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

APPENDIX

Updated August 2019 • Compiled by Joseph Peter Staker

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

Appendix

Right, Johann Jakob Freudenreich (1639-1711), Protestant Reformed minister at Steffisburg when the church was renovated in 1681. He was described as someone who ‘looked through his fingers’ at Anabaptists in his parish.

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APPENDIX

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All cover photos Jen Staker, November 2017. On the cover, clockwise from upper left:

1) Two inset stained windows from the church at Steffisburg. The first was made by glassmaker Hans Jakob Güder as a gift from the parish of Sigriswil to the parish of Steffisburg in 1681. Sigriswil is farther down the eastern shore of Lake Thun. The second is a replica. The original version was created by Michel Murer in 1570. Murer apparently painted clear glass with die, portraying a familiar church motif: Adam and Eve (man on left, woman on right, tree between and behind). The precedent for this motif may have been a copper engraving by Albrecht Dürer from 1504. Dürer put an apple in Eve’s hand, but the tree actually had fig leaves reaching out to cover all the right places. Murer’s version had apples on the tree next to Eve’s face. His characters wore the clothing of the 1500s; Adam had a sword on his belt and carried the halberd of a Swiss guardsman (like those carried by Vatican guardsmen today – the weapon was used to hack and pull cavalrymen from their mounts). The original pane was removed with three others in 1903 to be preserved by the Bernischen Historichen Museum. When this replica was created in 1983/84, the craftsman neglected the religious theme, omitting the apples altogether. The first 16 stained-glass windows in the Steffisburg church were formed in circular shapes. Many of the square panes were gifts during the 1681 renovations.

2) Looking forward in the nave toward the raised pulpit at Hilterfingen.

3) The Steffisburg bell tower was added to an existing structure in 1320.

4) The Hilterfingen communion table approached each year by an adult Jacob Amman – grudgingly complying with the laws of Canton Bern. He was a resident of adjacent Oberhofen 1655-1680.

5) The choir and organ at Hilterfingen.

6) Excavations in 1973 showed that the Protestant Reformed Church of Hilterfingen and bell tower stand over the ruins of previous structures from the 7th, 10th, and 14th centuries. The present bell tower was constructed in 1473. The Gothic church that stood beside it when it was constructed was dismantled in 1727, making way for the present rectangular structure.

Center: The brown bear symbols of Canton Bern on a stained glass window from the church at Steffisburg, created in 1681.
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The Deep Snow of 1830

The fall of 1830 was unseasonably warm. Many new settlers preoccupied with the construction of cabins put off gathering corn. Others expected heavy rains, and stopped gathering early to reinforce roofs. Then a bitter cold set in. Fort Armstrong at Rock Island kept records showing that no day passed without freezing temperatures from Dec. 15 to Feb. 25.

A cold rain started Dec. 20, 1830, occasionally turning to sleet or snow until Christmas. On that day six inches of snow accumulated. Winds picked up, and driving snow accumulated to a depth of about three feet, with 4-6 foot drifts. This was followed by a freezing rain that created a hard crust, and another light snow.

History of Tremont (1925) estimated that it snowed 19 times between Dec. 29 and Feb. 13. Depth varied by locations. In timbered areas, where it did not drift, it reached 42 inches. But drifts against structures could pile up to 18 feet, threaten to collapse walls and crush the roofs of small cabins.

According to Julian Sturtevant, who was later president of Illinois College, when the snows stopped, “The clouds passed away and the wind came down from the northwest with unusual ferocity.” For two weeks temperatures before day break were at least 12 degrees below zero. “The wind was a steady, fierce gale from the northwest, night and day…which blinded the eyes and almost stopped the breath of anyone who attempted to face it.. No man could, for any considerable length of time, make his way on foot against it.”

Many could not wait for weather conditions to improve, and left their cabins with a horse and improvised snowshoes. Those who could find a sack of corn at a nearby mill were faced with the difficulties of a return trip leading a burdened horse through drifts.

History of Logan County (1878): “…So completely did the snow cover everything, that wild game perished in large numbers…The deer runs by a succession of leaps, and the faster the run the greater the force with which their feet strike the ground. Their feet being small and hard, when pursued the deer would break through this crust, and fall an easy prey to the wolves and other animals in its pursuit. The wolves would generally seize the deer by the throat, and suck its blood. The hunter, following and finding the carcass, would find it untouched, and he had only to take the choice parts for the venison.” Thousands of wolves died, often after becoming frozen to the ground. In the spring they were skinned for their pelts.

In March of 1830 a 21-year-old Abraham Lincoln, his father Thomas Lincoln, and stepmother Sarah Bush Johnston had come from Southern Indiana and resettled on 10 acres, eight miles west of the nearest community at Decatur, Macon County. He later recalled the peak days of the snows, when drifts surrounded their new cabin, reaching roof level. They ate only salt pork, boiled corn, and pounded corn meal, until they ran out of corn. At night they listened to the howls of wolves and coyotes frozen to the ground and dying. In the spring they moved away.

Long after the snows had melted, the ground was still hard and dirt roads were still covered with ice. Streams were swollen and washed out traditional crossings. As a direct consequence, the seat of Tazewell County was moved from Mackinaw to an old schoolhouse in the more accessible community of Pekin.

Other weather events were memorable – heavy rains in 1835; the Sudden Change Dec. 20, 1836; and a frost that lasted from Nov. 4, 1842 until mid-April of 1843. But experiencing the Winter of the Deep Snow became the qualifier for ‘old settlers’ or ‘snow birds.’

How did it affect the flow of new settlers? Before 1830 the majority in Tazewell County came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas. For a few years the memory of the harsh winter slowed the influx. Land agents began to look eastward. Particularly after the Black Hawk War of 1832, settlers from Ohio or recently from Europe made up the deficit.

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1 The cabin site is now Lincoln Trails Homestead State Park. Lincoln went from there to participate in his second flat boat journey down the Mississippi River. This trip was thought to have been the event that formed his future opinions on slavery. Along the way the boat got stuck at New Salem. On his return he took a job in a country store there.
The Black Hawk War of 1832

Makataimeshekiakiak or Black Hawk was born in 1775 at what was called Saukeneck, a son of medicine man Pyesa and Ashshewaqua Singing Bird.² Saukeneck is now Rock Island, Illinois, on the Mississippi River across from Davenport, 100 miles northwest of Peoria.

His autobiography inexplicably says he was born in a Sac or Sauk village on the Rock River in 1767. A number of histories repeat this, but his friend in later life James Houston Jordan said Black Hawk himself gave the year 1775. He also gave his age as 63 when he visited the offices of the Fort Madison, Iowa Patriot in 1838, counting it off on his fingers, according to History of Des Moines County (1879).

Military reports, correspondence, and newspaper accounts generally described him as Black Hawk or Black Sparrow Hawk of the Sauk tribe (also spelled Sac). He was also commonly described as a chief, which he was not.

On Nov. 3, 1804 some members of the Sauk and Fox tribes signed the Treaty of St. Louis at Portage de Sioux, above St. Louis. It gave away their rights to claim 15 million acres in parts of what is now Illinois and Wisconsin, on the eastern side of the Mississippi River. In return they would receive annual payments of $1,000 in goods. At the time it was simply assumed by signer and future president William Henry Harrison that he was bargaining with braves who had authority to represent all of their tribes. Later Black Hawk would maintain that the braves were actually sent there to bargain for the release of a prisoner; the prisoner was released, then shot to death as he broke into a run.

Later his autobiography described being called down to St. Louis to sign a confirmation of the treaty. “Here for the first time, I touched the goose quill to the treaty not knowing, however, that, by the act I consented to give away my village. Had that been explained to me I should have opposed it, and never would have signed their treaty, as my recent conduct will clearly prove. What do we know of the manners, the laws, and the customs of the white people? They might buy our bodies for dissection, and we would touch the goose quill to confirm it and not know what we were doing. This was the case with me and my people in touching the goose quill for the first time. We can only judge of what is proper and right by our standard of what is right and wrong, which differs widely from the whites, if I have been correctly informed. The whites may do wrong all their lives, and then if they are sorry for it when about to die, all is well; but with us it is different.”

Another confusing point was that the tribes could continue to use the land as long as the U.S. government owned it. Very soon that clause would became meaningless without their knowledge, because almost all of the procurement would be sold or awarded to private interests, or handed out as land grants to veterans of the War of 1812.

In the War of 1812 Black Hawk fought with the British against Americans. They had promised to help return lands. Those around him would later be called the British Band.

In 1815 Black Hawk signed Treaties of Portage de Sioux, a document saying that he accepted the terms of the 1804 treaty. But he later recanted, insisting that what he had signed was different from what had been told to him.

In the same year about five million acres below Rock Island and between the Mississippi and Illinois were set aside by the U.S. government for American veterans – about one-eighth of the land area of the modern state. At first this caused few disputes. In the seats of government this wilderness acreage was thought to be relatively uninhabited.

The veterans grant area took in Saukeneck, where the Rock River ran into the Mississippi River (now Rock Island). This was Black Hawk’s birthplace, but was also a place where the Sauk and Fox had traditionally come to meet in summer months.

In 1820 the non-Native American population of Illinois was 55,000. Within the next decade it would rise to 157,000. In 1827 Governor Ninian Edwards urged President John Quincy Adams to expel native groups, opening up more properties for settlement by eastern transplants and European immigrants. In July of 1828 Secretary of War Peter Porter informed Edwards that the Sauk and Fox tribes had been given one year to vacate the eastern side of the Mississippi River. Illinois was meant to be surveyed and platted for townships.

In 1829 about 20 settler families illegally moved onto land at Saukeneck.

² Newspapers occasionally used the demeaning Black Sparrow Hawk.

A number of histories give his birth year circa 1767, but friend James Jordan said Black Hawk himself gave the year 1775. He also gave his age as 63 when he visited the offices of the Fort Madison, Iowa Patriot in 1838. History of Des Moines County (1879).
Black Hawk left Saukeneck for the winter hunt in November of 1829. While in Canada he asked for British support for a war against the settlers. He later said that they gave verbal consent, but in the end provided nothing else.

Government tribal agents already saw the Sauk and Fox as unregretful past enemies. Black Hawk’s meeting with British representatives may have been the prompting that spurred congress to pass The Indian Removal Act in May of 1830. The president was authorized to send out commissioners who could renegotiate past treaties.

The winter of 1830-31 saw the catastrophic weather phenomenon known as the Winter of the Deep Snow (for background see THE DEEP SNOW OF 1830, earlier in the Appendix). In Central and Northern Illinois the deer and small game populations were drastically diminished. It is ironic that the tribes did not realize Southern Illinois had not been so greatly affected by the severe winter. There the terrain was more thickly wooded and had more up and downs to break the wind; water could be obtained from springs rather than frozen rivers. Events might have unfolded very differently.

In the spring a Sauk contingent crossed from Iowa to plant corn around Saukeneck. General Edward Gaines, commander of the Western Division of the U.S. Army, went there to warn them away. In exchange for some corn and provisions, Black Hawk had to sign an Article of Agreement and Capitulation agreeing to obey the Sauk chief Keokuk, stay away from British outposts, and remain on the western side of the Mississippi River. Then Gaines burned their shelters, and they were forced to leave without harvesting even a meager crop.

But the corn that was provided in the spring would not have been sufficient to get through the next winter. Small groups continued to cross into Illinois in late summer and fall.

Following the winter hunt of 1831-32, on April 5 and 6 Black Hawk led a group of 500 braves and 600 family members (about one-sixth of his tribe) in crossing the Mississippi River to once again occupy Saukeneck. He obviously did not expect armed resistance to the annual tradition, or he would not have brought the elderly, but he certainly knew the danger. He had been warned against crossing by Chief Keokuk.

Troops mustered at St. Louis and headed north to intercept them, but mistakenly passed them on the 11th. The following day Brigadier General Henry Atkinson arrived near Saukeneck. Governor John Reynolds called for militia volunteers to muster at Beardsotn (118 miles to the south) by April 22. Among them was 23-year-old Abraham Lincoln, who had recently announced his candidacy for the state senate, but enlisted April 21. He was chosen to be a captain in Sangamon County’s 31st Regiment, 1st Division, earning $80 for the first 30-day term of enlistment.

Black Hawk arrived near Saukeneck on the 13th.

On April 17 sixty farmers were enlisted at Pekin to form the 5th Regiment, Brigade of Mounted Volunteers of the Illinois Militia. Their nominal commanding officer would have been General Samuel Whiteside under the overall commander, General Henry Atkinson. But Whiteside refused to accept them until they were adequately trained and supplemented with seasoned soldiers. This placed them under Governor John Reynolds for the time being. He put them into two battalions being organized by Major Isaiah Stillman.

On April 24 military officers sent a messenger to Black Hawk, asking him to withdraw. He declined, and began to travel east along the Rock River. Along the way he realized the British had not delivered promised provisions, and other tribes would not support him, but it was already too late to turn back.

Many of the militia volunteers had signed on for only a 30-day enlistment. There were not enough seasoned soldiers available to train them. The governor faced a quandary. Should Stillman be held back, which might give Black Hawk time to find allies among other tribes?

The Battle of Stillman’s Run

On May 14 an advance detachment under Major Isaiah Stillman pitched camp at Sycamore or Old Man’s Creek, seven miles north of what is now called Stillman’s Valley (now a village in Marion Township, midway between Rockford and Dixon) in Ogle County. The story goes that after about an hour one of the soldiers rode into the camp laughing about his ‘Indian pony’ found grazing in the woods. The others belatedly realized to their fearful astonishment that they had accidentally settled in only a short distance from Black Hawk.

3 After the crossing it is impossible to trust estimates of Black Hawk’s numbers, including those we will give. Most written reports were at best third-hand information. Small parties were sent out to find allies among other tribes. Sympathizers might join them to participate in a specific skirmish, then rejoin them much farther along in their migration. Newspapers only rarely described the the composition of their numbers after encounters, failing to recognize when their totals included women and children.
Stillman’s large force of two battalions should have had at least 600 men, but actually held only 275. These included the 60 members of the 5th Regiment, Brigade of Mounted Volunteers from Tazewell County.

Black Hawk later claimed that he was greatly outnumbered and poorly armed. Because of this he sent over three braves under a white flag to negotiate. But the offer was miscommunicated or ignored. The three were taken prisoner. This was later denied by writers of Illinois histories. The next group of would-be negotiators suffered a worse fate. Black Hawk later said there were three, and all were killed. Surviving soldiers said there were five, and only two were killed.

It is generally agreed that the soldiers had made two decisive mistakes. They pitched camp without scouting the area, later allowing them to be pinned down with their backs to the creek. And they fueled their courage with whiskey.\(^4\)

Black Hawk waited until dusk, and sent his braves off into a thick grove of willows near the creek. There they whooped and screamed, slammed their hatchets into tree trunks, and imitated the moaning of wounded victims. A few horses smeared with blood were set loose toward the farmer-soldiers. This tripped off panic in the militia camp, where it was assumed that scouts and sentries were being picked off. Black Hawk waited just long enough for most to flee; knowing they might regroup and return if he waited too long, then furiously attacked with only 40 braves.

Eleven volunteers stood their ground to cover the retreat, and died. They included four in the regiment from Tazewell County: Captain John Giles Adams; Private Isaac Perkins (one of Pekin’s pioneer settlers, later described as a major, but at the time of his death he was being paid as a private); Private Zadock Mendenhall; and Private David Kreeps. The remainder rode or ran in headlong panic to Dixon’s Ferry, about 25 miles to the southwest.

Captain John Giles Adams was the father of eight children. He was born at Nashville, Tennessee Dec. 2, 1792, and died May 14, 1832. He had built a log cabin in Logan County, Illinois in 1828. He moved to Pekin shortly before he was mustered into service April 17, 1832. A written account purportedly from those fighting beside him said that Adams’s horse was shot out from under him; he killed two before he was literally butchered. At least one historian has suggested that Adams did fight hard, but accidentally or purposely, he was shot by one of his own men.\(^5\)

In The Black Hawk War (1902) historian Frank Stevens wrote: “After five miles’ pursuit [of soldiers fleeing south] the Indians abandoned it to return to mutilate the bodies of the dead, as described by Mr. Hall; but the whites continued their flight, running, riding, yelling, crying – hopelessly crazed, until Dixon’s Ferry was reached in the early hours of the morning of the 15th. Others becoming confused deflected to the south, and never stopped until the Illinois river was reached at a point near the present city of Ottawa. From there about 40 of them scattered for their homes.”

A letter written by scout Elijah Kilbourn, who was taken prisoner, gives some idea of how the event was distorted by participants in the retelling: “Among the retreating party was a Methodist preacher, whose horse was too slow to keep out of the reach of the Indians, who adopted a novel plan to save himself and horse. On coming to a ravine he left the track of his pursuers, and followed down the ravine until he found a place deep enough to shelter himself and horse from view, and remained there for two hours in safety. He had the precaution to keep a strict count of the Indians as they went forward, and waited their return. Being satisfied that all had returned and continued on the way to their camp, he quietly left his hiding place, trotted leisurely along and reached Dixon’s Ferry about sunrise next morning. He reported his mode of procedure and the strategy used to render his safety certain from the Indians who had dispersed and driven the army before them. He was interrogated upon the number, and when he reported twenty, great indignation was manifested by some of the volunteers who had got into camp some hours before him; but the whites continued their flight, running, riding, yelling, crying – hopelessly crazed, until Dixon’s Ferry was reached in the early hours of the morning of the 15th. Others becoming confused deflected to the south, and never stopped until the Illinois river was reached at a point near the present city of Ottawa. From there about 40 of them scattered for their homes.”

In the end, from three to five of the braves were killed, while Stillman lost 13 soldiers (11 volunteer militia and two others).

The skirmish became facetiously known as the Battle of Stillman’s Run – not for any geographical feature, but for the volunteers’ chaotic flight away from the fighting. It became an object of general ridicule and satire. History of Tazewell County, Illinois (1879) includes this purported report by an officer to his general the following day:

“Sirs,” said he, “Our detachment was encamped among some scattering timber on the north side of Old Man’s creek, with the prairie from the north gently sloping down to our encampment. It was just after twilight, in the gloaming of the

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\(^4\) Apologists have pointed out that the official inventory from the cargo train held only two casks or kegs of whiskey for 275 men. One was consumed by the soldiers, and one by Black Hawk’s braves. But this ignores the accounts of eye witnesses in later years.

\(^5\) Scott D. Dyar’s article Stillman’s Run: Militia’s Foulest Hour, in the March 2006 issue of Military History.
evening, when we discovered Black Hawk’s army coming down upon us in solid column. They displayed in the form of a 
crescent upon the brow of the prairie, and such accuracy and precision of military movements were never witnessed by 
man; they were equal to the best troops of Wellington in Spain… and what was most wonderful, there were large squares of 
cavalry resting upon the points of the curve, which squares were supported again by other columns fifteen deep, extending 
back through the woods and over a swamp three-quarters of a mile, which again rested on the main body of Black Hawk’s 
army bivouacked upon the banks of the Kishk avenue… It was a sight well calculated to strike consternation in the stoutest 
and boldest heart, and accordingly our men soon began to break in their own small squares for tall timber. In a very little 
time the rout became general; the Indians were soon upon our flanks and threatened the destruction of the entire 
detachment. About this time Maj. Stillman, Col. Stephenson, Maj. Perkins, Capt. Adams, Mr. Hackelton, and myself, with 
some others, threw ourselves into the rear to rally the fugitives and protect the retreat. But in a short time all my 
companions fell bravely fighting hand-to-hand with the savage enemy, and I alone was left upon the field of battle… About 
this time I discovered not far to the left a corps of horsemen which seemed to be in tolerable order. I immediately deployed 
to the left, when, leaning down and placing my body in a recumbent posture… I discovered by the light of the moon that 
they were gentlemen who did not wear hats, by which token I knew they were no friends of mine. I therefore made a 
retrograde movement and recovered my position, where I remained some time meditating what I could do further in the 
service of my country, when a random musket ball came whistling by my ear and plainly whispered to me, ‘Stranger, you 
have no further business here.’ Upon hearing this I followed the example of my companions in arms, and broke for tall 
timber, and the way I ran was not a little.”

A 23-year-old Captain Abraham Lincoln was among those who arrived later to bury scalped and mutilated 
corpses in a common grave.

At a roll call May 17 at least 52 men were missing. Two members of the Tazewell County regiment had 
deserted.

**Surrender**

The only significant action involving the tribes that Captain Abraham Lincoln saw during the war may have been a 
confrontation with his own men after the Battle of Stillman’s Run.

An elderly Potowatomi entered their camp. He was mistaken as a spy, and they intended to kill him. Lincoln 
stood between him and his men, saying, “This must not be done. He must not be shot or killed by us.”

When one soldier threatened to act anyway, Lincoln told him to choose his weapon. The soldier backed down. It 
turned out that the elderly man was carrying a note of safe passage signed by Secretary of War Lewis Cass.

Stories of the atrocities after the Battle of Stillman’s Run only increased the number of militia volunteers in Illinois and Kentucky.

A number of skirmishes took place as volunteers pursued Black Hawk. Eventually it became clear that his 
main camp would be in a marsh on the Rock River near the military stockade Fort Koshkonong, 120 miles 
northwest of Chicago.6

On June 21 troops caught up to his main body 56 miles northwest of the lake, at what is now Sauk City, 
Wisconsin. At the Battle of Wisconsin Heights, 68 braves were killed attempting to delay the soldiers while their 
women and children escaped.

On June 25 another battle took place at Kellogg’s Grove near Kent in what is now Stephenson County. Only 
five days earlier, Abraham Lincoln had re-enlisted as a private, scout, and messenger for 21 cents a day in Jacob 
Early’s Independent Spy Company ($6.61 a month, tripled if he provided his own horse). Once again he arrived a 
day after the battle, and helped to bury five scalped corpses. “I remember just how those men looked as we rode up 
the little hill where their camp was. The red light of the morning sun was streaming upon them as they lay head 
towards us on the ground. And every man had a round red spot on top of his head, about as big as a dollar where the 
redskins had taken his scalp. It was frightful, but it was grotesque, and the red sunlight seemed to paint everything 
all over.” This was the last battle of the Black Hawk War that took place in Illinois.

Early’s Independent Spy Company became less necessary as Black Hawk’s plans became more transparent. 
Private Lincoln was mustered out at Fort Wilborn near Oglesby July 10, 1832. His borrowed horse was stolen or 
strayed the night before he departed from camp. He shared a horse with a friend as far as Peoria, then canoed to 
within 40 miles of New Salem. Harry E. Pratt’s monograph *Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln* (1943)

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6 The marsh filled in, and Lake Koshkonong is now a 10,595-acre reservoir stretching across three counties. Fort 
Koshkonong was near the present day city of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. A replica of the fort was built nearby in the 1930s, and 
is now in Rock River Park.
estimated that he received $175.45 in total compensation for almost three months of service, including the $14 bounty for enlisting; he may have netted only $110 after compensating the owner of the lost horse. 7

On the morning of Aug. 1, Black Hawk tried to surrender on what is now Battle Isle at the mouth of the Bad Axe River along the Mississippi River (now below Genoa, 95 miles west of Sauk City). An old marker near the location says, ‘On the eve of Aug. 1, 1832, Blackhawk and his men with a flag of truce went to the head of this island to the captain of steamer Warrior. Whites onboard asked ‘Are you Winnebagoes or Sacs?’ ‘Sacs,’ replied Black Hawk. A load of canister was at once fired, killing 22 Indians suing for peace.’

The following day, 1,300 U.S. army regulars and militia soldiers under Brigadier General Henry Atkinson caught up again about two miles downriver. By this time Black Hawk had only 150 braves and 350 family members. American troops killed men, women, and children as they attempted to cross in what became the massacre at Bad Axe. Many of those who made it to the western shore were picked off by Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Dakota.

Major Allen Wakefield wrote in Wakefield’s History of the Black Hawk War, (1834): “During the engagement we killed some of the squaws through mistake. It was a great misfortune to those miserable squaws and children, that they did not carry into execution [the plan] they had formed on the morning of the battle - that was, to come and meet us, and surrender themselves prisoners of war. It was a horrid sight to witness little children, wounded and suffering the most excruciating pain, although they were of the savage enemy, and the common enemy of the country.”

The news of the massacre at Bad Axe had a mixed effect on American readers. They were shocked to discover that regular soldiers had scalped the dead. One particular detail involved cutting strips of human flesh to use as razor strops. 8

In the end the army and militia had lost five soldiers, while the Sauk had lost 300 men, women, and children. The few shocked survivors were further pursued by Dakotas to Cedar River, Iowa. On Aug. 9 federal tribal agent Joseph Street received 68 scalps and 22 prisoners from Dakotas requesting rewards.

Black Hawk had not gone with his followers, but went north to the lodge of a Winnebago friend. A visitor informed the government of his whereabouts for a reward of $100 and 40 horses. On Aug. 22, 1831 Black Hawk surrendered at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

General Zachary Taylor (later president) took custody of Black Hawk and his oldest son Nasheaskuk [Whirling Thunder], and turned them over to escorts Lieutenant Jefferson Davis (later president of the Confederacy) and Lieutenant Robert Anderson (commander of Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War). They were confined for a year at the Jefferson Barracks military post at LeMay, Missouri. Black Hawk: “We were now confined to the barracks and forced to wear the ball and chain. This was extremely mortifying and altogether useless. Was the White Beaver [General Atkinson] afraid I would break out of his barracks and run away? Or was he ordered to inflict this punishment upon me? If I had taken him prisoner on the field of battle I would not have wounded his feelings so much by such treatment, knowing that a brave war chief would prefer death to dishonor.”

At Jefferson Barracks painter George Catlin did their portraits, and they were interviewed by writer Washington Irving. Irving wrote that Black Hawk was “…an old man upwards of seventy: emaciated & enfeebled by the sufferings he experienced and by a touch of cholera.” In The Sketch Book (1848) Irving would later write, “It has been the lot of the unfortunate aborigines of America, in the early periods of colonization, to be doubly wronged by the white men. They have been dispossessed of their hereditary possessions by mercenary and frequently wanton warfare; and their characters have been traduced by bigoted and interested writers. The colonist has often treated them like beasts of the forest; and the author has endeavoured to justify him in his outrages.”

That fall the government paid the Sauk tribe $640,000 to not claim six million acres in eastern Iowa. This was later known as the Black Hawk Purchase.

In April of 1833 they were transferred with others to the east coast. On the way their party passed through Louisville, Kentucky, where on April 11 the Louisville Herald reported, “The celebrated Indian chief and warrior Black Hawk arrived in this city yesterday on his way to Washington. As soon as his arrival was announced, Wall Street in front of the American Hotel was crowded with spectators, old and young, great and small.”

