along information from an informant about the V-2 rocket project. Incidental to this, "The main production of rocket bombs was taking place at Frankenthal. The source believed that no other important factories were there other than some sugar refineries, and for this reason the source urged that the information must be used with the greatest discretion." The 'rocket bomb' was also known as the V-1 Maikäfer 'buzz bomb.'

The Ormsheimerhof farm and stables survived the war intact.

Children of Johannes Imhof and Anna Maria Schwarzentruber are thought to include:

1. Jakob Imhof. Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County says he was born in 1802.
2. Katharina Imhof.
3. Daniel Imhof.
4. Johannes Imhof.
5. Maria Imhof/Mary Imhoff was born circa Nov. 1 or Dec. 1, 1806 (headstone), 1806 (Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County), circa 1808 (her passenger list), circa 1809 (1870 census), or circa 1812 (1850 census). She departed from Le Havre on the Harriet and Jesse, and arrived at New York Aug. 23, 1833. On Oct. 18, 1838 in Butler County, Ohio she married Christian/Christophe Salzman. The ceremony was conducted by minister Benedict König; a civil entry calling them 'Christian Saltzman' and 'Mary Imhoff' was created March 14, 1839. Christian was born at Forbach, Moselle March 31, 1811, and died at Newton, Kansas June 2, 1895, a son of Michael Salzman and his first wife Catherine Hirschi. See SALZMAN for background on this couple and his obituary, and an explanation of her headstone age.
6. Christian Imhoff/Imhoff was born circa 1809, and died in Butler County, Ohio in mid-October 1838. He also arrived on the Harriet and Jesse.
7. Barbara Imhof also arrived on the Harriet and Jesse. Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County says she was born in 1810.
8. Elisabeth Imhof.
9. Magdalena Imhof. Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County says she was born in 1819.

Christian Imhoff/Imhoff was born circa 1809, and died in Butler County, Ohio in mid-October 1838. He departed from Le Havre on the Harriet and Jesse, and arrived at New York Aug. 23, 1833. The passenger list shows Chr. Imhoff, 24; Mary, 25; and Barbara, 23.

The three lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania until 1838. A letter from Daniel Schwarzentruber in Peoria to his sister Jakobina Schwarzentruber Nafziger in Lancaster County, dated March 11, 1838, asks Jakobina to "Greet Christian Imhof for me as well as his two sisters..."

On Feb. 4, 1838 in Butler County, Ohio Christian married Barbe/Barbara Schertz. She was born at Oberstinzel, Moselle June 11, 1815, and died in McLean County Dec. 26, 1869, a daughter of Joseph Schertz and Marie Abersol. After his death Barbe/Barbara remarried to Joseph Hodler [Hodel]; see SCHERTZ for background on her family and later life.

Their son Christian Imhoff [Jr.] was born at Lemon, Butler County Oct. 31, 1838 (shortly after the death of his father), and died at Danvers, McLean County May 31, 1881.

On March 26, 1861 at Danvers, McLean County he married Mary Strubhar. She was born at Stout's Grove, McLean County Oct. 11, 1842, and died Feb. 17, 1875, a daughter of John Strubhar and Anna Schertz.

In 1865 Christian and Mary took in orphaned 12-year-old Peter Schantz (1853-1924), who would become a minister and elder in the Central Mennonite Conference.

On Oct. 12, 1875 at Danvers Christian remarried to Barbara Ehresman. Minister Joseph Stuckey conducted the ceremony. She was born in 1846, and died in Woodford County Feb. 19, 1837, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his third wife Veronica 'Fannie' Bennett.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church fails to mention Barbara: "Rev. Christian Imhoff was born in Butler County, Ohio about 1840. He came to McLean County about 1860. He was a member of the Rock
Creek Amish Church. He was married to Mary Strubhar, daughter of Rev. John Strubhar. They had six children. He was ordained as a deacon in 1868 by bishop [elder] Joseph Stuckey. After 1872 he served as treasurer of the North Danvers Church for a number of years. He served as deacon of the church until 1881.

_Herald of Truth_, July 1881: "May 31st, in McLean Co., Ill., of lung fever, Pre. Chr. Imhof, aged 42 years and 7 months. He bore his affliction with Christian resignation. He leaves a wife and eight children to mourn his death. Fourteen years he served the church in the ministry earnestly and faithfully. Buried the 2nd of June in the presence of a large number, who met to pay the last tribute of respect to one whom they loved. Funeral sermon by C. Rupp from _1 Cor. 15_. Further remarks by Pre. Longly in English, and by J. Zehr and M. Kinsinger."

Christian, Mary, and Barbara are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.
Habecker of Hofstätten

Habichtegg or Habiccheegg [hawk ridge] is a rise between Trub and Langnau in Canton Bern, Switzerland. Habegg is a shortened form of the location, which in turn led to Habegger, describing someone from that place. 18th and 19th century immigrants coming from Switzerland were Habeegers; those from the Pfalz typically considered themselves Habeckers.

It is difficult to draw a complete picture of the Habeckers in the Pfälz because the families were fragmented by extensive emigration from Europe. The first group of Palatine Amish Mennonite Habeckers in America was probably a party of seven that traveled with fellow passengers named Albrecht, Beyeler, Burki, Erb, Garber, Herschberger, Kaufman, Kurtz, Leman, Lichti, Mast, Müller, Orendorff, Schantz, Sommer, Speicher, and Wenger. They departed from Amsterdam on the Charming Nancy, sailed via Plymouth, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 8, 1737. In Pennsylvania they were also known as Hawbecker.

The Groveland/Washington/Danvers Habeckers

Johannes Habecker was born circa 1745, and died at Hofstätten in the Pfälz in 1815. He married Veronika Imhof. She will be recalled from IMHOFF as a daughter of Christian Imhof and Verena, born circa 1745. They may have married soon after his 21st birthday, and settled at Hofstätten, where the congregation was associated with the congregation at Veronika's first home Trippstadt. At about the same time Johannes's father was relocating to Lembach.

Hofstätten was administered by the village of Wilgartswiesen, a possession of Pfälz-Zweibrücken that contains the highest elevation of any community in the Pfalz. The community is made up of two areas separated by a mile of forest, one above the other. Hofstätten is located in the upper portion. The village of Wilgartswiesen and the Hermersbergerhof estate are located in the lower portion.

The Hermersbergerhof estate was leased by an Albrecht in 1774, and partially destroyed by French troops in 1794. It was a church-owned property until 1800. In 1800 it was occupied by French troops. It was sold in 1802. Descendants of its residents include the Albrecht family that settled in Bureau County, and the Oyer families that settled in Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

Johannes was likely the 'Hans Habbecker of Hochstetten' ordained by minister Johannes 'Hans der alte' Nafziger as an appointed minister of the book on the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt (and mentioned in a letter Nafziger wrote to Christian Schowalter in Pennsylvania in 1787 or 1788; translated in Amish Mennonites in Germany).

Their children born at Hofstätten include:

1. Veronica/Véronique Habecker was born circa March 1765, and died at Lembach, Lower Alsace Dec. 22, 1927. Her civil death entry described her as 62 years and nine months of age, born at Hochstädt; the widow of the deceased Jacques Jordi in her first marriage; the widow of the deceased Peter Nafziger in her second marriage; the daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Habecker and the deceased Fronique Imhoff. It was signed by her son, 34-year-old cultivator Chrétien Jordi. More information on Veronica/Véronique and her husbands can be found in YORDY.

2. Johannes/Jean Habecker was born circa 1767.

Their son Johannes/Jean Habecker was born at Hofstätten circa 1767. Circa 1788 he married Katharina/Catherine Schantz. She was born at Lembach circa 1769, a daughter of minister Michel Schantz and Magdalena Güngerich. Michel Schantz represented the Froensbourg congregation in the assemblies of ministers at Essingen in 1759 and 1779, with Christian Joder and Isaac Hochstettler.

After marriage they leased the Katzenthal estate [Ger. Katzentalerhof] at Lembach; his grandfather Jacob had been a resident of that community since 1767, and was living with them when he died. Their residence was typically described on civil entries as the hamlet of Katzenthal [Fr. le cense de Katzenthal].

Amish Mennonites also farmed on two neighboring estates. Like the Katzenthal estate, they were surrounded by a hamlet or forest subdivision. The French names of the hamlets and the German names of the estates were: Fleckenstein - Ger. Fleckensteinerhof, and Froensbourg - Ger. Frönsburgerhof. Sister Veronica/Véronique Habecker and her husband Jacob Jordy were leaseholders on the Frönsburgerhof estate in 1797. Background on the Schantz, Güngerich, and Nafziger families at Lembach can be found in SCHANTZ.

The estates provided dairy products, grain, and lumber for miners. The Katzenthal forest in Lembach held two mines that yielded iron, lead, and a variety of minerals.
Lembach would now be described as a village in the Sauer Valley, surrounded by the forests of the North Vosges Natural Park, on the border with Germany. The ruins of Froensbourg castle and Fleckenstein castle are accessible as tourist attractions.

Johannes/Jean died on the Frönsburgerhof estate Sept. 26, 1815. His civil death entry described him as a 50-year-old cultivator born at Hofstätten who had died on the Frönsburgerhof estate, and further as the husband of Catherine Schantz. It was witnessed by their son Chrétien Habecker, 26, and cultivator Chrétien Sommer, 30. Katharina/Catherine Schantz died at Niedersteinbach, Lower Alsace (adjacent to Lembach) Oct. 31, 1828. Her civil death entry identified her as 57-year-old Catherine Schantz, widow of the deceased Jean Habecker. It also says that she was born at Lembach, a daughter of the deceased laborer Michel Schantz and an unknown wife. It was witnessed by two neighbors.

Children of Johannes/Jean Habecker and Katharina/Catherine Schantz born at Lembach, Lower Alsace include:

1. Christian Habecker was born circa 1789, and died at Schwabing, Bavaria June 6, 1842. On Sept. 20, 1809 at Niederlauterbach, Lower Alsace (20 miles east of Lembach) he married Barbe Hochstettle. She was born circa 1791, a daughter of Isaac Hochstettler and his third wife Katharina/Catherine Schantz. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Chrétien Habecker, 20, a cultivator at le Cense de Katzenthal and a son of Jean Habecker and Catherine Schanz, accompanied by his father. The bride was described as Barbe Hochstettle, 18, born at Lauterbach, a daughter of Isaac Hochstettler living on the Neuhof estate and the deceased Catherine Schantz, accompanied by her father. It was signed by Christian Habecker, Barbara Hochstettle, Johannes Habecker, and Isaac Hochstettler. 429

2. Johannes Habecker was born Feb. 28, 1795. He died at Lembach July 9, 1796, age nine months and 10 days. His civil death entry identified his father as a leaseholder on the Katzenthal estate.

3. Jacob Habecker was born July 13, 1797, and died at Lembach Dec. 30, 1801. His civil death entry described his parents as Johannes Habecker, 35, and Catherine Schantz, 33.

4. Johannes/Jean Habecker was born Aug. 11, 1799.

5. Valentin Habecker was born July 4, 1802, and died at Lembach April 2, 1807. His death entry described his father as a 39-year-old freeman and leaseholder [Ger. Bürger und Beständer auf dem Katzentalerhof], and his mother as Catharina Schantz, 37.

6. Catherine Habecker was born Aug. 17, 1804. Her civil birth entry described her father as a 37-year-old freeman and leaseholder [Ger. Bürger und Beständer auf dem Katzentalerhof], and his mother as 35.

7. Jacobine Habecker was born July 8, 1808. On Dec. 30, 1830 at Strasbourg she married Johannes/Jean Schlabach. He was born at Ostwald, Lower Alsace June 18, 1804, a son of cultivator Jacob/Jacques Schlabach and Catherine Hundsinger or Hunsinger. They departed from Le Havre on the Albany, arriving at New York June 7, 1838. Their household appeared on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, but her husband died shortly after. She remarried to Michael Rupp. See SCHLABACH and MICHAEL RUPP in ROPP for background on her marriages.

Johannes/Jean Habecker was born at Lembach, Upper Alsace Aug. 11, 1799. His civil birth entry described his parents as Johannes Habecker, 32, leaseholder on the Katzenthalerhof estate, and Catharina Schantz. His father signed 'Johannes Habecker alt Vatter' [senior].

On April 18, 1823 at Lembach he married Barbara Stalter. According to their civil marriage entry she was born on the horse breeding farm Le Haras at Sarralbe, Moselle April 3, 1799, a daughter of farmer Jacob/Jacques Stalter and Barbe Imhof. 430 Barbara and her mother were described in the preparatory documents as residents of Trühstadt, pays Bavière [Trippstadt in the country of Bavaria]. Both mothers were present and consenting.

429 Christian Habecker was a witness on a civil marriage entry that poses a problem. The entry was created on May 17, 1814 at Nehwiller-prés-Woerth, Lower Alsace. It describes the groom as Christian Hochstaedler, a resident of Nehwiller who was born at Ingelshoff; Gundershoffen Dec. 15, 1775, a son of Chrétien Hochstaedler who had died at Gumbrechtshoffen and Barbe Nafiger who had died at Lautenbach, Reichshoffen. The bride was Barbe Unsicker, born at Nehwiller June 17, 1787, a daughter of Joseph Unsicker and Barbe Holli. The groom was a widower; his first wife had been Catherine Habecker, who had died at Kircheimbolanden Feb. 25, 1812. We have been unable to determine the parents of Catherine Habecker. Witness Chrétien Habecker was described as a 25-year-old from Katzenthal, Lembach.

430 We could not identify Barbe Stalter’s parents precisely. Her civil marriage entry described her father as farmer Jacques Stalter, who had died at Ottenweiler [the Wilensteinherof estate at Trippstadt] Dec. 25, 1810. He had appeared on a civil birth entry for Jean Saltzman at Petit Tenquin April 24, 1800; it gave his age as 40 (thus born circa 1760). He was a day laborer on the horse breeding farm Le Haras at Sarralbe. Another witness was Jean Hauter, 37, the owner of Le Haras. Barbe Imhof was almost certainly born on the Willensteinherof estate, but her parents would not be determined. She was present and consenting at the 1823 wedding, a resident of Trubstatt [Trippstadt].

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The family sailed from Le Havre in November 1830 on the packet ship Isaac Hicks, and arrived at New Orleans Jan. 29, 1831.\textsuperscript{431} The passenger list shows farmer J. Stalter, 29, Germany; C. [female], 49; C.[female], 24; M. [female], 21; E. [female], 18; J. [male], 7; and then farmer J. Habecker, 31, Germany; B. [female], 31; C. [male], 11; C. [female], 7; J. [male], 5; and P. [male], 3.

Johannes/John Stalter and Katharina Hauter accompanied them. The Stalters went from New Orleans to Hamilton County, Ohio (adjacent to Butler County), and in 1841 to Peoria. See STALTER, 'OTHER STALTERS'. The Habeckers traveled directly to Butler County, Ohio.

Children of Johannes/Jean Habecker and Barbara Stalter include:

1. C. Habecker [male] was born circa 1819. He is found on the 1831 immigration passenger list.
2. Katharina/Catherine Habecker was born at Trippstadt Dec. 27, 1823. Circa 1843 in Butler County she married Nicholas Roth. See ROTH for background on this couple who settled at Morton between 1843 and 1850.
3. Johannes/John Habecker was born at Trippstadt Oct. 18, 1825.
4. Pierre/Peter Habecker was born circa 1828.

\textbf{Johannes/John Habecker} was born at Trippstadt, below Kaiserslautern in the Pfalz Oct. 18, 1825. His birth entry, created in the district administrative office in Kaiserslautern, named his parents as Johannes Habecker and Barbara Stalter.

In 1845 in Butler County John married Magdalena Roth. She was born at Château-le-Vannes (now simply Vannes), Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 5, 1820 (her civil birth entry was witnessed by Michael Zimmerman( headstone date 1822). She was a daughter of Chrétien/Christian/Christophe Roth and Barbara Goldschmidt, who did not immigrate.

Magdalena and her sister Barbara Roth had immigrated via Le Havre and New Orleans in 1830, traveling directly to Butler County, Ohio. Perhaps the parents assumed that they would follow after accumulating savings, and sent their daughters ahead with a relative.\textsuperscript{432}

John and Magdalena rented land in Ohio until 1847. They headed west in that year, and stayed briefly in Woodford County. After familiarizing themselves with the area, they rented farm land 'near Peoria' (at what is now Groveland).

\textit{Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929} (1931) says that Joseph Stuckey "...Came to Peoria in October, 1850, and located in the Rock Creek territory on a farm a few miles north of Danvers. The family had come by way of the Ohio River and the Illinois River to Fort Clark, which is now Peoria. Stuckey with his brother-in-law, John Habecker, worked for a few months in a packing house and then in March, 1851, came to Danvers Township in McLean County."

On March 31, 1853 John purchased a 40-acre parcel of land in Section 33 at Danvers. The \textit{Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database} shows it as federal land, purchased for $1.25 an acre.

The 1860 census of Danvers shows John Habacher, 34, Byern [Bayern, Bavaria]; Melinda, 30, Byronne; Barbara, 12; Catherine, 9; John [Christian C.], 5; and Joseph, 2; all children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Joseph Stuckey and Barbara Roth.

The 1865 state census of Danvers shows John Habecker as the head of a household containing one male 40-49 years of age; one male 10-19; one male under age 10; one female 40-49; and two females under age 10.

On Sept. 30, 1869, John purchased an adjoining 40 acres in Woodford County for $9 per acre.

The 1870 census of Danvers has John Hanbecker, 75 [written over, should have been 45], Baden; Madaline, 45, Baden; Christian, 14, Illinois; Joseph, 12, Illinois; servant Barbara Plank, 20, Pennsylvania; and Margret Shirtz, 72, France, ‘living with Stroubher.’ This was Margueritte Müller Schertz, the mother of Anna Schertz. They lived

\footnote{\textsuperscript{431} The 495-ton Isaac Hicks was launched at New York in November 1824. It was still in service out of New London, Connecticut in 1862. Isaac Hicks (1767-1820) was a Quaker merchant with an office on Crane Wharf in New York City. He financed the voyages of a number of ships for trade and whaling, and marketed the products of whaling. At the age of 38 he retired from business. He was also a member of the Manumission Society, a group working for the abolition of slavery within New York State. A legislative act they crafted in 1799 was signed into law by society member-and-governor John Jay. It resulted in the emancipation of all slaves in the state by July 4, 1827. This was the most significant emancipation in America before 1861.}

\footnote{\textsuperscript{432} The publication \textit{Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County} (1889) included profiles of the Habecker’s son Joseph Habecker and son-in-law Peter S. Gerber. Both mention the immigration and resettling of John Habecker and Magdalena Roth, but differ in a number of details.}
next door to the households of John Strubhar [found as Stroubher] and Anna Schertz, and Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich.

John died at Danvers April 29, 1878.  The household appears on the 1880 census of Danvers as Magdalena Habecker, 58, Germany; farmer Christian, 25, Illinois; and farmer Joseph, 23, Illinois.  They were living next door to Joseph S. Augspurger and Jacobina Stuckey.

On April 27, 1881 Magdalena's sister Barbara Roth died.  On Dec. 11, 1881 at Danvers Magdalena remarried to her brother-in-law, the widower Joseph Stuckey.  See STAKER for background on Stuckey.

Magdalena died at Danvers May 15, 1904

John and Magdalena are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.  Children of John Habecker and Magdalena Roth include:

1. Barbara Habecker was born in Ohio Nov. 30, 1846, and died at Goshen, Indiana June 19, 1885.  On July 4, 1870 at Danvers she married Amos F. Yoder; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.  Amos was born May 20, 1845, and died at Goshen April 8, 1897.  They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery at Goshen.

2. Katharina/Catherine Habecker was born at what is now Groveland June 8, 1848, and died at White Oak Township, McLean County July 21, 1918.  On Jan. 19, 1869 at Danvers she married Peter S. Gerber; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.  Peter was born at Montgomery Township, Woodford County Nov. 15, 1846, and died at Bloomington, McLean County March 18, 1930, a son of Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer.  They farmed at Oak Grove, McLean County.  In 1830 Peter was living at Danvers.  They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery in McLean County.

3. Christian C. Habecker was born Sept. 24, 1855, and died at Danvers Feb. 26, 1922.  His death certificate says he was born at Groveland, but this may have been an error - by 1855 his parents had already relocated from Groveland to Danvers.  On March 10, 1881 in McLean County he married Irene Stutzman; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.  She was born at Danvers Nov. 26, 1857, and died in 1945, a daughter of Solomon Stutzman and Sarah Yoder.  They are found on the 1900 census of Danvers Village as farmer C.C. Habecker, 45, born in Illinois in September 1855 to parents from Pennsylvania; and four children born in Illinois.  Christian and Irene are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

4. Joseph Habecker was born at Danvers Feb. 4, 1857, and died there March 27, 1919.  On Aug. 29, 1880 at Danvers he married Catherine 'Katie' Burkey; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.  She was born in 1860, and died in 1952.  Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County (1887) described her parents as Frederick Burkey and Catherine Kreek, natives of Switzerland.  Following their marriage he purchased a farm of 112 acres.  They are found on the 1900 census of Danvers as farmer Joseph Habecker, born in Illinois in February 1856 to German parents; Katie, 39, born in Illinois in August 1860 to German parents; and five children born in Illinois.

Pierre/Peter Habecker

Johannes/John Habecker farmed in Woodford and Tazewell Counties no more than six years 1847-53 before relocating to McLean County.  But his sister Katharina/Catherine Habecker (married to Nicholas Roth) and his younger brother, Pierre/Peter Habecker, raised families in Tazewell County.

Peter was born circa 1828.

On Aug. 9, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elisabeth/Elizabeth Rich; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman.  She was born at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace April 19, 1832, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Rich and Catherine Zimmerman.  She had sailed from Le Havre with her parents on the St. Nicolas, arriving at New York Jan. 22, 1849.  The Riches settled at Washington, Tazewell County.

The 1860 census of Washington shows laborer Peter Hobecker, 32; Germany; Elizabeth, 26, Germany; John, 2, Illinois; and Catherine, four months, Illinois.

The 1865 state census of Worth, Woodford County has Peter Hobecker as the head of a household containing one male 30-39 years of age; one male under 10; one female 20-29; and two females under 10.

The 1870 census of Washington shows farm laborer Peter Hawbaker, 40; Bavaria; Elisabeth, 36, France; John, 13; Catharine, 10; Ann, 8; Joseph, 6; Augusta, 3; and Christian, six months; all children born in Illinois.

The 1872 plat map of Washington does not show them as farm property owners.  Judging from the surnames of their neighbors on federal censuses, it is probable that they were living on an acre lot on the west side of the town center.