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7 As an eligible veteran Lincoln later accepted grants of federal land. He patented 40 acres in Tama County, Iowa, and 120 acres in Crawford County, Iowa. He did not visit either location.
8 A marker for the Battle of Bad Axe was erected at DeSoto, Wisconsin in 1955. It describes the event: “Driven into the water by their pursuers, the Indians – warriors, old people, women, and children – were shot or drowned trying to escape.” Though the word ‘battle’ persists in some histories, it was called ‘massacre’ by those who participated. On July 11, 2019 the Wisconsin Assembly offered a belated apology to the chief of the Sac [Sauk]-Fox nation in a ceremony at Victory, Wisconsin.
From there they traveled through Richmond to Fort Monroe in Old Point Comfort, Virginia, arriving May 1. Fort Monroe was the nation’s largest stone fort. Though still under construction, it had been chosen to impress him with its high walls and a view of the warships in the harbor below it. And every afternoon the visitors were awed by the constant firing of cannons during artillery training. President Andrew Jackson visited him there May 26.

On June 4 Black Hawk and his son began government-funded tours of Baltimore and Philadelphia. They attended dinners and plays, and visited significant sites.

In Baltimore they once again met with Jackson. “During our stay here, we visited all the public buildings and places of amusement, saw much to admire, and were well entertained by the people who crowded to see us. Our Great Father [President Andrew Jackson] was there at the same time, and seemed to be much liked by his white children, who flocked around him (as they had around us) to shake him by the hand.” Jackson’s parting words were, “Major Garland, who is with you, will conduct you through some of our towns. You will see the strength of the white people. You will see that our young men are as numerous as the leaves in the woods. What can you do against us? You may kill a few women and children, but such a force would soon be sent against you as would destroy your whole tribe. Let the red men hunt and take care of their families. I hope they will not again raise the tomahawk against their white brethren. We do not wish to injure you. We desire your prosperity and improvement. But if you again make war against our people, I shall send a force which will severely punish you. When you go back, listen to the councils of Keokuk and the other friendly chiefs; bury the tomahawk and live in peace with the people on the frontier. And I pray the Great Spirit to give you a smooth path and a fair sky to return.”

In Philadelphia they visited the federal mint, and saw coins and medals being struck.

From there they went to New York City to begin their return to southeastern Iowa by train, carriage, and steamboat. At Castle Garden they witnessed a man ascend in a hot-air balloon. Black Hawk later recalled, “After the ascension of the balloon, we landed and got into a carriage to go to the house that had been provided for our reception. We had proceeded but a short distance before the street was so crowded that it was impossible for the carriage to pass.”

Edward Sanford wrote Address to Black Hawk, published in the New York Standard: “Give us thy hand, old nobleman of nature, proud leader of the forest aristocracy; the best of blood glows from thy every feature, and thy curled lip speaks scorn for our democracy. Thou wear’st thy titles on that god-like brow; let him who questions them, but meet thine eye; he’ll quail beneath its glance, and disavow all question of thy noble family; for thou may’st here become, with strict propriety, a leader in our city’s good society.”

On the eastern portion of the journey Black Hawk and his party were welcomed by gawkers and admirers on station platforms. The Georgia Telegraph: “Wherever they go, great numbers are sure to follow them, wherever they stop, hundreds and sometimes thousands, besiege them. If they had been kept as a ‘show’ (which of course would have been a shameful degradation) we verily believe that $100,000 might have been collected, in the course of a few days for the privilege of seeing them.”

But as they moved west the receptions hardened. History of Des Moines County (1879): “The history of his tour through the United States as a prisoner, is a severe reflection upon the intelligence of the people of our Eastern cities, in regard to the respect due to a savage leader who had spent a long life in butchering his own race, and the frontier inhabitants of their own race and country. His journey was, everywhere throughout the East, an ovation, falling but little short of the respect and high consideration shown to the nation’s great benefactor, La Fayette, whose triumphal tour through the United States happened near the same period. But as an offset to this ridiculous adulation in the East, when the escort reached Detroit, where his proper estimate was understood, Black Hawk and his suite were contemptuously burned in effigy. But due allowance should be made for the ignorance concerning true Indian character, among the Eastern people, as their conceptions are formed from the fanciful creations of the Coopers and Longfellows, immensely above the sphere of blood-thirsty War Eagles, and the filthy, paint-bedaubed Hiawathas of real savage life.”

Upon his arrival in Iowa he invited a translator named Antoine LeClair to write his autobiography, Autobiography of Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiak, or Black Hawk. Embracing the Traditions of his Nation, Various Wars in which he has been Engaged, and his Account of the Cause and General History of the Black Hawk War of 1832; His Surrender, and Travels through the United States; dictated by Himself. It was published at Rock Island and became an immediate bestseller.

In late summer of 1837 a number of Sauk, Fox, and Sioux chiefs were invited to visit the president in Washington, D.C. Chief Keokuk invited Black Hawk and his son to accompany him. They once again drew much attention.

On the journey they had the opportunity to visit Boston, which they had not seen before. Governor Edward Everett addressed them at the State House, making remarks that would have been astonishing for the time. He said, “Chiefs and warriors of the united Sacs and Foxes, you are welcome to our hall of council. Brothers, you have come
a long way from your home to visit your white brethren; we rejoice to take you by the hand. Brothers, we have
heard the names of your chiefs and warriors. Our brethren who have traveled in the West have told us a great deal
about the Sacs and Foxes. We rejoice to see you with our own eyes. Brothers, we are called the Massachusetts.
This is the name of the red men who once lived here. Their wigwams were scattered on yonder fields, and their
council fire was kindled on this spot. They were of the same great race as the Sacs and Foxes. Brothers, when our
fathers came over the great water they were a small band. The red man stood upon the rock by the seaside and saw
our fathers. He might have pushed them into the water and drowned them; but he stretched out his hand to them and
said: 'Welcome, white man.' Our fathers were hungry, and the red man gave them corn and venison. They were
cold, and the red man wrapped them in his blanket. We are now numerous and powerful, but we remember the
kindness of the red men to our fathers. Brothers, you are welcome; we are glad to see you. Brothers, our faces are
pale, and your faces are dark, but our hearts are alike. The Great Spirit has made His children of different colors,
but He loves them all."

When he returned to Iowa, Black Hawk moved into a house that had been constructed for him earlier, on the
land of his friend James Houston Jordan.9  Jordan had come to Iowa from Kentucky in 1833. He owned a trading
post at Iowaville, and was also a captain in the state militia.10  The land that Jordan owned had been obtained with
the permission of Black Hawk.

Jordan’s land was in Salt Creek Township on Section 2, Township 70 North, Range 12 west, Davis County,
one-half mile from the Des Moines River.11  Black Hawk’s house has been described as ‘a lodge on the banks of the
Des Moines River about three miles below Eldon.’ This is a fair description of present day Salt Creek Township,
which is adjacent below Eldon. This house was described after his death as either four or 10 rods from Jordan’s
cabin, one mile above Iowaville.12

Black Hawk’s last public appearance was a visit to Fort Madison. He was invited by the townspeople to attend
their Fourth of July celebration. He traveled by carriage about 60 miles east to the village by the Mississippi River.
On Sept. 1, 1838 he and others started to go to Rock Island, planning to pick up annual government annuities.
But he fell ill with a fever, and turned back. He died in his home Sept. 15.

Jordan later said that Black Hawk had specifically requested to be placed after death on the northeast corner of
his property, on the prairie behind Jordan’s cabin, seated in the last place where he held council with the Iowas.
Following his wishes his body was propped up in a seated position with a wooden board at his back. His legs were
buried in the ground. He wore a uniform frock coat with epaulettes that had been given to him by President Andrew
Jackson, and a cocked hat. Three medals were either pinned to his coat or on a necklace: one bore the image of
President James Madison, one of President Andrew Jackson, and the third had been awarded to him by the British.
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President James Madison, one of President Andrew Jackson, and the third had been awarded to him by the British.
On his belt he wore a sword given to him by Jackson. His war club and possibly a cane given to him by Sen. Henry
Clay were placed beside him. The war club was a bat of wood about four feet long, painted with black stripes
representing those he had scalped. A small tent of boards was constructed around him and covered with sod. Each

9 James Houston Jordan was born in Kentucky Sept. 29, 1806, and died at Salt Creek July 15, 1893, a son of Peter R.
Jordan and Sally Baker. He came to the Iowa Territory in 1833, and appears on every federal census of Salt Creek from 1840 to
1880. On Nov. 17, 1838 he married Frances Melvina Williams. They had three children, but James outlived his family. At the
time of his death he owned 1,800 acres. He was buried next to his family in an unmarked grave in Iowaville Cemetery at Selma,
Van Buren County.

10 The Annals of Iowa, Volume 1866: “Salt Creek Township township was first settled by James H. Jordan, Van Caldwell,
Jesse Testament, Job Carter, Wuliam Higgins, Henry Smith, John Tollman, Peter Woods, a Mr. Wainscate, and others in 1837-8.
(Jordan surveyed and platted the town in 1838). It was in this township that the first mill was built, which was put up by the
United States government in 1837. In 1838, this mill was carried away by a flood, but was rebuilt by the government in 1839.
The trading post of Mr. Jordan and this mill had attracted quite a settlement in this township, and the pioneers had begun to
improve their claims, and had a very flattering prospect of abundant crops of wheat, corn, and potatoes; and about the time wheat
was ripening for the sickle, the United States Dragoons came along and burnt their cabins and fences and destroyed their crops.
This was in 1840, and within a few days from that time the government mill took fire and was consumed. How this mill took fire
was not known, but it was not fired, by accident, from the fact that several settlers had bags of grain at the mill which were carried
out of the way of the fire, where they were found and reclaimed the next day after the destruction. Mr. John Tollman was the
principal contractor with the United States Government for building this mill, and Mr. Peter Woods became his partner in the
contract, for which they received three thousand dollars. The same or next year Mr. Jordan rebuilt the mill, it being on his own
claim, being one of the best mill sites in our county.”

11 The exact location of his death is known from a letter D.C. Beaman of Van Buren County wrote to Thomas Gregg Feb.
18, 1873. Beaman has just returned from talking with Jordan.

12 One rod = 5.5 yards. Iowaville no longer exists; it was on the northeast bank of the Des Moines River (which passes
through both locations) on the east side of Eldon.
end was open so the body would be exposed to the elements. An eight-foot palisade surrounded it to keep out scavenging animals.  

A year after the Battle of Stillman’s Run, Major Isaiah Stillman was promoted to general. He died at Kingston Mines, Peoria County in 1861, and is buried in Springdale Cemetery and Mausoleum at Peoria.

Historians frame the Black Hawk War from April 25, when the first government official directed Black Hawk to turn back, to the last deaths on Aug. 9 — roughly 106 days. In the introduction to Ellen M. Whitney’s document compilation *The Black Hawk War, 1831-1832* (1970), Anthony F. C. Wallace wrote, “The Sauk and Fox chiefs and their spokesmen regarded it [the war] as a foolish and catastrophic gesture by a chronic malcontent and his faction. The Sauk and Fox nation, through their traditional representatives, had for years been making the best of a difficult frontier relationship, maintaining peace with the advancing whites on the east while acquiring new hunting grounds to the westward. Black Hawk’s return to the lands on the Rock River, while understandable emotionally, thus merely embarrassed the Sauk and Fox leaders in their efforts to carry out the peaceful-and-orderly withdrawal policy.” He added that, “The Black Hawk War might have been avoided at any time up to and including the night of May the fourteenth, 1832. If it had not been for the incompetence of Stillman’s Militia, it could have ended then, either by negotiation, or by the surrender of Black Hawk.”

But the memory of the Black Hawk War lived long afterward as events were embellished by officers and aspiring politicians to enhance their reputations. The campaign made up of many losses and a few victories produced seven future senators, seven future governors, a future presidential candidate (Winfield Scott), and two future presidents (Zachary Taylor and Jefferson Davis).

Only Abraham Lincoln downplayed his participation. In a debate before the U.S. House of Representatives July 27, 1848 he contrasted his own record with that of Senator Lewis Cass. Cass had last fought in the Battle of Thames in the War of 1812. In 1831 Cass had been appointed Secretary of War by President Andrew Jackson, and concerned himself mainly with the eviction of tribes from their lands. Lincoln said, “By the way, Mr. Speaker, did you know I was a war hero? Yes sir; in the days of the Black Hawk War I fought, bled, and came away…It is quite certain I did not break my sword, for I had none to break…but I bent a musket pretty badly on one occasion. If he

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13 According to Jordan three men came to steal the body in the spring of 1839. He realized their intentions when two volunteered to stay in their wagon overnight. They were driven off by relatives and neighbors. Other unsuccessful attempts were made until July 3, 1839.

On that day Black Hawk’s body was stolen by dentist James Turner of Lexington, Van Buren County, who hoped to make money with a traveling exhibit. An account in *Annals of Iowa* says only his loosened head was taken, and Turner returned in winter for the body and medals. At Quincy the flesh was boiled off the skeleton, and the bones were polished and varnished. (It was very common up until the 1950s for bones to be displayed as mounted skeletons in doctor’s offices; they were drilled and held together with wire). Black Hawk’s son Nasheaskuk met with Governor Lucas of the Iowa Territory Jan. 23 and 24, 1840, and left with an assurance that the body would be returned. At about that time the man who prepared the bones had a falling out with Turner. After he write to the governor they were recovered from a Quincy dental office.

*The Hawk-Eye*, Dec. 10, 1840: “The bones of Black Hawk, which were stolen from the grave about a year since, have been recovered and are now in the Governor’s office. The wampum, hat, etc., which were buried with the old chief have been returned with the bones. It appears that they were taken to St. Louis and there cleaned; that they were sent to Quincy, Ill., to a dentist, to be put up and wired, prior to being sent to the East. The dentist was cautioned not to deliver them to any one until a requisition should be made by Gov. Lucas. The Governor made the necessary order, and the bones were sent up, a few days since, by the Mayor of Quincy, and are now in the possession of the Governor. He has sent word to Nasheaskuk, Black Hawk’s son, or to the family, and some of them will probably call for them in a few days. Mr. Edgerton, the phrenologist, has taken an exact drawing of the skull, which looks very natural, and has also engraved it on a reduced scale, which picture will shortly appear on his chart. Destructiveness, combativeness, firmness and philoprogenitiveness, are, phrenologically speaking, very strongly developed.”

Preparing to move west, the son gave permission for the bones to be held by the Burlington Geological and Historical Society. They were destroyed when their building burned down Jan. 16, 1853. Later a fanciful story held that a dentist named Rock with an office below the society had made off with them, and set the fire to cover up the act; he had to post bond and appear under oath before a judge to deny it.

The site where Black Hawk’s body was first placed escaped historians for many years. The body was stolen, there was never a deep grave, and the wood had been taken to feed home fires. Then it was belatedly discovered that ‘The Grave of Black Hawk’ and ‘The Wigwam of Black Hawk’ were very clearly identified on an 1840 survey map. There are now county markers approximating the locations. A bronze commemorative plaque can be found in Iowaville Cemetery at Selma, Davis County.

14 The Black Hawks are Chicago’s professional hockey team. In New Orleans, he is a spiritual messenger and guardian of the Iseelите Universal Divine Spiritual Church. Hawkeyes are Iowans or their sports teams. There are Black Hawk dental, insurance, and real estate agencies, as well as car dealerships and funeral parlors. Those interested in Black Hawk as a social celebrity phenomena might enjoy Tena L. Helton’s excellent article, *What the White “Squaws” Want from Black Hawk: Gendering the Fan-Celebrity Relationship* in the Fall 2010 issue of *The American Indian Quarterly*, which can be found online.
[Cass] saw any live, fighting Indians, it was more than I did; but I had a few bloody struggles with the mosquitoes; and, although I never fainted from the loss of blood, I can truly say that I was often very hungry.’”

**Chief Shabbona of the Potowatomi**

*Shabbona* describes someone who is strong like a bear (though it is also found in historic accounts as Shabonee or Shaubena). He was born on the Kankakee River in Will County in 1775 or 1776. He may have been a grandson of Pontiac, the well-known chief of the Ottawa tribe.

The Ottawa, Potowatomi, and Ojibwe tribes were joined in a trading and mutual defense alliance called the Council of Three Fires. Circa 1800 Shabbona married a daughter of chief Spotka of the Potowatomi tribe. When Spotka died, he became a chief of the Potowatomis at a relatively young age.

Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee met with William Henry Harrison (a future president) at Vincennes (now in Indiana) in August of 1810. He came away convinced that they were far apart in beliefs. He asked Shabbona (who he had first met in 1807) to accompany him and his younger brother, the prophet Tenskwatava, as they visited other tribes in what is now Northern Illinois and Wisconsin. Tenskwatava disdained the new settlers he called ‘offspring of the Evil Spirit.’ The brothers hoped to form a confederacy of tribes to hold back the expansion of settlement on the frontier.

Two of the chiefs who declined to participate in their plans were Black Partridge and Senachewine, the leading chiefs of the Potowatomi tribe. Black Partridge was associated with Peoria Lake; he died in 1816. Senachewine was associated with what is now Putnam County; he died in 1831.

In Europe the British were imposing a naval blockade on France, cutting off neutral trade that might support Buonaparte’s armies. To help man their ships they stopped American vessels at sea and seized experienced sailors (‘impressment’). High feelings led to misunderstandings, and on May 16, 1811 the American frigate President engaged the sloop-of-war Little Belt off North Carolina. The issue of who fired first was later disputed. They fought to a stalemate, though the British lost nine sailors.

As tensions between the two countries increased, it became apparent that British officials in Canada were providing weapons and ammunition to tribes in what is now Michigan and Wisconsin. Chief Tecumseh and Harrison met again that summer, but once again disagreed.

The heights above Lake Peoria were once dotted with the villages of the Potowatomi and Kickapoo tribes. In October of 1811 Governor Ninian Edwards directed the Illinois Rangers from Edwardsville to torch most of them. They also burned the village of Kickapoo chief Pemwotam at Fon du Lac at the northeast end of Lake Peoria, and the village of friendly Potawatomi chief Black Partridge on Lake Peoria. This was a tragic mistake that killed Black Partridge’s daughter and grandchild.

In late 1811 Indiana Territory Governor William Henry Harrison (a future major general and president) and volunteer militia marched north to a tribal village at what is now Prophetstown, Ohio. They knew the tribes were forming alliances, and believed they stockpiling weapons. Tecumseh was away, and his brother Tenskwatava led a small force that attempted to stop him. Shabbona was with him. The two sides engaged Nov. 7 at what is now Battle Ground, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, in what was later called the Battle of Tippecanoe. Harrison won, and his opponents dispersed, effectively ending a confederacy of tribes.

Accounts of what happened in the weeks following the battle incensed the public. The corpses of soldiers who died on the battlefield were dug up, mutilated, and hung on poles or tree limbs.

Citing the issue of impressment, President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain June 18, 1812. Around this time Tecumseh was still enlisting other tribes to join him, but now he was offering English pounds as incentives.

Residents of Fort Dearborn (in what is now Chicago) were massacred by Potowatomi as they evacuated Aug. 15, 1812. 15 The initial aim of the war party had been to attack before the occupants were aware that a war had been declared. About 42 were killed and scalped. Others were taken hostage, but were protected by chiefs Shabonna and Black Partridge, and Sauganash/Billy Caldwell. 16

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15 Fort Dearborn had to be rebuilt in 1816.
16 *Sauganash* means ‘one who speaks English.’ Born Thomas Caldwell, Billy Caldwell was the son of British Army Colonel William Caldwell and his Potowatomi wife Misheswans. He became a fur trader, and during the War of 1812 held a commission as captain in the Neato Indian Department of Canada. When the Potowatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa tribes negotiated treaties with the federal government between 1829 and 1833, he acted as their negotiator. At one point the federal government designated him as a chief, though he was not. During the Black Hawk War he served as an interpreter. Caldwell and...
On Sept. 10, 1813 American naval commander Oliver Hazard Perry defeated British vessels on Lake Erie. With their supply route cut off, British soldiers evacuated Detroit and withdrew into Upper Canada (now Ontario). Shabbona went with them.

Responding to the Fort Dearborn attack, on Sept. 23, 1813 General Benjamin Howard and about 1,400 men took possession of Fort Clark at Peoria from French occupants. (It would be partially burned in 1818, and rebuilt in 1832; the city of Peoria was not established until April 19, 1819).

On Sept. 27 the British troops that had withdrawn from Detroit were overtaken by William Henry Harrison, now a major general. In the Battle of Thames, also known as the Battle of Moraviantown, Harrison’s soldiers drove off the British and turned on Tecumseh’s braves. Tecumseh was killed long after the British had stopped putting up a staunch resistance.

When Tecumseh died on horseback, so did his dreams of a tribal confederation. It was one of the great turning points of history on the American frontier. In Canada he is still seen as a military hero who kept Southern Ontario from being annexed into the United States.

Shabbona was standing beside him.

THE DEATH OF TECUMSEH
At the Battle of Thames Tecumseh was riding and throwing a tomahawk when Colonel Richard Mentor Johnson drew a pistol and fired. According to Memories of Shaubena (1878), “The tomahawk, missing its deadly aim, took effect upon the withers of the horse [the ridge between the shoulder blades], while Tecumseh, with a shrill whoop, fell to the ground.” Shabbona was standing beside Tecumseh’s horse and would have attacked Johnson, but at that moment “…the horse [Johnson’s] reared and fell, being pierced by many bullets, and the rider, badly wounded, was thrown to the ground, but rescued by his comrades.”

That night Shabbona returned to find Tecumseh’s body. During the battle Tecumseh had worn only buckskins, with a British medal on a cord around his neck. While his body was untouched by American soldiers, the more colorfully-dressed one beside it had been scalped and mutilated by having strips of flesh cut away.

An investigator for the Absentee Shawnees of Oklahoma later found that Tecumseh’s body was buried near the battlefield in a location that later flooded, washing away stones that might have marked it. A commemorative memorial marker stands on Walpole Island, across the St. Clair River from Algonac. But Shabbona never disclosed the location.

After the battle Johnson told one interviewer, “They say I killed him [Tecumseh]; how could I tell? I was in too much of a hurry, when he was advancing on me, to ask his name, or inquire after the health of his family.”

Some time between 1837 and 1841 Shabbona joined other chiefs visiting Washington, D.C. He met with Vice President Johnson, and they spend several hours discussing the Battle of Thames. He introduce Shabbona to friends, and before his departure gave him a heavy gold ring. Shabbona later confirmed to a biographer that Johnson was in fact the shooter.

Johnson was a mounted volunteer in the Kentucky Militia. He is one of the odd ‘forgotten’ figures of American politics. Earlier Johnson had been a U.S. representative from Kentucky. He would later serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, and finally as a state representative. He was elected by the U.S. Senate as vice president of the United States under President Martin van Buren, serving in that capacity from 1837 to 1841.

His potential for higher office was almost limitless, except for a few items. He had become engaged at age 16, but broke it off at the insistence of his mother. Later the ex-fiancé had his illegitimate child. After his father died, Johnson inherited slave Julia Chinn. She was described as ‘octaroon’ – seven-eighths Caucasian. She became his common law wife and manager of his plantation, though under Kentucky law she would have been defined as his ‘legal concubine.’ She acted as hostess when the Marquis de Lafayette visited their plantation.

They lived together openly at a time and in a place where interracial marriages were ‘not done,’ but they were prohibited from having a legal ceremony. He gave both of their daughters his surname.17

After the battle Shabbona was disillusioned and returned to his family. He felt he had been exploited by the British, and vowed not to let it happen again. Even they admitted that the westward expansion of the American frontier was inevitable

The Treaty of Ghent ended the war Dec. 24, 1814. But distribution of the news was slow, and on Jan. 8, 1815 American soldiers and volunteers under Brevet Major General Andrew Jackson routed British troops in the Battle of New Orleans.

his band later lived in Missouri, then in 1836 moved to Iowa Territory. He became a chief of 2,000 members at Trader’s Point (now Council Bluffs), but died of cholera in 1841.

17 Political mudslinging at that time was often fantastically exaggerated. One subtle story meant to put Johnson in a negative light was circulated later in his life. It held that after Julia died in 1836, he took up with another slave. When she flirted with another man, he had her arrested and sold at auction. It could not be proven or disproven.
In 1815 the government tribal agent at Pekin reported that Potowatomi chiefs Shabbona and Senachewine (from what is now Putnam County) should be respected as friendly leaders.

The Red Bird Uprising of 1825 involved Winnebago from a camp at what is now Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Shabbona and three others volunteered to bring back any Potowatomi who may have joined them. He entered the main encampment of the Winnebago tribe on Lake Koshkonong alone, thinking it would not disturb the peace. But he was considered a spy and immediately confined. Eventually he was released with an escort, on the condition that he would not report to the government tribal agent in Chicago. But as he and his escort passed his three friends hidden in the brush, he complained loudly about the situation, tipping them off. While he complied with his agreement by returning to his village, the three reported what they had heard to Fort Dearborn (now Chicago).

When the Treaty of Prairie du Chien was signed in June of 1829, Shabbona was rewarded with a land grant. Article III of the document stipulated that he would receive 1,280 acres in what is now DeKalb County.

In 1830 Shabbona came from Starved Rock and erected wigwams near the cabin of Jonathan Tharp, between McLean Street and Broadway in Pekin. (In 1824, Tharp had become the first European settler to build a cabin in what became Pekin, at the foot of Broadway). Others of his tribe lived in about 100 wigwams along Gravel Ridge. He was still there in early 1832, but by the close of the year he had gone north to DeKalb County. Throughout this time he was also thought to have camped near what is now Princeton, Bureau County.

When Black Hawk crossed the Mississippi River April 5, 1832, Shabbona rode out to meet him at Saukenock. He cautioned Black Hawk to turn back before he was cut off, and told him he would not provide braves or foodstuffs.

On the day after this meeting, Shabbona went to Dixon’s Ferry (now Dixon, Lee County on the Rock River). He wanted to offer his services to Governor John Reynolds. That night in camp he was spotted by a cook named George McKabe. McKabe had been married to Sauk and lived in her village. Whether by design, or simply to enhance his status, he told intoxicated rangers that Shabbona was there as a spy for Black Hawk. Shabbona was seized and roughed up, but saved from being shot by ferry operator John Dixon, who called him an old friend. Shabbona then spent two nights as a guest in Dixon’s home. There he met Governor Reynolds, Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, Colonel (later president) Zachary Taylor, and others. McKabe slipped away and joined Black Hawk’s contingent.

The Battle of Stillman’s Run took place May 14. On May 16 Shabbona, his son, and his nephew set out to ride across Northern Illinois. They warned settlers that Black Hawk might be approaching. He assured them that as long as he was a leader of the Potowatomi he would never ally himself with Black Hawk. But he conceded that he could not control everyone.

He also acted as a guide and scout for the Illinois Militia, and for this he was later awarded a small government pension.

Earlier Shabbona had visited LaSalle County to warn a settler family there of danger from another direction.

THE INDIAN CREEK MASSACRE

In the spring of 1830 blacksmith William Davis made a claim about 14 miles north of Ottawa (in what is now LaSalle County). In the spring of 1832 he dammed a creek running through his property, planning to construct a saw mill.

A small Potowatomi village upriver depended on fish from the stream for food and fertilizer. Their leader Chief Meau-eus visited Davis, pointing out that the fish would be kept from ascending the stream. A dam would waste the resource by causing their deaths in stagnant pools.

Davis ignored him. Later a friend who purportedly accompanied him said that Davis had attempted to take conciliatory gifts to the upriver village, but found it empty. This may or may not have been true. But it undeniable that a few days later he beat up a Potowatomi brave trying to dismantle his dam.