In 1880 census of Washington they appear as farmer Peter Hobecker, 52; Germany; Elizabeth, 45, France; Christiana, 13, Illinois; Joseph, 15, Illinois; and Christ, 10, Illinois.  The two oldest children are found as laborer John Hawbecker, 22, Illinois; and servant Katie Hawbecker, 20, Illinois in the household of farmer Christian Guth and Elizabeth Guth (who was not only his wife but his cousin as well).  We could not account for 18-year-old Anna.  Peter died after an accident at Washington Nov. 8, 1888.
Julie Hendricks of the Mennonite Heritage Center at Metamora identified Elizabeth's obituary from The Pantagraph, Oct. 3, 1903: "Killed by Cars. Mrs. Hawbecker of Washington Struck by an Alton Train. Washington, Ill, Oct. 2 - (Special) - Mrs. Elizabeth Hawbecker, a widow, aged seventy, was killed at 1:20 this afternoon by the west bound Alton passenger, three miles west of town. She had taken dinner with a neighbor and was walking on the track to visit her son John. Being deaf she did not hear the train. She leaves six children. The inquest has not been completed. Her husband was killed at the same place several years ago."

Children of Pierre/Peter Habecker and Elisabeth/Elizabeth Rich born at Washington include:

1. John Habecker was born June 23, 1857, and died in the village of Bartonville, Limestone Township, Peoria Aug. 1, 1940. On May 17, 1896 in Tazewell County he married widow Lucinda 'Anna' Munstermann. She was born Nov. 10, 1846, and died at Washington Oct. 13, 1917. John Hawbecker is found on the 1910 plat map of Washington, as the owner of 77.5 acres in east-central Section 29. Their marble joint headstone in Glendale Cemetery says, "John Hawbecker June 23, 1857, Anna Munstermann his wife Nov. 10, 1846." Lines left open for the dates of death were not inscribed. His death certificate calls them John Hawbecker and Anna Hebert.

2. Catherine 'Katie' Habecker was born in May 1860. On Aug. 29, 1882 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Wenger. They are found on the 1900 census of Gray Township, Minnesota as farmer Fred Wenger, 50, born in Switzerland in January 1849; Kathirena, 40, born in Illinois in May 1860 to German parents; with four children born in Illinois (the last in April 1890) and two children born in Minnesota (the first in March 1893). They are buried under a joint headstone in the Lund Church Cemetery [Lutheran] in Decatur County, Kansas as 'Mother Kate, 1860-1916' and 'Father Frederick 1851-1929.'

3. Anna Habecker was born June 15, 1862, and died at Washington Dec. 8, 1941. In 1882 she married James Madison Hartley. He was born at Washington June 8, 1853, and died there April 24, 1922, a son of Richard Hartley and Eliza Cunningham. They appear on the 1900 census of Washington as James M. Hartley, born in Illinois in June 1853 to parents from England and Ohio; Anna, 38, born in Illinois in June 1862 to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and six children born in Illinois. Only the 1910 census of Washington correctly states that her parents were born in Germany and France. The 1920 census of Washington has James Hartley, 66, born in Illinois to parents from England and Ohio; Anna, 57, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; and four children born in Illinois. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery. Anna's Daily Pantagraph obituary called her Anna Hawbecker.

4. Joseph Habecker was born in 1864, and died at Grange, Minnesota Dec. 28, 1946 (only four miles from Catherine's home in Gray Township). He married Mary E. Vanderwege. She was born in the Netherlands in 1873, and died at Jasper, Minnesota July 4, 1941. The 1914 plat map of Grange shows Joseph Hawbecker on 160 acres in southwest Section 27. They are buried in Old Woodlawn Cemetery at Pipestone, Minnesota as Joseph and Mary E. Hawbecker.

5. Christina/Christine Habecker was born Jan. 6, 1866, and died at Washington April 4, 1920. On Oct. 30, 1885 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Faubel. He was born in Germany Sept. 27, 1862, and died at Washington Aug. 2, 1947. On the 1930 census Jacob reported that he had immigrated in 1865. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

6. Christian Habecker was born in December 1869, and died in 1916. On June 25, 1894 in Pipestone County, Minnesota he married Ida Kerston. She was born in Pennsylvania June 14, 1872, and died in Peoria County Aug. 26, 1947. She is found on the 1880 census of Hopedale: Charles Kerston, 49, Germany; Mary, 38, Germany; Charles, 12, Germany; and Ida, 8, Pennsylvania. The 1900 census of Worth, Woodford County shows farmer Christopher Hawbecker, 30, born in Illinois in December 1869 to German parents; Ida, 27, born in Pennsylvania in June 1871 to German parents; Anna, 6, born in Illinois in April 1894; Birtha, 4, born in Minnesota in April 1896; Fredie, 3, born in Illinois in April 1897; and Clint Arthur, four months, born in Illinois in January 1900. The 1910 census of Washington has Crist Hawbecker, 40, born in Illinois to German parents; Ida, 36, born in Pennsylvania to German parents; Bertha, 15; Frederick, 12; Arthur, 10; Natalie, 8; and Ethel, 6; all children born in Illinois. Their headstones in Glendale Cemetery call them Hawbecker.

The Groveland/Yates Habeckers

**Christian Habecker** was born circa 1754, and died in the hamlet Neuhof (less than two miles west of Kirchheimbolanden) July 14, 1799, age 45.

He married Katharina Imhof. She was born circa 1760, and her death was recorded at Kirchheimbolanden Feb. 6, 1824. It is likely that she was a daughter of Christian Imhof and Elisabeth Danner, a couple living at Neuhof (mentioned in a footnote to IMHOF).

Before the French Revolution the only events of significance at Neuhof were the occasional visits of princes to hunt. Like many of the locations west of the Rhine River mentioned in IMHOF, the hamlet was occupied by French troops in 1793 and annexed into the French département du Mont Tonnerre 1798-1814.

In present day Neuhof is on the verge of extinction. Its access roads are closed, and its properties have been purchased to expedite feldspar mining. It is administered by the village of Kirchheimbolanden.

Children of Christian Habecker and Katharina Imhof born in the hamlet Neuhof include:
Johannes/Johann/John Habecker was born circa March 18, 1788 (per his headstone count).

1. Christian Habecker was born between 1813 and 1823, and was buried at Kirchheimbolanden April 3, 1865. He married Catharina Spring. She was born on the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the district of Kirchheimbolanden Oct. 6, 1828, and died at Danvers, McLean County Feb. 2, 1888, a daughter of Johannes Spring and Elisabeth Hochstättler. She sailed with their children on the Westphalia from Hamburg via Le Havre, arriving at New York May 28, 1872. The passenger list shows Christe [Catharina] Habecker, 43; Lisette, 23; Amalie, 20; Helene, 17; A., 14 [male]; R., 12 [male]; and Christe, 9 [female]. We found her in the home of a daughter on the 1880 census of Danvers, McLean County: William Naffziger, 32, Germany; Mollie [Amalie Habecker, as later censuses make clear], 27, Germany; Hugo, 5, Illinois; William H. Mahaffy, 27, Illinois; mother-in-law Catharine Habecker, 50, Germany; and Erman [Armand, as later censuses make clear] Naffziger, 4, Illinois.433 Christlicher Bundesbote, Feb. 23, 1888: "Habecker. Am 2 Feb. in Danvers, Ill., Catharina Habecker, geb. Spring, im Alter von 59 Jahren, 3 Monaten und 26 Tagen. Sie wurde geboren auf dem Münsterhof in der Rheinpfalz. Leichenreden wurden gehalten von Chr. Güngerich ud L.R. Royce." She is buried under an obelisk in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers: "Katharine Habecker, born Oct. 6, 1828, died Feb. 2, 1888, aged 59 Yrs. 3 M. 26 D."

2. Jacob Habecker was born circa 1820. He was described as a carpenter on the 1851 passenger list. He is found with the family as a 39-year-old farmer on the 1860 census of Groveland, and as a 50-year-old on the 1870 census of Yates, McLean County. The 1874 plat map of Yates shows owner 'J. Habecker' on the family farm. We could not follow him after that.

3. Catharina Habecker was born circa July 1, 1824. Her death entry was created at Kirchheimbolanden Oct. 13, 1824, the same day as her mother's, and gave her age as three months, 11 days.

On May 1, 1828 at Kirchheimbolanden Johannes remarried to Maria Magdalena Klein (the Evangelische entry specifically described the groom as the widower of Barbara Holli). She was born at Teschenmoschel (16 miles west of Kirchheimbolanden) circa 1800. She may have been the Maria Magdalena Klein whose birth was entered in Evangelische records at adjacent Dörromschel Dec. 20, 1800, a daughter of Johannes Klein and Catharina.

433 Wilhelm Naffziger or Naffziger was a son of Johann Christian Nafziger and Barbara Stähli/Stähly. As Wilhelm Naffziger, 6, Hessen, he is found with his family on the passenger list of the Empire sailing from Le Havre, arriving at New York Nov. 19, 1853. He and Amalie resettled in Iowa before its 1895 state census, which categorizes the family as Mennonite. There he was a farmer and she was a music teacher. They are buried in Marcus-Amherst Cemetery at Marcus, Cherokee County, Iowa as William and Amelia Naffziger.
Their 22-year-old son Daniel Habecker sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *William Tell*, and arrived at New York Oct. 30, 1850.\(^4\) He would later become a prominent resident of Morton.

On Aug. 19, 1851 the Bavarian Royal Land Commission published a public notice at Kirchheimbolanden stating that the landowner [Ger. *Gutsbesitzer*] on the Neuhof at Kirchheimbolanden, Johannes Habecker, was planning to depart for North America with his family. The notice was reprinted two days later in the *Königlich bayerisches Amts und Intelligenzblatt für de Pfälz* [Royal Bavarian Administrative and Intelligence Bulletin for the Pfälz].

The packet ship *St. Denis* sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York Nov. 14, 1851. The passenger list shows a Bavarian family: Johann Habecker, 65; Magdel, 51; Jacob, 30, carpenter; Catharine, 21; Johann, 18; David, 16; Andreas, 13; and Mari, 9. (The same ship would bring Baechler and Ropp/Rupp families in 1855, and sink later that year; see BECHLER/BECKLER).

They appear on the 1860 census of Groveland as John Haubaker, 73; Hellena, 60; John, 27; Daniel [David], 24; Andrew, 21; Amelia [Marie/Mary], 18; and farmer Jacob, 39; all born in Bavaria. They were living next door to John Gingery, 27 or 37, Nassau; Catharine [Habecker], 30, Bavaria; Mary, 4, Illinois; and John, 2, Illinois.

Before 1870 John purchased 160 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 18 at Yates, McLean County. The 1870 census of Yates has John Hawbaker, 83; Madeline, 70; Jacob, 50; John, 30; Mary Gingerich, 14 [all to this point Bavaria]; and farmhand John Salsman, 15, Louisiana [John Saltzman, a son of Michael Saltzman and Schrag/Schrock].

John Habecker died at Chenoa, McLean County Dec. 18, 1871. *Herald of Truth*, February 1871: "On the 18th of December, at Chenoa, McLean county, Ill., of apoplexy, John Habecker, aged 83 years and nine months. He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his departure. He was beloved by all who knew him. Funeral address by the writer from Is. 51 1,2. S. Baechler."

Maria Magdalena appears on a census at Yates in 1880. Mother-in-law Ella Habecker, 80, Germany, is found in the household of her son Andrew Baechler, 51, France. She died in 1887.

Children of Johannes/Johann/John Habecker and his second wife Maria Magdalena Klein born in the hamlet Neuhof near Kirchheimbolanden include:

4. **Daniel Habecker** was born in August 1828, and died at Morton Dec. 24, 1912.

5. Catharine 'Kate' Habecker was born Dec. 6, 1830, and died April 8, 1889. In February 1854 in Tazewell County she married John Gingerich. He was born in Nassau circa 1822.\(^4\) John was a witness to the naturalizations of David and Andrew Habecker at the Peoria Courthouse in 1860. They are found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer John Gingerich, 48, Nassau; Catharine, 40, Bavaria; and seven children born in Illinois (the oldest circa 1857). The 1880 census of Morton has John Gingerick, 58, Germany; Kate, 50, Germany; and six children born in Illinois.

6. Johann/John Habecker was born May 28, 1833, and died at Allin, McLean County April 3, 1932. He was naturalized at the Peoria Courthouse Nov. 2, 1868. Three days later in McLean County he married Catherine Nafziger. She was born on the Naumberger Hof estate at GInsweiler in the Pfälz (20 miles north of Kaiserslauern) in 1843, and died in 1894, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Elizabeth Brenneman. Her family sailed from London on the *American Eagle*, and arrived at New York Nov. 21, 1856; she is found on the passenger list as Elizabeth Nafziger, 13. The 1870 census of Tremont shows farmer John Hawbaker, 34, Bavaria; Catharine, 25, Bavaria; Ida, nine months, Illinois; and farmer Joseph Gerber, 23, Illinois. They were living at Allin, McLean County in 1880, 1900, and 1910, when John is found as widower John Habecker, 76, Germany. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County. His death certificate says he was born at 'Hirth Heim Bolanden Rein Falls, Germany,' and names his parents as John Hawbecker and Magdalina Klein.

7. David Habecker was born circa Nov. 18, 1835, and died at Allin, McLean County June 29, 1924. He was naturalized at the Peoria Courthouse Sept. 7, 1860; one witness was his brother-in-law John Gingerich. On June 4, 1874 at McLean County he married Mary A. Springer. She was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1844, and died in McLean.

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\(^4\) The *William Tell* became notorious for its near-destruction. It sailed between New York and Le Havre from 1850 to 1861. At about 2 a.m. on Sept. 2, 1861 the ship caught fire at a dock in New York City's North River. It was fully loaded with about $500,000 worth of cargo, had passengers onboard, and was supposed to depart only a few hours later. The crew declined to assist while it was towed to Governor's Island, where it burned to the waterline. The crew was suspected of setting the fire to avoid going to sea. They were summoned to an inquest. Many of them claimed to have lapses of memory due to inebriation on the night of the incident. The burnt hull was auctioned, rebuilt, and re-registered from Boston. On Dec. 23, 1865 its rudder was disabled by small collisions with rocks in the Strait of Juan de Fuca (between British Columbia and the state of Washington). It eventually foundered on a reef and sank Jan. 5.

\(^4\) The Duchy of Nassau was an independent state in the German Confederation 1806-66. In 1866 it was annexed by Prussia.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

County May 17, 1889, a daughter of Joseph Springer (also known as Joseph E. Springer) and Catherine Kinsinger. David is found on the 1910 census of Allin as widowed father-in-law David Habecker, 74, Germany, in the household of Otto Iwig, 31, and Emma, 29. David and Mary are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

8. Andreas/Andrew Habecker was born June 11, 1838, and died at Green Ridge, Missouri Nov. 27, 1927. On June 8, 1852 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Wenger; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman. He was naturalized at the Peoria Courthouse Oct. 24, 1860; one witness was his brother-in-law, found as John Gingrich. On Feb. 22, 1866 in Tazewell County he remarried to Margret Wareham. She was born in 1847, and died in 1883. She is found on the 1860 census of Deer Creek as Margaret Wareham, 13, Ohio, a daughter of Philip Wareham and Sarah. The 1873 plat map of Deer Creek shows 'A. Habecker' on 160 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 8. He remarried to Mahala F. Parson. She was born in 1860, and died in 1890. She is found on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as domestic Mahala Parson, 20, born in Illinois to a father from Virginia and a mother from Vermont. Andreas/Andrew, Margaret, and Mahala are buried in Green Ridge Cemetery at Green Ridge, Missouri.

9. Marie/Mary Habecker was born May 9, 1842, and died at Momence, Kankakee County in 1912. On Jan. 6, 1869 in McLean County she married Andreas Baechler/Andrew Bechler. For background on this couple see BECHLER/BECKLER.

Daniel Habecker was born in the hamlet Neuhof near Kirchheimbolanden in August 1828, and died at Morton Dec. 24, 1912.

He sailed from Le Havre on the William Tell, and arrived at New York Oct. 30, 1850. The steerage passenger list shows farmer Daniel Habecker, 20, Hessen.

Other passengers within a page or two included Krehbiels and Stauffers, as well as 'Christ Schwalter, 21.' Christian Schowalter was born at Assenheim (12 miles southwest of Mannheim in the Pfälz) Nov. 11, 1828, and died at Donnellson, Lee County, Iowa April 13, 1907, a son of Johannes Schowalter and Magdalene Herschtein. He would be ordained as a minister in Lee County in 1861, and became elder there with the death of Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith. He was influential in the development of the General Conference Mennonite Church.

Circa 1869 Daniel married Susanne/ Sussanna (per her birth entry)/Susan Conrad. She was born at Mittelbach-Hengstbach (three miles southwest of Zweibrücken) Jan. 25, 1849, and died April 17, 1936, a daughter of Philip Conrad and Maria Mauss.

She had immigrated with a younger brother on the S.S. Atalanta. The passenger list shows that the ship sailed from Le Havre and London; they may have boarded at either port. The list composed upon their arrival at New York April 26, 1868 shows baker Susanne Conrad, 19, Bavaria; and Paul Conrad, 17, Bavaria. The 1870 census of Morton shows harness maker Dan Haubecker, 39, Bavaria; Susan, 22, Bavaria; and Berta, two months, Illinois.

In 1877 Daniel sat on the Board of Trustees of the new village of Morton.

Their household appears on the 1880 census of Morton as harness maker Daniel Habecker, 50, Germany; Mary, 8, Illinois; John, 6, Illinois; Bertha, 10, Illinois; Otto, 4, Illinois; and Susan, 30, Germany. The 1900 census of Morton has harness maker Daniel Habecker, 71, born in Germany in August 1828, married 31 years, immigrated in 1850; Susan, 51, born in Germany in January 1849, married 31 years, immigrated in 1868; Bertha, 29, born in Illinois in May 1871 to German parents; and farm laborer John, 27, born in Illinois in March 1873 to German parents. The 1910 census of Morton shows them as federal mail carrier Daniel Habecker, 82, born in Germany, married 40 years, immigrated in 1850; Susan, 60, born in Germany, married 40 years, immigrated in 1865; and Bertha, 39, born in Illinois to German parents.

Daniel and Susan are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton, where Daniel's headstone says 'Father Daniel Habecker, 1828-1912,' and Susan's says 'Mother Susan Habecker, 1848-1936.'

436 Assenheim is now Hochdorf-Assenheim.

437 Two pages after Daniel Habecker was a listing for Christian Jotter, 18, and Henry Jotter, 16. We could not identify them further.

438 Paul Conrad was born at Mittelbach-Hengstbach May 17, 1851, and died in Ford County Dec. 27, 1897. He married Caroline Escher. They are found on the 1880 census of Drummer Township, Ford County. They are buried in Drummer Township Cemetery at Gibson City.
Jantzi of Bistroff and Hombourg-Haut

Jantzi, like Tchanz/Tschantz/Schantz/Johns and Jenni, is derived from Johannes – Jehovah’s gift.\(^{439}\)

To find the ancestral home of Jantzis one would go to the ferry port town of Spiez on the western shore of Lake Thun. From there a road goes inland and uphill to Erlenbach im Simmental, the birthplace of Jacob Amman. Then inland to Boltigen, the ancestral home of Redigers. Then further to Zweisimmen, 24 miles inland. While this would have been an arduous trek in the 1600s, since 1905 it has been on the route of the Spiez-Zweisimmen-Montreux railroad going to the famous ski slopes of Gstaad.

In the mid-1300s Leopold, Duke of Austria possessed what is now Canton Fribourg. His army was defeated by the forces of Canton Bern at the Battle of Sempach July 9, 1386. The subsequent armistice gave Canton Bern the Simmental region [the valley of the Simmen river].

A Protestant Reformed Church was established at Zweisimmen in 1566. From the period 1680-1728 we found seven marriage entries, and 24 baptism entries. From the period 1729-1752 we found only two marriage entries, and 18 baptism entries. The indexes confirm that the record keeper considered the spellings Janssi and Janzi as the same family. (A quick check of the 2016 phone book came up with six Janzi numbers in a village of 3,000).

We could only find one instance of a Swiss Anabaptist with this surname before 1750. L'Eglise Mennonite ou Anabaptiste en Pays Neuchâtelois (1969) cites a report on Anabaptists compiled in Neuchâtel in the Jura Mountains in 1725. At the time Neuchâtel was a French-speaking principality [Ger. Fürstentum Neuenburg] adjacent to Canton Bern administered by King Frederick I of Prussia; it would not enter the Swiss Confederation as a canton until 1815.

The report mentions Christ Janssy from Gerritz in the district of Thun [50 miles to the southeast of Neuchâtel, at the top of Lake Thun in Canton Bern]. He worked ‘on the mountain’ for the intendant (district governor) Vornad, and had been in the area ‘since his youth’ for 14 years. Whether or not he was a forebearer of the family we will follow is a mystery with a cold trail.

In records from the region of Lorraine the surname is generally found as Jantzy or Jantsy – even as they signed ‘Jantzi.’

The Amish Mennonite Jantzi family in the region of Lorraine provided a cluster of immigrants who resettled in Lewis County, New York and Ontario, Canada in the 1830s (including a few who later continued on to Central Illinois). They emigrated from Europe because of the issue of military conscription to support the French occupation of Algeria (for background see STAKER). Their voyages were well-documented.

However, the early part of their history is a complete mystery. We can only surmise that they came to the region of Lorraine before a birth there circa 1761. Michel Jantzi (#1) may have been born circa January 1719 or circa 1728, and died on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle Aug. 28, 1822.

A child named Anne Jantzy is found in Catholic records at Bistroff as someone born and baptized on Dec. 21, 1762 (this does not imply that her parents were Catholic). Her parents were described as Michel Jantzy and Barbe Guerber of La Capelle farm. La Chapelle farm was actually situated in adjacent Linstroff, now part of Grostenquin.

Some details of Michel’s life are known through a civil entry created the day after his death. It described him as Michel Jantzi, age 103 years and seven months. It did not give his birthplace. The two witnesses were his son Christian Jantzi, 52, of Belgrade Farm; and neighbor Michel Salsmann, 41, a farmer at the Bischwald Mill above Belgrade Farm (the same individual as MICHEL/MICHAEL SALZMAN OF BUTLER COUNTY in SALZMAN). The two signatures look like Christel Jantzi and Michel Salzman. The age 103 is suspect – he was a witness on his son Christian’s earlier first marriage entry, with an age that would instead place his birth in 1728. Michel married Barbe Guerber before 1762. She died before 1794.

BELGRADE FARM AT BISTROFF

Recall from STAKER that the territories in the region of Lorraine had gradually passed from German possession into French possession in the 1500s and 1600s. Lorraine was given to ally and former king of Poland Stanislaus Leszczyński, the Catholic father-in-law of the French King Louis XV, by the treaties ending the War of the Polish Succession (1738). After his death in 1766, Lorraine was absorbed into France.

Anabaptists may have come to Bistroff in numbers as early as 1765 (the year the Bishopric of Morhange gave up its property holdings) or 1766 (the year the region became part of France). Surnames found there include Blank, Abresol,

\(^{439}\) In published material we found frequent mixups with the surname Jaussi/Jaussi/Jaussy, since they can look nearly identical in handwriting. This family was concentrated at Wattenwil, six miles west of the town of Thun in Canton Bern.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Engel, Farny, Gerber, Güngerich, Hisser, Fonkennel/Kennel/Kennelle, Moser, Maurer, Nafziger, Oesch, Risser, Schertz, Schrag/Schraque, Spengler, Springer/Sprunger, Stalter, Stecker, Vitrick [Wittrig, later Widrick], and Zehr.

In 1757 Christian Engel (before 1729-1795, the father of the Woodford County minister of the same name) had obtained a lease at Assenoncourt in the Dieuze Ponds area of Lorraine. In 1775 he brought his family to Bischwald Mill at Bistroff. His children gave up the leases after Christian Engel’s death there in 1795. For the next three decades Belgrade Farm would be occupied by Steckers, Jantzis, and Zehrs. See STAKER for more background on Belgrade Farm.

Children of Michel Jantzi (#1) and Barbe Guerber include:

1. Anne Jantzy is found in Catholic records at Bistroff as a child born and baptized on Dec. 21, 1762. Her parents were described as Michel Jantzy and Barbe Guerber of La Capelle farm (La Chapelle farm at Linstroff). Presumably she died before the birth of another child of the same name.

2. Michel Jantzy (#2) was born circa 1763. His civil death entry says he was born at Lixing (now Lixing-lès-St. Avold). He died in the Pulvermühle at Macheren July 25, 1833.

3. Christian/Chrétien ‘Christel’ Jantzi was born Oct. 18, 1766 (per his first marriage entry), and died on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff Nov. 15, 1828.

4. Anne Jantzi was born between 1772 (per the 1860 census) and 1777 (per her son’s marriage entry), and died at New Bremen, Lewis County, New York between 1860 and 1865.

1. MICHEL JANTZI

Michel Jantzi (#2) was born circa 1763. His civil death entry says he was born at Lixing (now Lixing-lès-St. Avold). Lixing-lès-St. Avold is located four miles northeast of Bistroff and Grostenquin. From there the stream Ruisseau du Bischwald runs southwest past the Bischwald Mill into the large pond Étange du Bischwald in Bistroff. Circa 1790 Michel married Barbe Neuhauser. She was born at Singling (now part of Gros-Rederching) circa 1765, and died at Hombourg-Haut Aug. 17, 1833, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Barbe Zimmerman.

Judging only by the birthplaces of their children, Michel and Barbe were living at St. Avold in 1795, and in the occupied Saar region possibly as early as 1797 to 1804 or later. The civil marriage entry of their son Michel (#3) from 1821 described his parents as residents of Moulin Neuf, Petit-Ebersviller, Macheren [Moulin Neuf is located directly above the village of Petit-Ebersviller, between St. Avold and Macheren].

From 1826 or earlier, three generations lived in the main house at the Pulvermühle [Fr. moulin à poudre]. It still stands beside the La Rosselle river [Ger. Rossel] at Macheren, Moselle, four miles north of Lixing-lès-St. Avold. Events that took place in the Pulvermühle main house were recorded at either Macheren or adjacent Hombourg-Haut (it was closer to the mayor’s office of Hombourg-Haut). The river runs along or near the boundary between the two communities.

At the time, gun powder/black powder manufacturing mills were constructed by rivers or streams, where a water turbine could turn grinding stones. Powdered sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter were combined in tumbling barrels on rotors. The product was packaged in small wooden boxes or barrels to absorb moisture.

An old powder mill can be easily identified by its unique construction. An especially thick stone wall runs across the interior, or thick stone interior walls form a criss-cross dividing it into quarters. The outer walls are often wood and plaster. This was done so the force of any accidental blast would be directed outward in one direction.

Michel (#2) died in the Pulvermühle July 25, 1833. His civil death entry was created at Hombourg-Haut. It stated that elderly miller Michel Janzi, 70, was born at Lixing, and had resided in the Pulvermühle. He was a son of the deceased Michel Janzi and Anne Gerber, and left the widow Barbe Neyhouser. It was witnessed by miller Michel Janzi, 38, his son.

Barbe Neuhauser died Aug. 17, less than three weeks later. The timing and coincidence suggest that they were victims of a cholera epidemic that affected Asia, Europe, and North America. Her civil death entry created at Hombourg-Haut described her as Barbe Neyhouser, 69, born at Singling and a resident of the Pulvermühle, a daughter of the deceased Christian Neyhouser and Barbe Zimmerman, and the widow of the deceased Michel Janzi. It was witnessed by their son Michel.

Children of Michel Jantzi (#2) and Barbe Neuhauser include:

1. Michel Jantzi (#3) was born at St. Avold April 10, 1795.
2. Catherine Jantzi was born circa 1797, and died at Schwemlingen in the Saar region Nov. 29, 1836 (‘Schuvamlingen, Prussia’ is found on her husband’s civil remarriage entry). On Aug. 28, 1816 at Macheren she married miller Nicolas Schertz. He was born at Bistroff Dec. 11, 1794, and died at nearby Grostenquin Feb. 22, 1868, a son of Joseph Schertz and Barbe Blank. He was a miller in Mill One at Forbach, Moselle. On June 9, 1848 at Macheren Nicolas remarried to Barbe Rouvenacht. She was born at Guernange, Moselle Jan. 26, 1815, and died at Grostenquin Feb. 22, 1885, a daughter of Christian Rouvenacht and Marie Blaser.

3. Jean Jantzi was born Jan. 28, 1803.

4. Barbe/Barbara Jantzi was born at Picard, Saarlouis in the Saare region (in the Pfalz, 20 miles north of Hombourg-Haut) Oct. 7, 1804, and died at Melvern, Kansas April 18, 1874. On March 19, 1834 she married Joseph Naftziger (her older brother Michel had remarried to Joseph’s younger sister Catherine at the same location almost four years earlier). The event was recorded at Hombourg-Haut. Joseph was born at Weidesheim (now part of Kalhausen) April 2, 1808, though we could not identify a birth entry, and died at Melvern Feb. 8, 1882, a son of Johannes/Jean Naftziger and Catherine Guingrich/Gingerich.

For background on this couple see NAFZIGER, GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER.

Michel Jantzi (#3) was born at St. Avold April 10, 1795. We have not seen his full birth entry, but the 10-year civil index lists him as Michel Jantze.

On Jan. 27, 1821 at St. Avold he married Barbe Beller. She was born at Pontpierre March 6, 1797 (per their marriage entry), and died in the Pulvermühle Sept. 17, 1829 (recorded at Hombourg-Haut), a daughter of Pierre Beller and Barbara Hirschi (see BELLER for background on her family).

Children of Michel Jantzi (#3) and his first wife Barbe Beller include:

1. Pierre/Peter Jantzi was born at Valmont Nov. 26, 1821, and died at Wilmot, Ontario July 18, 1854. On March 3, 1847 at Sotzeling, Moselle he married his second cousin Magdalena Spenler. She was born at Sotzeling Aug. 15, 1823, a daughter of Jean Pierre/John Peter Spänler/Spenler and Barbara/Barbe Elisabeth Jantzi. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as wagonmaker Peter Jantzi, 26, France, Mennonist; and Magdalena, 28, France, Mennonist.

2. Michel Jantzi (#4) was born at Valmont Sept. 14, 1823, and died at Sebringsville, Perth County, Ontario Nov. 2, 1865. On Oct. 8, 1847 at Hampont, Moselle (near Sotzeling) he married Jacobine Kennel. She was born at Macheren, Moselle Dec. 17, 1820 (her Canadian death entry called her Jacobenia Yantzi and said she was born Dec. 19), and died at East Zorra, Oxford County, Ontario July 28, 1909, a daughter of Jean Kennel and Elisabeth Saltzman. The 1851 census of Waterloo, Waterlooo County, Ontario shows them as miller Michael Jantzi, 29, France, Mennonist; Jacobina, 29, France, Mennonist; Michael, 5, Ontario, Mennonist; and John, 1, Ontario, Mennonist. Jacobine is buried in East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery. Descendants spell their surname ‘Yantzi.’

3. Joseph Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle Sept. 8, 1827 (recorded at Hombourg-Haut), and died after immigrating in 1849.

4. Barbe/Barbara Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle June 1, 1829 (recorded at Hombourg-Haut), and died Aug. 23, 1912. Circa 1856 she married Henry Brecher. He was born in June of 1828, and died in 1915. Henry was a carpenter and cabinet maker. ‘Henry Breker’ of Darmstadt was naturalized at Peoria Nov. 1, 1858. The 1860 census of Peoria has chandler Henry Brecher, 32, Darmstadt Germany; Barbara, 30, France; Barbara, 4, Illinois; and Edward, 2, Illinois. The 1870 census of Peoria describes Henry as a candle manufacturer. They are found on the 1900 census of Peoria Township as carpenter Henry P. Brecher, 71, born in Germany in June 1828, immigrated in 1837; and Barbara, 70, born in Germany in June 1829, immigrated in 1837. Despite these erroneous immigration dates, the 1910 census of Peoria said that Henry, 81, immigrated in 1851; and Barbara, 80, in 1848. Because of this we believe Henry was the ‘farmer Heinrich Brecher, 25, Hesse’ who departed from Le Havre on the Samuel M. Fox, and arrived at New York Nov. 11, 1851 (the same voyage that brought the Sutor/Sutters). They are buried in Springdale Cemetery and Mausoleum at Peoria.

On July 10, 1830 Michel (#3) remarried to Catherine Naftziger (the event was recorded at Hombourg-Haut). She was born at Weidesheim (per the entry, though no civil entry is found there; it is now part of Kalhausen) circa 1810, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Naftziger and Catherine Guingrich/Gingerich. See NAFZIGER, GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER for background on her family.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Michel Janzi, 35, born at St. Avold, a resident of the Pulvermühle. He was a son of miller Michel Janzi, 66, and Barbe Neuhauser, 64, residents of the Pulvermühle who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Nafziger, 20, born at Weidesheim; a resident of Amelécourt [in Moselle, 22 miles southwest of Macheren]; and a daughter of miller Jean Nafziger, 51, and Catherine Gingerich, 51, residents of Brandelfing farm at Gros-Réderching who were present and consenting.

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441 Schwemlingen is three miles over the border into the Saarland of Germany from the department of Moselle. It is 31 miles north of St. Avold.
Michel resided and worked as a miller in the Pulvermühle, where he died Aug. 31, 1848 (entry created at Macheren).

Children of Michel Jantzi (#3) and his second wife Catherine Nafziger include:

5. Catherine Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle July 14, 1831 (recorded at Hombourg-Haut), and died at Washington July 25, 1894. On Sept. 25, 1856 in Peoria County she married shoemaker and livestock raiser Wilhelm Freidrich/William Frederick ‘Fred’ Roehm. He was born in Württemburg Aug. 29, 1833, and died at Washington Jan. 15, 1924. In 1865 they went to Washington, where they opened a shoe store at the corner of South Main and Washington Square in July of 1867. The 1870 census of Washington has shoemaker William Roehm, 37, Wurtenburg; Catharine, 39, France; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. The shoe store was operated by the Roehm family continuously until it was demolished in the early 1970s.

6. Jean/John Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle May 6, 1833 (recorded at Hombourg-Haut), and died of illness during the Civil War. He may have been the ‘John Jonsy’ who married Mary Hodge in Woodford County Oct. 19, 1856. Mary is found on the 1850 census of District No. 56/Woodford County as Mary, 9, Illinois, a daughter of laborer Hyram Hodge, 35, Virginia.

7. Madeleine/Magdalena Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle Feb. 10, 1835 (recorded at t Hombourg-Haut), and died at Washington June 26, 1920. On Sept. 2, 1856 in Tazewell County she married minister Enoch Von Freedan. He was born at Norden in the Netherlands Nov. 1, 1831, and died at Washington Nov. 6, 1916. They are found on the 1860 census of Forrester, Ogle County as minister (Evangelical) Enock Fraden, 28, Germany; Magdalane, 25, Germany; and Wm., 5, Illinois. The 1900 census of Washington shows them as preacher Enoch Von Freedan, 68, born in Germany in November 1831, immigrated in 1848, and Magdalena, 65, born in France in February 1835, immigrated in 1849. Magdalena’s death entry called her Magdelina Van Fruden.

8. Jacobée/Jacobine Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle Aug. 1, 1837 (recorded at Macheren), and died in Orange County, California in 1920. On Jan. 11, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Heinrich/Henry Lageschulte. He was born in Germany in 1833, and died at Ontario, San Bernardino County, California June 17, 1913. In 1868 and 1880 they were living at Waverly, Iowa; in 1885 at Des Moines, Iowa. Henry became a rancher and orange grove cultivator. The 1900 census of Ontario, San Bernardino County describes them as fruit raiser Henry Lageschulte, 67, born in Germany in February 1833, immigrated in 1837; Jacobine, 64, born in Germany in August 1835; and two sons born in Iowa. However, on the 1910 census of Upland, San Bernardino County Henry gave his immigration year as 1845, and ‘Jacobina’ gave hers as 1848. They are buried in Bellevue Memorial Park and Mausoleums at Ontario, San Bernardino County.

9. Suzanne/Susanna Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle June 21, 1839 (per Macheren civil index), and died at Onecho, Washington March 10, 1904. On Oct. 2, 1858 in Peoria County she married Jean/John Gingerich. He was born in France in December 1835, and died at Onecho June 25, 1913. They are found on the 1880 census of Grove, Davis County, Iowa as farmer John Gingrich, 43, France; Susanna, 40, France; and Charles, 11, Iowa, works on farm. The census page lists them below Susan’s maternal uncles, found as Christ Naffziger and John Naffziger. The 1900 census of Onecho has farmer John Gingrich, 64, born in France in December 1835, immigrated in 1857; and Susan, 60, born in France in June 1839, immigrated in 1847. They lived next door to their son Charles. Herald of Truth, January 1905: “Susanah Yancy, wife of John Gingerich, died after a short illness, at her home near Colfax, Washington, on the 10th of March, 1904; aged 64 Y., 8 M., 14 D. She was born in France, Europe, in 1839, and came to America in 1848. She was married to John Gingerich in Peoria, Ill., in 1858. They had no children, but one adopted son, who bears their name. She was a devoted member of the Mennonite church. Funeral services were conducted by Paul Eschleman. She had resided here about twenty years and was considered as a pioneer in the locality. The large attendance of her funeral indicated the great love and respect the people cherished for her, and all deeply sympathize with the bereaved husband and son.” The 1910 census of Onecho shows widower John Gingrich, 73, France, immigrated in 1857; he is found on the page following the household of his adopted son Charles. They are buried in Onecho Cemetery, where her headstone describes her as, “Susanah, wife of John Gingrich, born in France June 27, 1839, died March 10, 1904.” His headstone calls him John Gingrich and gives the dates 1838-1913.

10. Christian Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle May 12, 1842 (recorded at Macheren), and died at Washington, Tazewell County after 1850.

11. Anne/Anna Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle June 26, 1844 (recorded at Macheren), and died at Hickman, Nebraska Dec. 26 or 28, 1928. On June 23, 1869 in Tazewell County she married farmer Jacob Erismann. He was born March 31, 1836, and died at Hickman April 12, 1922, a son of Peter Ehrismann and Magdalena Stähly. In 1900 and 1911 they were living at Hickman. A biographical sketch and photos can be found in Lincoln the Capital City and Lancaster County, Nebraska. They are buried in Hickman Cemetery.

12. Marie/Mary/Maria Jantzi was born in the Pulvermühle Aug. 10, 1846 (recorded at Macheren), and died at Washington Nov. 23, 1935. On Nov. 28, 1872 in Peoria County she married Balthasar ‘Balser’ Wenk. He was born in Germany Dec. 23, 1845, and died at Washington Aug. 7, 1892, a son of Johannes Wenk and Eva Voelker. They are found on the 1900 census of Washington as salesman Balsar Wenk, 54, born in Germany in December 1845, immigrated 1865; and Maria, 63, born in France in August 1846, immigrated in 1848. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.
A party of 16 boarded the Seine at Le Havre, and arrived at New York Sept. 17, 1849. The passenger list shows widow Catherine with four stepchildren and eight children: miller Pierre Jantz, 28; Magdalena [Spender], 26; Barbara Naszger [Catherine Nafziger Jantzi], 38; Joseph, 22; Barbara, 20; Catharine, 18; Magdalena, 14; Jacobea, 12; Susan, 10; Christian, 8; Anna, 5; Marie, 3; Michel Juntz, 25; Jacobea [Jacobine Kennel], 27; Michel [son of Michel and Jacobine], 2; farmer Samuel Naszger, 19 [Samuel Nafziger, a younger brother to the Christian Nafziger who married Marie Jantzi]; and farther down the list, miller Jean Juntzi, 16.

Andrew J. Sawyer’s Lincoln the Capital City and Lancaster County, Nebraska (1916) provides a biographical sketch of Catherine’s daughter Anne/Anna Jantzi and son-in-law Jacob Erismann. It says that Anne/Anna “…accompanied her mother [Catherine Nafziger Jantzi] and twelve [actually eleven] brothers and sisters to Canada in 1849, and to Peoria, Illinois in 1850.”

Why would someone sail from Le Havre to New York City, when they knew their ultimate destination was Ontario? Especially when it meant arrival late in the year?

The high volume of packet mail from America to Europe, and the cotton trade, meant more ships of all kinds returning below capacity from Le Havre to American ports. This brought fares lower. And beginning in 1832, all shipboard immigrants on the St. Lawrence River were funneled through the quarantine island Grosse Île near Quebec City. Those suspected of carrying disease were separated from their families, and the families had to pay for lodging in the city until the outcomes were determined. Though New York City had a similar setup, it was much more lenient. Their immigrants could then cross into Canada on land without hindrance. Canadian arrivals corresponded with their relatives in Europe, and New York became an important alternative route - particularly for families with sufficient means to pay for extra travel - because illness could be expected on a transatlantic voyage.

Arriving as late in the year as they did, the group may actually have spent the winter of 1849-50 with their cousins in Lewis County (upstate near the eastern end of Lake Ontario). Shortly after arrival at New York City they would have taken a steamer up the Hudson River to Albany, then a train to Rome, and then a carriage to Lowville. After the spring thaw they would have traveled by carriage 45 miles west to Sackets Harbor on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, then put their carriage aboard a steamer and traveled by water to Hamilton, Ontario on the western shore. A carriage ride from Hamilton to Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario would have crossed 52 miles of muddy roads.

Catherine’s two oldest stepchildren elected to remain in Waterloo County, where they had cousins. We could not account for the next stepchild, Joseph. The youngest stepchild Barbe/Barbara chose to accompany Catherine and her eight children to Central Illinois (likely later in the summer of 1850).

There is a family story that Catherine and those who accompanied her became guests in a home at Metamora, Woodford County. The grown children of minister Christian Engel and his first wife Katharina Nafziger were her second cousins: ‘Apostle Peter’ Naffziger, who had also lived in Waterloo County, was her third cousin; and the heads of household in the families called ‘the Nafzigers of Washington’ were her third cousins.

However, a descendant believes that they initially lived in Tazewell County with Joseph Rocke and his second wife Marie/Mary Nafziger, who were 1850 immigrants. See the Appendix, ROCKE for an explanation of how Marie/Mary was a second cousin to Catherine. Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska (1888) said of Joseph Rocke, “He went from New York City to Illinois, and located in Tazewell County on a farm. He remained there and in McLean County for several years, actively engaged in agricultural pursuits.”

Before 1859 two daughters married in Tazewell County, and two in Peoria County.

Catherine is found as a mother-in-law on the 1860 census of Third Ward, Peoria City: shoemaker William H. Rheim, 27, Wurttemberg; Katrina, 29 [daughter], France; Katrina E., 2, Illinois; Louise, nine months, Illinois; Katrina Yancey, 49, France [mother]; and Mary, 14, France [daughter].

In 1866 Catherine died at Washington, Tazewell County, where she was staying with her daughter Catherine. She is buried as Catharina Jantze in Old Washington Cemetery. Her German-language headstone is partially illegible; her lifespan count was 55 years, one month, and nine days.

2. CHRISTIAN/CHRÉTIEN ‘CHRISTEL’ JANTZI

Christian/Chrétien ‘Christel’ Jantzi was born Oct. 18, 1766 (per his first marriage entry), perhaps at Linstroff, like his sister Anne, or Lixing-lès-St. Avold, like his brother Michel.

On March 2, 1794 on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff Christian married Anne Farny. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Christian Jantzi, 25, a resident of Brandelfing farm at Gros-Redérching [29 miles east of Bistroff]. He was a son of Michel Jantzi, 66, and the deceased Barbe Guerber. (Note that Michel #1’s age 66 would yield a birth year of 1728, nine years apart from the 1719 that his civil death entry would yield). The bride was described as Anne Farny, 23, a daughter of the deceased Christian Farny and Anne Hirchi [Hirchy or Hirschy,
derived from the Swiss Hirschi], 46, of Belle-grade farm. She was born there Aug. 15, 1771. Their marriage announcement bans had been posted at Gros-Redérching and Bistroff. Anne signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.

There was something conspicuously missing from the marriage entry. Under the état civil system of record keeping, municipal clerks were supposed to provide all the information required by a template (model forms were often kept in local registers and can be seen on FHL microfilm copies). Administrative inspectors visited each community annually to ensure that the templates were being followed. The form for marriages gave two places where the places of birth of the bride and groom should appear: the first, just after the name of the bride and groom (look for the word natif); and the second, when it is explained what supporting documents were accumulated prior to the ceremony. In this case, it was only stated that an act of birth was obtained showing that Christian was born Oct. 18, 1766 in a legitimate marriage between Michel Janzi and ‘Barbe Guerbe.’ Since there was no civil system before 1792, and the births of Anabaptists were only occasionally recorded in established churches, a full birth entry would not have existed. Yet in similar instances the birthplace was given in both places. Thus, it has sometimes been assumed that he was born at Gros-Redërching, but it was only stated that he was a resident there.

Why would Christian be reluctant to have his birthplace recorded? It may have been a reflection of the times. We suspect but cannot prove that the Jantzi family, like many Amish Mennonite emigrants, had at one time or another been employed on the properties of military officers or Catholic clergy. It would have been better to let this go unmentioned, and certainly unrecorded, during the period from June of 1793 to July of 1794 – the Reign of Terror [Fr. la Terreur]. There is more than a small connection: the Engels of Bistroff had previously worked for liberal aristocrat Count Philippe-Adam de Custine, who was sentenced to death by the Committee for Public Safety and guillotined Aug. 28, 1793. Custine’s wife was imprisoned, his son was guillotined for defending his honor, and his properties were pillaged by Jacobins (see ENGEL for background).