On May 16 he was visited by Chief Shabbona and Chief Waubonsie. They suggested a compromise: with their help the stream could be divided into two branches. One could be damned to create a small reservoir and waterfall that would power a sawmill, and another would enable the fish to pass by undisturbed. Davis refused to consider it.

Shabbona persisted. He implored Davis to make at least a gesture of compromise, for the sake of appearances and the sake of his wife and children. Davis would not listen.

On the same day Shabbona informed the community about the Battle of Stillman’s Run May 14. Many of the residents moved into Fort Johnston at Ottawa. William Davis objected and told his neighbors it would be a mistake. At nightfall 23 residents were still in their homes, including the Davis family.

In the meantime three Sauks from Black Hawk’s contingent had come into the area seeking allies from other tribes. They heard about Davis and his haughtiness. On the morning of May 21 Shabbona returned to warn the remaining settlers that the encampment of a war party had been seen six miles upriver. About four o’clock in the afternoon – seven days after the Battle of Stillman’s Run and five days after Shabbona’s first warning visit – the three Sauks and about 60 Potowatomi stormed Davis’s cabin.
A company of military scouts from Fort Dearborn was the first to find the massacre victims May 22. Fifteen settlers had been killed and scalped (a few were off in the fields). The men and children had their limbs severed. Sylvia Hall, 17, and her sister Rachel Hall, 15, were taken hostage. Sylvia fainted when she recognized her mother’s scalp on someone’s belt. A seven-year-old boy who was also taken proved to be too slow afoot, and was killed a mile away.

The girls were taken 90 miles to Black Hawk’s camp near what is now Madison, Wisconsin. Black Hawk later maintained that his Sauks had actually saved the women. He did not want hostages, and chose to return them. A Winnebago chief named White Crow served as go-between. Government tribal agent Henry Gratiot paid White Crow a ransom of 10 horses, wampum, and corn. The Halls were released June 1.

Rachel Hall married, and her husband donated an obelisk monument to the victims of the massacre. In recognition of the person who tried to prevent it, the land around it was designated Shabbona Park in 1902. It is now Shabbona County Park.

In the spring of 1833 a large number of Potowatomis and Winnegabos met in a council at what is now New Bedford, Bureau County. They did not decide to go to war, but agreed on small steps to help Black Hawk. A number of chiefs felt that by aiding the settlers, Shabbona had forfeited his right to live. They dispatched two braves with murderous intent.

One of those at the gathering explained the plot to a nearby fur trader named Louis Ouilmette. He sent someone to the Bureau settlement to tell Shabbona. Before the message could be delivered, two shots were fired at Shabbona while he was hunting. The breathless messenger soon arrived and provided a full explanation of his narrow escape. For the next few months Shabbona stayed at a number of different locations.

In September of 1836 Shabbona and other neutral Potowatomis were encamped along Big Bureau Creek at Peoria-Galena Road (now Interstate 180), across the Illinois River from Hennepin. In late October they departed and migrated west in compliance with a treaty re-negotiation under the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The entire party consisted of 142 persons with 160 horses.

Shabbona accompanied them to a reservation between the Missouri and Little Platte Rivers in Kansas. There he found Potowatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibwe. Unbeknownst to him, within 50 miles was a similar reservation for Sauk and Fox. Among the residents was Chief Neopope, an earlier adversary who fought with Black Hawk.

In February of 1837 Shabbona went on a 100-mile expedition hunting buffalo. Neopope followed and raided his camp late at night. Shabbona’s oldest son Pypeogee and nephew Pyps were killed, and their bodies mutilated. The 62-year-old Shabbona and his son Smoke walked and ran back to their reservation, arriving three days later.

He returned to Illinois. A settler who met him on the trail said, “…He inquired after his many white friends but said he could not see them now, for his heart was full of trouble… he could not live in Iowa; the Sauks and Foxes had killed his son and nephew, and hunted him down as though he were a wild beast, and to save his life he had fled from home during the darkness of night…all had large stripes of black paint on their forehead showing they were in mourning for departed loved ones.”

In Illinois he still had property in what was called Shabbona’s Grove in DeKalb County. But on his return he found that all the suitable trees had been cut down by his neighbors to make fence rails. Even his own posts had been taken.

In the spring of 1838 an attempt on his life was prevented. His family members discovered a decrepit squaw hiding in thick timber near his encampment. Her face was painted, and partially concealed by a buckskin head dress. Beside her were weapons. She refused to talk to anyone. After being given some provisions, she mounted a pony and rode away in a 400-mile journey back to Kansas, where she was known as Neopope, the aging and bitter former war chief.

According to History of Tazewell County, Shabbona spent at least two winters in the early 1840s living in Pleasant Grove below Tremont and Elm Grove.

Hearing news of Neopope’s death in early 1849, in the spring Shabbona made a second trip to Kansas. Before his departure he sold all but 100 acres of his land to brothers Azell and Orris Gates. They agreed to a down payment, future payments, interest, and also to pay rent to cultivate part of his 100 acres.

In Kansas he finally heard a full explanation of the squaw in the forest.

As a veteran of military service he was exempt from the Indian Removal Act of 1830. He returned to Illinois in the fall of 1851. But because he was illiterate, he knew very little about events in DeKalb County during his absence.

No one had anticipated him returning. He expected to receive two years of rent payments. Instead he found that everything had been forfeited back to the government in a court process shortly after his departure, including his house and the possessions inside it.
When the full story came to light, it turned out that immediately after his departure the Gates brothers had filed affidavits with land commissioners in Washington, D.C. They said that Shabbona had abandoned his land and gone west; it should now revert to the government, who could sell it to them. They paid $1.25 an acre.

Now he had no savings, and only a $200 monthly annuity payment from the government. From there he set up a wigwam in a grove by Big Rock Creek near Plano, Kendall County. Between 1851 and 1857 he traveled and visited throughout the state, most often staying near Ottawa, and made visits to Kansas and Canada.

Starved Rock is a sandstone butte overlooking the Illinois River, 10 miles west of Ottawa. In 1769 a brave from the Illini tribe had murdered the Ottawa chief Pontiac. The Ottawa and Potowatomi extracted a fearful revenge. Illini survivors fled to the butte about 125 feet above the river. But the Illini were surrounded, and they starved to death on the summit. This touched off a cycle of smaller wars that threatened almost all relationships between tribes in what became the state of Illinois. Later accounts describe Shabbona climbing to the summit to watch the seasons change, reliving the stories he had heard from relatives in his childhood. The site is now a state park.

In Ottawa Shabbona stayed at home of his friend merchant George E. Walker. Walker had first met Shabbona when he was a captain of scouts in the volunteer militia. After the Black Hawk War, as sheriff of LaSalle County, Walker went alone to Black Hawk’s camp in Iowa and arrested two braves he felt were responsible for the Massacre at Indian Creek. They were tried at Ottawa, but found innocent when the Hall sisters were unable to identify them. Then a post-trial party of celebration proved illuminating. One of the braves wiped paint from his cheek, revealing a scar. It was recognized immediately by one of the Hall sisters. Too late.

Walker’s friend Lucien Palmer Sanger passed around a subscription paper to aid Shabbona. About $500 was accumulated, and 20 acres were purchased. The property was located 18 miles east of Ottawa, on Mazon Creek in what is now Section 20, Norman Township, Grundy County.

Contributions for a house were raised at a benefit July 4, 1857. In the afternoon a ball was held in the local meeting hall, and tickets sold for a good price. Someone suggested that Shabbona pick out the most beautiful girl in attendance. These included his daughters and nieces. He had each contestant walk the length of the hall and back, pretending he was faced with a very grave decision. At the conclusion, to the amusement of all, he patted the shoulder of his 400-pound wife Wiomex Oquaka and said, “Much big, heap prettiest squaw.”

Shabbona was given a new frame house with a view of the Illinois River, with an outbuilding and fencing. His children and grandchildren lived in the house, while he and his wife slept in a wigwam nearby.

In Grundy County he lived modestly on his annual annuity. His last public appearance was a Lincoln-Douglas debate at Ottawa Aug. 21, 1858.

He died in his wigwam July 17, 1859. He was still wearing the gold ring given to him by Richard Johnson, and had requested to be buried with it. His funeral was held in Claypool Schoolhouse at Morris.

Wiomex Oquaka died Nov. 30, 1864. While attempting to cross Mazon Creek with a grandchild in her lap, their carriage tipped over and pinned them down. She and the grandchild drowned in only six inches of water.

They are buried in Evergreen Cemetery at Morris, Grundy County. A group stone has them listed as Chief Benjamin Shabonah, buried 7-19-1859, 84 Yrs.; and Wife Wiomex Shabonah, buried 12-1-1864, 86 Yrs. A boulder set as a headstone also says ‘Chief Benjamin Shabonah,’ a name he chose shortly before his death. A modern brass plaque nearby says, “Chief Shabbona, born 1775, this gentle man of peace, a staunch friend of white settlers, died July 17, 1859 near Morris, Grundy Co., Ill.”

After Wiomex Oquaka’s death their children and grandchildren moved to a reservation at Holton, Kansas.

Memories of Shaubena, with Incidents Relating to the Early Settlement of the West by Nehemiah Matson was published at Chicago in 1878. The author had lived in Peoria as a boy, and spoke with Shabbona shortly before his departure to go west in 1836.
Why were native Americans, who grew corn, beans, and squash in summer months but followed animal migratory patterns in winter months, so intent on returning to Central Illinois? Why did the American government, eastern transplants, and European settlers abandon all illusion of ‘Christian principles’ in the drive to force them west?

The soil of Central Illinois can only be matched in a few other places around the world. These are generally cited as part of Iowa, grasslands called the Pampas in Argentina, the Ukraine, and along the Yellow River in China (prone to devastating floods). It now yields about 50 bushels of soybean per acre annually, or about 180 bushels of corn. The state produces a $7 billion annual grain harvest.

Recall from THE THIRD WAVE OF IMMIGRATION that an obstacle to grassland settlement was “tough prairie roots, a cohesive matted obstacle impervious to most plows.” In the 1830s and ‘40s, farmers were still wrestling with cast iron plows that had a flat cutting surface. These were much less efficient than later self-cleaning steel plows with curved blades, because the user had to stop after only a few furrows to knock off clods of dirt with a shovel. This was even more difficult for those with oxen – unlike horses, they had to be driven every few steps.

Anyone could look at a map and readily see that Central Illinois had natural advantages. The Mississippi River form the western boundary. Rivers flowing from it cross the state diagonally. This meant there was more soft bottomland, easier to plow than sun-baked prairie. Animals were allowed to gaze openly across property boundary lines until property was fenced, but bottomland meant there were trees nearby that could be cut into rails.

Although it was still difficult to get produce to Fort Dearborn on Lake Michigan, steamboats came up the Illinois River to Peoria, so that produce could be shipped down to St. Louis or New Orleans. Although the large farms were more likely to ship out produce, the small farmer also benefited because that raised local asking prices. And it was clear to all that the 1830s was the ‘pause’ before railroads would make every corner accessible.

In 1832 few native Americans had reason to think their population was expanding. In contrast, the ‘new arrivals’ had traveled great distances past large cities to get there. They knew the advantages of a written language to keep records; the surveying, division, and private ownership of farms; the creation of permanent marketplaces to distribute foodstuffs; and the maintenance of road systems to connect them. And they saw their own population increase every decade as these advantages brought them closer to prosperity.

All concerned were keenly aware of catastrophic winters that had recently decimated the deer population. The native Americans who passed through Central Illinois may or may not have believed they were preserving the wilderness. Potential new settlers feared that wilderness without broad cultivation might not feed the next generations. But the expansion of the American frontier was not fueled by broad social perspectives. Few of the combatants risking their lives had any world view beyond the advantages or disadvantages to their own families, tribes, congregations, or counties.

And simply put, more money begets more personal freedom. Eastern transplants grew up in a culture where heroes were their own parents, grandparents, or neighbors: people who had come to America, claimed land, improved it, and sold it at an admirable profit; then moved on one or two more times until they reached prosperity.

True to an agricultural economy, their sense of personal worth was tied into whether you could feed yourself, and how many others you could feed. There was no morality in observing 1,000 roam freely and move on, when the soil could be subdivided, cultivated the entire length of the growing season, and used to feed 30,000, or 300,000.

The next generations moving west were determined to follow the only practical steps to prosperity that seemed within their reach. Eastern transplants saw the tribes as people who had chosen sides, fought the battles, and lost (the ‘they are all the same’ world view). Europeans heard ‘get rich’ stories about the American frontier. They gambled that the dangers of the voyage would not outweigh the dangers of military service at home, where those who ruled by sheer force had no moral compass. They resented the property boundaries and property rights that restricted their opportunities, but they could not fathom a world where they did not exist.

The prize was land – not ordinary, but exceptional land.

The most enduring effect of the Black Hawk War was that it gave Eastern transplants, European immigrants, and potential investors assurance that steps would be taken to protect settlers from danger on the new lands. From that point forward the population of Central Illinois would increase every year despite storms, droughts, insect plagues, epidemics, and economic downturns.
Lawyer Abraham Lincoln on the Eighth Circuit

Though he became a respected and successful lawyer in Central Illinois – and even briefly a judge – Abraham Lincoln did not attend law school. While working as a clerk in a country store at New Salem, he borrowed legal texts from Springfield attorney John Todd Stuart, a cousin to his future wife Mary Todd.

He passed the bar examination and obtained a license to practice in 1836. In 1837 he moved to Springfield and became Stuart’s junior partner. In 1839 he started riding the Circuit of the Illinois Eighth Judicial District. Stuart and Lincoln generally charged $5 or $10 fees, and shared the income evenly.

In 1841 Stuart won a second term in in Congress, and Lincoln left his firm to become a junior partner to Stephen T. Logan at Springfield. Many of their cases involved The Bankruptcy Act of 1841, providing relief to debtors affected by the Panic of 1837.

At its peak from 1841 to 1847, the Circuit of the Illinois Eighth Judicial District covered 15 counties.

In December of 1844 he established his own office with William H. Herndon as his junior partner. They typically charged a fee from $5 to $20. By this time he had appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court and was qualified to try cases in U.S. District Courts. Lincoln excused himself in 1847 to serve a term as in the House of Representatives, and returned from Washington, D.C. in 1849. In that year he had tried his first case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A realignment in 1853 reconformed the circuit to the counties Sangamon, Logan, McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, DeWitt, Champaign, and Vermilion. Metamora in Woodford County became his most northerly stop; in Tazewell County he practiced at Pekin and Tremont.

Engel’s Place at Hanover

In the 1830s the dirt road from Chicago to Bloomington and Springfield passed through Hanover, Tazewell County. There Peter Engel (1794-1875, see ENGEL) and his family maintained a stagecoach stand and tavern for many years. Mail was delivered and sent out.

Engel may have first met Abraham Lincoln when Lincoln was a private and captain serving in the Black Hawk War of 1832. Both Peter and his half-brother Jean/John Engel had taken food and drink to Lincoln’s company as they passed through on their way north.

Recall that there were several communities in Illinois called Hanover, and it was thought that this would be looked upon unfavorably by railroad companies. On Feb. 21, 1845 Hanover became Metamora, Woodford County. Lincoln participated in more than 70 trials in a temporary Hanover courthouse dragged from Versailles (1843-1845) and the Metamora Courthouse (1845-1857), including two for murder and two involving runaway slaves.

Descendant Samuel Engel told this story in the Feb. 12, 1940 issue of The Daily Olympian (Olympia, Washington State). It was republished in the Metamora Herald Feb. 23, 1940.

My grandfather, Peter Engel, kept a tavern just outside Metamora. Mr. Lincoln occasionally put up there for the night. Mr. Lincoln once told a mutual friend, a man by the name of Acey Andrews, about the first time he stayed at the tavern.

"I had supper," said Mr. Lincoln, "and was sitting by the fireplace. Pretty soon a man came in and sat down. Then another, and another, until there were seven or eight bearded, silent huskies sitting around me. I began to be disturbed. It flashed through my mind that possibly they were some sort of night riders, as obviously they had come for some pre-arranged purpose. Then Peter Engel glanced over the group and said, 'Well gentlemen, I guess it's time to begin,' and he walked over to the fireplace, took his Bible off the mantle, and proceeded to lead the group through an extended prayer meeting."

The Shields Challenge at Tremont

A log courthouse at Mackinaw served a purpose from 1827 until 1831. In 1831 the court moved to an old schoolhouse in Pekin.

When the commissioners of Tazewell County first announced that they wanted to build a permanent courthouse on the Eighth Circuit, closer to the center of the county, the citizens of Tremont responded by donating $2,000 and 20 acres.
On June 6, 1836, a temporary courthouse was set up at Tremont at a cost of $1,150. By 1839 construction was completed on a 40-foot-by-60-foot two-story building of red brick. The front mantle was supported by four Grecian columns, and its roof was surmounted with a cupola, copper dome, and weather vane at a cost of $14,450.

The Illinois State Historical Library holds a travel voucher from the firm of Stuart and Lincoln. It listed the costs of one of his trips to Tremont around 1840: “Road expenses $2.82¼, tavern bill $9.00, horse hire $10.00. Total $21.28¼.”

Though Abraham Lincoln presented a number of cases there, it was perhaps best remembered in local barbershops as the site of the ‘Shields challenge.’

James Shields was born in Northern Ireland May 10, 1806. He immigrated in 1826, served as a sailor, fought in the Second Seminole War, and founded a fencing school in Quebec.

He eventually settled at Kaskaskia. There he studied and practiced law. He was elected to the state house of representatives in 1836, and in 1839 became state auditor.

Recall from THE COUNTY AND STATE that the nation experienced a financial panic in 1837. This was followed by a long period of recession, which economists now call the Contractions of 1839-43. The national financial contractions struck hardest in 1841. In July, payment of the interest on the public debt of the state was stopped. Taxes climbed, and investment money stopped coming in. Land lost its value. And as state auditor, Shields took the brunt of public criticism.

At the time ‘barb letters’ written by political operatives were common practice. They got out the vote while avoiding campaign expenses, libel suits, and often the truth altogether. In 1842 Abraham Lincoln sent a scathing letter to the Sangamon Journal, which he signed as ‘Aunt Becca.’ Lincoln’s future wife Mary Todd helped by making changes that she thought were witty. But Mary and a friend got carried away, later writing and sending additional letters without Lincoln’s knowledge. One described a party attended by Shields:

“If I was deaf and blind I could tell him by the smell ... All the gals about town were there, and all the handsome widows, and married women, finickin’ about, trying to look like gals, tied as tight in the middle, and puffed out at both ends like bundles of fodder that hadn't been stacked yet, wanted stackin’ pretty bad ... He was paying his money to this one and that one and t’other one, and sufferin’ great loss because it wasn’t silver instead of state paper [the paper currency of Illinois under Shields] ... “Dear girls, it is distressing, but I cannot marry you all. Too well I know how much you suffer, but do, do remember, it is not my fault that I am so handsome and so interesting.”

Shields contacted the editor and demanded to know the name of the author. Lincoln acknowledged his responsibility. When the two next met at the Tremont Courthouse, local farmers watched the 36-year-old auditor challenge the 25-year-old trial lawyer to a duel.

What did this have to do with Amish Mennonites? Many of the families in this text have passdown stories about lawyer Abraham Lincoln staying overnight and chopping their wood in the morning. Just as many say this or that ancestor was present in the Tremont Courthouse when the challenge took place.

Shields had the choice of location. Because dueling was illegal in Illinois, he chose a forest in Missouri, on the opposite side of the Mississippi River from Alton. Lincoln was awarded the choice of weapons.

On Sept. 22, their carriages on barges crossed the Mississippi River. When they arrived on the far side, Lincoln’s seconds untied a lengthy wooden box from his carriage. It contained two heavy and cumbersome cavalry broadswords.

Shields was 5-foot nine-inches tall. Lincoln was 6-foot four-inches tall, and unnaturally strong (now attributed to Marfan Syndrome). As the would-be opponents took their places, Abe casually lopped off a branch high over Shield's head.

The varying versions of what happened next depended on the political positions of the observers. Some said Lincoln apologized. Others said Shields was told about the real authors on his way to the location. Still others claimed that after the branch and a few loose leaves fell at Shields’s feet, he thought twice and wisely backed out of the arrangement.

The two became lifelong friends.

In 1849 the residents of Tazewell County voted to erect a new county courthouse at Pekin. This was completed in 1850. The last meeting of the Board of Supervisors at Tremont took place Aug. 26, 1850.

The Tremont building continued to be used as a high school, a community center, and temporary housing.
Abraham Lincoln spoke at the Tremont Courthouse for the last time at a local ‘convention’ Aug. 30, 1858. He had been nominated as a candidate for the Senate in the Republican State Convention at the Springfield Statehouse June 16, 1858, the same day he gave the 'House Divided' speech that may have doomed his campaign.22

In 1845 Shields was appointed to the State Supreme Court. He went on to be a commissioner of the U.S. General Land Office, a brigadier general in the Mexican-American War, turn down the governorship of the Oregon Territory, a brigadier general in the Civil War (when he declined an offer to command the Army of the Potomac), state railroad commissioner of California, a member of the Missouri State House of Representatives, Missouri railroad commissioner, and a U.S. senator from three different states. He died at Ottumwa, Iowa June 1, 1879.

The Tremont Courthouse was finally torn down in 1895. A bronze plaque marks the site. Shields and Lincoln are mentioned.

The Goings Trial at Metamora

For those interested in lawyer Abraham Lincoln, we heartily recommend a summer visit to the Metamora Courthouse at 113 East Partridge Street, on the town square facing the band stand. He last visited Metamora for a speaking engagement at the courthouse in 1860.

After the county seat moved to Eureka in 1896 the upstairs was used as an auditorium for plays, operettas, dances, and high school graduations. It hosted the first public movie showing in Metamora.

In 1920 the building was donated to the state for restoration. It was refurbished and decorated with period furniture from nearby homes. The courthouse is now on the National Register of Historic Places as a museum open to the public.

The first floor is a museum. The items we found most interesting were scrapbooks of tintypes distributed during elections to drum up political support – Lincoln with and without a beard, with and without a tie, formal and informal. The courtroom on the second floor has been restored to its appearance in 1845. Some original furniture was still being used in nearby homes in the 1920s. This included a table where Lincoln sat during the 1860 presidential campaign, altered to accommodate his long legs.

The courthouse sits on the green where Abraham Lincoln and other lawyers played horseshoes during adjournments. The street is still paved with brick, as it was in 1920.

We would be remiss without another Lincoln story from this courthouse.

On April 14, 1857 70-year-old Melissa Goings of Worth Township quarreled with her husband about whether a window should be open or shut. She struck him over the head with a piece of firewood. A few hours later 77-year-old Roswell Goings lapsed into unconsciousness. He died four days later, a coroner’s jury took testimony, and she was indicted for first-degree murder – a hanging offense.

The indictment stated that “not having the fear of God before her eyes but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil” she had struck her husband causing a mortal wound one inch wide and on inch deep. She “…unlawfully, feloniously, willfully, and of her malice aforethought, did kill and murder contrary to the form of the statute in such cases…”

The household of Roswell Goings is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, on the same page as John Noffsinger, Christian Noffsinger, and John Gingery. The 1850 census of Woodford County has them as farmer Boswell Goings, 70, Virginia; and Monica, 63, Maryland. They were long-time local residents, and Roswell’s contentious personality was familiar to everyone.

22 The second speaker that day was minister Hiram Kellogg, the first president of Knox College at Galesburg. When Kellogg had arrived at the College in 1841, it was only two clapboard buildings. One was destroyed by fire in 1843. In that year Kellogg served as one of nine U.S. delegates to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London. He remained in England for over a year, prompting his dismissal from the college in 1845. The first class did not graduate until 1846.

Knox College would host the largest of the Lincoln-Douglas debates Oct. 7, 1858. 20,000 people sat outdoors for three hours on a blustery day. After briefly touching on equality and the promises of the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln said, “The next thing to which I will ask your attention is the Judge’s [Douglas’s] comments upon the fact, as he assumes it to be, that we cannot call our public meetings as Republican meetings. He instances Tazewell County as one of the places where the friends of Lincoln have called a public meeting, and have not dared to name it a Republican meeting [because there was a Democrat majority]. He instances Monroe County as another where Judge Trumbull and Jehu Baker addressed the persons whom the Judge assumes to be the friends of Lincoln, calling them the ‘Free Democracy’ [rather than advertising a Republican meeting]. I have the honor to inform Judge Douglas, he [Trumbull] spoke in that very County of Tazewell last Saturday, and I was there on Tuesday last, and when he spoke there he spoke under a call not venturing to use the word ‘Democrat.’" In response to laughter and applause, Lincoln turned toward a red-faced Douglas and asked, “What do you think of this?”
Few in the community wanted to see Melissa found guilty. It was well-known that she had put up with years of physical abuse from the heavy drinker. Many thought her actions were spontaneous because kindling was an odd choice for a murder weapon, when a cast iron pan was readily available.

Lincoln’s last Metamora trial, her defense, commenced and concluded before a full courtroom Oct. 10, 1857. Though Melissa had been free up to the day of the trial, Lincoln arrived to find the judge in a severe mood. He had just revoked her $1,000 bond, suggesting she was a flight risk. This would place her in the custody of the sheriff during court sessions, and in confinement if the trial lasted more than a day.

There was never a question of her innocence. A transcript of neighbor Joshua Van Wilson’s remarks from the coroner’s inquiry was read to the jury: “He states that Malissa Goings did strike the deceased first on the back and he fell and 2nd between [illegible] and [illegible] on the head and he lay in a manner senseless on the floor for some time, the blows were made with a stick of stove wood about a foot long a split stick about as large as his arm, he thought it was cause of death he lived not quite a week he died on Saturday night, lived 5 or 6 days I do not know which, they had quarreled before then, I don’t know how long he had been sick, about a month or so only once to eat while sick not hardly able to walk if she [illegible] struck him she meant to kill him if she could; this was told to me two days before the affray by her.”

During a mid-day recess Lincoln took his client aside to discuss her chances.

When everyone returned from the adjournment, Melissa was nowhere to be found. One version of the story has it that she walked outside with her lawyer, and the sheriff failed to follow. Another says she met with her lawyer in a small first-story room; this was observed by a passerby in the hallway who claimed to have seen one foot pass out of an open window.

The defense lawyer was naturally called before the judge. The court record says he pled ignorance, assuming she was someone else’s responsibility. Later the barbershop stories of those who claimed to be eyewitnesses differed substantially. According to them, Lincoln told the judge: “Your honor, I did not chase her off. She simply asked me where she could get a good drink of water, and I said, Tennessee has mighty fine drinkin’ water.”

It is generally assumed that the elderly woman escaped in a buggy with the cooperation of the sheriff and the community – and perhaps judge James Harriott himself (the revocation of her bond before her flight meant the $1,000 would be returned to her family). The sheriff was not reprimanded in court. No followup warrant for her re-arrest was ever issued. And on May 24, 1859 her case was dismissed, on the understanding that she was living in another state.