In 1802, Christian appeared as a witness to the marriage of Anne’s sister Barbe Farny and Joseph Stecker (#1) (residents on the farm and great-great-great-grandparents of the author); he was described as cultivator Christian Jancy, 35.

When Anne Farny died on Belgrade Farm Dec. 26, 1816, her civil death entry described her as Anne Farny, 50 [she was 45], and her surviving husband as cultivator and farmer Christian Jantzi, 48, of Belgrade Farm.

A number of their children contributed to the settlement of Lewis County in New York. The area had been home to exiles from the French military that included the older brother of emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. See the Appendix, THE LEWIS COUNTY SETTLEMENT for background on recruiter-land agent Jean/John Kieffer, the Kiefer/Kieffer family, and the Hirschy/Hirschey family.

Three children from Christian’s first marriage responded to offers from land agent Jean/John Kieffer. They sailed with their families from Le Havre on the bark Statera, along with their aunt Anne Jantzi Ringenberg and cousin Nicolas Ringenberg with his wife Marie Hirschi, and arrived at New York June 19, 1833.

The packet ship Groton sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 4, 1834. It held three more children from this marriage, Christian’s widowed second wife, and five children from the second marriage.

Children of Christian/Chrétien ‘Christel’ Jantzi and his first wife Anne Farny born on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff, Moselle include:

1. Anne/Anna Jantzi was born May 24, 1794. The following day a confusing birth entry was created in Bistroff civil records. It says that Anne Farny, 23, had given birth to an illegitimate [Fr. enfant naturelle] daughter named Anne a day earlier. The birth was reported by Anne Hirsch [Hirschi], 48, widow of Christian Farny and resident of Belgrade.

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Between June of 1793 and September of 1794 more than 16,500 death sentences were administered across France. The sum total of deaths was much higher owing to suicides and starvation or disease in prisons. On Aug. 23, 1793 the National Convention decreed that, “The young men shall fight; the married man shall forge arms and transport provisions; the women shall make tents and clothes and shall serve in the hospitals; the children shall turn all lint into linen; the old men shall betake themselves to the public square in order to arouse the courage of the warriors and preach hatred of kings and the unity of the Republic.” Two weeks later it ordered soldiers to seize grain from farmers to lower the price of bread in Paris. On Sept. 17 it authorized the Law of Suspects, allowing arrest and indefinite detention simply on suspicion of loyalist sympathies. In February and March statutes were passed that permitted the confiscation of property from suspects and their family members. The violent excesses dwindled after the Thermidorean Reaction on July 27, 1794, the one-year anniversary of the appointment of Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre to the dreaded Committee of Public Safety. The municipal hall of Paris was stormed. Robespierre and the leaders of the Paris city government were arrested. He attempted suicide by shooting himself in the jaw, but survived to be guillotined without trial the following day.

Paradoxically, Amish Mennonites lost a protector with the death of Robespierre. He was a deist who disliked organized religions. As a slap at the Catholic clergy, he had recommended the granting of exemptions from military conscription for all Anabaptists in the former principality of Salm. See ROPP, JACOB ROUP OF PLaine for background.
Mennonite Church of New Bremen.

2. Marie Jantzi was born April 4, 1796, and died at Croghan Nov. 8, 1875. On May 14, 1817 at Bistroff she married An isolated Amish Mennonite congregation met in Lewis County homes until 1941, when its members formed the First Mennonite Church of New Bremen. 443

3. Barbe Jantzi was born May 9, 1797, and died at Sotzeling, Moselle Oct. 10, 1865 (the 10-year civil index calls her France; Hannah, 64, France; farmer Andrew, 21, Lewis County; and Jacob, 18, Lewis County. 

4. Catherine Jantzi was born Jan. 15, 1801, and died near Bistroff before 1808. Her civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator’s assistant Michael Zer, 19, a resident of the Offerdung estate at Gros-Rederching. His parents were farmer Michel Zer, 50, of Offerdung estate, and the deceased Marie Koler. The bride was described as Anne Jantzy, 16, a daughter of farmer Christian Jantzy, 50, and Anne Farney of Belgrade Farm at Croff. It was witnessed by the fathers of the bride and groom; one signature looks like Cristel Jantzi. After the marriage Michael became an operator of Bischwald Mill at Bistroff. They are found on the Statera passenger list as miller Michael Zehr, 44; Anna, 40; Michael, 19; Christian, 16; Anna, 14; Georges, 12; Jean, 10; Barbe, 6; Catharine, 4; and Suzanne, 1. Michael became a minister with Rudolf Virklar under minister and elder Joseph Farni/Farney at Croghan and New Bremen. One of Rudolf’s sons, Joseph Vercleer, established a correspondence with Swiss theologian Samuel Heinrich Froelich. In 1847 Froelich sent Benedikt Weyeneth to New Bremen. Before 1852 Weyeneth organized an Apostolic Christian congregation. They were also called the ‘New Amish’ or Neu Täufer (since 1917 the Evangelical Baptist Church). By 1852 Michael was elder of the Amish Mennonite congregation, simply because he was the only minister who did not leave it. Minister and elder Joseph Farn/Farney had also gone over to the new movement. In 1853 Weyeneth moved west to live at Roanoke, Woodford County (see the Appendix, THE LEWIS COUNTY SETTLEMENT). The 1855 state census of Croghan shows farmer Michael Zehr, 64, France; Hannah, 64, France; farmer Andrew, 21, Lewis County; and Jacob, 18, Lewis County. 

April 1880: “Feb. 27th, at Crogan, Lewis Co., N. Y., of the Amish Men. church, Bishop Michael Zehr, at the advanced age of 89 years, four months and 27 days. He had nine children, 170 grand and great-grand-children. His words of comfort were delivered by Peter Lemon and Jacob Vogt. The labors of our brother are ended on this earth, and he has gone to the reward of the righteous.” Anne/Anna is thought to have died at Croghan well after her husband on Jan. 18, 1886, despite his obituary. They are buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery at Croghan, where she is thought to have been the last burial.443

2. Marie Jantzi was born April 4, 1796, and died at Croghan Nov. 8, 1875. On May 14, 1817 at Bistroff she married Christian Naifziger. He was born on the Steinbacherhof at Durstel, Lower Alsace Sept. 2, 1791, and died at Croghan July 20, 1871, a son of Valentin Naifziger and his second wife Susanne Sommer. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Christian Naifziger, 26, born at Steinbach, Saralbe [his father had leased the Steinbacherhof at Durstel, and then the Schottenhof at Saralbe] Sept. 27, 1791, and a resident of Belgrade Farm. He was a son of the deceased Valentin Naifziger who had died Jan. 24, 1796, and 'Susanne Mourer' [not Valentin’s first wife Madeleine Maurer but his second wife Susanne Sommer] who had died at Steinbach March 31, 1799. The bride was described as Marie Jantzi, 18, who was born on Belgrade Farm April 4, 1796, a daughter of farmer Christian Jantzi and the deceased Anne Farny, who had died Dec. 26, 1816. It was witnessed by father-of-the-bride Christian Jantzi, 50. The signatures looked like Christian Naifziger and Christel Jantzi. Marie signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate. They are found on the Statera passenger list as miller Christophe Neufen, 41; Marie, 40; Madeleine, 15; Catharine, 14; Babelt [Babette], 12; Marie, 10; Susanne, 8; Jean, 5; Freder [?]; 2; Babette, 46; Solote [?]; 26; Joseph, 21; and Madeleine, 22. The place where they settled is now the Croghan reservoir (between Croghan and Belfort). They are found on the 1855 state census of New Bremen as farmer Christian Naftzir, 65, France; Marie, 57, France; Jhon, 26, France; Joseph, 21, Lewis County; Nancey, 19, Lewis County; Jacobah, 17 [female, likely Jacobée], Lewis County; and Christian, 15, Lewis County. They are buried in Kirschnerville Cemetery (also called Mennonite Cemetery on Erie Canal Road) at Kirschnerville, adjacent to Croghan. Some descendants in New York spell their surname 'Noftzier' or 'Nofzier.'

3. Barbe Jantzi was born May 9, 1797, and died at Sotzeling, Moselle Oct. 10, 1865 (the 10-year civil index calls her Elisabeth Yanz). On April 9, 1816 at Bistroff she married Jean Pierre/John Peter Spämier/Spaenler. He was born at Sotzeling (13 miles below Bistroff) Sept. 6, 1793, and died there Dec. 26, 1865, a son of Peter/Pierre Späiner and Marie Legere. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as miller Pierre Späiner, 23, born at Sotzeling Sept. 6, 1793, a resident of Sotzeling, and a son of the deceased Christian Späiner and Marie Legere, who had been millers at Sotzeling. His father had died at Sotzeling in 1802, and his mother 1815. The bride was described as Barbe Jantzi, 19, born on Bellegebrast farm May 9, 1797, a daughter of Christian Jantzi and Anne Farny. Christian Jantzi was present and consenting.

4. Catherine Jantzi was born Jan. 15, 1801, and died near Bistroff before 1808. Her civil birth entry had the only reference to Christian Jantzi as an annabaptiste that we found at Bistroff.

5. Magdalena/Madeleine Jantzi was born Dec. 23, 1801, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Feb. 28, 1881. On June 12, 1823 at Bistroff she married Christian/Christoph Kennel. He was born at Sotzeling March 16, 1800, and died at 

443 An isolated Amish Mennonite congregation met in Lewis County homes until 1941, when its members formed the First Mennonite Church of New Bremen.
Christian Jantzi was born Oct. 11, 1804, and died at Bistroff April 10, 1817.

Hans/John Jantzi was born March 24, 1806, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Dec. 12, 1881. On June 4, 1832 at Hoste-Haut, Moselle he married Elisabeth Guerber/Gerber. The 10-year civil index lists them as Jean Jansy and Elisabeth Guerber. Elisabeth was born Jan. 2, 1806, and died in Ontario June 25, 1890, a daughter of Jean Gerber/Guerber and Magdalena/Madeleine Gerber/Guerber. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Jansy, 26, a resident of Belle-grade, Bistroff. He was born March 24, 1806, a son of the deceased cultivator and farmer Christian Jansy, who had died Dec. 26, 1816 [actually Nov. 15, 1828], and the deceased Anne Farny, who had died Aug. 29, 1822 [actually Dec. 26, 1816 at Bistroff]. The bride was described as Elisabeth Guerber, 26, a resident of Valette, and a daughter of the deceased cultivator and farmer Jean Jansy, who had died July 19, 1822; and cultivator Madeleine Guerber, 58, a resident of Valette who was present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Simon Hirsch, 43, a resident of Valette and brother-in-law of the bride. Signatures looked like Hans Jantzi and Elisabeth Gerber. They sailed from Le Havre on the Groton, and arrived at New York June 4, 1834. The passenger list shows John Jansy, 28, Elisa [Gerber], 28, and Magdalene, 1 (Elisabeth also had her mother, brother, and sister along on the voyage; see GERBER/GARBER). John and Elisabeth first settled at Croghorn or adjacent Lowville, New York 1835-37. John went with Peter Zehr to visit Canada in 1837. Soon after that they resettled in East Zorra, Ontario. John initiated the Amish Mennonite congregation at Wellesley, which was formally established in 1859, eventually becoming minister and elder. They are found on the 1881 census of Wilmot as John Jantzi, 75, France, Mennonite; and Elisabeth, 75, France, Mennonite. John’s death entry described him as Johannes Jantzi, farmer and bishop of the Mennonite Society. Herald of Truth, September 1890: “On the 25th of June, in Waterloo Co., Ontario, of bodily infirmities, Elizabeth (maiden name Garber), widow of John Jantzi, at the advanced age of 84 years. She was blind for six years and long ago had a desire to change time with eternity. She was buried on the 27th in Chr. Zehr’s burying ground, where a large number of friends had assembled to pay the last tribute of love and respect to the departed sister. Funeral services were held by John Gascho and Jacob Bender, in which they admonished all to prepare for death, for we know not when the Master of this house of clay may come to call us to account.” Their home at Wilmot is still in the Jantzi family.

Catherine Jantzi was born March 3, 1808, and died in France in April of 1888. On Feb. 24, 1833 at Bouxieres-aux-Chênes, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Christian Blank/Christophe Blanck. He was born there Aug. 15, 1807, and died at Zommange, Moselle March 18, 1868, a son of Nikolaus Blank/Nicolas Blanck and Anne Schwartz (for background on his parents see PLANK). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christophe Blanck, 25 years six months, a local resident born there Aug. 15, 1807, a son of cultivator Nicolas Blanck, 58, and Anne Schwartz, 66, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Blanck, 24, a resident of Bellegrade farm at Bistroff, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Christian Jansy, who had died on Bellegrade farm Nov. 15, 1828, and the deceased Anne Farny, who had died there Dec. 26, 1816. Witnesses included cultivator Michel Zehr, 40, resident of Bistroff; miller Christian Nafier [Naziger], 40, of Petigny; cultivator Jean Jansy, 27, a resident of Bellegrade farm and brother of the bride; and Pierre Peller [Spänler/Spenler], 38, a brother-in-law of the bride. The signatures looked like Christian Blank, Catherinne Jantzi, Christian Nafziger [Nafziger], Michel Zehr, Nikolaus Blank, Hans Jantzi, Anna Blank, and Petter Spänler.

Michel/Michael Jantzi was born April 10, 1810, and died at Ayr, Waterloo County, Ontario March 29, 1903. He was presumably a Groton passenger in 1834. On Aug. 31, 1834 at Wilmot he married Maria Boshart. She was born at Tagsdorf, Upper Alsace Oct. 9, 1815, died at Wilmot April 1, 1853, a daughter of Christian Boshart and Catherine Litwiller. On July 14, 1853 at Wilmot Michel remarried to Catherine Schweitzer. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 15, 1831, and died at Wilmot June 22, 1918, a daughter of Joseph Schweitzer and his second wife Catherine Wagler. They are buried in Saint Agatha Mennonite Church Cemetery in Waterloo County.

Joseph Jantzi was born Dec. 4, 1812, and died at Wilmot Jan. 17 or 18, 1847, possibly of smallpox (a son died from it a few weeks later). Joseph was a passenger on the Groton in 1834. In May of 1835 at Wilmot he married Catherine Boshart. She was born at Tagsdorf Dec. 22, 1817, and died in Waterloo County Dec. 3, 1894, a daughter of Christian Boshart and Catherine Litwiller. They purchased a farm at Wilmot for 100 pounds. Joseph sold it for the same price

444 On May 16, 1820 Bistroff midwife Margueritte Hey, 35, reported the birth of Magdeleine Jantzi. The mother was described as Magdelaine Jantzi, a daughter of cultivator Christian Jantzi of Belgrade Farm.

445 In 1979 the villages Hoste-Haut, Hoste-Bas, and Valette were consolidated as the administrative entity Hoste.
on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff.  Catherine remarried to Christian Spänler/Spenler.  She was born circa 1787, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Spänler and Marie Legere.  She was an older sister to Christian’s son-in-law Jean Pierre Spänler/Spenler Spenler.

Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Xtian Jantzi, 40 [yielding an implausibly reduced birth year of 1777], widower of Anne Farny, a resident of Belgrade Farm at Bistroff.  The bride was described as Catherine Spänler, 30, a resident of the mill at Sotzeling, a daughter of the deceased Pierre Spänler and Marie Legere of the same place.  One of the signatures looks like ‘Christel Jantzi.’

Christian died on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff Nov. 15, 1828.  A civil death entry was created Nov. 17.  It was witnessed by cultivator Michel Serre, 36 [son-in-law Michel Zehr].

As a widow, Catherine sailed from Le Havre on the Groton and arrived at New York June 4, 1834.  The passenger list shows Catherine Jansey, 50; John, 19 [Michel]; Joseph, 17; Catherine, 16; Christian, 14; Pierre, 12; Nicolas, 10; and Ferena, 6.  The two oldest males may have actually been been Michel and Joseph, 24 and 21, the only single males who appear a short while later at Wilmot; their ages may have been ‘adjusted’ because of the issue of military conscription.  The family of her stepson Hans/Jeann/John is found on the same page.

Catherine initially settled in a part of Watson that became Croghan, Lewis County, New York.  She accompanied her son Hans/Jeann/John when he relocated to Ontario in 1837, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Sept. 12, 1861.

Children of Christian/Chrétien ‘Christel’ Jantzi and his second wife Catherine Spänler/Spenler born on Belgrade Farm at Bistroff include:

11.  Catherine Jantzi was born March 26, 1818, and died at New Bremen, New York (nine miles south of Croghan) May 10, 1877.  She is buried in Croghan Apostolic Christian Cemetery.  On Sept. 9, 1834 in Lewis County ‘Catherine Jantzi,’ Joseph Farni, Hans/John Gerber, and Christian Hirschy (found as Hirschey) made declarations of intent to become citizens.  Catherine signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.  Circa 1842 she married Christian Virkler.  He was born March 14, 1819, and died Jan. 21, 1899, a son of Rudolf/Rodolphe Virkler and Anna Brechbühl.  They are found on the 1870 census of New Bremen as farmer Christian Verkler, 52, France; and Catherine, 52, France.  They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

12.  Christian Jantzi/Yancy was born May 16, 1820, and died at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin July 7, 1907.  In 1843 in Wisconsin he married Nancy Helmer.  She was born at Lowville, Lewis County Jan. 28, 1828, and died at Fond du Lac Oct. 7, 1915.  According to Dennis J. Yancey, Christian was involved in a bankruptcy.  He harvested maple sap and boiled it down to make brown sugar, earning enough money to purchase a farm.  In 1848 they relocated to Ashford, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.  There they purchased a log cabin on 80 acres.  They are shown on the 1870 census of Ashford as farmer Christian Yancy, 52, Germany; Nancy, 41, New York; Katie, 24, New York; Susan, 20, New York; Marie, 17, Wisconsin; George, 16, Wisconsin; Emma, 13, Wisconsin; William, 8, Wisconsin; Clara, 6, Wisconsin; and Henry, 3, Wisconsin.  In 1890 they moved to Fond du Lac.  They are found on the 1900 census of Fond du Lac as Christian Yancy, 79, born in France March 16, 1821, immigrated in 1850; Nancy A., 69, born in New York Jan. 28, 1831; and granddaughter Eva C. Snell, 19, born in Illinois Aug. 5, 1880 to parents from England and Wisconsin.  Christian’s death certificate described him as retired farmer Christian Yancy, born in France March 6, 1821, a son of Christian Jantzi and Catherine Spandler, and a resident of Fond du Lac who had died there, but was buried at Campbellsport.  His widow was named as Nancy Holmes.  Campbellsport News, Oct. 7, 1915: “Mrs. Nancy H. Yancy, age 87, a pioneer resident of Fond du Lac county, died at 2:50 o’clock Tuesday afternoon at the residence of her grand-daughter, Mrs. H. L. Sweet, 136 West Arndt street, after an illness of six weeks duration.  Mrs. Yancy was born January 28, 1828, at Lowville, N. Y. and came here in 1843.  She was married to Christian Yancy shortly after coming west.  They resided on a farm now owned by Yankow Bros. until 1890 when they moved to Fond du Lac.  The deceased is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Platt Durand of Campbellsport, Mrs. Isaac Dyer of Fond du Lac, Mrs. J. A. Crowley of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Emma Shattuck of Oshkosh; and two sons, George W. of Seattle Wash., and Haskell of Larson, Wis.  The funeral was held at 12:30 o’clock today from the residence at Fond du Lac.  The remains were brought here over the Northwestern line and interred in the Union cemetery.”

13.  Pierre Jantzi/Peter Yancey was born Sept. 10, 1822, and died at Croghan March 20, 1904.  On Oct. 30, 1849 at Croghan he married Magdalena Zehr.  She was born at Montigny, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 10, 1824, and died May 12, 1903, a daughter of Christian Zehr and Barbe/Barbara Mosimann (Barbe/Barbara arrived in Lewis County in 1849, and the following year remarried to minister and elder Joseph Farni/Runey, widower of Catherine.

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that community was established in 1848) has the household of ‘Nicholas Rickenburgh’ as one male in the 40-49 age

Nicholas Rinkenberg, 70, Germany; Mary, 60, Germany; Mary, 22, New York; Barbaray, 19, New York; Chris John

Lewis County; Christian, 10, Lewis County; and Nancy, 75, France. The 1860 census of New Bremen has farmer

Marey, 56, France, Nancy, 20, Lewis County; Jhon, 18, Lewis County; Marey, 16, Lewis County; Barbara, 14, Lewis County; Christian, 10, Lewis County; and Nancy, 75, France. The 1860 census of New Bremen has farmer Nicholas Rickenberg, 70, Germany; Mary, 60, Germany; Mary, 22, New York; Barbara, 19, New York; Chris John

13. Lisabeth Jantzi was born June 4, 1826, and died at Croghan March 25, 1880. The civil death entry calls her ‘Lizzy Jantzi’, though the annual index calls her Lisabeth Jantzi. She married as follows:


b. Peter Statera, 30, farmer, of Croghan, and Mrs. Nicholas Statera, of Croghan.

c. John Hancock, 40, farmer, of Croghan, and Mrs. Peter Hancock, of Croghan.

14. Nicolas Jantzi/Nicholas Yancy was born April 11, 1824, and died at Lowville, Lewis County, New York March 4, 1906. His civil birth entry calls him ‘Nikel’ and ‘Nickel,’ though the annual index calls him Nicolas Janzy. He married Anna Bach. She was born circa 1811, and died in Lewis County Sept. 30, 1901. They are shown on the

1855 state census of Croghan as farmer Nicholas Yancy, 31, Germany; and Ann, 31, France (on the same page as brother Peter). The 1870 census of Croghan has farmer Nicholas Yancy, 47, France; and Anna, 58, France; and the

1880 census of Croghan has farmer Nicholas Yancy, 56, France; and Annie, 70, Switzerland. Journal & Republican

newspaper, March 8, 1906: “The funeral services of Nicholas Yancey, who died in Lowville, Monday, were held from the Evangelical Baptist Church Wednesday, at 2 p.m. He had been in the County Home for some time.” They are buried in the Croghan Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

15. Elisabeth Jantzi was born June 4, 1826, and died at Bistroff Feb. 3, 1828. Her civil death entry called her Frena Jantzy; it was witnessed by cultivator Michel Zehr, 28. The 10-year civil index lists her death entry as ‘Frein Jantzi.’

16. Fréne (birth entry)/Verena ‘Freni’ Jantzi was born May 15, 1828, and died at Croghan in 1837. She is buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery as Freni Jantzi.

3. ANNE JANTZI

Anne Jantzi was born between 1772 and 1777, and died at New Bremen, Lewis County, New York between

1860 and 1865.

Circa 1797 she married Jean Ringenberg. He was born circa 1770, and died at Diesen, Moselle Dec. 13 or 30,

1803. Their son Nicolas/Nicholas Ringenberg was born at Diesen circa 1798.

On Feb. 4, 1832 at Hombourg-Haut, Moselle he married Marie Hirschi. Their civil marriage entry described

the groom as miller’s assistant Nicolas Renckenberg, 33, born at Diesen, Bionville, Moselle, a resident of

Baudrecourt [in Moselle]. He was a son of the deceased cultivator Jean Renckenberg, who had died at Diesen Dec.

13, 1803, and Anne Jansy [Jantzi], 55, a resident of Diesen who was present and consenting. The bride was

described as Marie Hirschi, 29, born at Mariendahl, St. Avold [Marienthal between Macheren and Henriville, now

part of Barst], and a resident of the Pülvermuhle [at Macheren, below Hombourg-Haut]. She was a daughter of

cultivator Jean Hirschi, who had died at Henriville April 23, 1826, and Madeleine Schertz, 60, a resident of

Morhange who was present and consenting. One witness was miller Michel Jantzi [Michel #3], 37, a resident of

Hombourg-Haut and friend of the bride.

They sailed from Le Havre on the bark Statera, and arrived at New York June 9, 1833. They are found on the

passenger list as farmer Nicholas Rinquinbert, 28; Marie, 26; Madaline, 3; Marie, 1; and Nanette, 40. Though her age is underestimated here, Nanette or later Nancy is thought to have been Anne Jantzi. Other passengers on the

voyage included children of Anne’s brother Christian/Chrétien ‘Cristel’ Jantzi and his first wife Anne Farny.

The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County, New York (a part of Watson became part of New Bremen when

that community was established in 1848) has the household of ‘Nicholas Rickenburgh’ as one male in the 40-49 age

range; one male under 5; one female 40-49; one female 5-9; and one female under 5.

The 1855 state census of New Bremen shows farmer Nicolas Ringenberg, 60, France, in residence 24 years;

They sailed from Le Havre on the bark Statera, and arrived at New York May 29, 1849. The passenger list shows passenger

#151 Barbara Mosiman, 56, France; Magdelena, 24; Catharina, 17; Jacques Rogui [Roggy], 25; and Maria Gzare [Zehr], 38, Suisse.

447 The John Hancock sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 29, 1849. The passenger list shows passenger

#151 Barbara Mosiman, 56, France; Magdelena, 24; Catharina, 17; Jacques Rogui [Roggy], 25; and Maria Gzare [Zehr], 38, Suisse.

448 Civil records for Diesen were kept in adjacent Porcelette.
[Christian], 15, New York; and Nancy, 88, Germany. The 1865 state census of New Bremen has farmer Nicholas Rinkenberg, 60, France; Mary, 58, France; Mary, 23, Lewis; and Barbaray, 22, Lewis.

Presumably Anne died between 1860 and 1865, and Nicholas and Marie died between 1865 and 1870. They are thought to be buried in Croghan Apostolic Christian Cemetery near their children John and Mary (identified on headstones as John Rinkenburg and Mary Rinkenburg).
Egli of Freistett

The village of Eglisau falls on either side of the Rhine River, in the district of Bülach in Canton Zurich. It is 20 miles north of the city of Zurich, and less than a mile from the present Swiss border with Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

A document from 1304 AD called the area around a cluster of farm houses ze Seglinger Owe – the meadow of the Seglinger family. It was the administrative seat of the Landvogt, an administrator who oversaw the area on behalf of the council at Zurich. Over time a bridge was constructed over the river, and it grew into a market town.

And over time Seglinger was shortened to the more familiar-sounding Egli. In the Swiss-German dialect an Egli is a fresh-water perch, which could not describe a meadow. But it can also be a diminutive form of the first name Eglolf, which describes a wolf – so that Eglisau would seem to make sense as a description of a wolf’s meadow.

When place names were being adopted as surnames in the 1400s and 1500s, Egli would have been a natural choice.

The surname spread to such an extent that we note an Egli in the records of Steffisburg, Canton Bern created as early as Dec. 10, 1610. When Margaretha Joder had a son baptized, she named the father as Peter Egli of Schangnau. After this the surname pops up periodically in the area, particularly at Schangnau and Diessbach (where it was also found as Eggli). We do not suggest that the family we will look at came from Canton Bern, only that there are many possibilities because Eglis were found outside Canton Zurich.

Today the three Heimatorte (places of legal origin for Swiss citizenship rights) established in 1920, 1930, and 1967, are Krauchthal and Schangnau in Canton Bern, and Brislach in Canton Basellandschaft. In all three locations the family’s Wappenschild features the image of a perch.

Martyrs Mirror tells the story of an Anabaptist Egli in 1635:

“Therupon it followed that the magistrates issued a command, that all the Baptists (who contemptuously were called Anabaptists) should have to go to church with them and attend their worship, if they wished to retain their liberty.

But when they could not do this with a good conscience, and hence refused to comply with it, the magistrates, incensed at this, towards the close of the year 1635, caused many of them to be arrested, all of whom, with the exception of three, escaped (since the prison was not strong) and fled from the hands of the persecutors. The other three, however, namely, Rudolf Egli, Ulbhi Schmied and Hans Müller, remained, and were each separately imprisoned, in the council house, where they persevered about twenty weeks, amidst much conflict, adversity and temptation, inflicted upon them in order to make them apostatize from their faith.

But when they in no wise wished to apostatize, and their adversaries could accomplish nothing with them; insomuch as they indeed promised, if they should be released, to render their authorities, as they had previously done, all proper honor, subjection, and taxes, but that they would in no wise go to their church, nor attend their worship (which was the principal point); they were enjoined, that they, in order to come to a resolution, should deliberate and advise with their brethren; wherefore they, provisorily, were released from their imprisonment and bonds for a month’s time.

Afterwards, when they, according to the charge given them, and their promise, returned, and could still not consent to or follow with a good conscience that which the authorities demanded of them touching their religion, they were again confined in prison.

But when, as before, their good resolution and firm faith could not be changed, they were finally again released upon the afore-mentioned condition, but afterwards, having proved what they had to expect, they did not again appear before them without safe-conduct. But all these things were but the beginning of sorrows.”

And in 1639:

“The misery of the beloved friends and children of God continued; insomuch that in the year 1639 they laid their hands also on a pious hero and soldier of Christ, named Jacob Egli, from the Groeningen Bailiwick [Grüningen, a village in the district of Hinwil, Canton Zurich, 13 miles southeast of the city of Zurich]. He was also taken to Zurich, and there imprisoned in the convent dungeon Othenbach.449

Herein he persevered upwards of seventy weeks, but was finally no longer able to endure, according to the flesh, the severity of the place and the bad treatment, so that he at last, when his strength failed more and more, and his infirmities increased, with a cheerful heart, commended his soul into the hands of God, and through death departed this life.”

449 The former cloister/convent Ötenbach/Othenbach in the city of Zurich had become a public building. According to the official story, the Dominican nuns there had collectively abandoned their vows after listening to a sermon by Reformation theologian Leo Jud.

Some sources confuse this location with the community of Ottenbach on the Reuss River, 12 miles southwest of the city.
A document composed at Hohenwettersbach, Baden-Durlach Sept. 12, 1729 was signed by representatives of the Amish Mennonite congregation there. Ministers included Hans Jacob Egli, Ulrich Mischler, and Hans Hürztler; deacons were Jacob Kürtz and Hans Müschler (all five spellings from their signatures). The estate where they met was leased by Peter Rothacker.

Fifty years later a 79-year-old Jacob Egli represented Baden-Durlach at the 1779 Dienerversammlung assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen. He is presumed to have been the same person.

Hans Jacob Egli may have been the father of Jacob Egli, who was born circa 1725; Martin Egli, who was born circa 1728; and Johannes Egli, who was born circa 1733. At one time or another all three farmed on the Lerchenhof estate at Obermönsheim and had entries for family events recorded at adjacent Wimsheim. Wimsheim is 22 miles southeast of Hohenwettersbach; between them are former meeting places Remchingen, Königsbach (now Königsbach-Stein), and Pförzheim.

Martin’s descendants include Indiana minister Henry Egley of the ‘Egley Amish’ Defenseless Mennonite Church, as well as some who arrived in Woodford County in 1874. Background on this branch can be found in Duane L. Egle’s Christian Egle and Marie Rediger Family in the October 2015 issue of the Mennonite Family History.

Another son may have been plowman Christian Egli, who was born at Pförzheim circa 1746. According to descendant Duane L. Egel, Y-chromosome testing of descendants of Christian and Martin indicate a common forebearer.

Circa 1770 Christian married Fronika/Veronika/Véronique Ernst. She was born circa 1746. They farmed at Freistett, in the upper margravate of Baden-Durlach (45 miles southwest of Pförzheim). Recall from ROTH that when Margrave Karl Friedrich came to power in 1771, his domain consisted of an upper Catholic region (Baden-Baden), a lower Lutheran region (Baden-Durlach), and a patchwork of properties owned by the Austrian Hapsburgs, the prince-bishop of Basel, and knights of the Holy Roman Empire. In that year Baden-Durlach was further divided into (north-to-south) an upper margravate, the district of Hochburg, and a lower margravate.

**FREISTETT**

Freistett had a Rhine River crossing into Gambsheim, Lower Alsace, and only nine miles to the southwest was the village of Kehl with its crossing into the city of Strasbourg.

It was mentioned earlier as the birthplace of Napoleon’s spymaster Karl Ludwig Schulmeister (see STAKER). Schulmeister purchased the property called Canardière in Strasbourg in 1806; he moved into the manor house Le Meinau in 1809. During the Napoleonic wars he would employ Amish Mennonites including Egli.

From 1792 to 1796 Freistett residents were obligated to board the dragoons and hussars of Field Marshal Dagobert Sigmund von Wurmser, who commanded the Austrial Imperial Army of the Rhine and then the Army of the Upper Rhine. He was a native of Strasbourg.

On April 20 and 21, 1797, a major battle between Austrian and French forces took place in a community adjacent to Freistett. The combatants were unaware that only two days earlier Napoleon had negotiated a preliminary armistice which became the Peace of Leoben.

In the spring of 1797 Austrian forces were encamped evenly along a 330-mile line from Dusseldorf south to Basel. The overall commander was Maximilian, Graf [Count] Baillet von Latour, who expected the French to cross the Rhine River midway at Mannheim. When French General Moreau and his Army of Rhine-Moselle opted to cross the river near Strasbourg, Latour was too far away to react.

Moreau’s initial attempt to cross at night was unsuccessful because the river was low. His small boats were too loaded down with horses and artillery. Fearing the element of surprise would pass, he decided to press on as the sun rose on the 20th. But the Austrians shelled boats attempting to land at Freistett, and the French were forced to land on an island near adjacent Diersheim. That day Diersheim changed hands seven times in fierce fighting.

In the evening Austrian reinforcements arrived from Kehl. But by this time the French were working on a bridge across to the island near Diersheim, and it was completed by midnight. Over 400 cavalry pulling small artillery crossed within hours. On the morning of the 21st the Austrians under Count Sztaray de Nagy-Mihaly attacked. Moreau had a horse shot out from under him, but Sztaray was wounded. Each side lost 3,000 troops. By nightfall Sztaray had retreated into the Black Forest.

While they were freed from their obligation to board Austrians, the residents of Freistett were now ordered to board French occupation troops. Many of those with French working documents now crossed the military bridges to the west and sponsored the resettlement of their extended families and relatives on the Alsatian side of the Rhine River.

See REDIGER for background on engagements in the area of Strasbourg during the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1975 Freistett, Diersheim, Hausgereut, Helmbingen, Hohbuhn, Holzhausen, Honau Linx, Memprechtshofen, and Rheinhäshofshaim were combined to become boroughs of the township Rheinau, in the district [Ger. *Kreis*] of Ortenau in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Rheinau holds the city hall and administrative offices for the township.
NEUFREISTETT
Some family events may have taken place at Neufreistett. In 1730, 32 acres of property in Freistett was acquired by Strasbourg banker Georg Daniel Kückh. He established offices for a trading company there in 1739, and had his properties formally acknowledged by the landgrave. In 1745 the name ‘Neufreistett’ was approved and given market rights. It became a tolerant community of merchants and craftsmen, including several Jewish and Anabaptist families. Kückh was found drowned in the Rhine River in 1754, after financial losses from a failed canal project.

In 1783 the Neufreistett properties (with the exception of a castle estate) were auctioned to the citizens of Freistett. The legal entity Neufreistett lingered until 1929, when it was administratively re-incorporated into Freistett.

Christian died April 12, 1779 on the grounds of the monastery Chartreuse [charter house, Carthusian Order] at Eckbolsheim, Lower Alsace. Eckbolsheim is on the west side of the city of Strasbourg, Lingolsheim and the Strasbourg district Montagne Verte form its southern boundary; below Montagne Verte are Ostwald and Illkirch. Anabaptists had come to Eckbolsheim at least two centuries earlier. A tract written by Lutheran minister Elias Schad of Strasbourg recounted how in 1576 he had attended an evening Anabaptist service in the forest at Eckbolsheim.450

In her article Egy Update in the April 2004 issue of Mennonite Family History, Neil Anne Stuckey Levine wrote that Christian Egli’s employer Christian Rogi reported his death to Catholic authorities (for background Rogi see ROGI in the Appendix). This led us to the entry in the Registre de Sépultures, Paroisse Catholique. It said that Christianus Eckli, living with Veronica in conjugem Anabaptistarum [an Anabaptist marriage], had died at Carthusia, Eckbolsheim. It was signed with an ‘x’ by Christian Rogi, indicating he was illiterate.

Christian Egli had likely moved his family to Eckbolsheim with him, but his youngest son was born at Freistett circa 1780 (after his death). We could not determine whether widow Fronika/Veronika/Véronique simply preferred to deliver the child in familiar surroundings with a familiar midwife, or returned there until her children came of age.

Fronika/Veronika/Véronique Ernst died at Hohwart. Hohwart was originally the area of a guard post outside the gates of Strasbourg; it is now Rue de la Hohwart in Strasbourg, named after a mountain in the Black Forest of Baden. Her death was reported at Illkirch, then Eckbolsheim, then Strasbourg. On Sept. 17, 1800 at Illkirch he married Barbara/Barbe Steiner. She was born circa 1777, and died at Montagne Verte, Strasbourg March 5, 1820, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Steiner and Magdalena Eichelberger. Their German-language civil marriage entry described the groom as Jacob Egli, 29, born at Freystädtten, Durlach [Freÿstätten, Baden]. The bride was described as Barbara Steiner, 23, a daughter of Johannes Steiner and Magdalena Eichelberger. Both the groom and his new father-in-law signed the entry with an ‘x,’ indicating they were illiterate. Barbara’s civil death entry described her as Barbe Steiner, 48, born at Neuhwiller, Lower Alsace, a daughter of cultivator Jean Steiner and the deceased Madeleine Eichelberger. Her husband was cattle tender [Fr. nourrisseur] Jacques Egli, 49. One witness was her brother George Steiner, 44, a cultivator. Jacob/Jacques’s civil death entry described him as cultivator Jacques Egly, 77, born at Neufreistett in the Grand Duché [of Baden], the widower of Barbe Steiner. His parents were the deceased Christen Egly and the deceased Véronique Ernst. The only witness was neighbor and cultivator Joseph Müller, 46. (Neufreistett parted from Freistett administratively in 1745; both are now part of Rheinau). According to Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, Barbara/Barbe had left employment as a servant at Canardière, Strasbourg Jan. 10, 1800. Children of Jacob/Jacques Egli and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Steiner include:

1. Jacob/Jacques Egli was born at Freistett circa 1770, and died in his home at Hohwart, Strasbourg Feb. 5, 1847. He lived at Illkirch, then Eckbolsheim, then Strasbourg. On Sept. 17, 1800 at Illkirch he married Barbara/Barbe Steiner. She was born circa 1777, and died at Montagne Verte, Strasbourg March 5, 1820, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Steiner and Magdalena Eichelberger. Their German-language civil marriage entry described the groom as Jacob Egli, 29, born at Freystätten, Durlach [Freÿstätten, Baden]. The bride was described as Barbara Steiner, 23, a daughter of Johannes Steiner and Magdalena Eichelberger. Both the groom and his new father-in-law signed the entry with an ‘x,’ indicating they were illiterate. Barbara’s civil death entry described her as Barbe Steiner, 48, born at Neuhwiller, Lower Alsace, a daughter of cultivator Jean Steiner and the deceased Madeleine Eichelberger. Her husband was cattle tender [Fr. nourrisseur] Jacques Egli, 49. One witness was her brother George Steiner, 44, a cultivator. Jacob/Jacques’s civil death entry described him as cultivator Jacques Egly, 77, born at Neufreistett in the Grand Duché [of Baden], the widower of Barbe Steiner. His parents were the deceased Christen Egly and the deceased Véronique Ernst. The only witness was neighbor and cultivator Joseph Müller, 46. (Neufreistett parted from Freistett administratively in 1745; both are now part of Rheinau). According to Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, Barbara/Barbe had left employment as a servant at Canardière, Strasbourg Jan. 10, 1800. Children of Jacob/Jacques Egli and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Steiner include:
   a. Maria Magdalena Egli was born at Illkirch July 20, 1801.
   b. Barbe/Barbara Egli was born at Strasbourg Jan. 15, 1803, and died there Nov. 20, 1885. Her civil birth entry described her as a daughter of cultivator Jacques Egli and Barbe Steiner, living near la Porte du Boucher, Strasbourg. Witnesses included cultivator Chrétien Egli, 25, a resident of Strasbourg [her uncle]. Her civil death entry calling her Barbara Egli was witnessed by her sister Catherine/Katharina.
   c. Elisabeth Egli was born at Strasbourg July 18, 1805, and died at Phalsbourg, Moselle Sept. 23, 1871 (found as Elisabeth Ecli). On Jan. 13, 1831 at Eckbolsheim she married Nicolas Ulrich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Nicolas Ulrich, 40, born at Ribeauvillé Dec. 6, 1790, a cultivator.

450 See Magister Elias Schad. True Account of an Anabaptist Meeting at Night in a Forest and a Debate Held There with Them in Mennonite Quarterly Review 58 (July 1984). The full text can be found online.
at Eckbolsheim who was a son of the cultivator Jean Ulrich and the deceased Anne Eymann. He was the widower of Barbe Eyer. The bride was described as servant Elisabeth Eglé, 25, born at Strasbourg July 18, 1805, a resident of Strasbourg who was a daughter of the cultivator Jacques Eglé, 60, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Steiner. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Ulrich 36, brother of the groom; cultivator Chrétien Lauber, 58, of Strasbourg; and cultivator Chrétien Stuky, 55, of Lingolsheim. They farmed on the estate of the Parmentier family at Phalsbourg. Nicolas died at Phalsbourg Jan. 22, 1844.

d. Catherine Eglé was born at Eschau (below Illkirch and Strasbourg) April 2, 1808, and died at Eckbolsheim Feb. 23, 1812. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Jacques Eglé, 37, farming at Wibolsheim [a hamlet that later became a district in the south quarter of Eschau], and Barbe Steiner. It was signed Jacob Eglé. Her death entry called her Catherine Eglé, and described her parents as day laborer Jacques Eglé and Barbe Steiner. One witness was cultivator Jean Eglé, 30, uncle of the deceased. Father and uncle signed their names Jacob Eglé and Johannes Eglé.

e. Véronique Eglé was born at Eckbolsheim Dec. 10, 1810. The father was described as a 39-year-old day laborer at Roethig, Eckbolsheim. One witness was cultivator Jean Rupp, 34. She was employed at Meinau, Strasbourg.

f. Catherine Eglé was born in Maison No. 153, Eckbolsheim Nov. 26, 1813, and died there March 25, 1814. One witness was cultivator Jean Eglé, 33, uncle of the deceased. Father and uncle signed their names Jacob Eglé and Johannes Eglé.

g. Catherine Eglé was born in Maison No. 153, Eckbolsheim Feb. 9, 1816, and died at Strasbourg Aug. 30, 1887 (found as Katharina Eglé). Jacob/Jacques Eglé remarried in 1820 to a woman with the same name as his first wife. She was born at Niederbronn, Lower Alsace circa 1772, and died at Strasbourg Feb. 11, 1823. Their civil marriage entry described her as a daughter of the deceased cultivator Andreas Steiner and the deceased Dorothé Weinmann. Their child was:

h. Jacques Eglé was born in Maison No. 46, Montagne Verte, Strasbourg Nov. 15, 1821, and died at Strasbourg July 11, 1883.

2. Verena/Veronika Eglé was born circa Aug. 19, 1775, and died at Strasbourg Nov. 30, 1844. She married Frantz Müller. He was born at Salm circa 1764, and died at Illkirch June 20, 1801. His civil death entry described him as a 36-year-old; it was witnessed by Jacob Eglé, 29 (Verena/Veronika’s older brother), and Johannes Eglé (her younger brother). Their child was:

a. Joseph Müller was born at Hohwart, Strasbourg Dec. 28, 1800. On Dec. 23, 1830 at Strasbourg he married Jacobina Frey. She was born at Strasbourg July 9, 1802, a daughter of Jacob Frey and Barbara Boshart. On Jan. 10, 1802 at Illkirch Verena remarried to Joseph Streidt. Their German-language civil marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Streidt, born March 16, 1773, a son of Johann Streidt and the deceased Barbara Halter. The bride was described as Verena Eglé, born Aug. 19, 1775, a daughter of Christian Eglé, plowman at Freystett [Freystett, Baden] and Catarina Ernst. Witnesses included Noh Aüssbürger, 45, a plowman at Strasbourg [see AUGSPURGER for his background]; and brothers-of-the-bride plowman Jacob Eglé, 30, residing at Hohenwart, Strasbourg; and Johann Eglé, 23. Joseph died at Strasbourg Sept. 14, 1817.