‘Melissa Goings, 71, Maryland’ is found on the 1860 census of Centre Township [now Guthrie Center], Guthrie County, Iowa. She was living in the household of her son farmer ‘Benjamin L. Goings, 37, Pennsylvania.’ She died at Benicia, Solano County, California (near San Francisco Bay) in 1867.23

23 Melissa was born in Maryland Jan. 19, 1788. She and Roswell were married in Frederick County, Maryland April 4, 1805. Her son Benjamin Louis Goings was born Feb. 3, 1822, and died at Butte Mountain, Tehama County, California Nov. 9, 1909.
Owen Lovejoy and Abraham Lincoln

If not for the Lincoln family, we might say that the Lovejoy family made more of a mark upon the world than any other in Illinois politics of the 19th century.

The oldest brother did not consider himself a politician, and spent only a little more than six months in the state. His profound influence on others came about directly because of his death.

Elijah Parish Lovejoy was born in Albion, Maine Nov. 9, 1802. He graduated at the top of his class at Waterville College (now Colby College). He scouted Illinois in the fall of 1827, but thought the parts he saw too sparsely populated, and continued on to St. Louis, Missouri. There he became a journalist. Three years later he bought a half-partnership in the St. Louis Times.

Elijah became an ardent abolitionist after hearing a revivalist minister named David Nelson address his congregation. He then attended the theological seminary at Princeton University in New Jersey, once again graduating first, and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

After returning to St. Louis he started a new newspaper, the St. Louis Observer. In the style of the day his newspaper took strident positions against any faith or custom different from his own, including Catholicism, tobacco, and alcohol. Although Missouri was a slave state, he came out against slavery in 1835. He stressed the inhumanity of the practice by condemning the rape of slaves by their masters, something that was utterly taboo from public discussion.

In April of 1836 mixed-race boatman Francis McIntosh stabbed and killed a white constable in St. Louis while resisting arrest. After his capture, a crowd of 2,000 surrounded the county courthouse. The prisoner was extracted, bound to a tree, and burned alive. About 20 minutes elapsed before he succumbed. Afterward his skeleton remained in place while children were encouraged to throw rocks at it.

Elijah called it “savage barbarity.” At the subsequent trial the slave-holding judge read excerpts of Elijah’s editorials to the jury, observing that they “…Fanaticize the negro and turn him against the white man.” It was his opinion that Elijah was the guilty party, and should be prosecuted in place of the defendants.24

Elijah immediately made plans to move the Observer across the Mississippi River to Alton in the free state of Illinois. On the night he departed, his offices were ransacked and the printing press he left behind was dismantled. But the parts were salvaged and shipped to Alton, arriving on a Saturday evening. On Sunday a group of men broke into a warehouse there, and threw them into the river.

By September Elijah had a new press and resumed publishing. But after a break-in on the evening of Aug. 31, 1837, the new press joined the old.

Looking around for allies, Elijah and others called for a convention in Alton to found an anti-slavery society. They announced an open convention to meet Oct. 26, 1837. This mistake allowed his opponents – marshalled by racist Illinois attorney general, Usher F. Linder – to pack the house. The next day Linder led a vote that actually endorsed slavery.

On Nov. 7, 1837, yet another printing press arrived at Alton. On the evening of the next day a mob gathered around the warehouse where it was stored. At first they were unsuccessful in setting fire to the roof. Those inside shot at those outside, and someone was killed. When Elijah and another man ran outside to push away a ladder, Elijah was hit by five pellets from a shotgun and died.

In the aftermath of the incident the owner of the warehouse was tried for inciting a riot. Others were tried for resisting the attempts to burn the warehouse. Linder led the prosecution, but all defendants were acquitted. The jury did not necessarily feel the abolitionists were innocent; they simply feared that prolonging the cases would bring more notoriety to their town and hurt business.

No service was held for Lovejoy, and the Alton Observer did not report his death. He was buried in an unmarked grave behind Alton Cemetery. A marker was not erected until 1860; a monument did not follow until 1897.

Elijah’s younger brother Owen Lovejoy was born at Albion, Maine Jan. 6, 1811. He graduated as a student of law from Bowdoin College at Brunswick, Maine in 1832. In 1836 he took up a position as a minister of the Congregational Church at Princeton, Bureau County.

He was with Elijah in Alton, and present at his death. “Beside the prostate body of my murdered brother Elijah, while fresh blood was oozing from his perforated breast, on my knees while alone with the dead and with God, I vowed never to forsake the cause that was sprinkled with his blood.”

24 The incident was later described in Eliza Woodson Burhans Farnham’s Life in Priairie Land (1846), as a story that was told to her in St. Louis.
Owen and his brother Joseph wrote a brief treatise about Elijah. Memoir of the Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy; who was murdered in defense of the liberty of the press, at Alton, Illinois, Nov. 7, 1837 was published by the Antislavery Society in New York in 1838, with a forward by ex-president John Quincy Adams.

In Princeton, Owen became a conductor on the Underground Railroad and an agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Recall from ROTH that the 1830-1886 diaries of John Roberts (1807-1886) are being edited by his great-great-great-grandniece Marilyn Gottwald of Peoria. Roberts lived in the Roberts Settlement on the Groveland-Morton line, where he and his brothers acted as operators on the Underground Railroad. (The author’s great-great-grandmother Verena Zimmerman Roth lived with them, and her son-in-law great-great-grandfather Joseph Stecker/Staker was his neighbor and is buried in his family cemetery).

Though more excerpts from his diaries are found in ROTH, this excerpt is especially relevant here. It tells the story of Owen Lovejoy’s eventful speaking engagement in Tazewell County.

May 20, 1842: "Mr. M took possession of the Presbyterian Church. Speeches by Elihu Chase and Moffat, Darins, Burton, etc. with swearing ruffians with clubs at the door to keep out all the abolitionists. We left Washington and went to Pleasant Grove. Had a discourse with Mr. Lovejoy and Dicky – 15 or 20 joined the society."

History of Tazewell County (1879) retells this incident:

“In those exciting days of the Underground Railroad, old Father Dickey and Owen Lovejoy, strong anti-slavery men, made an appointment to speak at Washington. On the notice of the meeting being announced, the pro-slavery men took forcible and armed possession of the church to be occupied by these speakers, and determined, at all hazards, to prevent the meeting from being held there. A prominent man of conservative views on the slavery question advised the anti-slavery men not to attempt to hold the meeting as they were determined to do, as the mob, he said, was frenzied with liquor, and he feared the consequences. So they concluded to go to Pleasant Grove Church, Groveland [the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, constructed on the south side of Allentown Road at Elm Grove in 1833] where they addressed one of the most enthusiastic anti-slavery meetings ever held in this part of the state. Owen Lovejoy was the operator of the day. The mob was determined to follow and break up that meeting also, but was deterred by being told that as the antislavery men were on their own ground they would fight, and doubtless blood would be shed.”

Owen was tried for harboring runaway slaves in 1843, but acquitted. It was difficult to prove where or when slaves had crossed the 1,300-acre farm inherited by his wife. And the jury was reluctant to accuse his wife and 10 children, who supported his efforts. Even his mother was involved in a local organization opposed to what she called “the crying sin of slavery.” Passage through Bureau County became known as “riding the Lovejoy Line.”

In 1848 he gave a sermon for a racially-mixed audience at the First Congregational Church in Chicago.

In 1854 Owen was elected to the state legislature. In the same year Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas sponsored the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. It repealed the Missouri Compromise, and meant that slavery could spread north of the southern border of Missouri. Opposition to the act was so strong that opposition meetings in Aurora and Rockford would nominate congressional candidates that year. On Oct. 4 a state convention of ‘Republicans’ was held, coincidental with the state fair. Owen was a key speaker.

Lincoln initially declined to join – he was still supported by the Whigs – though he made a speech against the act at the fair. In an address at Peoria Oct. 16, 1854 he said, “I wish to make and to keep the distinction between the existing institution [of slavery], and the exension of it, so broad, and so clear, that no honest man can misunderstand me, and no dishonest one, successfully resent me.”

On Feb. 22, 1856 a group of newspaper editors opposed to the act met at Decatur. Editor Georg Schneider of the German-language Illinois Staats-Zeitung newspaper in Chicago attended. So did Lincoln. Most of those present were aware that Lincoln had ghost-written some of Schneider’s editorials. The meeting led to a convention held at Bloomington, McLean County May 29, 1856. Disgruntled Democrats, former Whigs, former No-Nothingers (a nativist anti-Catholic party), abolitionists, and anti-slavery veterans came together. Their main goal to was lay down the organization and guidelines of a new Republican Party. Lovejoy and

25 Joseph Canmet Lovejoy was born at Albion, Maine July 24, 1805, and died at Cambridge, Massachusetts Oct. 19, 1871. Throughout his life he took up a number of causes, but the majority of his publications from 1852 until his death railed against alcohol. He addressed the state legislature of Massachusetts on the subject as early as March 15, 1853.

26 Recall from STAKER that from May 30, 1859 Lincoln was the hidden owner of the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger, a German-language newspaper published in Springfield and distributed throughout south and central Illinois. Theodore Canisius was free to continue as editor, provided he supported Republican Party positions.
Lincoln spoke "to deafening applause." (Though Lincoln’s speech was remembered as one of the best of his life, it was not recorded).

In June of 1856 a national convention was held in Philadelphia. Lovejoy gave a speech. But Lincoln, who was absent, received 110 votes for the vice presidential nomination, which went to someone from New Jersey. In the fall the Democrat James Buchanan defeated Republican nominee John C. Fremont and No-Nothing nominee Millard Fillmore. Lincoln had given more than 50 speeches on Fremont’s behalf.

Lovejoy left his position as minister in 1856, and served as a representative to Congress from 1857 until his death.

In 1858 Lincoln became the Republican nominee to run against Democratic Senator Stephen A. Douglas. On June 16, 1858 at Springfield he kicked off the unsuccessful campaign with his *House Divided* speech.

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest, in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new – North as well as South.”

Asked to comment, Owen said the speech would “…Shatter the doubtings of thousands of weak and timorous souls who are under the ban of pro-slavery sympathizing, and small despots all about us. They can now defy these in the strength of Lincoln’s leadership.”

Lincoln debated Senator Stephen A. Douglas seven times in 1858. In the first debate at Ottawa Aug. 21, he addressed slavery:

“I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because of it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world; enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibilty, to taunt us as hypocrites; causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity; and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principles of civil liberty – criticizing the Declaration of Independece, and insisting that there is no right principle of action but self-interest.

Before proceeding, let me say I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist amongst us, we should not instantly give it up.

This I believe of the masses North and South. Doubtless there are individuals on both sides, who would not hold slaves under any circumstances; and others who would gladly introduce slavery anew, if it were out of existence. We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North, and become tiptop Abolitionists; while some Northern ones go South, and become most cruel slave-masters.”

In rebuttal, Douglas used Owen’s presence on the platform to imply that Lincoln was surrendering to radical elements of the anti-slavery movement. Owen remained calm. At the second debate, where Lovejoy was not present, Douglas repeated his points. Then a few days later Douglas attempted to speak alone at Joliet. Lovejoy strode in uninvited and took a seat on the speaker’s platform. From his elbow he heckled Douglas throughout the remainder of the time.

While Lincoln and Douglas drew huge crowds, Owen made speeches on Lincoln’s behalf at other locations. This helped give the impression in national press coverage that anti-slavery voices were in the majority.

In February of 1859 Owen addressed accusations in Congress that he harbored runaway slaves, in defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act:

“Proclaim it upon the housetops! Write it upon every leaf that trembles in the forest! Make it blaze from the sun at high noon, and shine forth in the radiance of every star that bedecks the firmament of God. Let it echo through all the arches of Heaven, and reverberate and bellow through all the deep gorges of Hell, where slave catchers will be very likely to hear it. Owen Lovejoy lives at Princeton, Illinois, three-quarters of a mile east of the village, and he aids every fugitive that comes to his door and asks it. Thou invisible demon of slavery! Dost thou think to cross my humble threshold, and forbid me to give bread to the hungry and shelter to the houseless? I bid you defiance in the name of my God.”

On April 5, 1860 Owen told Congress:

“The principle of enslaving human beings because they are inferior, is this. If a man is a cripple, trip him up; if he is old and weak, and bowed with the weight of years, strike him, for he cannot strike back; if idiotic, take advantage of him. And if a child, deceive him. This, sir, is the doctrine of the Democrats and the doctrine of devils as well, and there is no
place outside the five points of Hell and the Democratic Party where the practice and prevalence of such doctrines would not be a disgrace.”

As he spoke his political opponents drew out canes and pistols, but his friends stepped in to protect him. In part because of the commotion, the text of the speech was carried by newspapers across the country.

In Washington, D.C. during the Civil War, Owen was a close friend and advisor to President Abraham Lincoln. Calling for the unconditional surrender of the Confederacy, he offered, “There never was a more causeless revolt since Lucifer led his cohorts of apostate angels against the throne of God; but I never heard that the Almighty proposed to compromise the matter, by allowing the rebels to kindle the fires south of the celestial meridian of 36 degrees and 30 minutes.”

Despite his harsh rhetoric, he became the bridge between extreme abolitionists and the president. On June 12, 1862 he gave a speech and then added, “If he [Lincoln] does not drive as fast as I would, he is on the right road, and it is only a question of time.”

The Emancipation Proclamation was announced Jan. 1, 1863. In late 1863, at age 52, Owen was afflicted by cancer that caused him to lose weight and turned his hair white. He died at Brooklyn, N.Y. March 25, 1864. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton, where his former home is a National Historic Landmark.

Everett McKinley Dirksen (1896-1969) of Pekin, the Senate minority leader from 1959 to 1969, had a speaking style that was often compared to Owen Lovejoy. Dirksen helped to write and pass the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968.
David Davis and Abraham Lincoln

The judge who lawyer Abraham Lincoln appeared before in Tazewell County, the judge who he stood in for many times, the convention delegate who engineered his nomination to run for the presidency, the Supreme Court justice who cast a deciding vote to make his Civil War policies viable, and the man entrusted to handle his estate after his assassination were all one.

Though they were the best of acquaintances, Abraham Lincoln had no homespun/corn cob/country store anecdotes about David Davis. He regarded him with deep respect for his proficiency, fairness, and organization skill – but may not have considered him a friend in his last years, and often ignored his advice.

Davis was born on the Rounds Plantation (also called Mercer Plantation) in Cecil County, Maryland March 9, 1815, a son of David Davis and Ann Mercer. His father had died before his birth.

He spent part of his childhood at The Rounds. His grandfather died when he was age five, and he inherited two slaves there. They were sold a year later by his guardian.

When his mother remarried, he was sent off to live with a minister. He was later shuttled between locations: returning to his mother, attending a boarding school, and finally returning to the minister.

From 1828 to 1835 he attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio and New Haven Law School in Connecticut. This gave him a much more thorough knowledge of the law than most other lawyers of his time.

In the spring of 1835 he went to St. Louis. Discouraged by the number of business lawyers flocking there, he opened his office at Pekin in October. In 1836 he purchased Jesse Fell’s farm and law office, and moved to Bloomington, McLean County.

During and after the Panic of 1837 he specialized in collections, and profited by buying up defaulted properties. He also represented merchants from St. Louis seeking to collect debts in Central Illinois, and the State Bank of Illinois looking to pin down those who defaulted on loans. His experience in this field earned him a reputation as a methodical legal technician or ‘scavenger.’

In 1838 he married Sarah Woodruff Walker. Her father was president of a private society that opposed the growth of slavery, but also opposed any steps toward abolitionism. He held that one point should not be disputed: slaves already in America were the private property of their owners. Any other position would only excite strong and irrational emotions. Davis strongly agreed with this.

He sometimes opposed Lincoln in court on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit, and other times partnered with him. And, they sometimes represented each other.

Steadily accumulating wealth, Davis was elected to a two-year term in the state legislature in 1845. As a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention in McLean County in 1847, he helped revamp a system where judgeships were considered political patronage positions, and changed it to one where they were elected.

In September of 1848 he was selected as a judge on the Illinois Eight Judicial Circuit.

Just as Lincoln traveled the circuit twice a year, so did Davis. He wrote his wife, "This thing of traveling in Illinois, and being eaten up by bed bugs and mosquitoes (fleas you know don't trouble me much) is not what it is cracked up to be.” In contrast lawyer William H. Somers later write, “Mr. Lincoln never sat next to the landlord at a crowded table, and never got a chicken liver or the best cut from the roast. He never complained of the food, bed, or lodging. If every other fellow grumbled at the bill of fare which greeted us at many of the dingy taverns where we sojourned, Lincoln said nothing: yet he loved the life and never went home without reluctance.”

While many lawyers attended only a few trials on the circuit, Lincoln had clients in every courtroom where Davis presided. It was his only source of income. This meant that they spent many evenings discussing cases over meals in inns. Lincoln loved to tell stories, and Davis loved to hear them. They were also both Whigs at this time.

Davis still scooped up defaulted properties. But lawyer Abraham Lincoln knew him as a judge who was practical, considerate, and fair. Perhaps Davis realized that settlements on the circuit tended to be relatively minor.

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27 Jesse Fell was a lawyer, real estate speculator and developer, and newspaper publisher. He became one of the delegates who lobbied for Lincoln’s nomination at the Republican Party National Convention at Chicago in 1860.

As a boy the author spent summers with his grandmother Anna Maria Fischer Staker in her home on South Fell Avenue at Normal, McLean County. She had been an employee of Illinois State University up the street. In 1854 Fell had arranged for the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad to cross the Illinois Central Railroad north of Bloomington, where he had founded the town of North Bloomington. In 1860, Illinois State Normal University relocated there from downtown Bloomington. In 1865 North Bloomington became Normal. Thus Fell was directly responsible for the founding of the town, the presence of the university, and the subsequent growth of both. Similar stories can be told about a dozen other locations including Livingston County, which he named.
and he had his eye on the long term and bigger prizes: the reputation he could build with potential voters, and the acquaintances he could make with influential people.

In one lawsuit in 1854, Lincoln stood in for the judge, even though the plaintiff was being represented by his own law partner William Herndon. He ruled for the defendant.

Lincoln’s judgement as a lawyer was trusted so much that in 1856 he was asked to sit in pro tem for Judge David Davis at the Sangamon County Courthouse. Lincoln had no legal authority, and could only act as judge with the consent of all parties. Still, he presided over 321 cases, though 161 were only minor decisions involving continuances.

In 1854 Lincoln tried for a seat in the U.S. Senate. For the first time, Davis acted as his campaign manager, but failed to attend the party’s convention. Lincoln was not nominated, and began to look forward to 1858. In that year the position was filled by the state legislature, where Lincoln lost a vote to Stephen A. Douglas 54-46.

In 1858 Davis was criticized by the Chicago Tribune, citing a purported anonymous letter writer. It accused him of having interfered with abolitionist Owen Lovejoy’s political career. Lincoln defended him: “Judge Davis is my friend. I have known him for many years and think I know his views. I am certain that no plot or movement against Lovejoy’s re-nomination was led on by him, or that he was cognizant to anything of the kind, though he has some friends who were opposed to him [Lovejoy]; but he [Davis] is not responsibility for their opinions. That charge that he has no sympathy for the vitalizing principle of Republicanism is based on your own radical and progressive views, as advanced in the editorials of the Tribune.”

From 1857 to 1860 in the circuit court at Peoria, Davis heard many of the arguments of St. Louis investors attempting to wrest damages from Amishmen Christian and Peter Farny. They revolved around loans to support their large distillery at Farnisville, Woodford County. Lincoln was occasionally involved in the case that eventually went to the U.S. Supreme Court. See FARNY for background.

Curiously, Christian and his oldest son are listed as 'grantee' [recipient] on at least 19 land transactions found in the Woodford County Grantee and Grantor Indexes 1832-1893. Where did someone who had recently experienced a personal financial disaster find money to speculate?

Farny’s greatest asset had become his impeccable reputation in Woodford County. Everyone knew of his honesty, how much he had risked for his community, and his association with lawyer (now president) Abraham Lincoln. Was there someone behind the scenes who knew both Farny and Lincoln, had deep pockets, and systematically accumulated acreage? Had Farny become his unacknowledged agent to purchase land from unsuccessful farmers? We suspect but cannot prove that it was someone who had been accumulating defaulted properties since the Panic of 1837: Judge David Davis. After 1862 Davis was absent from Central Illinois, living in Washington, D.C.

Although Lincoln had only one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, he had presented himself as a viable national candidate at the Republican Party national convention in Chicago May 16-18, 1860. Davis arrived early with a well-conceived plan to win Lincoln the nomination. Prominent supporters were assigned to lobby out-of-state delegates late into the evenings. They were aided by Eighth Circuit lawyers, who were also delegates. Davis also promised patronage positions, though his candidate had ‘plausible deniability.’

Some of the stronger candidates slacked off their efforts after failing to secure the nomination on the first two ballots. Lincoln, considered a second choice by many of the delegates, accumulated enough backing to reach the nomination on the third ballot.

Henry Clay Whitney in Lincoln the Citizen (1908): “Judge Davis possessed an energetic, restless spirit, and as soon as Lincoln had received the nomination (which had been achieved largely through the efforts of the judge) he thought he ought to be consulted and counseled with, as to the appointments and policy of the incoming administration. But Lincoln didn’t seem inclined to that view of the case at all; in fact, the only man in our old circuit that he consulted with at all on national subjects was Leonard Swett [a lawyer and also a campaign manager in 1860]; and there were but two other Illinois men whom he thus honored: Norman B. Judd [Illinois representative and senator 1844-1860] and Elihu B. Washburne [Illinois representative 1863-1869 and later minister to France].”

Lincoln advised his secretary John G. Nicolay: “In regard to the patronage sought with so much eagerness and jealousy, I have prescribed for myself the maxim ‘Fairness to all;’ and I earnestly beseech your cooperation in keeping the maxim good.” Later the president ignored so many of Davis’s letters that Davis believed Nicolay was not passing them on.

As far as historians know, Davis did not ask directly for a federal position for himself – but of course this would have taken place behind closed doors. It is known that he encouraged others to jog Lincoln’s memory. In 1860 Jesse Fell told Lincoln, “I think I can safely say that of all living men you have no truer, more devoted friend and admirer than in the person of Judge Davis. And if I were going to select one man of all others whom we are under the greatest obligations for your nomination at Chicago, I unhesitatingly say it was him.”
Nevertheless, before Lincoln’s inauguration Davis accompanied him on a train from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C. He had served as a judge on the Illinois Eight Judicial Circuit for 13 years — since 1848. On April 12, 1861 Fort Sumter was fired upon. By then President Abraham Lincoln had already delayed in filling three vacant Supreme Court positions. After naming two anti-slavery choices, he nominated Davis on Oct. 17, 1862; Davis was confirmed by the Senate Dec. 8.

The most important cases in which Davis sided with the president were collectively known as the *Prize Cases*. Lincoln had ordered a blockade of Southern ports to put down the rebellion. Considering the Civil War to be an internal affair, he had never actually declared war, which would have suggested that he considered the Confederacy to be a distinct new country. The owners of vessels that had been seized or prevented from doing business sued the federal government.

After protracted discussion the Supreme Court decided not only that a war did in fact exist, but that the president had exceptional powers to put down the rebellion. History might have been very different if Davis had not cast a vote that gave the government a 5-4 majority; it would have opened the way for hundreds of lawsuits seeking damages for recent military actions.

Davis continued to offer political advice to the president, even after he was sitting on the Supreme Court. Citing his own father-in-law’s strong belief that slavery was a private property issue, he cautioned against issuing the *Emancipation Proclamation*. But the president went ahead and issued a preliminary text Sept. 22, 1862. This went into affect 100 days later when he signed it Jan. 1, 1863.

Booker T. Washington recalled in *Up from Slavery* (1907): “As the great day drew nearer, there was more singing in the slave quarters than usual. It was bolder, had more ring, and lasted later into the night. Most of the verses of the plantation songs had some reference to freedom… Some man who seemed to be a stranger (a United States officer, I presume) made a little speech and then read a rather long paper [the *Emancipation Proclamation*, I think. After the reading we were told that we were all free, and could go when and where we pleased. My mother, who was standing by my side, leaned over and kissed her children, while tears of joy ran down her cheeks. She explained to us what it all meant, that this was the day for which she had been so long praying, but fearing that she would never live to see.”

Orville Hickman Browning [senator from Illinois and later Secretary of the Interior] wrote in a Jan. 19, 1863 diary entry, “In conversation with Judge Davis of the Supreme Court this morning he told me that he had a conversation with the President yesterday in which he represented to him the alarming condition of things, and urged upon him to reconstruct his cabinet, and change his [emancipation] policy, as the only means of saving the country. The President told him that this proclamation in regard to slavery was a fixed thing…that he intended to adhere to it, and whether he changed his cabinet must be determined by future events.”

The relationship between the two cooled somewhat when Davis persisted in recommending patronage seekers to fill federal positions.

After Lincoln’s assassination April 15, 1865, Davis became executor of his estate. He was still a sitting justice on the Supreme Court. He ensured that Lincoln’s widow Mary Todd had an annual pension, and preserved Lincoln’s letters and documents in his own home at Bloomington. He made many disparaging remarks to others about the widow’s quirks, but treated her kindly when they were together. He later assisted Robert Todd Lincoln in arranging a court examination of her behavior.  

28 In her lifetime, Mary Todd Lincoln’s odd actions were attributed to a blow on the head in a carriage accident. Incidents of erratic behavior – tirades, compulsive and pointless spending on credit, petty thefts, hoarding – have been attributed to migraine headaches, depression, bipolar disorder, untreated diabetes, and/or pernicious anemia.

Because of her irritating personality she incited harsh criticism, and it is difficult to discern what was true and what was not. Some purchases attributed to her include: at Stewart’s department store in New York she had charged $3,000 for earrings and a pin, as well as $5,000 for a shawl; a merchant in New York asked her estate for $2,000 to pay for a dress worn at the second inauguration (Davis rejected the bill); a merchant in Washington, D.C. asked to be compensated for 300 pairs of kid gloves purchased over a four-month period (Davis rejected the bill). Her redecoration of the White House exceeded the planned budget by more than $6,000; it included a $2,500 carpet with no idea where to put it.

Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley had been a literate slave, but purchased the freedom of herself and her son in 1855. They moved from St. Louis to Washington, D.C. in 1860. Keckley met Mary Todd Lincoln on the day of the first inauguration, and was hired to work in the White House as a dresser and dress maker the following day. Her son served in the Civil War and died in battle Aug. 10, 1861. Mary confided to Keckley that she owed as much as $27,000. “The Republican politicians must pay my debts. Hundreds of them are getting immensely rich off the patronage of my husband, and it is but fair that they should help me out of my embarrassment. I will make a demand of them, and when I tell them the facts they cannot refuse to advance whatever money I require.”
His 36-room mid-Victorian mansion Clover Lawn was constructed at Bloomington between 1870 and 1872. In 1872 Davis attempted to gain the presidential nomination of the Liberal Republican Party, but was bested by publisher Horace Greeley.

On March 5, 1877 Davis stepped down from the bench and took a position as senator from Illinois. Many blamed him for declining to sit on the Election Commission that voted for Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel J. Tilden. If he had voted for Tilden, Tilden would have won. The day he stepped down as a justice and became a senator was also the day that Hayes was sworn in.