3. Chrétien Eglé was born at Freistett circa 1777, and died at Strasbourg Oct. 26, 1832. He married Catherine Maurer. She was born at Lutterbach (now Lutterbach-près-Munster), Upper Alsace circa 1770, and died at Strasbourg April 7, 1834, a daughter of Mathias Maurer and Anne Catherine Burger. Chrétien’s civil death entry identified him as Chrétien Eglé, 53, born at Freistett, Grand Duché de Bade, a son of the deceased cultivator Chrétien Eglé and the deceased Veronique Ernst. He was a resident of Strasbourg who had died at Hohwart, and the husband of Catherine Muhrer [Maurer]. Witnesses included his son Joseph Eglé, 29, a cultivator; and brother of the deceased Jacques Eglé, 63, a cultivator. Catherine’s civil death entry called her Catherine Muhrer, 64, the widow of cultivator Chrétien Eglé. She had died at Hohwart. Her parents were named as M. Muhrer and Catherine Burger, and her birthplace was given. One witness was her son Joseph Eglé, 31, a cultivator. The present Rue de la Hohwart is a few blocks south of the neighborhoods called Meinau and Canardière. These were the residence and estate owned by Karl Ludwig Schulmeister. It is probable that Chrétien was one of the many Amish Mennonites who were employed there, and at the time the road was within le Canardière’s boundaries. Note the appearance of Schulmeister’s estate manager Christian Augspurger (later of Butler County, Ohio, see STAKER for background) as a witness on their daughter Barbe’s civil birth entry in 1811. Children of Chrétien Eglé and Catherine Maurer born at Strasbourg include:

a. Madeleine Eglé was born July 19, 1801, and died at Strasbourg Nov. 7, 1878. Her civil birth entry described her as Madeleine Eglé, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Eglé and Catherine Maurer, who resided at la Port au Boucher (one of the gates that defined neighborhoods), Strasbourg. On May 19, 1831 at Strasbourg she married cultivator Joseph Kreibiel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as someone born at Neuhof, Strasbourg Oct. 23, 1800, a son of the deceased cultivator Chrétien Kreibiel, who died at Neuhof July 5, 1826, and Barbara Buchter, who was residing at Neuhof and was

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451 Politician Charles Joseph Parmentier (1765-1843) was the son of a counselor to the French king. He became a mayor of Phalsbourg, Baron of the Empire, and Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur.
present and consenting. The bride was described as Madeleine Eglé, born at Strasbourg July 19, 1801, a daughter of the cultivator Chrétien Egli and Catherine Maurer, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included cultivator Joseph Egli, 28, brother of the bride; Jean Egli, 50, uncle of the bride; and cultivator Chrétien Stucki, 56. Joseph died at Strasbourg June 20, 1846.

b. Joseph Egli was born July 4, 1803. On June 21, 1828 at Strasbourg he married Anne Marie Ruby. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Egly, born at Strasbourg July 4, 1803, a son of the cultivator Chrétien Egly and Catherine Maurer, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Anne Marie Ruby, born at Hohroth, Munster, Upper Alsace May 17, 1806; a daughter of plowman Benoît Ruby and Madeleine Schwarin, who were present and consenting. Anne Marie and her parents were residents of Luttenbach, Upper Alsace (two miles southwest of Munster, 56 miles southwest of Strasbourg). Witnesses included cultivator Chrétien Stucki, 52; and Matthais Maurer, 26.

c. Chrétien Egli was born Feb. 28, 1806, and died March 12, 1806. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Chrétien Egli, 32, and Catherine Maurer, living at la Porte d’Hôpital. His civil death entry was witnessed by cultivator Jacques Egli, 36, uncle of the deceased; and cultivator Joseph Strid [Streit], 36, a neighbor.

d. Catherine Egli was born Feb. 8, 1807, and died at Luttenbach March 6, 1859. On her civil death entry witness Henry Ehrisman, 33, described her as a 50-year-old textile worker [Fr. ouvriere de fabrique], naming her birthplace and parents.

e. Barbe Egli was born Sept. 13, 1808, and died at Strasbourg Sept. 18, 1808. He civil death entry described her parents as day laborer Chrétien Egli, 30, and Catherine Maurer, living near la Porte de l’Hôpital.

f. Chrétien Egli died at Strasbourg Nov. 9, 1809, age 11 days.

g. Barbe Egli was born Aug. 18, 1811. Her civil birth entry described her father’s occupation as dairyman [Fr. laitier]. It was witnessed by cultivator Chrétien Augsburger [Augsburger], 40.

h. A child was stillborn Feb. 9, 1815. One witness was cultivator Chrétien Müller, 30.

4. Johannes/Hans/Jean Egli was born at Freistett circa 1780, according to his first marriage entry, or on June 16, 1781, according to his second marriage entry.

Johannes/Hans/Jean Egli was born at Freistett circa 1780, according to his first marriage entry, or on June 16, 1781, according to his second marriage entry. Note that his father, Christian Egli, had died at Eckbolsheim April 12, 1779 – casting doubt on the second date.

On Jan. 4, 1806 at Eckbolsheim, Lower Alsace he married widow Catharina Müller (Eckbolsheim is less than four miles west of Strasbourg). She brought four children to the marriage.

Their German-language civil marriage entry described the groom as plowman [Ger. Ackermann] Johannes Egli, 25, born at Freystatt, Kurfürstentum Baaden [Freistett, Baden]. He was a son of plowman Christian Egli, who had died at the Karthaus at Strasbourg [this would be an inn and livery stable, but is instead an obvious garbling of Chartreuse monastery] 26 years earlier, and Fronia Ernst, who had died five years earlier on the Hohwort at Illkirch. He was a resident of Eckbolsheim. The bride was described as Catharina Müller, 31, born on the Allenauer farm at Strasbourg, a daughter of plowman Christian Müller working at Strasbourg, and the deceased Maria Reis. She was the widow of Ulrich Gerber, a plowman on the Wolkenbrunn at Eckbolsheim [he had died at Eckbolsheim Dec. 21, 1803]. Witnesses included brother-of-the-groom Jacob Egli, 35; plowman Noah Aŭgsburger, 50; Michael Müller, 34, and plowman Joseph Ropp [Ropp], 31.

The place they lived is found in documentation as Wolkenbrunnen at Eckbolsheim. This was likely meant to mean it was near the Volkenbrunnen, or public fountain.

Catherine died at Eckbolsheim May 20, 1814. She had given birth to a daughter only six days earlier. Her civil death entry described her as a 40-year-old resident of Eckbolsheim who had died in Maison No. 151. It described her parents as the deceased Chrétien Müller and deceased Catherine Maurer. She was the widow of Jean Eglé and Ulrich Gerber. Witnesses included husband and cultivator Jean Eglé, 33 [he signed Johannes Eglí]; and brother-in-law Jacques Eglé, 40 [he signed Jacob Egli]. Children of Johannes/Hans/Jean Egli and his first wife Catharina Müller born at Eckbolsheim include:

1. Christian Eglí (as found in the margin)Chrétien Egli (as found in the text) was born Oct. 14, 1806, and died at Hohwarth No. 21 in Strasbourg Oct. 20, 1887 (as reported by his half-sister Marie). On Dec. 22, 1831 at Strasbourg he married Catherine Lauber. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a cultivator. His parents were Jean Egli, a resident of La Robertsau (above Strasbourg) who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catharine Müller, who had died at Eckbolsheim May 20, 1814. The bride was Catherine Lauber, who was born in the Jardin de l’Angleterre [English garden] at Bischheim, Lower Alsace, a daughter of cultivator Chrétien Lauber, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Uhler [Ulrich], who had died at Strasbourg June 21, 1827.452 Witnesses included Nicolas Ulrich, 41, brother-in-law of the bride; cultivator Jean Ulrich, 28, brother-in-law of the bride;
c. Catherine Egli was born at Logelbach, Wintzenheim Aug. 17, 1836, and died there Oct. 26, 1836.
d. Barbe/Barbara Egli (twin) was born at Logelbach, Wintzenheim Oct. 5, 1836, and died there Oct. 26, 1836.
e. Jacques Egli was born at Logelbach, Wintzenheim June 21, 1843, and died at Merrimac, Henry County, Iowa May 31, 1901, a son of Jean Graber and Catherine Roth. They are buried in Vorhies Cemetery at Rome, Henry County.
f. Jacques/Jacob Egli was born at Logelbach, Wintzenheim June 21, 1843, and died at Merrimac, Henry County, Iowa April 3, 1915. On Oct. 18, 1850 she married Jacob Christner. He was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania June 20, 1836, and died in Henry County March 6, 1904, a son of Peter Christner and Veronica/Fanny Baur. They lived at Wayne, Henry County. They are buried in Sugar Creek Cemetery at Wayland, Henry County.
g. Chrétien Egli was born at Logelbach, Wintzenheim April 10, 1845. One witness was Jean Egile, 31. Chrétien’s death there was recorded April 13, 1845.
h. Marie/Mary Egli was born at Wayne, Waterloo County, Ontario June 17, 1848, and died at Woodburn, Oregon Aug. 4, 1918. On Nov. 29, 1866 at Trenton, Henry County she married Joseph Roth. He was born Oct. 14, 1840 [October of 1841 on the 1900 census], and died in Henry County May 11, 1917, a daughter of Joseph Roth and Elisabeth Röss. The 1900 census of Trenton, Henry County has farmer Jacob Egli, 57, born in Germany [Alsace was occupied by Prussia 1870-1918] in June 1843, immigrated in 1854 [from Canada]; Barbary, 58, born in Germany in October 1841; and four grown children. The 1910 census of Trenton said Barbara immigrated in 1851. They are buried in Green Mound Cemetery in Henry County.
i. Christian Egli was born at Wayne, Waterloo County, Ontario Aug. 15, 1850, and died at Trenton Nov. 8, 1930. On Aug. 15, 1876 in Henry County he married Emeline/Amelia E. Roth. She was born in Iowa March 28, 1859, and died at Trenton Aug. 12, 1943, a daughter of Michel/Michael Roth and Anna...
Goldschmidt/Nancy Goldsmith. Her family is found on the 1860 census of Trenton as farmer Michl. Roth, 24, Ohio; Nancy, 19, Ohio; Emeline, 1, Iowa; and laborer Benj. Gardner, 21, W. Canada. The 1910 census of Trenton has farmer Christ Egli, 59, Germany, immigrated in 1854 [from Canada]; Emelia, 51, born in Iowa to parents form Ohio; and Nina E., 13, Iowa; on the same page as older brother Jacob Egli. They are buried in Green Mound Cemetery in Henry County.

j. John Egli was born at Toronto, Ontario Dec. 4, 1852, and died at Hubbard, Oregon July 8, 1924. On Nov. 20, 1879 he married Magdalena Rich. She was born at Wayland, Henry County Dec. 18, 1858, and died at Aurora, Oregon Jan. 15, 1926, a daughter of Joseph Rich and Anna Maria/Mary Wenger. They relocated from Iowa to Oregon in 1897. They are buried in Zion Mennonite Cemetery at Ninety-One, Clackamas County, Oregon.

4. Catherine Egli was born March 10, 1812.
5. Anne Egli was born May 16, 1814, and died at Eckbolsheim June 6, 1814.

On Jan. 21, 1815 at Eckbolsheim Johannes/Hans/John remarried to Maria Geisert (also found as Geisett). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a cultivator living at Eckbolsheim, the widower of Catherine Miller, and a son of the deceased Chretien Egli and Véronique Ernst. The bride was Maria Geisert, born at Freistatt, Baden Jan. 27, 1782, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Georges Geisert who had died at Freistett Jan. 20, 1811, and Marie Bernert, who was present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Jean Rothacker, 52, of Lingolsheim.453

In 1817 Jean was working as a laborer at Niederbronn. In 1819 he was a cultivator on the Fleckensteinhof farm at Lembach, Lower Alsace. From 1821 until the summer of 1823 they lived on the Mantelhof estate at Uberauchen, Baden. According to Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, the wife of the estate manager there was Maria’s sister Magdalena Geisert.

In 1823 they relocated to Strasbourg. Johannes/John died there Feb. 28, 1852, and his civil death entry was created March 1. It described him as a 71-year-old cultivator, gave his birthplace as Freistett, and named his father and two wives. His place of death was Quartier Bleu No. 2 at La Robertsau.

Children of Johannes/John Egli and his second wife Maria Geisert include:

6. Marie Madeleine Egli was born at Eckbolsheim ‘Christian Suter’ signed a naturalization Declaration of Intent in Tazewell County in 1848. 1806. Her civil birth entry identified her mother as Marie Geisert.
7. Anne Marie Egli was born at Niederbronn (now Niederbronn-lès-Bains), Lower Alsace May 6, 1817, and died at Strasbourg April 4, 1888. Her civil birth entry described her parents as laborer Jean Egli, 35, a resident of la cense de Reisacker, and Marie Geisert. On Oct. 15, 1859 at Strasbourg she married widower Georges Schwing. Her first wife Madeleine Selden had died at La Robertsau in 1858. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as someone born at La Robertsau, Strasbourg Feb. 17, 1812, a son of the deceased Georges Schwing and the deceased Christine Bada. The bride was described as servant Anne Marie Egli, born at Niederbronn May 6, 1817, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Jean Egli, who had died at La Robertsau Deb. 28, 1852, and Marie Geisert, a resident of La Robertsau who was present and consenting. Anne Marie was a widow at the time of her death.
8. Barbe Egli was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace Oct. 13, 1819, and died at Uberauchen, Baden Aug. 9, 1823. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator Jean Egli de la cense de Fleckstein (the Fleckensteinhof farm at Lembach), 38, and Marie Geisert.
9. Johannes/John/Egli was born June 16, 1821. Some sources say he was born at Eisingen, Baden (below Hochberg), but according to Duane L. Egel, descendant Mark Egli found an entry in Catholic records at Kirchdorf, Baden, serving adjacent Uberauchen. It described his birth on the Mantelhof at Uberauchen. He died at Hopedale Dec. 11, 1907. He immigrated with his brother Benjamin and half-brother Jacques/Jacob in 1847 (see Benjamin’s information). The three initially settled in Oxford County, Ontario. On Feb. 10, 1850 in Ontario he married Magdalena Gascho. She is described in the Karlskron Familienbuch as someone who was born at Probfeld, Bavaria Aug. 28, 1827, and died in 1829, a daughter of Joseph Gascho and Magdalena Ingold. However, her headstone at Hopedale says she was born June 24, 1826 (see GASCHO for background on her family). They settled in East Zorra, where they attended the Blake Mennonite Church. In 1861 John was ordained as a minister for an Amish Mennonite congregation at Zurich, Hay County, Ontario. In the fall of 1867 they relocated to Tazewell County, purchasing a property in 1870. The 1880 census of Boynton has farmer John Egli, 58, France; Magdalina, 54, Bavaria; Christian, 51, born in Iowa to parents from Ohio; and Nina E., 13, Iowa; on the same page as older brother Jacob Egli. They are buried in Green Mound Cemetery in Henry County.

1. It described him as a 71-year-old cultivator, gave his birthplace as Freistett, and named his father and two wives. His place of death was Quartier Bleu No. 2 at La Robertsau.
3. Johannes/Jean/Hans Rothacker married Catherine Augspurger at Strasbourg Oct. 3, 1796. On their civil marriage entry the groom was described as cultivator Jean Rothacker, 24, who was born at Beblenheim, Upper Alsace May 9, 1772, a son of cultivator David Rothacker and the deceased Barbe Witner. He had been a resident of Strasbourg for five years. The bride was described as cultivator Catherine Augspurger, 24, who was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace March 4, 1772, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Noé Augspurger and the deceased Julienne Doebler. She was accompanied by her brother, cultivator Noé Augspurger, 38. The groom signed Johannes Rothacker, the bride augsburger.

There was another Johannes Rothacker who lived at Lingolsheim, presumably a cousin to this one. He was born circa 1759, a son of Christian Rothacker and Anna Rüpp. On Feb. 14, 1797 at Lingolsheim he married Barbara Littwiler. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Johannes Rothacker, 36, a son of Christian Rothacker and Anna Rübin [Rüpp]. The bride was described as Barbara Littwiler, 23, a daughter of Samuel Littwiler and Barbara Rübin [Rüpp]. One witness was plowman David Rothacker, 62, of Strasbourg [presumably the uncle of the groom].
20, Canada; Benjamin, 19, Canada; Jacob, 17, Canada; Fanny, 15, Canada; Anna, 12, Illinois; Magdalena, 8, Illinois; and Mary, 6, Illinois. They partially relocated to remote Offerle, Kansas 1886-88, while retaining their Illinois property. We could not determine the reason for this temporary move; Offerle’s present population is less than 200. After their return John served as a minister in the Hopedale Amish Mennonite Church until his death. The 1900 census of Hittle shows John Egli, 79, born in France in June of 1820, immigrated in 1870 [to America from Canada]; Magdalena, 74, born in Germany in June of 1826; immigrated in 1870. They are found on the same page as the households of sons Chris and Joseph. John attended the Dienerversammlungen assemblies of Amish Mennonite ministers in 1871, 1872, 1875, and 1878. Magdalena died at Minier April 8, 1902, and John at Hopedale Dec. 11, 1907. They are buried under a joint headstone in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Herald of Truth, December 1907: “On Dec. 11, 1907, near Hopedale, Ill., Pre. John Egli; after an illness of two weeks with stomach trouble; aged 86 y., 5 m., 24 d. He is survived by 10 children, 76 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren. He was a minister in the Amish Mennonite church for 46 years. He was a faithful laborer in the Lord's vineyard and was ready and willing to go when the Lord called him home. Funeral was held Dec. 13 by J. E. Birky at the home, P. Sommer, S. Garber and P. D. Schertz at the A. M. church near Hopedale, Ill.” Gospel Witness, January 1908: “Pre. John Egli was born in Baden, Germany, June 16, 1821. One year later his family moved to Strasburg, Alsace, where he grew to manhood. He came to America in 1837 [1847], settling in Huron Co., Ontario, Canada. He was married to Magdalena Gascho in 1850, with whom he lived happily until her death in 1902. In 1867 they came to Illinois. In 1886 they went to Offerle, Kans., coming back in 1888 to their home five miles southwest of Minier, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom survive, six sons and four daughters, also 76 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at the A.M. church south of Hopedale, with the sermon by Samuel Garber of Metamora, III. The deceased was a member of the Mennonite Church for 79 years and for 46 years a minister. He was loved and respected by all. He died Dec. 11, at the age of 86 y., 5 m., 24 d.” Their children include:

a. Joseph Egli was born at Zurich, Huron County, Ontario Feb. 2, 1852, and died at Manson, Iowa Oct. 10, 1915. On Jan. 29, 1874 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Sutter. She was born at Hopedale Aug. 31, 1851, and died at Minier April 2, 1885, a daughter of Christian Sutter and Magdalena Nafziger; she is buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery. On Jan. 3, 1886 in Tazewell County Joseph remarried to Mary Birky. She was born at Morton Aug. 13, 1860, and died at Manson, Iowa March 2, 1926, a daughter of Christian Birky and Catherine Mosiman. The Tazewell County Register of Marriages contains information from their marriage license entered Dec. 28, 1885. It describes him as 33, born in Canada and a resident of Hittle, and a son of John Egli and Anna Gascho. It was his second marriage. The bride was described as Mary Birky, 26, born at Morton and a resident of Hopedale, a daughter of Christian Birky and Anna Moseman in her first marriage. The ceremony took place in the Amish Mennonite Church of Hopedale. Witnesses included Joseph Springer, Andrew Nafziger, and Christian Nafziger. Gospel Herald, November 1915: “Joseph Egli was born in Huron Co., Canada, Feb. 2, 1852; died Oct. 10, 1915 at his home in Manson, la.; aged 63 y. 9 m. 10 d. He united with the Mennonite Church at the age of eighteen; was ordained to the ministry in 1891, in which capacity he labored faithfully till called to higher service. He was married to Sister Barbara Sutter at Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 29, 1874. To this union were born one son and four daughters, of whom one daughter died in infancy. His companion died April 2, 1885. On Jan. 2, 1886, he was married to Sister Mary Birkey of Hopedale, Ill. To this union were born three sons and four daughters. He leaves his companion, 11 children, 39 grandchildren, five brothers, four sisters, and a large circle of friends to mourn his departure. He moved to Manson, Iowa from Hopedale, Ill. five years ago. Funeral was held Tuesday, Oct. 12, from the Mennonite Church where often his voice had been heard in earnest, loving, effective service. There was an unusually large attendance, the church being filled with friends from all denominations, showing the confidence and esteem in which the brother was held in the community, and the sympathy held for his bereaved family. Bro. E. J. Berkey of Waynesboro, Va., conducted the services, taking for his text Amos 4:12. Interment was made in Rose Hill Cemetery. Bro. Egli was a friend to all and will be greatly missed in the home, the church, and the community.”

b. Andrew Egli was born at Zurich Dec. 2, 1856, and died at Kouts, Indiana Dec. 16, 1933. He is buried in Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery at Kouts.

c. John Egli was born at Zurich April 20, 1859, and died at Manson, Iowa Feb. 26, 1934. On Jan. 23, 1890 in Tazewell County he married Anna Riggenbach. She was born at Allentown Jan. 10, 1869, and died at Manson April 29, 1959. They relocated to Manson, Iowa in 1913. They later lived in Oklahoma for three years, but returned to Manson. Gospel Herald, March 1934: “John, son of John and Magdalene (Gascho) Egli, was born in Zurich, Ont., on April 20, 1859. In the fall of 1867 he, with his parents moved to Tazewell Co., Ill., where he grew to manhood. On Jan. 23, 1890, he was united in marriage with Anna Riggenbach of Allentown. To this union were born seven sons and three daughters. In 1913 he moved his family to Iowa where he has since resided, except for three years which were spent in Oklahoma. He passed away at his home in Manson, Iowa on Feb. 26, 1934, aged 75 y., 10m., 6 d. He enjoyed unusually good health until Dec. 21, 1932, when he suffered a slight stroke of paralysis, after which he never regained his usual health; suffering much distress and discomfort he never completed,
and always said: “Lord, Thy will be done.” He was a devoted father, deeply interested in his family and was always happy to have them all gather around him, especially in trying times… Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery.”

d. Christian Egli was born at Zurich March 3, 1860, and died at Kouts, Indiana Aug. 22, 1944. On Feb. 19, 1888 in McLean County he married Veronica ‘Fannie B.’ Augsburger. She was born at Groveland Oct. 8, 1869, and died at Kouts Dec. 7, 1947, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steimman. Christian and Fannie are found on the 1900 census of Hittle as farmer Chris Egli, born in Canada in January 1860 to German parents, immigrated in 1870; Fannie B., born in Illinois in October 1869 to German parents; and two children born in Illinois. The 1920 census of Porter County, Indiana shows their household as Chris Egli, 59; Canada; Fannie Egli, 50; and Andrew Egli, 63. They are buried in Hopewell Mennonite Cemetery at Kouts, Indiana as ‘Chris Egli’ and ‘Fannie Egli.’

e. Benjamin Egli was born at Zurich June 6, 1861, and died at Manson, Iowa March 16, 1936. On Feb. 6, 1887 in Tazewell County he married Adelia Reinhardt. She was born Dec. 16, 1865, and died at Manson May 25, 1939. Gospel Herald, April 1936: “Benjamin, son of John and Magdalene (Gascho) Egli, was born in Zurich, Ont., June 6, 1861; died March 16, 1936; aged 74 y. 9 m. 10 d. In the fall of 1867 he with his parents moved to Tazewell Co., Ill, where he grew to manhood. On Feb. 6, 1887 he was married to Adelia Reinhardt. To this union 10 children were born; two sons (Albert and Allen) preceded her in death. He settled on a farm near Minier, Ill., where he lived for six years. He then moved to Champaign Co., Ill., where he lived for 14 years. On Jan. 24, 1907, he moved to Iowa and settled on a farm near Pomorey. In 1927 he retired and moved to Manson, where he lived until his death…. Three brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.” They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery at Manson.