When President James Garfield was assassinated in 1881, Garfield was succeeded by Chester A. Arthur. This left a void in the Senate, and Davis moved up to become Senate president pro tempore [transitional]. The vice presidency was vacant, placing him first in the line of succession to the presidency. He retired at the close of his term in March of 1883.

David Davis died in his mansion at Bloomington June 26, 1886. At the time he was the largest landowner in Illinois. He and his wife are buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery at Bloomington.

In 1919 Robert Todd Lincoln wrote, “I cannot remember when I did not know Judge Davis, first as the circuit judge of whom I heard as a boy everything good from my father, and who was very kind to me. Upon my father's death I went to Judge Davis as a second father, and this he was to me until his death. I am deeply indebted to him for counsel and affectionate help on many occasions, and revere his memory.”

In 1873 David Davis met with Orville Hickman Browning. Over breakfast Davis asserted that in September of 1864 Simeon Davis (no relation) had paid Mary $20,000 for a patronage position as cotton agent/customs collector in the port of New York. Simeon held the position until August of 1865, selling off cotton that had been confiscated from Confederate ships. Although it was supposed to benefit the war effort, he diverted enough to become wealthy. Draper had died in 1866, and nothing was ever proven.

After Lincoln’s assassination, Mary gave her own bloody clothing to Keckley as a souvenir. Mary did not attend her husband’s funeral, but would wear mourning black for 17 years.

In the last month of 1865 Mary lobbied Congress for about $100,000, the total her husband would have received for a four-year term in office. On Dec. 21 she received only the remainder of one year’s salary - $22,000. At the time she was living in a succession of boarding houses. On Nov. 13, 1867 David Davis made up the final report of the settlement of the estate; Mary and her son had each received $36,991, the equivalent of about $620,000 in modern buying power. But after years of frivolous spending she owed much more.

In 1868 Mary and Keckley went to New York and attempted to sell Mary’s formal clothing to thrift shops. A merchant named W.H. Brady soon convinced them that they would make more money if the clothing was sold in a public auction. All he needed was some letters addressed from Mary giving her opinions of famous persons she had known, to prove the authenticity of the items. He may have discerned that she was unable to write more than a few paragraphs without becoming abrasive and critical. When all of this came out, the press painted Brady as a would-be blackmailer and Mary as someone who was duped through the exploitation of her own greed and malice. Mary swiftly departed, leaving her dressmaker to fend on her own. Even this backfired when Mary was unable to pay Keckley her back wages. Keckley wrote a ‘tell all’ book about the New York misadventure and her earlier experiences in the White House. It reproduced several of Mary’s personal letters, though Keckley later denied giving permission for this. Mary’s son Robert Todd Lincoln and other sympathizers purportedly had to buy up most of the copies of Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House from the first and only printing, and threaten the publisher with legal action for libel. Keckley died without receiving royalties. But this also set a precedent for a ‘tell all’ book by Lincoln’s former law partner William Herndon, where he described a loveless marriage.

In July of 1870 Congress voted Mary a $3,000 annual pension – about $58,600 in modern buying power. In 1871 Tad, the younger of her two surviving sons, died. Within a few years she began to experience hallucinations and delusions. On May 20, 1875 at the request of her son Robert Todd Lincoln she was examined in court and committed by a judge to a private asylum at Batavia, a suburb of Chicago. She never spoke to Robert again. After a few months she was judged competent to handle her own affairs and released to her sister Elizabeth Edwards. She spent the next four years in Europe, and established residence in a hotel at Pau on the edge of the Pyrenees Mountains in France. Here she injured her back in a fall. In 1881, unable to care for herself, she returned to America with 60 heavy crates and trunks.

On her return Congress voted to increase her pension to $5,000 – about $125,560 in modern buying power – and gave her a one-time gift (not disclosed, but estimated to have been between $15,000 and $25,000). On July 15 or 16, 1882 she died of a stroke at the Springfield residence of her sister.

29 Clover Lawn was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and became a National Historic Landmark in 1975.
Life in Prairie Land

Eliza Wood Burhans was born at Rensselaerville, New York Nov. 17, 1815, a daughter of Cornelius Burhans and Mary Wood.

Her sister Mary married John Montgomery Roberts. They came to Tazewell County in 1831.

John and his brothers built cabins near each other in what is now Groveland, on the line with Morton. Though they later constructed a fine home and called it Prairie Lodge, the grouping was still known as the Roberts Settlement.

In 1835 Mary traveled to stay with Mary and John. Describing a night spent on a steamboat heading up the Mississippi River from St. Louis, she recalled that the chambermaid suggested she change berths “…'cause the bugs ain’t a touch in here to what they are in yonder.” “…At last the berth was prepared, and the vermin made a night of it. They had evidently not been treated for some time, and brought vigorous appetites to my reception.”

Describing her arrival near Pekin, she wrote, “We worried on through the flood of water that was pouring down the bed of the Illinois [River] and submerging its banks, till the night of the fifth day brought us to the landing place of our friends in the town of Pokerton [Pekin]. It was at that time the county seat of one of the largest and wealthiest counties in the state. Its name is faintly descriptive of its inhabitants…one of their favorite recreations being a game at cards…”

At first she was unable to find transportation to the home of her sister. “After a journey of four weeks, to be delayed so long within nine miles of the home of the dearest friends I had on earth…to be doomed to sit in a wooden room of a wooden tavern, every beam and board of which was saturated with the juice and fumes of tobacco; to look out, hour after hour, into the sleepy street of a river town, thronged with rough boatmen, horse-jockeys, plaintiffs and defendants (for the court was in session) with their learned counsel…I had not a few misgivings about the ‘new country,’ and they increased in arithmetical progression…”

When she finally reached what is now Groveland, her wagon driver had to explain that they were in the village: “Don’t you see there’s a tavern, and yonder is a blacksmith’s shop, and two houses beside. This is Woodland.”

On July 12, 1836 in Tazewell County Eliza married Thomas Jefferson Farnham. He had come from Vermont in 1835. They resettled at what is now Tremont.

She described their search for a place as a trial. On the one hand she constantly praised wild nature, and said she was never happier than on the prairie in Tazewell County. On the other hand she insulted her hosts and their homes, disparaging at not finding Eastern habits and cleanliness. But even in the home they found, “My shelves were the favorite resort of whole troops of mice, to whose obtuse senses the volume of experience was a sealed book. For though they explored every aperture and crevice daily, and found not the slightest morsel to satisfy the appetite withal, they returned each day as eager and expectant as before.”

One side of Tremont was called the ‘trade end’, while the other was the ‘court end.’ The court end “…contains a large two-story framed building, without a chimney, painted white, and denominated the Court House. Here the ministers of justice gather twice a year, to terrify honest and peaceable citizens, and annoyed rogues who are less adroit than their compères.”

She described the transplanted Easterners who populated early Tremont: “The majority are thriving, industrious mechanics, farmers, and tradesmen, who possibly contributed their quota [as volunteer militia] for such purposes when called upon, but otherwise pursued their occupations peaceably – content with their daily gains and the prospect of a rise in the price of property. The latter formed by far the larger item in their expectations of becoming capitalists. The most matter-of-fact citizen who had paid six hundred dollars for a choice lot at the sales, could not but see his money doubled, interest included, within the first two years. Nearly every citizen owned one, two, or three such lots, besides farms of immense value in the vicinity, so that we had a wealthy population.” In politics, “…Causes that affected the price of town lots were superior to all other considerations; as this was the great point on which golden expectation turned, nothing was allowed to interfere with it.”

The weather phenomena Dec. 20, 1836 known as the Sudden Change made an impression. “…The mercury fell incredibly in a very few minutes. There had been a slight fall of snow two or three days previous, which the warm sun had converted into water, and left standing in pools all over the surface of the frozen ground. The morning was mild, and the sun shone bright till a few minutes before eleven, when the air became suddenly chilly, and in less than ten minutes the whole face of the earth was locked as under a Lapland winter. Many persons lost their lives by the sudden and extreme cold.”

An epidemic passed through the area in the summer of 1838. Eliza’s sister Mary died July 31, and Eliza’s first child died two weeks later. “…Pain, disease, and death were stalking abroad. The pestilence claimed its victims in
almost every house. In some the whole family was prostrated, and the sufferers were dependent on the kindness of their distant neighbors to minister to their wants. The fevers took their most malignant and fatal character in the bottomlands. These, and the name indicates, are the lowlands bordering the streams…Most of the families living on these tracts were French and German settlers. The former are the remnants of the old trading companies, the latter more recent emigrants. There are few Americans among them. They live for the most part in cabins of the poorest description, and their general habits are little conducive to health. Here therefore, at this fated period, the pestilence founds its readiest and most numerous victims.”

Widower John Montgomery Roberts later became a conductor on the Underground Railroad; for background see ROTH.

In the spring of 1839 Eliza’s husband departed on an expedition to Oregon. He returned in August of 1840, and in 1841 they went to New York.

Through reformer-publisher Horace Greeley she obtained an appointment as matron of the women’s ward at Mount Pleasant Prison (Sing Sing) on the Hudson River in 1844. As a matron she treated her prisoners humanely and tested theories correlating crime and phrenology (interpretations of the shape of the head).

At Sing Sing she also had time to write a book about her experiences in Tazewell County, Life in Prairie Land. It was completed in March of 1846 (the date given for its Foreword) and published at New York in 1847.

Sometime in 1848 Eliza became embroiled in disputes with trustees. Prisoners and their families deeply resented her efforts to control the reading matter that came into the prison – restricted to morality tales. Eliza resigned her position and went to San Francisco to settle the estate of her late husband.

In 1852 she remarried to William Fitzpatrick, but they were divorced in 1856. In California and New York she became an abolitionist. She also attended medical classes until 1858.

She contracted tuberculosis while volunteering as a nurse at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1863. Her best-known book was Woman and Her Era, an argument for the moral superiority of women, published in the year she died. The Ideal Attained was published the following year. She had left it as an incomplete draft, and it was finished by the publisher as a do-it-yourself course for women to perfect the flaws in their husbands.

She died in New York Dec. 15, 1864. She is buried as Eliza Wood Burhans Farnham in plot number 35 on community ground in Hicksite Cemetery, also called Friends Cemetery or Friends Burial Ground, at Milton, Ulster County, New York.
Tazewell County Townships

The area that became Tazewell County in 1827 was initially part of Sangamon County. When it was first surveyed by the Government Land Office in 1824, town boundaries were laid out (platted) along 6-by-6-mile gridline squares. Exceptions were made for Spring Lake, Fondulac, Pekin and Washington because of the natural boundaries formed by the Illinois River. Early land records identified each community by numbers assigned during the surveying: Tremont, 24; Morton, 25; Washington, 26; Elm Grove, 54-55; Groveland, 55-56; Fondulac, 56-57; Mackinaw, 57; and Deer Creek, 58. Each town was then divided into 640-acre sections, numbered 1-36; most sections were later sold off in 160-acre quarters.

The initial boundaries of the county encompassed much more land than today. Parts were cleaved off to DeWitt, Livingston, Mason, McLean, and Woodford Counties before it reached its present shape in 1841.

An Illinois state constitution was adopted in 1847-48. One consequence was that the commissioner's court in Tazewell County was dissolved Nov. 7, 1849, the day after a fall election. A referendum favoring the establishment of a township system was approved by voters in that fall election. The question of fair boundaries occupied a special county court convened Dec. 3, 1849.

On the whole, the court accepted the idea that each 6-by-6-mile platted township recommended in the original Congressionally-sponsored land survey should be considered a township. Allowances were made for encroachment by the claims of other counties and the natural boundary at the Illinois River.

The name Fon du Lac is a geographic term that means 'foot of the lake,' and was chosen by residents of that community. In everyday use it is virtually indistinguishable from 'Fond du Lac' – 'bottom of the lake' – which cannot be considered a misspelling, because it actually appeared on several federal census reports. Washington was already the name of a village and post office. A prominent citizen chose the name Deer Creek because it ran near his home. Morton was named after a Massachusetts governor. Groveland was already the name of a village. Pekin was originally one-third smaller than it is today, and was named after the Chinese city Beijing by the wife of a city founder in 1829. Cincinnati was also one-third smaller than it is today, and was named after the Cincinnati Hotel in Pekin, where its balloting was held. Elm Grove was named after a schoolhouse. Mackinaw took its name from the river than ran through it; Little Mackinaw also took its name from a river. Hopedale was originally Highland, and encompassed what is now Boynton. Dillon was named for one of its early settlers, Nathan Dillon. Sand Prairie was originally Jefferson. Spring Lake was already established by common usage. Hittle was originally Union, then Waterford, and took its name from an early resident. Delavan was named after land speculator Edward Cornelius Delavan of Albany, N.Y. Malone Township was not carved out of Delavan until 1854. Tremont was named after a group of early settlers from New York and Rhode Island called the Tremont colony.

In many cases the new boundaries would prompt merchants to clear roads to the geographic centers of the new townships. The last reorganization session of the county court was concluded April 6, 1850.
Military Acquaintances

Throughout the text we have noted numerous Amish Mennonite families who had acquaintances with military figures: the families such as the Engels, Verclers, and Baltzli/Belsleys who leased farms from General Charles Louis Dieudonné Grandjean; the Farnisville farmers who partnered with Frenchman Paul Carrey, a former employee of the U.S. Army; and Christian Springer, once a bodyguard for Napoleon. Other reminders of the odd relationships between French-speaking families and military figures are found in the presence of Civil War veteran Abraham Reust of Panola, artillerymen John Brickler of Metamora, Captain Louis Alexandre de Guibert of Partridge, and Baron Ludwik Chlopicki of Pekin (in a part that later became Elm Grove) and El Paso.

Corporal Abraham Reust

Relatively late in this project we came upon an odd juxtaposition.

John Engel will be recalled from ENGEL as a son of prominent Amish Mennonite elder Christian Engel. John walked from Butler County, Ohio through the midwest in 1830; returned to Butler County; then returned to purchase 160 acres in what became Woodford County with his half-brother Peter in 1831. He also served as a volunteer teamster in the Black Hawk War. Late in life John and his wife Barbara Dettweiler relocated from Metamora to an 80 -acre farm in Section 2 of Panola, near their daughter Barbara Engel and her husband Christian H. Ruvenacht. The 1873 plat map of Panola shows J. Engel next door to C. Ruvenacht and 'A. Reust' (Abraham Reust).

Abraham Reust was locally known as a farmer and Civil War veteran. He was also the son of a Swiss immigrant named Christian Reüst/Reust who brought his wife and first child from New York State to Central Illinois in the summer of 1837. The father certainly did not observe Amish Mennonite customs, having departed from his homeland 140 years after the Amish Division. But he was born in a location that held a sentimental value for many of the families in this text, including, perhaps, the Engels. Like their Swiss ancestors, he had been baptized in the historic Protestant Reformed Church at Steffisburg, Canton Bern.

Recall from ROPP: "Its congregation held a number of families that were later associated with the Ropps of Central Illinois. Direct lines back to the congregation can be demonstrated for Brenneman (Brönniman of Diessbach, which became Oberdiessbach in 1870), Gingerich (Güngeri of Heimberg), Kaufman (Kaufmann), King (Küng and König), Oesch/Esch (Ösch of Oberlangenegg), Schweizer, Staker (Stücker of Hilterfingen and Eriz), and Yoder (Joder). They can also be assumed for Birkey (Bürcki), Farny (Farni), Gerber, Hodler (Hodel), Miller (Müller), Roth, Springer (Spring), and Zimmerman." Background on the church can be found in STAKER.

The element of coincidence is heightened by the relative smallness of Steffisburg. The present population of Steffisburg is approximately 15,500; it was presumably less than 8,000 in Christian's birth year.30 Was there more than a remarkable coincidence? Was Christian Reüst/Reust aware that he might find Steffisburg descendants in an Amish Mennonite settlement in Central Illinois? Or, for some long-forgotten reason, did John Engel and his daughter relocate to Panola because of the presence of Abraham?

Christian Reüst was born circa 1610. He married Margareth Roth, who was born circa 1614.

Their son Johannes Reüst was christened at Steffisburg June 29, 1634. Witnesses included Peter Berger, Hans Eiman, and Barbli Rüsser. He married Anna Blank, who was born circa 1635.

Peter Reüst was christened at Steffisburg March 4, 1677. On July 24, 1711 at Steffisburg he married Anna Bachmann. She was born circa 1679, and died Feb. 10, 1751.

Their son Kaspar Reüst was christened at Steffisburg Oct. 22, 1719, and died there March 4, 1803. On Feb. 28, 1744 at Steffisburg he married Anna Zaug of Steffisburg. She was christened there in May 1719.

Abraham Reüst was christened at Steffisburg Sept. 12, 1751, and died in 1829. On Sept. 14, 1781 he married Elizabeth Stauffer. She was born circa 1755, and died in 1827.

Their son Abraham Reüst was christened at Steffisburg Jan. 29, 1783, and died there Aug. 23, 1819. On May 17, 1805 at Steffisburg he married Anna Blum of Einigen (nine miles south of Steffisburg, on the western shore of Lake Thun).

Christian Reüst/Reust was born at Steffisburg March 31, 1806, and christened there April 6. He sailed from Le Havre on the merchant ship Plato, and arrived at New York Oct. 17, 1833. The passenger list stated his age as

30 Over 40 percent of Steffisburg land is still used for agriculture, and more than 25 percent is still forested.
27 and his nationality as Swiss, and grouped him on a page with travelers headed to Ohio; his possessions included ‘one bed, one trunk.’ See BURCKI/BURGER in the Appendix for background on the Plato.

He soon married Anna Margarete/Margaret Harre. She was born in Switzerland in 1808. Their first child was born in New York circa 1835 (per the 1850 census).

The family came to Central Illinois in the summer of 1837. On Oct. 4, 1838 Christian purchased 80 acres of public land for $1.25 per acre. The Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database shows the sale to ‘Christian Rust’, a resident of McLean County. His parcel was located in ESNW Section 26 of Township 27N, in what is now Woodford County. This became the family farm.

Christian Reust is found on the 1840 census of McLean County. His household held one male 30-39 years of age [Christian]; one male under 5 [Christian Jr.]; one female 30-40 [Margaret]; and two females under 5 [Maria/Mary and Margaret].

In 1841 their farm became part of the new Woodford County. Their household is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Christian Reust, 44, Switzerland; Margaret, 42, Switzerland; Maria, 15, New York; Christian, 13, Illinois; Margaret, 12, Illinois; Samuel, 10, Illinois; Abram, 6, Illinois; and Hannah, 3, Illinois.

The farm became part of Panola when the township system was adopted by the county in 1851.31

Margaret died at Panola Nov. 17, 1855. Christian died there Sept. 14, 1856. They are buried in Harper Cemetery on private land at Panola. Their joint headstone says she was "Annah M. Reust, died Nov. 17, 1855, in the 47th yr. of her age," and he was "Christian Reust, died Sept. 17, 1856, in the 51st yr. of his age."

The children of Christian Reust/Reust and Anna Margarete/Margaret Harre include:32

1. Maria/Mary Reust was born in New York circa 1835, and likely died before September 1858. On March 27, 1852 in Woodford County she married Henry Mohr. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 8, 1828, and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Nov. 23, 1905, a son of Johann Georg/John G. Mohr and Katharina/Catherine Wholleber. On Sept. 23, 1858 in Woodford County Henry remarried to Anna Maria Mohr (found as Anna Mohr on the county entry).33

2. Christian Reust (Jr.) was born in McLean County July 11, 1837, and died at Frankfort, Kansas Feb. 3, 1919. On March 25, 1858 in Woodford County he married Matilda Welte. She was born at Erlaheim, Baden-Württemberg May 16, 1840, and died at Frankfort, Kansas April 3, 1921, a daughter of Vinzenz Welte and Alphonsa Straub. She immigrated with her widowed father in 1855. They appear on the 1860 census of Greene, Woodford County as farmer Christian Reust, 22, Illinois; Matilda, 21, Wurttemberg; and Abraham, 1, Illinois. They are found on the 1870 census of Rook's Creek, Livingston County as farmer Christian Reust, 32, Germany; Matilda, 29, Wurttemberg; Salome, 9; Cornelius, 6; Samuel, 4; and Mary, 1; all children born in Illinois. They appear on the same census page.

31 The nonsensical name Panola was arbitrarily chosen by a land commissioner of the Illinois Central Railroad.

32 Some sources give them a daughter Anna Reust, born at Steffisburg Aug. 24, 1824, who married Friedrich Samuel Tanner. The Reust Genealogy says she was a daughter of Christian Reust (1791-1844) and Elisabeth Lüginbuhl.

33 A number of sources say that Maria/Mary Reust lived beyond 1858. We suspect she has been confused with Henry's second wife. Because of this, we have provided a little extra information.

Henry is found as 'Henry Moore, 23, farm labourer born in Pennsylvania' on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County). He was a son of John G. Moore [Mohr], 45, Germany, and Catharine [Wolber], 44, Pennsylvania.

According to notes at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center (Fort Wayne, Indiana), his father Johann Georg Mohr was born at Malmheim, Baden-Württemberg (now a neighborhood of Renningen, 10 miles west of Stuttgart) Nov. 12, 1802, and died at Palestine, Woodford County Dec. 14, 1886, a son of Johann Conrad Mohr and Anna Maria Ruckenbrod. On May 30, 1826 in Lancaster County he married Katharina/Catherine Wholleber (York, Pennsylvania Jan. 29, 1806-El Paso, Woodford County March 18, 1876). In 1860 they were farming at Palestine, Woodford County. The Story of El Paso, Illinois: "Mohr, John G. and Katharina – John was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, November 12, 1802. He came to America in 1818 and settled in Pennsylvania. He moved to Palestine Twp. and settled on the N 1/2 of Section 3 on November 6, 1836, the first settler on the north side of that township. There were ten children born to John and Katharine. John served as grand juror on the county's first panel at the Versailles Court, 1841...” Johann Georg/John G. and Katharina/Catherine are buried in Harper Cemetery on private land at Panola.

On Sept. 23, 1858 in Woodford County Henry remarried to Anna Maria Mohr (found as Anna Mohr on the county entry). She was born in Germany in March 1838; her name suggests that she could have been a relative or the widow of a relative. They are found on the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana. The 1887 Directory of Carroll County shows Henry Mohr as a contractor and builder living at the corner of Front and Washington Streets in South Delphi. The 1900 census shows Henry Mohr, 71, born in Pennsylvania in August 1828 to a father from Germany and a mother from Pennsylvania; and Mary A. 62, born in Germany in March 1838.

We could not identify a death entry or burial. Henry's will registered in Carroll County was created Dec. 22, 1903, and probated Nov. 22, 1905. It named his wife as Anna M. Mohr, a son Nathaniel Mohr, and daughters Adeline 'Addie' L. Mohr Gough and Fannie B. Mohr Crane.
as Christian's younger sister Margaret and her husband J.B. In 1880 they were living at Vermillion, Kansas with six children. They are buried in Willow Hill Cemetery at Frankfort, Kansas.

3. Margaret A. 'Martha' Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Nov. 14, 1838, and died at Council Grove, Kansas Sept. 28, 1898. On Jan. 28, 1858 in Woodford County she married John B. Grove. He was born in Illinois circa 1836, and died Sept. 10, 1921, a son of Jacob Grove and Margaret Hoover. They are found on the 1870 census of Rook's Creek, Livingston County as farmer J.B. Grove, 33; Margaret, 32; Sarah, 12; Atwood, 10; Lucinda, 8; Juanitta, 5; all born in Illinois. They appear on the same census page as Margaret's older brother Christian (Jr.) and his wife Matilda. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Council Grove.

4. Samuel Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Nov. 18, 1840, and died at Salem, Oregon June 15, 1926. He is buried in Salem Pioneer Cemetery/City View Cemetery at Salem. On the 1860 census of Olio, Woodford County he is found as an 18-year-old farm laborer with his brother Abraham in the household of William Finley, living next door to Christian Yotty; on the same census he is found again with his sister Hannah as a 19-year-old farm laborer in the household of William Dixon of Eureka. On Feb. 20, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Mary Ann Grove. She was born in Tazewell County July 29, 1843 (headstone), and died at Frankfort, Marshall County, Kansas Nov. 10, 1912, a daughter of Jacob Grove and Margaret Hoover. The Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database shows Samuel's purchase of 40 acres of land at $13 per acre on June 17, 1870. The parcel was located in SESE Section 8 of Township 27N. The 1873 plat map of Panola shows S. Reust on 120 acres spanning southeast Section 8 and southwest Section 9. Samuel was listed as a Panola taxpayer in 1878. They relocated to Frankfort circa 1885. They are found on the 1900 census of Rock, Marshall County, Kansas as farmer Samuel Reust, 59, born in Illinois in November 1840 to Swiss parents; Mary A., 56, born in Illinois in July 1843 to parents from Virginia; with three children born in Illinois, and one born in Kansas. Frankfort Area News, November 1912: "Mrs. Samuel Reust died at the family home, eight miles northwest of Frankfort, Sunday evening, November 10, at 7:30 o'clock, after a illness lasting six weeks. The funeral was held from the Free Methodist Church in Frankfort, Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. Postlewait, interment in Morrison cemetery near Frankfort. Deceased has been a resident of Marshall county some thirty years, she is survived by her husband and eight children." Mary Ann is buried in Marshall Cemetery at Vliets, Kansas (five miles east of Frankfort). On April 12, 1916 at Salem, Oregon Samuel remarried to twice widowed Mary Josephine. She was born in 1843, and died at Salem in 1933. She had married a Miller, then remarried in Fulton County, Ohio in 1882 as the second wife of Civil War veteran Joshua H. Gray (1837-1911, who is also buried in City View Cemetery.

5. Abraham/Abram Reust was born at what is now Panola, Woodford County April 6, 1844, and died at Topeka, Kansas Jan. 3, 1914.

6. Hannah Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Dec. 8, 1847, and died at Vermillion, Marshall County, Kansas May 12, 1933. She is found as a 12-year-old with her older brother Samuel in the household of William Dixon on the 1860 census of Eureka. On Dec. 15, 1864 at Secor, Woodford County she married Civil War veteran John T. Potter. He was born in Indiana March 8, 1841, and died at Vermillion, Kansas May 12, 1933. He served as a private in Companies B and D of the 8th Missouri Infantry (his headstone notes only Company D). The regiment was organized at St. Louis Aug. 14, 1861. It engaged in the capture of Fort Donelson; the battles of Shiloh, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Bentonville; the sieges of Corinth, Vicksburg, and Atlanta; Sherman's March to the Sea; the surrender of Johnston's army; and the celebratory Grand Review in Washington, D.C. He mustered out Aug. 14, 1865. During the course of the Civil War his regiment lost 78 enlisted men to battle, and 124 enlisted men to disease. They are buried as Hannah Potter and John Potter in Vermillion Cemetery at Vermillion.
The Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database shows that in 1871 Abraham Reust purchased four parcels in Iroquois County. They encompassed 320 acres at $7 per acre, the entire lower half of Section 22 in Township 28N. However, he remained a resident of Panola.