f. Jacob Egli was born at Zurich Jan. 26, 1863, and died at Bloomington, McLean County March 15, 1946. On Oct. 13, 1885 he married Susan Sutter. She was born in Tazewell County Jan. 19, 1866, and died at Hopedale Sept. 9, 1926, a daughter of Christian Sutter and Magdalena Nafziger. On Feb. 19, 1928 he remarried to Barbara Litwiller. Gospel Herald, April 1946: “Jacob, son of John and Lena Egli, was born in Canada Jan. 26, 1863; peacefully fell asleep at the Mennonite Hospital, Bloomington, Ill. March 5, 1946, after a few weeks illness; aged 83 y. 1 m. 17 d. He came to Illinois at about five years of age and lived in Tazewell County most of his life. On Oct. 13, 1885 he was united in marriage with Susan Sutter, who preceded him in death. Surviving are four children (Lena Litwiller, Morton, Ill.; John and Simon, Hopedale, Ill.; and Lizzie Nafzinger, Minier, Ill.), 29 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. On Feb. 19, 1928 he was united in marriage with Barbara Litwiller, who preceded him May 22, 1942. He also leaves five stepchildren (Joe, Roy, and Emery Litwiller, Delavan, Ill.; William Litwiller, Mason City, Ill.; and Alma Litwiller, of Hopedale)… Interment was made in the Hopedale Mennonite Cemetery.”

g. Fanny Egli was born at Zurich Jan. 27, 1865, and died in Tazewell County Sept. 4, 1905. On April 13, 1886 she married George Eichelberger. He was born in Germany Oct. 13, 1857, and died at Manson, Iowa Dec. 12, 1945, a son of Jacob Eichelberger and Elizabeth Birky. He immigrated in 1862. Herald of Truth, September 1905: “Fanny Egli was born Jan. 27, 1865; died Sept. 4, 1905; aged 40 Y., 7 M., 7 D. She was married to George Eichelberger, April 14, 1887. To this union were born nine children, seven sons and two daughters; one daughter died in infancy. Sister Eichelberger united with the A.M. church and lived a Christian life to her end, so we believe we need not mourn as those who have no hope. The remains were buried near Hopedale in the A.M. graveyard, Sept. 6. Sermons by Daniel Nafziger, Peter Oswald, and the writer.” George remarried to Magdalena Martin in February of 1910; she died July 1, 1919. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

h. Anna/Annie Egli was born in Tazewell County in 1868, and died in 1936. On Dec. 13, 1883 in Tazewell County she married Samuel E. Nafziger. He was born in 1862, and died in 1956, a son of Peter J. Naffziger and Magdalena Nafziger. The Tazewell County Marriage Book describes the groom as Samuel Naffziger, 21, a farmer at Hopedale who was born in Woodford County, a son of Peter J. Naffziger and Maggie Nafziger. The bride Annie Egli was a 16-year-old born at Boynton, a daughter of John Egli. The ceremony took place at Hopedale; witnesses included C. Heiser, Jacob A. Naffziger, and justice of the peace G. Black. In 1910 they were living at Arcada, Michigan. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Alma, Michigan.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Mary Egli was born at Minier June 18, 1874, and died at Pekin Feb. 19, 1939. On Dec. 9, 1894 in Tazewell County she married Henry Eichelberger. He was born at Pontiac, Livingston County June 20, 1868, and died at Pekin Jan. 19, 1939, a son of Jacob Eichelberger and Elizabeth Birky. They are found at Hittle in 1900, Hopedale in 1910, Boynton in 1920, and Cincinnati (Tazewell County) in 1930. They are buried in Lakeview Cemetery at Pekin.

10. Jacobina Egli was born at Überauchern, Baden April 1, 1823.

11. Joseph Egli was born at Strasbourg July 5, 1826, and died at Maison No. 48 Montagne Verte, Strasbourg May 26, 1827. Witnesses on his civil birth entry included Chrétien Muller, 44; and cultivator Joseph Ulrich, 27. One witness on his civil death entry was gardener [Fr. jardinier] Jacques Egli, 55, described as a neighbor [Fr. voisin] of the deceased.

12. Benjamin Egli/Egley/Egly was born at Strasbourg Aug. 27, 1830 (his headstone gives the date April 27, 1831), and died at Deer Creek Feb. 20, 1904. His civil birth entry called him Benjamin Egli, and gave his address as 48 Montagne Verte, Strasbourg. His father was 50, and his mother 48. One witness was Jacques Egli, 60.

Benjamin Egli/Egley/Egly was born at Strasbourg Aug. 27, 1830 (his headstone gives the date April 27, 1831), and died at Deer Creek Feb. 20, 1904. He sailed from Le Havre on the Caspian with half-brother Jacob Jacques Egli and brother Johannes/John Egli (later a minister at Boynton), and arrived at New York April 3, 1847. The passenger list shows Jacques Egli, 37; Barbara Ros [Röss], 30; Catherine, 9; Barbara, 7; Jacques, 31 [should have been 2]; Jacques Shirts [servant Jacques Streidt?]; 40; Jean Egli, 25; Bergman [Benjamin Egli], 16; Georg Zehr, 21; Catharina Stevan or Hevan, 28; and Catharina Schertz, 26.

The three brothers initially settled in Oxford County, Ontario. Benjamin submitted a Declaration of Intent for Naturalization at Pekin Feb. 1, 1856. It described him as a 25-year-old from France who had arrived in 1847. He owed allegiance to Louis Napoleon.

On Feb. 7, 1856 in Tazewell County he married widow Magdalena ‘Lena’ Stecker/Staker; the ceremony was performed by minister Michael Mosiman.

Magdalena was born at Hellering, Moselle (adjacent to St. Avold) April 4, 1832, a daughter of Christian Farny or Stecker/Staker and Magdalena Gabriel. Her civil birth entry was created at adjacent Hombourg-Haut the following day; it described her parents as miller Christiane Stecker, 31, and Madeleine Gabriel, 28, residents of Hellering. See STAKER for background on her parents and immigration.

Magdalena was first married to tailor Lewis Schafer, who died circa 1855. She brought one child to this second marriage, and he became Benjamin’s stepson. John E. Schafer was born in Butler County, Ohio Dec. 2, 1850.

The 1860 census of Groveland has farmer Benj. Egley, 29, France; Magdalen, 30, France; John [Schafer], 9, Ohio; and laborer Caspar Benferth, 21, Hanover.

The family appears on the 1870 census of Deer Creek as farmer Benjamin Egley, 40, France; Magdalena, 38, France; farm laborer John [Schafer], 19, Ohio; and farm laborer Henry Switzer, 23, Virginia.

On Dec. 24, 1872 in McLean County John married Mary E. Strubbar; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.

Mary was born at Stout's Grove, McLean County Sept. 15, 1853, a daughter of Valentin/Valentine Strubbar and Barbara Guingrich (see STRUBBHR in the Appendix for background on her family).

The 1880 census of Deer Creek shows farmer Benjamin Egley, 50, and Magdalena, 48. He gave the birthplace of his parents as Alsace, while she gave Lorraine for hers; others in their household include servant James Chad, 10, Illinois; servant and farm laborer Gottlieb Habb, Switzerland; and domestic servant Jacobina Ayrsman [Ehrisman], 52, Germany. Their next door neighbor was their son, whose household is found as farmer John Shaffer, 29, born in Ohio to parents from Prussia [Moselle was occupied by Germany 1870-1918]; Mary [Strubbar], 28, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; Magdalena, 3, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Illinois; and Barbara, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Illinois. The household listed on the census before the Shaffers was that of Bartholomew Zook and Barbara (Magdalena’s older sister Barbara Stecker/Staker).

Around this time Benjamin had his photograph taken by Henry Hobart Cole (1833-1925) of Pekin. Cole was the professional who created numerous portrait images of Abraham Lincoln during his 1857 senatorial campaign; a number can be seen in scrapbooks at the Metamora Courthouse and the Pekin Public Library. Benjamin’s image was one of 1,500 found in the basement of the old Tazewell County Courthouse before it was destroyed in 1914. A copy can be obtained by ordering from the Tazewell County Notable Men Photo List on www.tcghs.org.
On the 1900 census of Deer Creek, Benjamin Egly is a 68-year-old farmer born in 1831, and Magdalena is his 68-year-old wife born in 1831; a 15-year-old grandson Louis Schaffer lived with them. That census also confirms that Benjamin and Magdalena both came to America in 1847.

They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery in Montgomery, Woodford County as 'Benjamin Egly' and 'Lena Steckerr.' Her date of death was not inscribed on their joint headstone.

The 1910 census of Deer Creek shows dairy farmer John E. Shafer, 59, 37 years of marriage, born in Ohio to a German father and a French mother; Mary E. [Strubhar], 56, born in Illinois to French parents; and Ruth M., 18, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio and Illinois.

John died at Deer Creek March 17, 1912, and Mary died there Feb. 21, 1913. They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek as "John E. Schafer, 1850-1912" and "Mary E. his wife, 1853-1913."

**Henry Egly**

Recall from STAKER the story of Berne, Indiana minister Henry Egly and the Egly Amish/Defenseless Mennonite congregations.

Two distinct families are listed on the Seelen Tabell 1792, a page found in the records of the Evangelische church at Wimsheim, Württemberg.

According to some sources, the two heads of family were sons of Martin Egle [Egli], born circa 1720, and Magdalena Kaufmann, born at Steffisburg, Canton Bern May 30, 1723.

- 'Anabaptista' on the Obermönsheimerhof: Martin Egli and his wife Elisabetha Kaufmann, parents of Abraham, Barbara, Nicolai, Anna, Veronika (she married Johannes Ehrismann), Magdalena, and Johan.

- 'Anabaptista' on the Lärchenhof: Jakob Egli and his wife Magdalena [Eyer], parents of Elisabetha, Jakobina, Heinrich (he married Jakobina Ehrismann), Magdalena, Jakobina, Barbara, and one illegible.

Jakob Egli and Magdalena had at least eight more children after 1792. They included Abraham Egle. He was born April 26, 1797, and died at Geneva, Indiana Sept. 9, 1872.

In March 1819 at Hagnau am Bodensee he married Magdalena Reber. She was born at Schangnau or Lützelflüh, Canton Bern Oct. 31, 1802, and died in 1834, a daughter of Christian Reber and Maria Zaugg.

Their son Heinrich/Henry Egle was born on the Lärchenhof farm April 5, 1824. The packet ship Utica sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York City July 29, 1837. The passenger list shows widower Abraham Egle, 40, and his children Elizabeth, 16, and Heinrich, 12. They went to Cincinnati, Ohio, then settled in adjacent Butler County in 1839.

Heinrich was baptized there in 1841. In 1850 Heinrich/Henry moved to Berne, Indiana, and became better known as Henry Egly. He became a deacon in 1850, a minister in 1854, and elder in 1858.

He later attributed his strong faith to the ordeal of a prolonged illness in 1853.

Heinrich/Henry Egly died June 23, 1890, and is buried at Geneva, Indiana.
Recall from STAKER that Stücker comes from the root 'Stück.' It is pronounced with an initial 'sht' sound, rhyming with the English 'cooker.' In the Bernese dialect 'Stück' is related to wood. The surname Stücker describes someone who removes trees to clear fields for planting. The diminutive or affectionate form of the surname Stücki, which has been interpreted to describe small wood, such as a twig or a branch, but also describes a wood gatherer. Stücker became Stecker in Lorraine, then Staker in America. Stücki became Stucky to French speakers and Stuckey to English speakers.

The Heimatorte or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights for the surname Stücki are Wimmis, Oberdiessbach, and Diemtigen.

The family groupings we will look at came from Upper Alsace. There is a passdown story that the many Anabaptist Stucky families there originated from a core family. It is supposed to have departed from Diemtigen in 1706.

Diemtigen is a village and expansive district, inland from the western shore of Lake Thun. The Protestant Reformed Church there has records with so many entries for Stückis that it is impossible to determine who the 'core' might have been, or even if the story is valid.

All the European locations on the remainder of this page are in Upper Alsace within a 27-mile proximity.

Jacob Stucky/Jacques Stocky (he signed his own name Jacob Stücky) was born circa 1763, and died at Froeningen Jan. 26, 1828.

Circa 1800 he married Marie Roth. She was born circa 1775, and died at Staffelfelden Nov. 20, 1819.

Marie’s civil death entry said she was 44 years of age, born sur la coure sur la peis Nimbelgarth. It was witnessed by her husband Jaque Stucky, 54, a resident of Staffelfelden. He signed Jacob Stücky.

Jacob/Jacques’s civil death entry described him as Jaque Stocky, 65, a servant for Jean Roth, whose home he had died in. He was the widower of the deceased Anne Marie Roth. One witness was Jean Roth, whose age was Jean Roth, 39.

Their children include:

1. Verena Stucky was born at Feldbach Dec. 14, 1802. Her father signed the entry Jacob Stücky.
2. Chrétien/Christian Stucky was born at Feldbach March 2, 1805. He married Barbe Roth. She was born circa 1805, and died at Waltenheim Dec. 21, 1853. On Sept. 23, 1859 at Réchesy he remarried to Anna Sommer. She was born at Schweighouse-Thann Dec. 22, 1802, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Anna Maria Schwari. She was the widow of Daniel Sutter, who had died in 1853.
3. Benoit Stocky/Benedict Stucky was born at Luemschwiller (11 miles south of Feldbach) Aug. 5, 1808. His civil birth entry described his father as an anabaptiste. One witness was anabaptiste weaver Michel Roth, 40.

Benoit Stocky/Benedict Stucky was born at Luemschwiller, Upper Alsace Aug. 5, 1808.

On March 30, 1830 at Hirtzbach he married Elisabeth Liechti. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as valet and laborer Benoit Stucky, 22, a resident of Altkirch. He was born at Luemschwiller, a son of the deceased Jacques Stucky, who had died at Froeningen, and Marie Roth, a cultivator who had died at Staffelfelden. The bride was described as day laborer Elisabeth Liechti, 35, a resident of Hirtzbach. She was born at Friesen, a daughter of farmer Nicolas Liechti, a farmer at Hirtzbach who was present and consenting; and the deceased Barbe Joder, who had lived at Heimsbrunn. She was the widow of Pierre Kauffmann, a farmer who had died at Heimsbrunn March 27, 1827.

Elisabeth had married her first husband Pierre Kauffmann at Hirtzbach Nov. 30, 1810. That entry had also omitted her birthday, giving the age 20, yielding a birth year 1790. At the time her parents were living at Barthlen Hutten, Largitzen, a location associated with the Ropp family.

Elisabeth brought to her second marriage a son Joseph Kauffmann, born at Heimsbrunn Nov. 25, 1826. Joseph’s civil birth entry erroneously described his parents as farmer Pierre Kauffmann, 44, and Elisabeth Eichly. Father, mother, and son Joseph chose to emigrate from Europe. Accompanying them would be Pierre/Peter Kauffman, a nephew to Elisabeth. He was born at Hirtzbach March 20, 1823, a son of cultivator Jean Jacques Kauffmann, 40, and Cecile Diebolt.

They departed from Le Havre on the France, and arrived at New York July 12, 1833.

THE FRANCE PASSENGER LIST

Page 2 lists Jacob Augspurger, 18, France. Farther down the page is a family that would be residents of Wayne County, Ohio: Christian Schantz, 46, France; Catharine [Roggi], 40; Magdelina, 19; Christian, 19; Christian, 16; Peter, 14; Peter, 14; Elizabeth, 11; Jacob, 8; and Barbara Summer [Sommer], 21.
On page 5 is a couple that would be residents of Spring Bay, Woodford County in 1850: Benedict Stucky, 25, France; Elizabeth [Elisabeth Liechti], 40; Peter [Pierre Kauffman, Elisabeth’s nephew], 10; and Joseph, 5 [a son from Elisabeth’s first marriage to Pierre Kauffman].

Farther down that page is a family that would be residents of Butler County, Ohio, and Elm Grove: carpenter Peter Ulrich, 30, France [actually Jacob Berse, who would later be known as Isaac Wagler]; Catharine [Catherine Ulrich, his wife and cousin], 33; and Peter, 2 [Peter Jacob Berse]. One line later Catherine’s parents Peter Ulrich, 60, France, and Catharine Lowbers [Lauber], 55.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows farmer Benedict Stokey, 42, France; and Elisabeth, 42, France – though she may have been as much as 18 years older. The neighbors listed around them indicate that they were living in what became Spring Bay: John Belsey on the page before; Christian Ash, Andrew Eversall, Peter Garber, and Daniel Orendorff on the same page.

The records end there. Did they die soon after the census? Or from an epidemic? (See STEIDER for background on the cholera epidemics of 1848-49, and SMITH for background on the Asiatic cholera epidemic that peaked in Woodford County in July and August of 1855). Were they buried under perishable wooden markers in Belsley-Camp Cemetery at Spring Bay?

Late Arrival Stuckys

This portion of text is an answer to a query about the Stucky burials in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland, and Gridley Cemetery in McLean County.

Recall from ROPP that minister Benedict ‘Benz’ Stücki/Stucky was born circa 1716, and died at Ostheim March 19, 1793. He lived on the Schoppenwihr estate at Ostheim (now an arboretum five miles northeast of Sigolsheim), though at least one of his children was born at Bennwihr. He signed his own name ‘Bend Stücky.’

His civil death entry created at Ostheim March 20, 1793 said that he had died the day before, age 77 (thus born circa 1716). It identified his wife as Anna Maria Neuhaüser. Witnesses included his son Niclaŭs Stücki, 37 (thus born circa 1756); Johannes Ris, 20; and Johann Conrath [Conrad].

His wife Anna Maria Neuhaüser was born circa 1725, and died at Ostheim Aug. 26, 1794. Her civil death entry called her Anna Maria Stucky (rather than Neuhaüser), which might have caused confusion, but one of the witnesses was described as her son Niclaŭs Stücky, 38, a plowman on Schoppenwýer. The other witness was Johannes Riss, 30.

Nicolas Stückי/Stücký was born before 1724, and died Dec. 22, 1785. He may have been a younger brother to Benedict. He married Marie Haldimann, and they are thought to have had at least four children. He remarried to Madeleine Zenter, and they are thought to have had at least three children (all seven have been identified by the French genealogist Jean François Lorentz).

Mathias Stücky was born to the first marriage on Schoppenwihr farm in 1744, and died on St. Apollinaire farm at Michelbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace at age 63 on Jan. 11, 1808. His civil death entry called him ‘Mathié Stocky Anabaptiste’ in the margin, and said that he had died in the home of Madam Preiswerd at St. Apollinaire [farm]. It was witnessed by his son Mathie Stoky, 32; he signed Mathis Stucky.

Circa 1770 he married Elisabeth Schwartz. She was born at Walbach, Upper Alsace circa 1736, and died on St. Apollinaire farm May 5, 1801, a daughter of Johannes Schwartz and Anna Kropf. Her civil death entry described her as Elisabett Schwartzin, 65, identifying her birthplace and parents.

Children of Mathias Stücky and his first wife Elisabeth Schwartz include:

1. Elisabeth/Lisette Stücky was born circa 1770, and died at Altkirch, Upper Alsace March 26, 1828. On Feb. 26, 1797 at Walbach she married Johannes/Jean Roth. He was born circa 1772, and died at Illzach Dec. 10, 1814, a son of Johannes/Jean Roth and Anna Maria Stücky. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as plowman Johannes Roth, 24, a son of Johannes Roth and Anna Maria Stücky. His place of birth was illegible. The bride was described as Elisabetha Stücky, 26, a daughter of plowman Mathias Stücky, 56, and Elisabetha Swartz, 52. Witnesses included Christian Roth, 28, of Altkirch; and plowman Christian Stucky, 30, of Dillwiller. Johannes/Jean’s civil death entry said he was cultivator Jean Roth, 42, a son of the deceased Jean Roth and the deceased Marie Stockey. He died in his home at Modenheim, an annex of Illzach. It was witnessed by Pierre Tschantz, 36, who signed Petter Tschantz. Elisabeth’s civil death entry described her as Elisabete Stücky, 57, the widow of Jean Roth, who had been a cultivator at Modenheim. Her parents were the deceased Mathias Stocky and the deceased Elisabeth Schwartz, who had been residents of St. Apollinaire. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Stucky, 46, a resident of Altkirch (presumably her brother, whose true birth year is difficult to determine).

2. Anne Marie Stücky was born at Walbach in 1775, and died at St. Louis, Upper Alsace Sept. 26, 1851. She married Jacob/Jacques Zimmerman. He was born on the Hochburg estate between Sexau and Emmendingen, Baden-Durlach
circa 1777, and died at St. Louis, Upper Alsace Sept. 27, 1804, a son of Jacob Zimmerman and Barbara Schneider. On Dec. 16, 1806 at St. Louis Anne Marie remarried to Christian Eicher. He was born in 1773, and died at St. Louis June 12, 1833. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Chretien Eichter, age 33 years, one month, and 25 days. He was born at Audincourt, Porrentuy [at the time it was part of Upper Alsace, but is now in the department of Doubs], a son of Joseph Eicher and Anne Lehman, who were present. He was the widower of Anne Lugbul [Luginbühl], with whom he had lived at Tagolsheim, Upper Alsace. The bride was described as farmer Anne Marie Stucki, age 30 years, 10 months. She was born at Walbach, a daughter of Mathias Stucky and the deceased Elisabeth Schwartz. She was the widow of Jacques Zimmerman of Michelfelden, and a resident of Obermichelbach [Michelbach-le-Haut]. She was accompanied by her father. Witnesses included farmer Jacques Eicher, 50, a second cousin and resident of Aspach; Chretien Lugbuhl, 51, a cousin and resident of Altkirch; farmer Jean Roth, 33, a brother-in-law and resident of Eguisheim; and Jean Stucky, 30, brother-of-the-bride and resident of Bourg Libre [Strasbourg]. The bride signed Marie Stucki. They had five children at St. Louis between 1808 and 1820.

3. Christian Stucky was born at Walbach circa 1777, and died at Reiningue, Upper Alsace Jan. 21, 1847. On Jan. 5, 1818 at Pulversheim he married Anna Maria Roth (as she signed her own name). She was born in 1797, and died at Hegenscheid Sept. 7, 1820, a daughter of Christian Roth and Barbara Schürch. Their frequently-misspelled civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christiane Stoky, 30, a resident of Altkirgh. He was the son of Mathae Stoky, who had died Jan. 11, 1808 at age 63; and Elisabetha Schwarz, who had died at age 60. The bride was Marria Roth, 29, a daughter of Christiane Roth, 50, an Anneabastiste and miller at Pulversheim, and the deceased Barbe Scherk, who had died Oct. 6, 1808. She was accompanied by her father. Witnesses included cultivator Jacobe Rhot, 52, of Ensesselheim [Jacob Roth of Ensisheim]. On July 9, 1821 at Bitschwiller-lès-Than, Upper Alsace he remarried to Madelaine Sommer. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Christien Stuky, 44, a resident of Hegenscheid. He was a son of Mathei Stuki and Elisabetha Schwartz. The bride was Madelaine Sommer. She was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines 6 germinal 6, a daughter of Jean Sommer, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Goldschmitt, who had died in January of 1817. Witnesses included Christian Goldschmitt, 46; cultivator Jacques Goldschmitt, 35; cultivator Christien Rothe, 55; and cultivator Jacque Roth, 23, all residents of Bollwiller.