The 1873 plat map of Panola shows A. Reust on 80 acres in southwest Section 2, next door to the farms of John Engel and Barbara Dettweiler, and their daughter Barbara Engel and Christian Ruvenacht. The 1880 census of Panola shows farmer Abraham Reust, 36, born in Illinois to Swiss parents; Carolline, 29, born in England to English parents; and three children born in Illinois.

Abraham and Caroline resettled at Frankfort, Marshall County, Kansas before 1889. Abraham filed for an invalid veteran's pension in Kansas Dec. 20, 1889. He is also found on Frankfort post records of the veterans organization Grand Army of the Republic in 1891 and 1892. The 1900 census of Vermillion, Marshall County, Kansas shows Abraham Reust, 56, born in Illinois in April 1844 to Swiss parents; Caroline, 49, born in England in April 1851 to English parents; Alva, 19, born in Illinois in February 1881; and Frederick, 11, born in Kansas in March 1889.

In 1931 or 1932 widow Caroline remarried to a Huffman. She refilled for Abraham's pension benefits under her new name Jan. 21, 1932.

Abraham and Caroline are buried under a joint headstone in Mount Hope Cemetery at Topeka.

Artilleryman John Brickler

Jean/John Brickler was born in France circa 1760. Past and Present of Woodford County (1878) said that "Peter Engle, Sr., the Verklers, who were step-sons, and John Brickler came from the province of Lorraine in 1831." Recall from RICH:

On June 24, 1812, between 450,000 and 690,000 troops assembled on the Neman River and began a march to Moscow. The Battle of Borodino on Sept. 7 caused more casualties than any other day of the Napoleonic Wars. But the Russian armies retreated, and the French Grand Army impetuously advanced again. When they arrived at Moscow they found an empty city. Over the next few days it burned, depriving the French troops of shelter as winter set in. On the retreat many horses were either frozen or killed for food. Supply wagons were abandoned. Approximately 31,000 troops managed to return in formation, while another 35,000 returned as stragglers. The remainder were killed in battle, by disease or starvation, or froze to death after receiving wounds.

Past and Present of Woodford County: "John Brickler, a native of Lorraine, France, and one of the early settlers near the present town of Metamora, and who died a few years ago, on the place where his daughter, Mrs. Farver, now lives, was a soldier in the Grand Army of France in its ill-fated expedition into Russia, under the First Napoleon, and shared in the privations and miseries of the disastrous retreat from Moscow - an event in which there is probably embodied more of 'glory and of gloom' than anything of its kind in the annals of man. Many of his old acquaintances are yet familiar with the stories he used to tell, of that awful retreat and its accompaniment of horrors, when his starving, freezing comrades, after struggling through the storm all the long dreary day, sunk down at night, many to rise no more, while the blinding storm rapidly wove its winding sheet, and the tall pines, swaying and roaring in the wind, howled their mournful requiem."

History of Woodford County: "John Brickler settled where Farver, his son-in-law now lives, and died in 1852. He had been a soldier in Bonaparte's army in the department of artillery; was on the expedition of the Grand Army to Russia, and in its famous retreat from Moscow. When he came to America, he brought with him one of the short artillery swords used in the French army in that branch of service, and which in this republican country was degraded from the glory of 'noble war' by being used as a knife for 'cutting up corn.' There are those still living in this immediate vicinity who have used the old sword in that capacity. Marceline Farver came from Switzerland to Woodford County in 1837. He married Mary, a daughter of John Brickler, and now lives where Brickler originally settled. He was her second husband, her first having died soon after their marriage."

Jean/John purchased 40 acres of federal land in Section 18 of District 56 (later Woodford County) for $1.25 per acre July 28, 1834. The proper documentation was forwarded from the Land Office at Springfield to the General Land Office at Washington, D.C. A deed showing final payment was issued there March 18, 1837. It

34 We could not specifically identify John Brickler in Moselle, but Bricklers were found at Lagarde and Guermange, both homes to Engels. No Bricklers are found on the passenger list with Peter Engel. His ship sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831.
35 The 1873 plat map of Metamora shows M. Farver as the owner of 88 acres in Section 18.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
Appendix

ostensibly bears the signatures of Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States; secretary A. Van Buren [his son Abraham]; and recorder Hudson McGarland. The three signatures were written by one person, indicating that this was one of thousands of such deeds confirmed by McGarland on behalf of the administration.

Jean/John's daughter Marie/Mary Brickler was first married to an Aubier. He drowned on a trip to New Orleans. On July 24, 1837 she remarried to Marceline Favre. They spoke only French. Presbyterian minister Romulus Barnes performed the ceremony. According to Past and Present of Woodford County Amish Mennonite minister/elder Christian Engel served as interpreter for Barnes.

The 1850 census of District 56/Woodford County shows John Brickler, 90, France; and Madalaine, 83, France. Jean/John Brickler's burial place could not be identified. His wife is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora, where her headstone calls her 'Anna Brickler, 1768-1860.' Their daughter Mary is also found there. The mid-1850s was a transition period, when engraved headstones came into use in the area. This suggests that Jean/John was buried nearby under a perishable wooden marker.

Captain Louis Alexandre de Guibert

Louis Alexandre de Guibert was born at Mayenne (a village that was then in the province of Le Maine and later in the department of Mayenne) Jan. 3, 1782.

In Souvenirs du vieure Mayenne (1900) author Albert Grosse-Duperon describes his parents as Louis Alexandre François de Guibert, a captain in the regiment of Piémont [Piedmont, Italy was occupied by France after 1796], and Marie Madeleine Pattier de Maupoirier. The father had emigrated by 1794, and in his absence the mother requested a divorce. The decree granted at Mayenne July 17, 1794 described Marie as a daughter of Pierre Joseph Pattier and Marie Thérèse Delacour; Pierre was a merchant-trader [Fr. négociant] for the Duc d'Orléans.

The wife he brought to Partridge is remembered as Anna Rosalie Boulier.

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois: "In 1833, Mr. Louis de Guibert came from France and settled in Partridge, spending his first night at Red Joe Belsley's. De Guibert had served as a soldier for Napoleon, and had fought in the battles of Austerlitz, Jena, and Wagram in Austria. Because of his courage he was made Chevalier [knight] of the Legion of Honor. This was presented to him on the battlefield by Napoleon himself."

History of Woodford County, Illinois: “In 1833, Mr. Louis de Guibert came from France and settled in Partridge, in which he was later destined to bear so active a part. He was of noble family, and during the political troubles of the time, his father escaped from France; his mother was thrown into prison, and, after her release, compelled to keep secreted during the long and terrible civil war that devastated that unhappy country.

Before his father's return to France, he enlisted as a private soldier and served until Bonaparte's abdication, in 1814, when he had risen in rank to a captain of infantry. An only brother had died in Spain of a wound received in the siege of Saragossa [Zaragoza]. His early years were marked with interest, having, in his youth, passed through the French Revolution, with its accompanying reign of terror, and had marched and fought over half of Europe. He had witnessed the melting away of one-half of his company before a single discharge of artillery on the field of Austerlitz; and at the close of another bloody engagement, was one of eight survivors from a company of seventy-one men who went into action.

As stated, he came to America in 1833, where, in a pioneer settlement, he bore all the trials and privations incident to a life on the frontier. He suffered some reverses, by which he lost a portion of the wealth he brought to this country; but, through energy and perseverance, retrieved his fortunes, and his last years were spent in comparatively affluence. The long life that was so stormy and turbulent at its beginning was peaceful in its decline, and, finally, closed in quietude in August, 1866. He was a man of excellent mind, of fine native intelligence and gay humor, which lasted him to the end of his mortal career."

Also Past and Present of Woodford County: "He received the grade of captain from Napoleon himself, on the field of Austerlitz, in acknowledgement of his bravery."

De Guibert brought workmen from France, and constructed a saw mill that became known as the Old French Mill. The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows his household as farmer Louis A. Gilbert, 55, France; Anna, 35, France; Louis, 14, Illinois; Metti [male], 6, Illinois; Leander, 9, Illinois; and Lenney [male], 10, Illinois.

36 A joint headstone in Oakwood Cemetery says 'Marceline Favre, Feb. 16, 1808-June 30, 1891,' and 'Mary his wife, Oct. 12, 1812, Nov. 30, 1896.'
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
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Their headstones in Lone Hill Cemetery in Woodford County identify Louis A. DeGuibert, Jan. 2, 1782-Aug. 30, 1866, and Anna R. DeGuibert, who died Feb. 3, 1871 at 60 years.
Louis's sword and other French possessions were lost when the de Guibert home was destroyed by fire in January 1944.

Baron Ludwik Chlopicki

Josef Grzegorz Chlopicki (1771-1854) was a professional soldier. He fought under Kosciuszko in the Polish uprising against Russian occupation in 1794. When it failed, he went to France to fight in their armies.

In the French army he became Grégoire Joseph Chlopicki de Neznia, and distinguished himself in numerous battles. In 1807 he was awarded the Legion of Honor, and in 1809 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. In 1810 he received the title Imperial Baron from Napoleon, and in 1811 he collected a baron's annual pension of 12,000 francs. He was wounded during the disastrous Russian Campaign of 1812.

In 1813 he was made a general of a division of the reconstructed Polish army. He returned to Poland the following year, but retired after a public argument with Russian Grand Duke Constantine Pavlovich.

In 1824 he was included in a list of persons entitled to carry the title 'baron' in the Congress Kingdom of Poland.

Chlopicki was asked to become dictator of Poland during a political insurrection against Russia district governors in 1830. He did not think the uprising would succeed, but he accepted the position Dec. 5, 1830. He immediately offered to negotiate a conditional surrender with representatives of Russian Czar Nicholas I. They refused conditions, and he resigned Jan. 17, 1831.

He then rejoined the army and fought in several battles against the Russians. After being wounded he was taken to Crakow, where he retired and died in 1854. 'Klopnicki' is inscribed on the west side of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

His nephew Ludwik Chlopicki, a son of his brother Thaddeus, was born at Krasno Oct. 17, 1789 - at the time part of Russia, later in Poland.

Ludwik entered the Polish army in 1815, and was serving as a major when the insurrection took place. When it failed, he was forced to flee - perhaps because of his relationship to his uncle, who was considered too weakened to exile.

In Austria his membership in an exile army caused him to be arrested for violating that country's neutrality. He was imprisoned at two locations before being taken to a holding cell at Trieste. On Nov. 22, 1833 he volunteered to be one of 325 exiles to be taken onboard one of two American frigates, the Hebe or the Guerriere.

The frigates arrived at New York March 28, 1834. The exiles were each given $40 before they disembarked April 2.

On April 9, 1834 a committee of exiles sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to request land grants. A congressional act signed by President Andrew Jackson June 30, 1834 promised 640-acre lots in either Illinois or Wisconsin/Michigan.

Ludwik and a small group arrived at Chicago Sept. 7, 1834. He scouted and selected lots near Rockford and Rockton, Winnebago County.

In Winnegabo County Ludwik offered to act as an agent for the others. However, most of his companions had been officers from wealthy families. They were well-educated, but did not speak English and were unaccustomed to manual labor. Without funds they were unable to purchase tools or seed, or travel further.

In addition, a number of the would-be settlers found homesteaders on their allocations. After several legal disputes Ludwik resigned his position, and all the lots were eventually abandoned.

In January 1835, Ludwik spoke to an assembly of Polish refugees at the state capital, Vandalia.

On April 11, 1835, he applied for naturalization at St. Louis. The document renounced his title as baron. In 1836 and 1837 the former baron ran a tavern there; he is found in local records as 'Louis Chlopnicki.'

'Lewis Chlepeski' is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County. The document used his name, and the place of the enumeration was not set for another 10 years, his place on the census page and his past and future work history suggests that he was running a restaurant or food market slightly west of the stage coach stop at Neukirk Corner on the Peoria-Indianapolis Road (now Illinois Highway 9), in a part of Pekin that later became Elm Grove.

37 Although Trieste is now in northeastern Italy, it was part of the Habsburg monarchy until 1918. In 1833 it was the Austro-Hungarian Empire's main outlet onto the Mediterranean Sea.

38 The exact location of the Garber home is marked 'E. Garber' on the 1864 plat map, above that of 'J.S. Young,' and next door to brother-in-law Peter Ringenberger, Railroad Schoolhouse, and the Peter Gerber farm. The southwest corner of the
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
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The Neukirks owned a brick house where passengers stayed while stage coaches changed horses, opposite the present location of the Bethel Mennonite Church. The census page following Chlopicki’s entry shows Andrew Roup (Andreas Ropp), Jacob Unsicker (Unzicker), John Shert (Jean/John Schertz), and the Neukirks.

Chlopicki applied for a passport at Pekin March 15, 1848. A note to the Honorable Sidney Breck, written in French, states that he was naturalized at St. Louis in 1836. He signed 'Louis Chlopicki.'

On Dec. 14, 1852, a Peoria County supervisor wrote to the federal government requesting a passport for Chlopicki. The note that survives may have been attached to a larger application. Chlopicki’s age was underestimated.

Peoria, Dec. 14, 1852
To the Secretary of State, Washington
Being about to visit Paris and London desires a passport for one year. He was born in the province of Podalia in the Empire of Russia on the 27th of October 1793. He is now over 59 years old. He landed in New York March 28, 1834, and has resided in the United States since. He was naturalized in 1849 in Illinois. He weights two hundred pounds, has blue eyes, grey whiskers, and a long nose. He is somewhat bald, and is six feet high, full faced. Talks French, German, Polish, and broken English. Forward passport to him at this place, State of Illinois.

Horace McCoy, Peoria County S.
Sworn to Dec. 16, 1854, signature 'Louis Chlopicki'

He is found on the 1850 census of Peoria City as victualler Lewis Chlopicki, 55, Poland. In 1856 he relocated to El Paso, Woodford County. There he was seen as an elderly bachelor called 'the count.' He did not give out much personal information. As a result very few people actually believed that he had held a real title, much less that he was once a baron and major. Most saw him as a courteous eccentric.

At first he opened an inn with a small restaurant near the railroad depot. He supplemented his income by greeting new arrivals and helping them to procure goods and land. Among the diners he served were Richard Cobden, a member of the British Parliament; William Henry Osborn, president of the Illinois Central Railroad; Gen. George B. McClellan, who became General-in-Chief of the Union Army 1861-82; and Springfield lawyer Abraham Lincoln.

As a senatorial candidate, Lincoln debated with Stephen A. Douglas at Freeport, Stephenson County on Friday, Aug. 27, 1858. The following day he stopped off at El Paso. There he and Horace White of the Chicago Press and Tribune had a quick lunch with Ludwik. They may not have been aware that Ludwik was living in a storeroom above the restaurant where they ate.

He is found on the 1860 census of El Paso (population 475) as Lewis Chlopetskey, 66, Poland. An 1862 federal tax assessment lists him as hotel keeper Louis Chlopicki of El Paso, taxed $5 for a license.

When the railroad depot was moved in 1863, a large restaurant called the Campbell House was constructed near it. Ludwik's business slowly dwindled. One day in the spring of 1869 a would-be customer found his dead body on the floor of the restaurant. No money was found in his pockets or the cash register. It is thought that someone came upon the body and took what they could before leaving town.

No one in El Paso had heard Chlopicki mention relatives. The body lay at the undertakers for two days before someone stepped forward to donate a burial place. The expenses of his burial were paid by a vote of the county supervisors at Metamora in April 1869.

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois (1878) described him as, "Count Clopiska, a native of Poland, who, for some state or political offense was expatriated from his native land, came to the United States, and to Illinois, and for several years lived in the city of El Paso... He was a fine type of the polished gentleman, but his misfortunes were a key to the warm hearts of the American people. The citizens of El Paso took a strong interest in his welfare, and when he died, 'a stranger in a strange land,' with no loved one to smooth his dying pillow or wipe the cold, damp dews from his paling brow, Mr. W. M. Jenkins, an old and honored citizen of El Paso, had him neatly interred in his own lot in the city cemetery, where the distinguished foreigner sleeps as peacefully, perhaps, as if he slumbered in the marble vaults of his ancestors."

He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery at El Paso. The inscription on a headstone donated by the El Paso Kiwanis in 1952 closes with a line from his Vandalia speech: "In memory of Ludwik Chlopicki, 1789-1869, baron and major, who, sacrificing all in Poland's lost struggle for independence in 1830, was exiled to the United States and became a pioneer El Paso businessman in 1856. Freedom is not free."

'Neukirk corner' intersection is now the location of Bethel Mennonite Church. The Ringenberger and Garber farms could later be described as the west 80 acres and east 80 acres of the Sommer Seed Corn Farm.
Landes and Landes Mennonite Cemetery

Why did German Baptist/Dunkard farmer Joseph Landes donate the land that became Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove?

Four children from the family of Rudolph Landes and Nancy Plum came to Tazewell County. Joseph Landes (1803-1885) was considered a pioneer settler, arriving in 1830. Elizabeth Landes (circa 1814-1843) and Rudolph Landes (Jr.) (1816-1839) came after the fall of 1833. Mary 'Polly' Landes (1818-1898) arrived before the 1880 census. Only Elizabeth married an Amish Mennonite.

Christian Zehr was born at Berg am Laim, Bavaria 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.39 She was born in Virginia circa 1814.

Elizabeth's grandfather Heinrich/Henry Landes was born in Baden, near the Alsatian city of Strasbourg, circa 1740.

One of Heinrich/Henry's many grandchildren was Catherine Landes (a daughter of Joseph Landes and Barbara Thomas). Catherine was born at New Philadelphia, Ohio Sept. 19, 1827. She became blind at a young age. In 1905, at the age of 78, Catherine Landes dictated her recollections of talks with her grandfather. This alone gives us an idea of her grandfather's longevity. She mentions looking at a map in her 'first geography' during their conversations. Even if Catherine was only five years old, he would have been roughly 92 years of age at the time. Catherine said that her grandfather was ordained as a German Baptist minister in Europe.

GERMAN BAPTISTS

The German Baptist movement arose out of a Bible study group at Schwarzenau (now part of Bad Berleburg) in 1708.

The first minister was Alexander Mack, born at Schriesheim, Baden-Württemberg Aug. 3, 1679. He rejected involuntary rituals (such as infant baptism), accepted only the New Testament, endorsed pacifism, and believed in universalism.

Mack and many of his followers immigrated and resettled at Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1729. Germantown had been founded by German Quaker and Mennonite families in 1683. (In 1854 it merged into the city of Philadelphia, becoming a northwestern neighborhood).

In America adherents were called Dunkers, Dunkards, Tunkers, or simply Täufer. Mack died Jan. 31, 1735. He was originally buried in Axe's Burying Ground, then in 1894 reburied in the Church of the Brethren Cemetery at Germantown.

The present day designation German Baptist Brethren was not agreed upon until 1871.

Heinrich/Henry initially departed from Hamburg, sailing down the Elbe River to the North Sea, then 500 miles along the coast to Rotterdam in the Netherlands. If weather permitted a true course, the ship would then have stopped briefly at the Cowes tax station on the southern coast of England. The straight-line distance from Rotterdam to Philadelphia is about 2,470 miles. "He related many incidents of the voyage, it being a long and perilous one. Storms beset them from the very start, many times being driven from the true course by the winds, as the boat in which he traveled was a slow sailboat of that time."

More than half of all German immigrants in the 18th century paid for their passage with redemption contracts. If they could not pay their fares by the time of arrival, they were not permitted to remove their possessions from the ship until they had signed a contract with a farmer or merchant. The captain would then collect a small finder's fee, and see that a crew member escorted the redemptioner and his or her future employer to a magistrate.

‘Henry Landes’ is found in a list of redemptioners in Records of indentures of individuals bound out as apprentices, servants etc. and of German and other redemptioners in the Office of the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia (1907).40 The list notes that he had arrived on a ship from Rotterdam. On Dec. 28, 1771 he was indentured to William Richards of Philadelphia for a term of five years, 10 months, and 19 days - perhaps sufficient

39 A Woodford County transcription from the original handwritten record names them as Christian Sein and Elizabeth Landes.
40 The only other Henry Landes mentioned in these records was one who immigrated in 1749.
An apprenticeship at Philadelphia would have put him within brief traveling distance of the Quaker, Mennonite, and Dunkard community at Germantown.


Heinrich/Henry's whereabouts between 1777 and 1784 may remain a minor mystery. His granddaughter Catherine said that her father was born in Lancaster County in 1784. But Heinrich/Henry's trail is obscured by the presence of individuals of the same or similar names in both Philadelphia and Lancaster Counties, and his position as a non-resistant German Baptist during the American Revolutionary War.

In Emmett F. Bittinger's *Allegheny Passage: Churches and Families, West Marva District, Church of the Brethren 1752-1990* (1990), he suggests that Heinrich/Henry was living in the South Branch Potomac River Valley as early as 1787. This area lies on the western side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was first surveyed over three summers by a young George Washington, 1748-51. At the time it was a possession of Thomas Fairfax, Sixth Lord Fairfax of Cameron.

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY**

Hampshire County was established there by the Virginia General Assembly in 1754, from parts of Frederick and Augusta Counties. It was not settled until the end of the French and Indian War in 1757. A fort was constructed at the Romney trading post in 1758. In 1762 the community of Romney was formally named and surveyed, becoming the county seat. In 1786 a state road was completed from Winchester via Romney and nearby Burlington across Patterson Creek and ultimately to Morgantown.

In the same year the lower part of Hampshire County around Moorefield was carved away to become Hardy County. On its south side Hardy County touches Rockingham County, Virginia.

Both Hampshire and Hardy Counties became parts of West Virginia when that state was created in 1861. It was the only state to be formed by separating from a Confederate state. It was formally admitted to the Union in 1863.

In his history of the German Baptist congregations, Bittinger wrote that Heinrich/Henry Landes attended the Pipe Creek annual meeting of the South Branch (the congregation in the area of Moorefield) in 1787. There he reported that some of the brethren in the South Branch were taking a government oath. Like the Amish Mennonites, the German Baptists forbade the taking of oaths, believing that it might draw them away from the path of non-resistance.

It is probable that he had initially come to the area of Moorefield to clear and develop land, which could then be sold at a considerable profit. On April 15, 1795, he sold 130- and 87-acre parcels of land there. On Oct. 12, 1795, a younger and unmarried Henry Landes (presumably a son) also sold 258 acres near Moorefield.

The younger Henry Landes then purchased 20 acres farther north. The deed record created May 8, 1795 places the purchase just below Burlington (adjacent to Romney), in the area of the Beaver Run congregation of Hampshire County. His name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1800.

The father Henry Landis purchased 625 acres on Patterson Creek. The deed record created July 20, 1795 named the sellers as Nicholas Boyce and wife Ann, and witnesses John Snyder, William Vause, John Stearman, and John Murphy.

While son Henry resettled in Hampshire County, his 56-year-old father may have retired to a safer and more developed area on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Catharine recalled being told that in 1796 Heinrich/Henry "removed his family [likely wife and younger children] to Rockingham County, Virginia, at which place he resided until his death, the date of which cannot be fixed to a certainty." We did not identify a Henry Landes in Rockingham County censuses 1800-30. However, federal censuses before 1850 only named actual heads

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41 William Richards was born in Barbados in 1716. His family moved to a location near Hackensack, New Jersey in the early 1730s. By the 1760s he was a merchant at Perth Amboy, and owned his own schooner. He relocated to Philadelphia before 1765. There he worked as a merchant, shopkeeper, and apothecary. He still owned the schooner, and occasionally acted as its captain. In 1765 he purchased a fishery at Lamberton, New Jersey (now part of Trenton). He eventually owned a number of businesses along its waterfront including a bakery and pottery factory. The fish and ceramics were sold in his shops at Philadelphia, while some of the fish were shipped as far as Barbados. Richards is thought to have died at Philadelphia in 1787.
of households. Thus, if he were living in a household where a son-in-law was considered the head of the family, he would have been indistinguishable from others - only a number in a male age bracket. However, it is also possible that Heinrich/Henry took up residence on the 625 acres. Whether he stayed in Hampshire County or departed, the land may have been intended for common use by his children.

The American Gazetteer (1797) described the area: "Hampshire, a county in Virginia, about 60 miles long and 50 broad, and contains 7346 inhabitants including 454 slaves. It is well watered by the Potowmac [Potomac] and its south branch. Iron ore and coals have been discovered on the banks of this river. Romney, the chief town of Hampshire County, Virginia, contains about 70 dwelling houses, a brick courthouse and a stone jail. It is situated on the west bank of the S.W. branch of the Potowmac river, 50 miles west by north of Winchester, 25 miles northeast by north of Moorefields, and 18 S.W. of Old Town, in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania [actually in Maryland]."

According to Catherine, Heinrich/Henry Landes fathered 23 children by four wives. (This almost certainly includes many who died in infancy). She recalled Henry (presumably the resident of Hampshire County), John, and Christopher, and a set of six children from one wife. The set includes two future Tazewell County settlers.

The younger five children married individuals from German Baptist families associated with the Beaver Run and Mill Creek congregations in Hampshire County.  

The known set of children from one mother includes:

1. Samuel Landes was born circa 1766 (presumably in Europe), and died near Lockbourne, Franklin County, Ohio (below Columbus) Dec. 19, 1822. He married Hannah Shoaf. His name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1800 and 1803. History of Pickaway County, Ohio and Representative Citizens (1906) describes "Samuel Landes of Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio," who lived on "...the Landes homestead, one mile north of Lockbourne."

2. Magdalena Landes was thought to have been born circa 1773. According to Catherine Landes, Magdalena "...married a Mr. Rudruck and lived in Pennsylvania. Of her family I know nothing." Perhaps this was the couple found on the 1850 census of Georges Township, Fayette County as David Roderick, 79, Maryland; and Magdaline, 80, Pennsylvania. They are buried in Mount Mariah Baptist Cemetery at Smithfield, Fayette County as 'Magdalene Roderick, 1770-1853' (she died in Fayette County Oct. 30, 1853) and 'David Roderick, 1770-1858' (he died in Fayette County Dec. 20, 1858).

3. Felix Landes may have been born circa 1770 or 1773, and died at New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio Sept. 3, 1838. He married Christina Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. His name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1805 and 1806. Some sources say that they resettled at New Philadelphia on 1807. The History of Tuscarawas County (1884) says Felix came there from Virginia in 1812, purchased 200 acres, and died there in 1838 "aged sixty-five or sixty-eight years."

4. Rudolph Landes (twin) was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778 (headstone count), and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 13, 1840.

5. Frederick Landes (twin) was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778, and died at Delphi Oct. 29, 1850. On Nov. 26, 1805 in Virginia he married Mary Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. They initially farmed in Virginia; his name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1804, 1805, and 1810. They then resettled in Muskingum County, Ohio. In 1839 they resettled at Carrollton, Carroll County (adjacent to Flora on its east side). 'Frederick Lantiz' is found on the 1840 census of Carroll County. The 1850 census of Carrollton shows farmer Frederick Landes, 73, on the same page as several of his grown children. History of Carroll County, Indiana (1909): "Fred and Mary (Thomas) Landes were natives of Rockingham county, Virginia, where they grew to manhood and womanhood and where they were married. Subsequently, they emigrated to Muskingum county, Ohio, and there lived until 1838, when they emigrated to Indiana and settled in Carrollton township, Carroll county. There they purchased a large tract of land and spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Dunkard church. Fred Landes was identified with the Whig party." Local records say Frederick is buried in Beech Grove Cemetery at Sharon, Carroll County, where his headstone is missing.

6. Joseph Landes was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Feb. 25, 1784 (according to his daughter Catherine), and died in Licking County, Ohio (on the east side of Columbus) March 11, 1843. He married Barbara Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. In 1807 they resettled at New Philadelphia. He may be found as Joseph Landers on the 1840 census of Gratiot, Hopewell Township, Licking County.

Elizabeth's father Rudolph Landes was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778, and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 13, 1840. He married Nancy Plum. It is likely that the ceremony took place in Hampshire County, Virginia. In 1795 her parents John Plum and Rachel Temple purchased 100 acres on Mill Creek.  

42 This denomination has been called Church of the Brethren since 1908.

43 The sales record calls the buyer John Plumb.'
Nancy married in the same year, but we think it more plausible that the groom was at least 21 years of age, and the bride at least 16. Thus they may have been married as late as 1799. The 1840 census shows her in the 50-59 age bracket, narrowing the window for her birth year to the early 1780s.

Some time in the pre-computer era, when facts were not so easily checked, Nancy was assigned the 'guesstimate' birth year 1774. It is likely that this was done by taking her year of marriage (assumed to be 1795) and subtracting 21 years. However, if they were married as late as 1799, and she was only 16, she may have been born as late as 1783.

Unfortunately Nancy's age was only documented twice. The 1840 census put her in the 50-59 year age bracket. The 1850 census says she was an implausibly young 60.

Rudolph's name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1800 and 1802. In 1803 or 1804 the family migrated 345 miles west-northwest to a location near Columbus, Ohio.

Rudolph Landes is found on an 1809 tax list from Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (below Columbus). Presumably they were living on or very near the homestead of his older brother Samuel, one mile north of Lockbourne.

In the fall of 1812 Nancy's parents also resettled on 200 acres in Hamilton Township. John Plum died there in 1815, and Rachel Temple in 1838.

Rudolph is later found as Rudolph Landis on the 1830 census of Harrison Township, Pickaway County. The northern boundary of Harrison Township touches the southern town limit of Lockbourne.

U.S. General Land Office Records dated March 25, 1833 note two purchases in Carroll County, Indiana made by Rudolph Landes of Pickaway County, and recorded at the Crawfordsville, Indiana land office. The first was for 160 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 11, Township 24. The second was for 80 acres in the east half of the southeast quarter of Section Two, Township 24 (adjoining the land in Section 11). The two parcels were located in what would become Delphi in Deer Creek Township. Delphi was formally organized in 1837-38, and became the county seat of Carroll County.

Though Carroll County is historically associated with a Dunkard branch called the 'New Dunkers,' Rudolph's family remained in the mainline Lower Deer Creek congregation with their close friends and neighbors, the Eickenberrys.

**THE NEW DUNKERS**

Dunkard minister Peter Eyman was born in Hardy County, Virginia (now in West Virginia) Feb. 16, 1794, a son of Peter Eyman and Hannah Whetstone. In the autumn of 1827 he organized a congregation in Montgomery County, Ohio. The following year he relocated to Carroll County, Indiana. In 1729 he helped to organize the first Dunkard congregation in the county.

In 1834 elder John Myer arrived. In 1838 personality differences between Eyman and minister Peter Replogle came to a head. Each agreed to serve only half the county, and drew up a dividing line. Replogle would serve the Lower Deer Creek congregation. Myer and Eyman would serve the larger Bachelor Run congregation.

At Delphi in the fall of 1848 an annual conference of ministers removed Eyman and deacon George Patton from fellowship for advocating 'variant practices.'

Eyman and Patton established a new branch called the Church of God or 'New Dunkers' [Ger. Neu Täufer]. Eyman died in Cass County, Indiana Jan. 15, 1852, and is buried in Camden Cemetery in Carroll County.

The New Dunkers tended to be literalists and sprinkled their speech with Biblical expressions. To outsiders this seemed like pomposity. The county was derided as "...a place where they do a lot of begattin'." However, in practice there were very few differences from the older order. The branch never grew beyond Indiana, and disbanded in 1962.

**THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL**

Construction of the Wabash & Erie Canal began at Toledo, Ohio Feb. 22, 1832, and reached Delphi by 1837. The final 497-mile length connected the Great Lakes to the Ohio River.

It began operation July 4, 1843. Burrowing by muskrats contributed to the constant erosion of its banks. Some of the communities along its path contributed to this by breaking the levees, to keep mosquitoes from breeding in still water. By 1853 the cost of maintenance became prohibitive.

Its properties were finally sold in 1876. Delphi is now the home of the Wabash & Erie Canal Park Interpretive Center.

'Rudolph Landiz ' is found on the 1840 census of Carroll County. His household included one male 60-69 years of age [Rudolph], one male 30-39 [Solomon], one female 50-59 [wife Nancy], two females 20-29 [Mary and Rachel], and two females 15-19 [Susan and Eliza].
A Brief Statement of the Stimmel and Plum Ancestors From 1740 down to and Including the Names of the Fourth Generation (1902) says that Rudolph and Nancy "...came to Ohio and settled on a farm on the north line of Pickaway County. From this union four sons and seven daughters, namely: Joseph, Solomon, Felix, Rudy, Margaret, Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary, Susan, Eliza and Rachel. Rudy Landes and all his family (except Joseph) removed to Carroll County, Indiana, in the fall of 1833, and settled on a farm [at Delphi] about 10 miles southwest of Logansport, Indiana." It adds, incorrectly, that "Rudy died about 1837, age 65 years. Nancy, his wife, died in about 1848, age 74 years."

Rudolph's will was created Oct. 29, 1840. It named 'my beloved wife Nancy Landes' as the primary heir to a 180-acre farm, and sons Solomon and Felix as secondary heirs. Sons Solomon and Felix and brother Frederick were named as executors. The will was probated in Carroll County.

He is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora (adjacent to Delphi on its east side), where his headstone says he died Dec. 13, 1840, aged 62 years, seven months, and seven days (yielding the approximate birth date May 5, 1778). Flora is adjacent to Delphi on its east side, but located within Monroe Township. A Dunkard church was constructed in Monroe Township in 1831, nine years before the formal organization of Flora.

The 1850 census of Carroll County shows Nancy [Plum] Landis, 60, Pennsylvania; Catharina, 42, Ohio; Susan, 24, Ohio; Eliza, 22, Ohio; and Henry Holloway, 24, Indiana. Apparently Nancy, Susan, and Eliza's ages were lessened. Ten years earlier Nancy was in the 50-59 age bracket, and Susan and Eliza were already in the 15-19 year age bracket.

Nancy Plum died in Carroll County July 6, 1856. She may also be buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery, where several headstones are unreadable.

The children of Rudolph Landes and Nancy Plum include:

1. Solomon Landes is identified as a son and secondary heir (with brother Felix) on his father's will created in Carroll County in 1840. It is probable that he died before the 1850 census.
2. Joseph Landes was born at Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia Sept. 16, 1803, and died at Morton in 1885.
3. Felix Landes was born in Ohio (likely at Hamilton Township, Franklin County) Dec. 28, 1804 (headstone), and died at Chicago Oct. 1, 1884. A Carroll County marriage entry is titled 'Falix Landes to Letha Armstrong.' However, the actual text uses different spellings: "I hereby certify that on the 24th day of March 1936, I Areagalas Ardania Preacher of the Gospel in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church joined in the holy state of matrimony Felix Landis and Lethe Armstrong according to the usual customs and the Laws of the State of Indiana."44 Lethia Armstrong was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee May 15, 1816, a daughter of William Armstrong and Elizabeth Galbraith.45 Her father came from Augusta County to purchase 100 acres on Potter Creek in Hampshire County in 1808. Felix is identified as a son and secondary heir (with brother Solomon) on his father's will created in Carroll County in 1840. He may also be found as head-of-household Felix Landis on the 1840 census of Carroll County, Indiana: one male 30-39 years of age; two males under 5; and one female 20-29. The 1850 census of Carroll County has farmer Felix Landis, 43, Ohio; Letha H., 36, Tennessee; John, 16; Joseph, 11; Cyrene [daughter], 10; and Rudolph, 8; all children born in Indiana. As noted earlier, they were living next door to his mother and siblings. The 1860 census of Cold Water Township, Butler County, Iowa shows farmer Felix Landes, 52, Ohio; Letha, 42, Tennessee; farm laborer John A., 22, Indiana; Joseph, 21, Indiana; Rudolph, 17, Indiana; Martha, 10, Indiana; farmer Leonard N. Lockwood, 28, New York; and Emeline, 18, Indiana. The 1870 census of Coldwater also lowers his age to bring it closer to his younger wife: farmer Felix Landes, 62, Ohio; Lihet, 53, Tennessee; Rudolph, 28, Indiana; and Martha, 19, Indiana. They lived next door to son John A. Landes, 33. An 1885 state census of Coldwater has Letha Landes, 68, Pennsylvania; Joseph M., 46, Indiana; Rudolph, 43, Indiana; and Mary Strayer, 35. Felix and 'Leathe' are buried in Brethren Cemetery at Greene, Butler County, Iowa. His headstone says he was born Dec. 28, 1804, and died at age 79 y. 9 m. 4 d. Her headstone says she was born May 15, 1816, and died April 25, 1897, aged 80 y. 11 m. 10 d.
4. Katharina/Catherine Landes was born in Ohio (likely at Hamilton Township, Franklin County) circa 1808. She is last found as a 42-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County. She may be the Catherine Landes who died May 10, 1867, and is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora.
5. Margaret Landes was born in Ohio approximately June 30, 1812, and died in Carroll County Feb. 1, 1852. On April 13, 1833 in Carroll County she married Burrell Bell; their ceremony was performed by a probate judge. He was born in Blount County, Tennessee in 1805, and died Jan. 21, 1874, a son of Burrell Bell and Sophie Yancy. They are

44 Lethia is derived from the Greek Letha, and pronounced lae-thee-uh with the emphasis on the last syllable. In Greek mythology, the river Lethis in Hades made people forget unfortunate events in their mortal life. It implies forgetfulness, in the sense that the arrival of the newborn girl helps her parents get over earlier tragedies.
45 Lethia Armstrong's sister Martha (1813-1899), also born in Hawkins County, Tennessee, married widower Joseph Landes (1811-1865) in Carroll County Nov. 21, 1848, becoming his second wife. Joseph was a son of Frederick Landes and Mary Thomas. His first wife was Nancy Richey (1815-1846). All three are buried in Beech Grove Cemetery at Sharon, Carroll County.
found on the 1850 census of Irvin, Howard County, Indiana as farmer Burrell Bell, 45, Kentucky; Margaret, 38, Ohio; and 10 children born in Indiana between 1834 and 1850. Margaret Landis Bell is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora. Her headstone says she aged 39 y. 7 m. 2 d. Following her death Burrell remarried twice. He is buried in Mound Cemetery at Poplar Grove, Howard County, Indiana.

6. Elizabeth Landes was born in Ohio circa 1814, and died in Tazewell County in 1843. See ZEHR for background on her marriage to Amish Mennonite Christian Zehr of Tazewell County.

7. Rachel Landes was born in Ohio circa 1815. A marriage license issued in Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 10, 1845 was titled 'William Baily to Rachall Landes'; the ceremony took place on Christmas day. We could not determine if this was the same person.

8. Rudolph 'Rudy' Landes (Jr.) was born in Ohio circa Nov. 5, 1816. He is buried in Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton, where his headstone says he died Aug. 24, 1839, aged 22 y. 10 m. 19 d.

9. Mary Landes was born in Ohio in 1818. She is found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as boarder Mary Landes, 62, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the household of farmer Franc Hill, 30, Ohio. In 1880 her older brother Joseph was living at adjacent Groveland. She is buried in Cropsey Cemetery, McLean County as 'Aunt Polly Landes, 1818-1898.' She was an aunt to Mary Ann Landes (wife of Ira Pratt) who is also buried there.

10. Susan/Susanna Landes was born in Ohio, and likely died between 1870 and the 1880 census. It is difficult to pin down her age, but we suspect she was born circa 1820. She is found as a 24-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County (thus born circa 1826), and as a 35-year-old on the 1860 census of Monroe Township, Carroll County (thus born circa 1825). Yet the 1850 census has her older than her sister Eliza, whose later censuses and headstone say was born in 1821. On Sept. 30, 1868 in Carroll County Susan married widower Samuel Myer. He was born in Maryland May 24, 1815, and died at Flora Aug. 5, 1890, a son of Dunkard minister John Myer and Elizabeth Witter. (In 1834 John Myer was an elder of their congregation). Samuel had been married to Elizabeth Burkett (they are found as Saml. Moyer and Elizabeth on the 1850 census of Carroll County, on the page following Susan). Samuel and Susan appear on the 1870 census of Monroe, Carroll County as farmer Samuel Myer, 55, Maryland; Susan, 50 [thus born circa 1820], Ohio; and four children born in Maryland. The 1880 census of Monroe has retired farmer Samuel Myer Sr., 65, in the household of son William K. Myers, 21. Samuel is buried in Moss Cemetery at Flora.

11. Eliza Landes was born in Pickaway County, Ohio Aug. 8, 1821(headstone date), and died in Carroll County Nov. 25, 1900. We found her as a 22-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County; however, we found her birth year as 1821 in all later instances. On March 18, 1857 in Carroll County she married widower James W. Glasscock, who had been her school teacher. He was born in Loudoun County, Virginia Aug. 23, 1815, and died March 5, 1892, a son of Gregory Glasscock and Elizabeth White. His first wife Jane B. Salisbury had died in 1856. The 1870 census of Rock Creek, Carroll County shows them as 65 and 58 years of age; a decade later they are found as 54 and 48. History of Carroll County, Indiana (1882) says James served as commissioner of Carroll County 1866-69 and as a trustee of Monroe Township, Carroll County. The 1900 census of Rock Creek has widow Eliza Glasscock, 78, born in Ohio in August 1821 to parents from Pennsylvania and Virginia. They are buried in Asbury Cemetery at Burlington, Carroll County, Indiana.

Elizabeth's older brother Joseph Landes was considered a pioneer settler of Tazewell County. He was born at Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County Sept. 16, 1803. At the time the county was in Virginia; it is now in West Virginia. Romney was specifically identified as his birthplace on the Tazewell County death certificates of two of his children.

According to History of Tazewell County (1879), Joseph's childhood education took place in a log schoolhouse in Pickaway County, Ohio.

On April 8, 1830 in Franklin County, Ohio he married Jane Mitchell. She was born in Ohio circa 1806. They arrived in Tazewell County Oct. 17, 1830 - just before the 'Deep Snow of 1830.' On Nov. 10, 1830 Joseph purchased 80 acres of federal land in Section 36 of Township 25N (what became Groveland) at $1.25 an acre. On Dec. 12, 1831 he purchased another 80 acres of federal land in Section 27 of Township 24N at the same price.

Joseph volunteered to serve under Major Isaiah Stillman in the state militia in 1832. He was one of 275 farmer-soldiers who participated in the disastrous 'battle' of Sycamore or Old Man’s Creek, also known facetiously as the Battle of Stillman's Run, the first skirmish of the Black Hawk War. See THE BLACK HAWK WAR OF 1832 in the Appendix for background.

Joseph was likely reunited with his sister Elizabeth and brother Rudolph some time after 1834.

He is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County as Joseph Lantis. The 1850 census has farmer Joseph Lantz, 45, Virginia; Jane, 44, Ohio; George, 19, Illinois; Magalin, 17, Illinois [later known as Mary Ann]; Mathew, 13, Illinois; Susan E., 3, Illinois; and laborer Robert White, 60, Virginia.

Jane died in 1855. On April 15, 1858 in Tazewell County Joseph remarried to Elizabeth Hathaway. She was born in Vermont in 1821, and died in Tazewell County in 1876. They are shown on the 1860 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Landes, 57, Virginia; Elizabeth, 36, Vermont; Mary Anne, 27, Illinois; Susan E., 15, Illinois;
Isabelle J., 8, Illinois; and laborer John C. May, Nassau. Son George Landes is found on the same census page as George Landes, 29, Illinois.

LANDES MENNONITE CEMETERY
On July 25, 1864, Joseph purchased a 5.5-acre timberland parcel at Elm Grove from Andreas/Andrew Birky and Catherine Litwiller. This added a strip along the south edge of his original Groveland land. The land was situated just north of a place on Dillon Creek where baptisms were held by the Pleasant Grove congregation.

After the trees were cleared, one-half acre was set aside to be used as a burial ground for the Pleasant Grove congregation. When the first five families bought portions from the congregation, it created Landes Mennonite Cemetery (also called Landes-Birky Cemetery).

The 1870 census of Groveland has farmer Joseph Landers, 66, Virginia; Elizabeth, 49, Vermont; Mary A., 36, Illinois; Elizabeth, 22, Illinois; Ellen, 9, Illinois; and Ziser Baltes, 23, Bavaria. In 1880 the household appears as farmer Jos. Landes, 76, born in Virginia to parents from Virginia; Mary A., 47, born in Illinois to parents from Virginia and Ohio; Susan E., 33, born in Illinois to parents from Virginia and Ohio; Ella, 19, born in Virginia to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and laborer John Kiley, 35, Ireland.

The Atlas Map of Tazewell County (1873) contains engraved illustrations of Joseph and son George's farms in Sections 35 and 36. Joseph is also found as a widower with three daughters on the 1880 census of Groveland, living near son George. At the time of his death Joseph held 800 acres at Groveland.

Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton holds a headstone 'Jane M. Landes 1806-1855,' and a joint headstone for 'Mother Elizabeth H., 1821-1876, Father Joseph Landes, 1803-1885.'

History of Tazewell County (1879) described Joseph as "the father of eight children, three boys and five girls, four of whom are still living." All were born in what are now Elm Grove and Groveland.

The children of Joseph Landes and his first wife Jane Mitchell include:

1. George Landes was born Jan. 26, 1831, and died at Groveland Feb. 29, 1926. On June 22, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Smith. She was born in Scotland in 1860, and died in 1916. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland, on the same page as his father, as Geo. Landes, 49, born in Illinois to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and Barbara, 40, born in Scotland. They are buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

2. Mary Ann Landes was born Feb. 16, 1833, and died at Cropsey, McLean County Feb. 22, 1931. She appears as 'Magalin' on the 1850 census; perhaps she was originally a Magdalena. On June 30, 1880 in Tazewell County she married widower Ira Clarke Pratt. He was born in Swanton, Vermont Jan. 12, 1832, and died at Cropsey April 14, 1917, a son of Ira Allen Pratt and Acenath Walt. His first wife was Ellen Hathaway, who died in 1879. Before his remarriage Pratt was a resident of Morton. The following year he and Mary Ann constructed a home at what is now Cropsey, McLean County, and participated in the establishment of that community. They appear on the 1900 census of Cropsey as landlord Ira C. Pratt, 68, born in Vermont to parents from Vermont and Massachusetts; Mary A., 67, born in Illinois in February 1833 to parents from West Virginia and Ohio. Mary Ann's younger sister Susan was also living with them. In McLean County Pratt held positions as justice of the peace, assessor, and road commissioner. They also owned a home at Crescent City, Florida. Ira and Mary Ann are buried in Cropsey Cemetery.

The children of Joseph Landes and his second wife Elizabeth Hathaway include:

3. John S. Landes was born circa 1860, and died in 1864. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

4. Ellen or Ella Landes was born Feb. 20, 1861, and died in Los Angeles July 23, 1955. On Dec. 29, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Sigourney Augustus Hayward. He was born at Morton Aug. 29, 1857, and died in Los Angeles March 2, 1947, a son of Joseph Lyman Hayward and Mary C. Selah. They are found on the 1900 census of Tremont, the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Peoria Ward 2 as well as the 1910 census of St. Andrews, Florida; and the 1940 census of Lakewood, Florida. They are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery at Tremont.

5. Joseph S. Landes was born in 1863, and died in 1865. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

6. Joseph S. Landes was born in 1860, and died in 1864. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

7. Ellen or Ella Landes was born Feb. 20, 1861, and died in Los Angeles July 23, 1955. On Dec. 29, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Sigourney Augustus Hayward. He was born at Morton Aug. 29, 1857, and died in Los Angeles March 2, 1947, a son of Joseph Lyman Hayward and Mary C. Selah. They are found on the 1900 census of Tremont, the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Peoria Ward 2 as well as the 1910 census of St. Andrews, Florida; and the 1940 census of Lakewood, Florida. They are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery at Tremont.

8. Joseph S. Landes was born in 1863, and died in 1865. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

JOHN AND JAMES PLUM
Nancy Plum has a brother named Jacob Plum. He was born in Hampshire County, Virginia Jan. 17, 1782.
In Hampshire County he married Hannah Magdelene (also known as Mary) Stimmel. She was born at Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland July 3, 1788, and died in Franklin County, Ohio March 24, 1839. In the spring of 1812 they resettled above Lockbourne. Jacob died at Hamilton, Franklin County, Ohio Dec. 8, 1851, and is buried under a largely illegible headstone in Landes Cemetery at Lockbourne. Their sons John and James Plum both resettled in Tazewell County.

- John Plum was born Aug. 25, 1809, and died Sept. 8, 1884. He married Jane Moore. She was born Dec. 10, 1811, and died Sept. 25, 1878. They resettled in Tazewell County in 1844. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County, and on the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Morton (both as 'John Plumb'); John born in Ohio, and Jane born in Virginia. They are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

- James Plum was born Dec. 26, 1824, and died Jan. 8, 1900. He married Phebe Jane Stoutt. She was born Sept. 19, 1830, and died Nov. 29, 1907. James is found on the 1855 state census of Morton, and they appear on the 1870 census of Morton; James born in Ohio, Pheobe born in New York. The death certificate of son Jacob gives James's birthplace as 'Pickaway, Ohio.' They are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.
### The Voyage of the *Nimrod* in 1826

The *Nimrod* sailed from Amsterdam and arrived at New York Aug. 18, 1826. Some of its families had been recruited by Christian Naftziger to settle Canada. Among his extended family was a second-cousin-by-marriage, minister Peter Naftziger (later known as ‘Apostle Peter’) and his wife Barbara Beck; and Peter’s sister Barbara with her husband Peter Danner or Donner [Tanner]. From New York they traveled to Ontario and settled on the promised tract, which became known as the German Block of Wilmot Township in Waterloo County.

Our reading of the passenger list:

"Report or manifest of the passengers taken onboard the ship Nimrod, whereof William Allen is master, from Amsterdam, 280 tons, and owned by James and Jabert Lovett & W. Allen of New York."

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Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Appendix

Elizabeth 38 F
Matiena 11 F
Margaretha 4 F
Gertruida 4 F
Catharina 2 F
Nich. Datson 33 M Seaman
Anna 28 F
Helena Catharina 9 F
Anna Cornelia 6 F
Hendrick Lodewick 11 M
Christian Banna 32 M Farmer
Frederick Kerber 32 M

The Baltimore Voyage of 1831

On June 14, 1830, 34,000 French troops landed in Algeria in belated retaliation for the ‘fly whisk incident’ (see ROPP). The public initially applauded a three-day victory. But when news reached Paris that the victorious troops were raping, looting, desecrating mosques, and destroying cemeteries, it was too much. They began to see the action as a ploy to rally public opinion behind a reactionary regime.

At least one voyage carried away a number of Amish Mennonite families who were purposely evading civil requirements regarding military conscription. They had initially assembled at Rhodes, Moselle. Some of the male passengers may have been traveling under assumed names.

The National Archives Quarterly Abstract for arrivals at Baltimore April 1-June 30, 1831 was created as a Works Project Administration project in the 1930s. It is a simple continuous list of passengers, only occasionally naming a vessel. There is no way to tell whether or not it was transcribed from the original passenger list, or a copy of a copy of a copy.

According to the recollections of the passengers the unidentified ship arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831, after 44 days at sea, yielding an approximate departure date of April 7.

‘Black Joe’ Belsley appears on the passenger list as passenger #146, Joseph Bachel, 18. The Patron's Directory for the Woodford County 1873 Illinois Atlas described ‘Black Joe’ as someone who engaged in farming and stock raising in Section 24 of Spring Bay; who came to America in 1831; and who was born at Nantes, France (then in Brittany). However, we know that he was born in Moselle.

Was Nantes the departure point for his voyage? Although Nantes is in western France, 30 miles inland, the Loire River connects it to the sea and it was once a major commercial port. Since 1808 it had been the only major European port that was still active in the slave trade (France did not emancipate until 1848). An estimated 80 ships carried slaves in and out of the port in 1830 before Louis Philippe outlawed the slave trade and enforcement took place.

But it is also possible that ‘Black Joe’ was not born at Nantes, and did not depart from there. Most of the families in Moselle likely came with travel documents obtained at Nancy, Neurthe-et-Moselle, and this has often been found as a source of confusion.

The arrival would have been the first time that the collective families were exposed to American slavery. Baltimore was home to 10,000 slaves, as well as 17,000 free ‘people of color.’ Presumably the ship returned to France with cotton for the textile industry.

Our reading of the passenger list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Joseph Gacho [Gascho]</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>John Gacho</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Woodoline</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Madaline Newhauser</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Christiana</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GASCHO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The family of Peter Engel, including his Vercler step-children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Peter Angel [Engel]</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>ENGEL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>Surname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>John [Vercler]</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>VERCLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Jacob [Jacobine Vercler]</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>VERCLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Peter [Engel]</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>ENGEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>[Catherine Ringenberg, widow of Vercler, remarried to Peter Engel]</td>
<td>ENGEL/VERCLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Mary [Vercler]</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>VERCLER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Catherine, a sister to Peter Engel. She was the wife of Christian Roggy (1794-1855).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Catherine Rogi [Roggy]</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>ROGGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Madaline</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>ROGGY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*’Mary Swissi’ or Suisse was another sister to Peter Engel. This couple later lived in Morton as John and Mary Swisser.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Mary Swissie [Schweizer]</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>SCHWEIZER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Christiana</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHWEIZER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>John Swissie [Schweizer]</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHWEIZER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Marie Rocher (also found as Rusche) married minister Michael Mosiman, who arrived on another ship in 1831. Her father and brother lived on the next farm in Wesley City (now the northwest corner of Groveland). Marie's sister Anne is listed below as the wife of David Schertz.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Christophe Roshe [Rocher]</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>MOSIMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>MOSIMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>MOSIMAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*David Schertz (later of East Peoria) and two of his sons; his second wife Anne Rocher is listed below. His first marriage to Catherine Belsley connected the two families.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>David Shirtz</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The odd spelling of this surname may be intentional, since some of the males were avoiding military conscription. This is the most likely candidate to be Joseph ‘Black Joe’ Belsley, who was known to have traveled with this group. The majority were following the lead of his cousin, Joseph ‘Red Joe’ Belsley, who immigrated circa 1828. ‘Red Joe’ found employment in Ohio, then moved on to Illinois. ‘Red Joe’ greeted many of this group when they arrived at Partridge Creek in the fall of 1831.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Joseph Bachel [Belsley]</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>BELSLEY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Another odd spelling for Johannes (later John) Schrag/Schrock, subject of a Winter 2002 IMH article by Donna Birkey.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Jno. Jerral</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHROCK</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*More of the family of David Schertz. ‘Anne Shirtz’ was his wife, born Anne Rocher.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Madaline Shirtz</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHERTZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The family of Johannes Schrag/Schrock (later of Lemon Township and Elm Grove). ‘Catherine Gerrard’ was born Elizabeth Catherine Salzman. ‘Mary Gerrard’ was Johannes’ stepmother, Marie Neuhauser. For unknown reasons, the Schrag family used the surname ‘Gerrard.’ In this instance, it is likely that the head of household was avoiding military conscription.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Catherine Jerrard</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHROCK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHROCK</td>
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<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>Madelene</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHROCK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
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<td>SCHROCK</td>
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<tr>
<td>157</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHROCK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The family of Michael Salzman, who settled in Lemon Township, Butler County, Ohio. ‘Madaline Salzman’ was Michael’s second wife Magdalena Eymann.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Surname</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>158</td>
<td>Michael Salzman [Salzman]</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>SALZMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SALZMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SALZMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SALZMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>Andre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>SALZMAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Appendix

The family of Peter Schrag/Schrock, who became minister to the ‘hook and eye’ congregation in Butler County. ‘Mary Gerrard’ was his first wife, Marie Zimmerman. See SCHROCK for background on this couple who went to St. Clair and Lemon, Butler County, Ohio.