4. Anne Stucky (also found as Anne Marie Stocky) was born at Walbach July 24, 1778, and died at Blotzheim Feb. 19, 1841. On Feb. 24, 1805 at Michelbach-le-Haut she married Johannes/Jean Freyenberger. He was born at St. Jacques (also called St. Jakob farm) near the city of Basel Oct. 7, 1779, and died at Blotzheim Feb. 28, 1856, a son of Johannes Freyenberger and Anne Marie Neuhauser. See FREYENBERG in the Appendix for background on this couple.

5. Johannes/Jean Stucky was born at Walbach in 1779, and died at Altkirch July 13, 1831. He was living at Strasbourg in 1806. On Dec. 12, 1813 at Altkirch he married Catherine Lugnbehl [Luginbühl] Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Stucky, 42, a six-month resident of Altkirch. He was a son of the deceased Mathias Stucky and the deceased Elisabeth Schwartz of Guggisberg, Canton Bern. Mathias had died Jan. 11, 1808, and Elisabeth had died May 5, 1801, both at Obermichelbach [Michelbach-le-Haut]. The bride was described as Catherine Lugnbehl, 19, a daughter of cultivator Chretien Lugnbehl and Anne Eicher. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-bride Jean Eicher, 62, from Altkirch; cultivator Jacques Kauffman, 50, from Altkirch; and uncle-of-the-bride Jacques Eicher, 57, a farmer at Aspach. Catherine was born at Étupes, Doubs in 1794, and died at Altkirch Dec. 7, 1829. On June 1, 1831 at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace he remarried to Marie Anne Liechti. She was born at Bettendorf, Upper Alsace Jan. 19, 1797, a daughter of Jacob Liechti and Barbe Joder. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Stockey, 52, a farmer for Monsieur Pfeiger at Altkirch. He was born at Walbach in 1779. He was a son of the deceased Mathias Stucky, who had been a farmer for Madame Breiswarth at St. Apollinaire, Obermichelbach [Michelbach-le-Haut], and Elisabethe Schwartz, who had died at St. Apollinaire. He was the widower of Chretien Lugnbehl, who had died Dec. 7, 1829. The bride was described as Marie Liechty, 34, a resident of Hirsingue. She was born at Bettendorf Jan. 19, 1797, a daughter of cultivator Jacques Liechti and the deceased Barbe Joder, who had died at Traubach-le-Bas, Upper Alsace Feb. 21, 1807. Witnesses included farmer Chrétien Lugnbehl of Altkirch, 75, who was the father-in-law of the groom; and cultivator Jacques Joder of Altkirk, 52, a brother-in-law.

On May 24, 1802 at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Mathias remarried to 19-year-old Anna Maria Boshart. Anne Maria was born March 22, 1783, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Boshart and Anne Marie Müller. Their civil marriage entry described him as Mathias Stücki, 56, a laborer at Michelbach who was born at Schoppenweyer [Schoppenwihr farm at Ostheim]. The bride was described as Anna Maria Boshartlin, 20, born March 22, 1783, a daughter of Johannes Boshart and Anna Maria Millerin. Witnesses included plowman Jacob Hirschi, 62, of Bollwiller; plowman Joseph Jotter, 50; and Jacob Hochstätter, 46. Anna Maria signed with an ‘x,’ indicating she was illiterate. See BOSHART in the Appendix for background on her family.

Mathias and Anna Maria farmed at Michelbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace. Mathias died at Michelbach-le-Haut Jan. 11, 1808. His civil death entry describes him as Mathiö Stocky, Anabaptiste, 63, and stated that he had died in the home of Madame Preiswerd at St. Apollinaire. It was witnessed by his son Mathiö Stocky, 32. Children of Mathias Stücki and his second wife Anna Maria Boshart born at Michelbach-le-Haut include:
6. **Benedict Stucky** was born Jan. 7, 1805, and died at Hégenheim July 28, 1854.

7. Nicolas/Nicholas Stucky was born Dec. 14, 1806. He sailed from Le Havre on the *Burgundy*, arriving at New York April 20, 1837. (See KENNEL, THE PACKET SHIPS for an account of the gold shipment on this voyage). The passenger list shows him with his aunt Marie Eicher and her five children: Marie Eicherin, 49, France; Chretien, 18; Joseph, 16; Pierre, 14; Catherine, 12, Benois, 8, and Nicolaus Stugky, 29. Marie was the widow of Johannes/Jean/John Boshart who had died before 1834 – see BOSHART in the Appendix. They traveled to Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario, where they were initially taken in by Marie’s brother Christian Boshart. Marie died at Wilmot Feb. 15, 1850; she is buried in Old Baden Cemetery, also called Kropf Cemetery, at Baden, Waterloo County. We could not follow Nicolas/Nicholas after his arrival.

8. Barbe Stucky was born March 1, 1808, and died at Allschwil, Switzerland Dec. 2, 1842. On March 7, 1836 at Hegenheim she married Jacques Goldschmitt. He was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Dec. 17, 1808, a son of Jacques Goldschmitt and Barbe Kauffman. One witness to the ceremony was brother-of-the-bride Benoit Stucky, 31.

**Benedict Stucky** was born at Michelsbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace Jan. 7, 1805, and died at Blotzheim July 28, 1854 (though an entry was created at Hegenheim).

His civil birth entry actually described him as Benedict Stoky, a son of Mathias Stoky, a 60-year-old Anabaptist peasant [Fr. *paysan Annabaptiste*] residing at St. Appollinaire. He would also be known as Bendicht or Benoit.

On May 26, 1834 at Hégenheim, Upper Alsace he married Véronique/Verène/Verena Rich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer/farmhand Benoit Stucki, a resident of Hégenheim who was born at St. Appollinaire, Michelsbach-le-Haut Jan. 17, 1805. He was a son of the deceased farmer Mathias Stucki of St. Appollinaire, and Marie Bosert, a farmer at Hégenheim who was present and consenting. The bride was Véronique Rich, a resident of Leymen, Upper Alsace who was born at St. Appollinaire, Obermichelbach March 18, 1806. She was a daughter of farmer Nicolas Rich of Bottingen [Bottingen, below the city of Basel, four miles southeast of Hégenheim] and the deceased Anne Marie Eicher, who had died at Binningen [in the district of Arlesheim below the city of Basel, above Bottingen] Feb. 20, 1829. Witnesses included Mathias Stucki, 60, a farmer at Hégenheim who was a brother of the groom; Pierre Rich, 24, a farmer at Liebsdorf, Upper Alsace who was a cousin to the bride; and day laborer Jean Müller, 42. Signatures looked like (old style German 'e' looking like an 'n') Bnnndicht Stŭckÿ, Verena Rich, Peter Rich, and Müller.

Benoit’s civil death entry created at Hegenheim described him as cultivator Benoit Stucky, 48, born at Obermichelbach, the husband of Véronique Rich, 46. He was a son of the deceased Mathias Stucky and Anne Marie Bosshart. He had died in the home of notary Jacques Freund at Blotzheim. One witness was cultivator and brother-in-law Jacques Goldschmitt, 46, a resident of Allschwil.

Verena died at Hegenheim Dec. 16, 1870. Her civil death entry described her as farmer Vérène Rich, 60, widow of the deceased Benoit Stucky. She was born at Obermichelbach. Although one witness was her son Benoit, a 36-year-old farmer, the names of her parents were not known.

Their children born at Hégenheim include:

1. **Benoit Stucky** was born March 8, 1835.
2. Nicolas Stucky was born Jan. 4, 1837.
3. Anne Marie Stuckey was born Sept. 29, 1838. On Feb. 3, 1868 at Hégenheim she married Pierre Schérick. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Pierre Schérick, 31, a resident of Cernay, Upper Alsace. He was born at Bourg-Bruche, Vosges Feb. 8, 1837, a son of the deceased Jean Pierre Schérick [Görig] and the deceased Marie Bacher. They had died at Bourg-Bruche on May 20, 1860 and April 1, 1864. The bride was described as Anne Marie Stucky, 29, a resident of Hégenheim. She was a daughter of the deceased farmer Benoit Stucky, who had died at Hégenheim July 28, 1854, and farmer Verène Rich, 63, who was present and consenting. Witnesses included farmer Benoit Stucky, 33; cultivator Nicolas Stucky, 30; and cultivator Joseph Stucky, 21; all three brothers of the bride. Pierre died at Bourg-Bruche Dec. 15, 1928.
4. Barbe Stucky was born Oct. 31, 1840.
5. Catherine Stucky was born Feb. 27, 1843, and died at Hégenheim March 20, 1846.
6. Madeleine Stucky was born June 27, 1845, and died before her family emigrated from Europe in 1882. Her birth was belatedly registered at Hégenheim Sept. 1, 1862, according to her civil marriage entry. On Jan. 4, 1866 at Hegenheim she married Jean Rich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Rich, 22, a resident of Munchenstein [on the southeast corner of the city of Basel], canton de Bale, who was born at St. Louis, Upper Alsace Jan. 12, 1843. He was a son of the deceased farmer Jean Rich, who had died at Munchenstein July 12, 1849, and Françoise Richard, 63, a resident of Munchenstein. The bride was Madeleine Stucky, 20, a resident of Hégenheim who was born June 27, 1845. She was a daughter of the deceased farmer Benoit Stucky, who had died...
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

July 28, 1854, and farmer Verène Rich, 60, who was present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Nicolas Stucky, 29.

7. Joseph Stucky was born Dec. 27, 1848.

**Benoit Stucky** was born at Hégenheim, Upper Alsace March 8, 1835. On Jan. 5, 1866 at Hégenheim he married Anne Maria Kauffman. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Benoit Stucky, 30, born at Hégenheim March 8, 1835. He was a son of the deceased farmer Benoit Stucky, who had died there July 28, 1854, and Verène Rich, 60, who was present and consenting. The bride was Anna Marie Kauffmann, 29, a resident of Hirsingue, Upper Alsace, who was born at Reinaich, canton de Bale March 8, 1836. She was a daughter of the deceased Jacques Kauffman, 58, and Anne Marie Rick [Reck], 60, who was present and consenting. One witness was cultivator Nicolas Stucky, 29. Anna Maria died at Hégenheim March 21, 1871.

Children of Benoit Stucky and his first wife Anna Maria Kauffman born at Hégenheim include:

1. Josephine Stucky was born July 17, 1866, and died at Peoria Dec. 16, 1939. On Nov. 8, 1885 in McLean County she married John U. Egolf. He was born at Zurich, Switzerland June 23, 1861, and died at Gridley Oct. 14, 1919. They are found on censuses of Gridley, McLean County from 1900 through 1930. In 1900: harness maker John Egolf, 34, born in Germany in June 1861; Josephine, 33, born in Germany in July 1866; Walter, 17, born in Illinois in December 1888; and Harry, 9, born in Illinois in February 1891. Her death entry named her parents as Benedect Stucky and Mary Kaufman. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

2. Joseph Stucky was born Sept. 2, 1867, and died at Gridley, McLean County July 19, 1926. On Jan. 31, 1900 at Gridley he married Anna Barbara Donner. She was born at Panola, Woodford County May 1, 1865, and died at Gridley Aug. 13, 1949, a daughter of Frederick Donner and Barbara Gingerich. They are found on the 1900 census of Gridley as farmer Joseph Stucky, 32, born in Germany in December of 1867, immigrated in 1882; and Anna B., 35, born in Illinois in May of 1865 to parents from Ohio and New York. On the 1920 census of Gridley Joseph reported that he was born in Alsace-Lorraine, and spoke German; but describing his parents, he reported that they spoke French. Anna reported that her father came from Ohio, but that her mother came from Alsace-Lorraine and spoke German. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

3. Marie/Maria Stucky was born June 9, 1869, and died at Hégenheim Sept. 13, 1869.

On Jan. 12, 1873 at Hégenheim Benoit remarried to Catherine Goldschmitt. She was born May 11, 1849, and died at Morton Jan. 1, 1929. On the civil marriage entry he was described as 37-year-old miller Benedict Stucky, the widower of Anne Maria Kauffmann, a son of the deceased Benedict Stucky and the deceased Verena Rich. The bride was Catharina Goldschmitt, 23, a daughter of Jacob Goldschmitt, 53, and Maria Zimmerman, 52, residents of Neuwiller, Upper Alsace. For background on her family see ZIMMERMAN.

They sailed from Le Havre on the ship France, and arrived at New York Dec. 15, 1882. The passenger list shows cultivator Benoit Stucky, 47; Alsace; Catharine; 33; Joseph, 17; Josephine, 16; Elisa, 1; and Lisette, 28. (This was Lisette Goldschmitt, who became the second wife of minister Daniel Roth in Tazewell County Sept. 15, 1887; see ROTH for background). They were accompanied by the family of Benoit’s brother-in-law (the husband of Madeleine Stucky, who was now a widower): cultivator Jean Rich, 40; Marie, 16; Joseph, 8; and Josephine, 7.

Benoit Stucky was buried in Gridley Cemetery in McLean County as “Benedict Stuckey, Mar. 21, 1834-Jan. 19, 1896.” The 1900 census of Morton shows Katy Stucky, 51, born in Germany in May of 1849, immigrated in 1882; Lizzie, 18, born in Germany in July of 1880; and Christian, 16, born in Illinois in October of 1883.

The 1920 census of Morton has farmer Lizzie Stucky, 39, Germany, immigrated in 1883; mother Kate, 70, Germany, immigrated in 1883; and boarder George Guengerich, 38, immigrated from ‘Byren’ [Bavaria] in 1913. Catherine Goldschmitt is buried as Katherine Stucky in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery, where her headstone gives the dates May 11, 1849-Jan. 1, 1925.

Children of Benoit Stucky and his second wife Catherine Goldschmitt include:

4. Marie Stucky was born at Hégenheim May 8 1874, and died there July 11, 1874.

5. Anna Stucky was born at Hégenheim April 23, 1875, and died there May 18, 1875.

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454 This Joseph Stucky is easily confused with another who immigrated in 1891 (per two of his census self-reports). He was born Aug. 20, 1865, and died at Groveland March 7, 1958. On Aug. 2, 1896 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Hochstettler. She was born Feb. 17, 1859, and died July 4, 1931, a daughter of Peter Hochstettler and Barbara Birky. He is found as father-in-law and widower Joseph Stucky, 74, France, on the 1940 census of Groveland; there he was living in the household of son-in-Elias E. Zimmerman and daughter Katherine. Joseph and Elizabeth are buried under a joint headstone in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
6. Jacob Stucky. His birth was not registered, but his father reported his death at Hégenheim at age 22 days on Nov. 19, 1876.
7. Catharina Stucky was born at Hégenheim Oct. 22, 1877, and died there Sept. 7, 1878.
8. Elisa/Lizzie Stucky was born at Hégenheim July 31, 1880, and died in Tazewell County July 18, 1961. On Feb. 12, 1924 in Tazewell County she married George Guengerich. He was born Feb. 14, 1882, and died May 5, 1969. They are buried under a joint headstone in Pleasant Grove Mennonite Cemetery.
Schlabach of Ostwald

Schlabach is derived from Schlapbach. In Canton Bern a Schlapbach is a boggy meadow. The Heimatorte or legal places of origin for Swiss citizenship rights for this surname are Steffisburg, Oberlangenegg, Eriz, Frutigen, Rüderswil, and Brenzikofen.

This portion of text provides background information to complete a puzzle: the identification of Jacobine Habecker, which was a mystery to her descendants for many years. She and her Schlabach first husband immigrated in 1838, they appeared on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, and he died before the spring of 1841. Neither of his children lived longer than 1850. Jacobine very soon after married Michael Ropp/Rupp of Elm Grove; recall ROPP.

Jacob/Jacques Schlabach was a resident of Ostwald, Lower Alsace.

Jacob/Jacques’ parentage may or may not be tipped off by a civil marriage entry created at Ostwald June 5, 1809. Was the groom his brother? The entry describes him as Christian Schlabach, a son of Johannes Schlabach and the deceased Anne Zenderin. The bride was Anne Marie Hundisnger, a daughter of the deceased Johannes Hundisnger and Catherine Peter Smidt.

Jacob/Jacques married Catherine Hunsinger, a resident of Windstein, Lower Alsace. Their children born at Ostwald include:

1. Johannes/Jean Schlabach was born June 18, 1803.
2. Catharina Schlabach was born Oct. 18, 1806.

Johannes/Jean Schlabach was born at Ostwald, Lower Alsace June 18, 1803.455

On Dec. 30, 1830 at Strasbourg [above Ostwald] he married Jacobine Habecker. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Schlabach, a resident of Strasbourg. His parents were the deceased Jacques Schlabach, who had died at Kirchdorf, Baden Dec. 28, 1823, and Catherine Hundisnger, a resident of Windstein, Lower Alsace who was present and consenting. The bride was Jacobine Habecker, a resident of Strasbourg who was born at Lembach [adjacent on the east side of Windstein and Niedersteinbach] July 8, 1808. She was a daughter of the deceased Jean Habecker, who had died at Lembach Sept. 26, 1815, and the deceased Catherine Schantz, who had died at Niedersteinbach Oct. 31, 1828. Witnesses included cultivator Jean Hunsinger, 46; cultivator Jean Egli, 50; cultivator Chrétien Stucki, 55; and cultivator Jacques Schott, whose age was illegible. The groom signed ‘Johannes Schlabach.’

The names of the witnesses suggest the group was made up of employees on the grounds of the notorious smuggler-spy-general Karl Ludwig Schulmeister’s simple quarters at Canardière, or at his elaborate Château Meinau on adjoining property (see EIGSTI for background on these locations).

A great deal of garbling and confusion of Jacobine’s identity has come from conflicting and incomplete information. This might be expected; she was certainly illiterate, likely spoke only German, and later in life was described as ‘insane.’

According to their civil marriage entry, the groom was a son of the deceased cultivator Jacob/Jacques Schlabach (he had died at Kirchdorf, Baden Dec. 27, 1823) and Catherine Hundisnger [Unzicker], a resident of Windstein, Lower Alsace. His actual birth entry verifies this, naming his parents as Jacob Schlabach and Catharina Hundisnger. Jacobine’s description provided the names, places of death, and dates for her parents. Witnesses

455 Jacob Schlabach (also found as Slabaugh) was likely related in some way to Johannes/Jean Schlabach. He was born in France circa 1831. He married Magdalena Herschberger, a daughter of Peter Herschberger and Catherine Stalter. Recall from STALTER that her family is found on the 1850 census of Peoria: widow Catharin [Stalter] Herschberger, 34, Germany; laborer Joseph [Herschberger], 18, Germany; saddler John [Herschberger], 16, Germany; Christian, 1, Illinois; Madilane, 14, Ohio; Catharine, 8, Illinois; Philapean, 4, Illinois; and laborer John Stalder, 70, Germany. The 1860 census of Pekin has farmer Jacob Slawb, 29, Hanover, Madaline, 24, Ohio; John, 4, Illinois; Mary, 2, Illinois; Joseph, seven months, Illinois; Catharine Hansberger, 56, Bavaria; and Christian Ropp, 11, Illinois. Jacob served in the Civil War in an unarmed capacity with the 3rd Illinois Cavalry; his pension index card lists him as Jacob Slabach, and names his recipient at Madlan Slabach. The same card says he was qualified as an invalid Dec. 29, 1886, and his wife qualified as a widow April 2, 1892. All of this raises the interesting notion that Jacob Schlabach’s parents and widow might be named on the hard-copy Civil War service records kept at the National Archives. However, he is not found in the Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Database maintained by the Illinois State Archives. The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows farmer laborer Jacob Schlabach, 38, France; Madelaine, 34, Ohio; John, 14, Illinois; Mary, 12, Illinois; Elizabeth, 4, Illinois; and William, 1, Illinois. Magdalena’s headstone in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove says she was, ‘Magdalena Schlabach 1837-1914’
included cultivator Jean Hunsinger, 46; cultivator Jean Egli, 51; cultivator Chrétien Stucki, 53; and cultivator Jacques Schott, 26.

In 1836 they were living in Maison No. 38 on Route de Colmar at Strasbourg.

Johannes/Jean and Jacobine departed Le Havre on the *Albany*, arriving at New York June 7, 1838. They are found on the passenger list as Johann Schlabach, 33; Jacobé, 30; Andreas, 6; Elisabeth, 2; and Christian Schlabach, 36. This was the same voyage that brought the family of Peter/Pierre Schertz and Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr, who are found on the same page (see SCHERTZ).

Their household is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County as ‘Jacob Slawbaugh’: one male 30-39; one female 30-39; two females between five and nine years of age; and one female under five. Thus the children differ from the passenger list two years earlier; the son had died, and now there are two girls between five and nine years of age that were not there before.

Jacobine had relatives in the area, children of her brother Johannes/Jeann Habecker and Barbara Stalter. Her niece Katharina/Catherine Habecker had married Nicholas Roth in Butler County, Ohio in 1843, and they are found on the 1850 census of Morton. Her nephew Johannes/John Habecker and Magdalena Roth arrived in Peoria County and McLean County in October of 1850. Her nephew Pierre/Peter Habecker married Elisabeth/Elizabeth Rich in Tazewell County in 1856, and they settled at Washington.

Johannes/Jean died between the 1840 census and March 7, 1841. The county registers says that on March 7, 1841 at Pekin Jacoby Schlabach married Michael Roupp; minister Michael Mosiman performed the ceremony.

This brought Jacobine together with another German-speaking Amish Mennonite who was familiar with the place she was first married, Strasbourg (Bischheim is less than two miles from the city limits), and the home of her first husband, Baden (across Rhine River bridges from Strasbourg).

Michel Ropp (later known as Michael Rupp) was born at Bischheim, Lower Alsace April 22, 1804. A listing for the birth of Michel Rop on this date is found in the 10-year civil index, though no full entry is found in the register for that year or those around it. But we can assume that he was a son of Joseph Ropp and his first wife Anne Müller, since at the time of their marriage in 1799 Anne was an employee in the English gardens of the *Château de Angleterre* at Bischheim. Michael was a younger brother to Wilmot settler Joseph Ropp. We could not determine when Michael emigrated from Europe, when or if he went to Ontario, or when he later came to Illinois.

For background on their life together see ÜLRICH RÜPP OF DONON in ROPP.

Children of Jacobine Habecker and her first husband Johannes/Jeann Schlabach include:

1. Andreas Schlabach was born circa 1832, and died before the 1840 census.
2. Elisabeth Schlabach was born at Strasbourg, Lower Alsace March 23, 1836, and died before the 1850 census.