The family of Peter Schrag/Schrock’s in-laws Jacob Zimmerman and Elisabeth Becher/Becker, who went to Wilmot and South Easthope, Ontario.

Christian Kemp/Camp later married Magdalena Sommer and settled at Partridge, Woodford County.

The family of André (later Andrew) Salzman, a brother of Michael Salzman.

Joseph Schertz may have been a brother of David Schertz, and an early settler of Wesley City.

The Hessian Voyage of 1832

Recall from STAKER that in 1832 a small ship was chartered for a voyage to America that lasted 77 days. Handwritten notes for the Brennemen family history call the charter ‘A Two-Masted Brig’ (in parentheses, capitalized) and this is the only known form of the name of the ship. The published history called it a two-masted schooner.

The actual passenger list has not survived; a transcription appears on a quarterly index of Baltimore arrivals held by the National Archives and available on microfilm.

Only slightly larger than a schooner, brigs were light and maneuverable. Their sails were positioned to catch the wind by a set of ropes and pulleys called running rigging. Because of this, they required a relatively large crew for their small size. They were gradually replaced by gaffsail schooners, and then by steam ships.

A 220-ton brig would have been about 120 feet long, and designed to last two decades. It would have been too slow on the high seas to carry packet mail, but might have carried light cargo or about 100 passengers.

From Bremen the brig would have sailed west down the coast to the British tax station at Cowes on the English Channel, and taken on as much fresh water as possible. Perhaps it took the passengers Baltimore, then returned with cotton for English textile mills.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
Appendix

JUTZI
Christian, 43; farmer; Maria, 38; Susannah, 13; Helena, 11; Emilie, 9; Emilie, Elisa, 7; Maria, 5; Phillipina, 3; and Jacob, 20.

HEMELET
Christian, 38.

DIEPEL
Hans, 26.

SCHUTTER
Joh., 24.

JUTZI
Michael, 50; Peter, 23; Johannes, 28; Marie, 45; Elisa, 22; and Phillipine, 13.

HEMETEL
Franz, 26. [Should have been Hemelet]

PERCY
Daniel, 24.

BRENNEMAN
Daniel, 26; Jacob, 5; Elise, 23; Marie, 3; and Elise, 1.

OESOCH (Oesch)
Joh., 24.

HOLLY
Johann, 44; Daniel, 16; Johannes, 11; Wilhelm, 8; Peter, 5; Helena, 36; Christine, 20; Elise, 18; Maria, 14; Jacobine, 3; Catherine, 38; Peter, 40, farmer; Christian, 12; Johannes, 12; Maria, 16; Jacobine, 10; Catherine, 7; Elise, 2; and Susanna, 7

ROSENKRAN
Maria, 36.

MANNIHAN
Hans, 27; and Johann, 24.

OSWALD
Michael, 25; Johann, 24; Wilhelm, 20.

HOLLY
Daniel, 28; Catherine, 26; Barbara, 4; Christine, 2; Maria, 1; and Anna, 16.

JUNGRICH
Catherine, 30; Elise, 13; Cath, 2; Phillipine, 1; Peter, 40; Christian, 10; and Jacob, 8.

BENDER
Johann, 46; Jacob, 11; Daniel, 9; Maria, 40; Maria, 13; Anna, 17; Helena, 16; Jacobine, 7; and Elise, 5.

33 names later

BENDER
Daniel, 17.

Eight names later

BERTY (Birki)
Jacob, 25.

The Voyage of the *Troy* in 1836

The ship *Troy* departed Le Havre and arrived at New York City Nov. 10, 1836. A portion of the passenger list:

Johann Koening   36 Farmer Baden
Madeline        33
Madeleine       12
Christian        9
Elisabeth       7
Anna            6
Johannes        3
Jacob ½

The family of Michael's cousin Johannes König and Magdalena Rupp. He was mentioned earlier as a son of Johannes 'Hans' König and Barbara Roth. They settled near her relatives in Fulton County, Ohio.

Catharina Rieser 64
Johann Bernett 67
Johannes Barnett, the father of the Barnett sisters.
Veronia 12
Veronica Barnett, who became Christian Ehresman's third wife after the deaths of two of her older sisters.
Michel Koenig 30
Elisabeth 24
Johann ½

The couple that later went to Liberty, Butler County; Dry Grove, McLean County; and Montgomery, Woodford County: Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. The son does not appear on the 1840 census.

Christian Ehresman 36
Anna 22
Jacob 10
Johann 7
Elisabeth 4
Christina 3
Jacobina 3
Jacobina 2
Daniel 1

"Died the 26th October"

The Ehresman family from EHRESMAN, who lived at Montgomery, Woodford County on the line with Deer Creek,
Tazewell County.
Christian Cies 35
Peter Rupp 33
The Voyage of the *Mercury* in 1854

The *Mercury* was the largest ship in Havre second line of packet ships, and the fastest. It was constructed in 1851, and carried passengers from Le Havre to New York until at least 1869. Its crossings averaged 33 days. The *Mercury* arrived at New York May 20, 1854 carrying 569 passengers. Among them were Waglers, Röschlis, and Wagners traveling to Central Illinois.

The passengers excerpted below have familiar surnames, though not all are of interest. Those that are designated by text came to Central Illinois and are mentioned in this genealogy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>353</td>
<td>Jean Maurer</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356</td>
<td>Hans</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358</td>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359</td>
<td>Barba.</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>360</td>
<td>Hch. Goldschmitt</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>361</td>
<td>Anna Muller</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
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<td>362</td>
<td>David Schlabach</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>365</td>
<td>Jac. Wagner</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>366</td>
<td>Mag.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>368</td>
<td>Barbe</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369</td>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370</td>
<td>Elis.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>Cath.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>Anna</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>373</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>374</td>
<td>Joh.</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>WAGLER</td>
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<tr>
<td>375</td>
<td>Jacob Maurer</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>377</td>
<td>Barbe Roschle</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>ROESCHLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>378</td>
<td>Joseph Wagner</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>WAGNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>379</td>
<td>Elis.</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGNER, ROESCHLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>WAGNER</td>
</tr>
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<td>Anna</td>
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<td>F</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>382</td>
<td>Barbe</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>WAGNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383</td>
<td>Elisab.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WAGNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>386</td>
<td>John, Roschli</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>ROESCHLEY</td>
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<td>387</td>
<td>Jacob Salzmann</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>BELLER</td>
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<td>395</td>
<td>André Maurer</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>396</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>397</td>
<td>John.</td>
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<td>398</td>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>9 months</td>
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<td>403</td>
<td>Joseph Wagner</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>404</td>
<td>---- Wagler</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Redundant, WAGNER</td>
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<td>405</td>
<td>Elisab.</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>Joseph</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>407</td>
<td>Barbe</td>
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<td>408</td>
<td>Elisab.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>409</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>9 months</td>
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46 This family is thought to be that of Christian Wagler and Elizabeth Maurer, who are buried in North Pulaski Cemetery in Iowa. Christian was born circa September 1815, and died at Pulaski March 17, 1905. Elizabeth was born circa 1816, and died at Pulaski April 26, 1904.
The Lewis County, New York Settlement

Lewis County, New York has special significance in the story of Tazewell and Woodford Counties. It represents a shadow colony—a cluster of Moselle families that was diverted from the mainstream migration flow that would have taken them through Butler County, Ohio or Ontario to Central Illinois. Many of them had relatives in Central Illinois, and kept up correspondences after their arrival.

The efforts of the land agents of Castorland Company to divert Amish Mennonite families began as interest in emigration was heightened by the French military occupation of Algeria. They hired a well-respected Amish Mennonite native of Faulquemont, Moselle to sign up friends and relatives. He met their goals, and eventually brought his own family to settle there as well.

Land in Lewis County cost $1.50 an acre, the same price as federal land in the Midwest. But extra interest was generated by the relative abundance of fish, wildlife (such as beaver, taken for their pelts), lumber, and maple trees (for seasonal harvesting of sap for brown sugar and syrup). And the Castorland Company offered to meet single families at the pier in New York City and escort them to the settlements.

The most lasting connection between Lewis County and Central Illinois was created with the establishment of Apostolic Christian congregations first in Lewis, then in Peoria and Woodford Counties.

THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Farmer Joseph Virkler of New Bremen, Lewis County, New York was a son of Rudolph/Rodolphe Virkler and Anne Brechbühl. He corresponded with his cousin in Woodford County, Joseph Vercler/Verkler (1807-1885, see VERCLER), and theologian Samuel Heinrich Froelich (1803-1857) of Switzerland.

In 1847 Froelich sent Benedict Weyeneth (1819-1887) on a mission to American congregations. Weyeneth settled at New Bremen. He established his own congregation, appointing Joseph Virkler as the first minister. They were called Apostolic Christians, ‘New Amish,’ or Neutäufer (since 1917 the Evangelical Baptist Church).

In 1850 minister Joseph Virkler visited Tazewell, Woodford, and Peoria Counties with his father Rudolf/Rodolphe. A meeting for one of his sermons is considered the founding moment of the Sheridan Road Apostolic Christian Church of Peoria. Eventually Illinois would have 18 Apostolic Christian congregations.

In Lewis County minister/elder Joseph Farni also joined the new movement. By 1854 Michael Zehr was elder of the Amish Mennonite congregation, simply because he was the only minister who did not leave it.

In 1853 Weyeneth traveled to Woodford County, Illinois, and made his permanent home at Roanoke. He returned to America.

The 1860 census of Roanoke, Woodford County shows Benedict Wayenet, 41, Switzerland; Elizabeth, 36, Switzerland; Priscilla, 6, Illinois; Alva, 4, Illinois; Anna, 3, Illinois; and Cynthia, 1, Illinois. The 1880 census of Roanoke has farmer Benedict Weyeneth, 62, Byrn; Elisabeth, 56, Byrn; Lois, 18, Illinois; and Umas, 15, Illinois. Farther down the same census page we find servant Elisabeth Weyeneth, 19, in the household of Mary Clark. On the same page was the family of Joseph Wagner, a minister in the Roanoke Mennonite Church, and Diebold Householder.

Weyeneth died at Roanoke Dec. 11, 1887, and is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

The De Chaumonts and the Castorland Company

The American War of Independence began April 19, 1775. On Sept. 26, 1776, the American colonial congress selected three delegates to France. One was 70-year-old Benjamin Franklin.

Upon his arrival in Paris Dec. 21, Franklin was offered the use of a house in Passy, a suburb that is now part of the city. His host would be a businessman and minor official named Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont [Sr.] (1725-1803). The out-of-the-way house had been purchased to keep Franklin’s movements from being observed by British observers in the city. Franklin would remain there for nine years.

Before and during Franklin’s tenancy his host was involved in a number of under-the-board transactions that built a fortune. Correspondence indicates that he may have purchased ships to indirectly aid the new American Navy under Captain John Paul Jones, and provided 2,000 barrels of gunpowder.

The war ended with the ratification of a treaty Sept. 3, 1783. In 1785 Franklin returned to America.

47 Confusion over the naturalization of a Swiss individual also named Benedict Weyeneth in New York City Feb. 18, 1854 led one biographer to a false assumption: that Weyeneth returned to Europe via New York City between his time in Lewis County and resettling in Woodford County. The Benedict in New York City was born in the city of Bern May 8, 1822, and died in Manhattan Nov. 30, 1875.
In the same year Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont [Jr.] later known as James Chaumont (1760-1840) was sent to the new country to press his father’s requests for compensation. He had also been was also been commissioned by his government to lobby Congress to honor the depreciated notes held by French subjects. He carried letters of introduction signed by Franklin, John Jay, and the Marquis de Lafayette. But his political efforts were largely unsuccessful.

His family’s financial fortunes took the upper hand. He purchased land in Pennsylvania, married a New Jersey resident, and returned to France in 1790.

In 1792 a syndicate of speculators headed by merchants Macomb, Constable, and McCormick acquired an immense amount of wilderness land in upstate New York (later called Macomb’s Purchase). The transaction was originally thought to include four million acres, an eighth of the state; it was later found to be only 3.6 million acres encompassing all of what is now Lewis, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence Counties.

The original purchase price was about eight pence per acre, or 30 acres for one dollar.\[48\] The syndicate was made up of ‘land jobbers’ looking for a turnaround with a minimum of complications. But the business of re-selling land in the wilderness was slow. Within six months Macomb had no liquid assets, and went to prison for refusing to pay the interest on loans. He then sold all his acreage to Constable.

One of those assisting in the transactions was Louis Chassanis, a brother-in-law to James Chaumont. Chassanis traveled to upstate New York to see the holdings for himself. This was highly unusual at the time - this wilderness transaction involved blocks of acreage that had not been surveyed or accurately mapped, much less visited by potential investors.

When Constable went to Paris looking for buyers in 1794, the elder de Chaumont was prepared with Chassanis’s ‘insider information’ and used it to leverage a generous deal.

Meanwhile Chassanis had encouraged some French investors to pool acreage and created their own smaller syndicate. This was La Compagnie de New York or Castorland Company, derived from castor, Latin for beaver. They accepted James Chaumont into their group, and convinced statesman Governeur Morris to endorse their land offers.

The Castorland Company sold enough small parcels that a group of would-be French settlers arrived near what is now Beaver Falls, Lewis County in 1796. However, by January of 1800 it was apparent that the emigrants were not prepared or willing to take on the forest. A financial settlement was reached that divided all the remaining holdings of the company between Governeur Morris (the nominal corporate president) and the de Chaumonts. Each received 220,000 acres.

In France James curried favor and influence by selling bargain parcels to influential people. According to A.M. Sakolski’s The Great American Land Bubble (1932), he sold 4,480 acres to Napoleon’s aide Armand-Augustin-Louis de Caulaincourt, who then sold them to Napoleon’s minister of police Comte Pierre-François Real. Other parcels went to general and marshal Marquis Emmanuel de Grouchy, and Napoleon’s critic Madame Germaine de Staël.

James made another trip to America in 1802. But the father died in France in 1803, and the son returned to settle his estate. His next sojourn in America lasted from 1806 to 1810. When Governeur Morris retired in 1809, James increased his acreage again. When he went to Europe in 1810 he left his son Vincent Chaumont in charge of his holdings.

James returned to America again in 1816. For the next 16 years he lived at Fort Drum in Jefferson County. According to a county history his mansion housed a physician, priest, surveyors, and engineers. He received visits from President James Monroe and the commanding officer of the army General Jacob Jennings Brown.\[49\] He founded the Jefferson County Agricultural Society and the Jefferson County Fair, and was a president of the New York State Agricultural Society.

\[48\] In 1792, 12 pennies or pence equaled one shilling; five shillings equaled one crown; and four crowns equaled one pound sterling or sovereign. Using these relative values, and knowing that one English penny was equivalent to only .416 of an American penny, we figured the eight pence purchase price would be equivalent to 3.328 cents per acre, or roughly 30 acres for one American dollar. How would a 1792 dollar equate in modern buying power? It would depend on whether it was made of gold or silver, or was issued as a private bank note. A random internet historic currency converter told us one dollar in 1792 would have had the equivalent of $25.09 in current buying power (which of course can also be figured in a number of ways). 30 acres for $25.09 in modern buying power, or 84 cents an acre, still seems like a bargain. Another way to look at this: an area was purchased for 3.328 cents an acre in 1792. After modest development (surveying, creating access roads, and setting up sales offices and general stores), it was selling for $1.50 an acre by 1834.

\[49\] The military career of Jacob Jennings Brown can be found on Wikipedia. We found it interesting that he was a general who began as a smuggler, like Napoleon’s spymaster Karl Ludwig Schulmeister, who can be found in EIGSTI.
However, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 provided a more convenient means of transportation for immigrants hoping to settle west of upstate New York. This diminished the value of the de Chaumont’s portfolio. Though it would no longer be fashionable for the elite of France to buy their properties, they were still a safe haven for those of modest means. Recall from STAKER the factors that drove French emigration:

The last straw came during the years 1827-30, when three successive poor grain harvests raised the price of staple foods. The Bourbon monarchy worsened the situation by siding with land owners and refusing to lower tariffs to allow imports. In The Birth of the Modern, Paul Johnson wrote that, "What was so serious about France's troubles were the coincidental disasters in so many industries... By 1829-30, many people in France were hungry. Bands of beggars, mainly women and children – one-parent families – roamed the countryside, particularly in the north. During the winter, crowds of angry women stormed the warehouses of food merchants in the towns, in desperate attempts to bring down prices."

On June 14, 1830, 34,000 French troops landed in Algeria. A parliamentary commission later determined that policy, behavior, and organization before and after the Algiers action had been failures. However, it also conceded that the occupation of Algeria had to continue “for the sake of national prestige.” In 1834, France annexed the occupied territory as a colony, opting to rule three million Muslims by force. The need for occupation troops lasted until 1962.

In 1832 James signed his remaining 100,000 acres over to his son. They both returned to France, where James died in 1840. The towns of Le Raysville and Chaumont in Jefferson County were named in their honor.

In Lewis County, would-be settlers would not have purchased directly from the de Chaumonts. A local history tells us that in 1821 they appointed lawyer Charles Dayan of Lowville as their sales agent and land registrar. He was responsible for 12,000 acres of the Castorland Company survey, and later sold properties to the west. The town center of what is now New Bremen was originally called Dayanville in his honor.

**Joseph Bonaparte**

One of the odder points of local history is the role Jacques Donatien Le Ray de Chaumont [Jr.] or James Chaumont played in bringing a Bonaparte to Lewis County. In 1815, he heard that Napoleon's older brother Joseph Bonaparte (born Giuseppi Buonaparte) had fled from his throne in Spain and was lodging in the community of Blois. He went from his estate at Touraine to Blois to have dinner with him, and saw that Bonaparte was taking a train of wagons to Switzerland.

According to the New York State Annual Report of the Forest Commission (1893) Bonaparte made a request of de Chaumont: "I remember well that you spoke to me once of your great possessions in the United States. If you have them still, I should very much like to have some in exchange for a part of that silver I have there in those wagons, and which may be pillaged at any moment. Take four or five thousand francs and give me the equivalent in land."

Estimates place the initial sale between 118,000 and 150,000 acres. Because Bonaparte was not an American citizen, a deed was made out to an agent in Philadelphia. The elder de Chaumont also loaned the equivalent of $120,000 in currency.

The Annual Report went on to say that the New York properties were once discussed by Joseph Bonaparte in France as a possible place of refuge for his brother Napoleon. Following his second abdication after his '100 Days' return, Napoleon went to Rochefort on the Bay of Biscay to attempt to sail to America. He arrived there July 3, 1815, but found the harbor under observation by the British navy from the HMS Bellepheron. On July 10 he sent representatives to ask if he would be permitted to sail to the United States. His request was denied. Napoleon surrendered aboard the Bellepheron July 15. He and his aide-de-camp Bertrand (later a patron of Amish Mennonites, see ROTH) were initially transported to England.

In 1816 Joseph Bonaparte took a suitcase full of jewels aboard the American brig Commerce and sailed to New York under the assumed name 'Lazare Carnot.'

His first significant residence in America was the Point Breeze estate at Bordentown, New Jersey, where he created extensive gardens and was known as the Comte de Survilliers. He often entertained prominent banker Nicholas Biddle, whose house was directly across the Delaware River. He also hosted visits from John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and the Marquise de Lafayette.

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50 Charles Dayan (1792-1877) was a Lowville school teacher who became a lieutenant colonel in the War of 1812. He became a member of the state senate in 1827, and served as lieutenant governor for 10 weeks in 1828. He served in Congress March 4, 1831 to March 3, 1833. Then he returned to New York to serve two years in the State Assembly, and five years as district attorney of Lewis County. The center of what became New Bremen was initially called Dayanville.
Starting in 1818 he spent summers on what became Lake Bonaparte. The lake (known even then as 'Lake Bony') is approximately 18 miles north of Croghan, and is within the boundaries of Lewis County at its northern tip.

His hunting and fishing guests in the first two years included de Grouchy, Réal, and former general and marshal Comte Bertrand Clausel (Claasel owned a home in Alabama). These three returned to France when amnesties were offered in 1820 and 1821.

Part of Bonaparte’s payment to James had been made in diamonds looted from the Spanish treasury. James was unaware that diamonds were flooding the market in Paris. He later contested their value in court. Bonaparte chose to repay the loan with part of the land. The transaction was modified in 1820 to 26,840 acres for $40,260 - or $1.50 an acre (the equivalent of $29.50 in modern buying power).

In 1828 Joseph built a hunting lodge near the water, and a summer house seven miles south. He chose to name it Diana, after the huntress goddess.

Bonaparte returned to France in 1832 (the same year as James and his son Vincent), but revisited twice. In 1835 his Lewis and Jefferson County properties were sold to New York City merchant James La Farge for $80,000. Joseph Bonaparte died at Châteauroux July 28, 1844, and is buried in Les Invalides in Paris.

The first Amish Mennonites from Moselle to view the Castorland Company properties in Lewis County arrived in 1831. If a passenger list from their voyage could be identified, it might answer a number of questions.

Among the arrivals were Joseph Kiefer (1800-after the 1880 census), younger brother of recruiter-land agent Jean/John Kieffer, and his wife Barbe Guingerich. She was the widow of Jean Hirschy.

The Kiefer/Kieffers and Hirschy/Hirschys initially settled in a part of Watson that later became part of New Bremen. Croghan was established in 1841. On March 31, 1848 New Bremen was formed from parts of Watson and Croghan. The western half of its 55 square miles is bounded by the Black River in the Black River Valley, while the eastern half is in the Adirondack Mountains. Its center is four miles north of Watson’s, and nine miles southwest of Croghan’s. According to History of Lewis County, New York and its People (1883), the original village held 1,345 residents, of whom 753 were European. Its population at the 2010 census had roughly doubled to 2,706.
Kiefer/Kieffer

In German Kiefer means pine, and this was the original spelling of the surname.

In 1743 Hans/Jean Ringenberg of the castle estate Ketzing (near Gondrexange in what is now Moselle) married Anna Holly, a daughter of leaseholder-minister Christian Holli/Holly. Her father had come from Kürzenberg, Canton Bern in 1718 to become leaseholder of the Bärbelsteinerhof communal farm at Berwartstein castle (mentioned in EHRESMAN).

Christian died in 1748, followed by his daughter the following year. This left Hans/Jean Ringenberg as sole leaseholder (see RINGENBERGER). He remarried to Anna Rupp.

In the 1750s the Steinbacherhof estate at Durstel, Lower Alsace, was leased by Tobias Kiefer, his brother Jacob Kiefer, and Christian Naßiger.

When Hans/Jean Ringenberg died in 1763, his widow Anna was left with the lease on the Bärbelsteinerhof. She took on Kiefer as her co-leaseholder 1763-1772. In 1766 Anna remarried to Isaac Hochstettler.

Tobias was married to Susanne Hirschi. Although her civil death entry suggest she was born circa 1723, we suspect but cannot prove that she was Françoise Susanne Hirschi, born at Altviller Oct. 7, 1729, a daughter of Jacob Hirsch and Barbara Rolle. She died at Faulquemont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1810; the 10-year civil index lists her as Susanne Hirgy.

Their son Jean Joseph Kieffer, born circa 1772, was married to Madeleine Hirschi at Folschviller, Moselle Dec. 18, 1797. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Joseph Kiefer, 24, a resident of Hinsingen, Tenchen, Bistroff [Hingsange farm at Linstroff]. His parents were the deceased Tobias Kieffer and Susan Hirsch, who had been residents of Buttange. The bride was Madlön Hörgy, 24, a resident of Berfang farm at Folschviller. She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Hörgy and the deceased Anne Farny, who had been residents of Bonhousen farm at Faulquemont. Witnesses included cultivator Pierre Beller, 30, resident of Berfang farm [he was married to Madeleine’s older sister Barbe]; and cultivator Christian Kenile [Kennel], 36, brother-in-law of the groom and resident of Wenick [Wenhecker Hof], St. Avold. The groom signed ‘Joseph Kinfnr’ (the letter ‘e’ written in the old-style German that looks like ‘n’); the bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.

Madeleine Hirsch/Hirschi was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont circa 1773, and died at Amélecourt, Moselle March 23, 1825, a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny, who had lived at Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-lès-Harprich) before becoming residents of Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont.51

After marriage Jean Joseph continued to work as a cultivator on Berfang farm at Folschviller. It is now called Ferme du Vieux Berfang [Farm of Old Berfang], adjacent to a hamlet within Folschviller called Berfang Neuf [Berfang Nine]. Their children include:

1. Jean/John Kieffer was born at Folschviller, Moselle Sept. 29, 1798. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Kiefer and Madlön Hörgy of Berfang farm at Folschviller. It was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Biller [Beller], 34. Though the municipal clerk at Foschviller chose the spelling variation ‘Kieffer,’ only this son employed it.
2. Joseph Kiefer was born at Folschviller Aug. 29, 1800. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Kiefer, 53, and Madlön Hörgy of Berfang farm at Folschviller.
3. Christian Kiefer was born at Faulquemont, Moselle (six miles southwest of Folschviller) July 26, 1802.
4. Margueritte Kiefer (found as Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Sept. 26, 1804, and died there March 20, 1816.
5. Pierre Kiefer (found as Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Dec. 25, 1807, and died there Feb. 25, 1808.
6. Madeleine Kiefer (found as Madelaine Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Dec. 7, 1810, and died at Moncheux, Moselle Oct. 25, 1852 (found in the 10-year civil index as Madelaine Kiffer). Circa 1833 she married Nicolas Meyer. He was born circa 1805, and died at Moncheux Nov. 8, 1863, a son of Joseph Meyer and his second wife Anne Blank. They would have been second cousins, sharing great-grandparents Jacob Hirsch and Barbara Rolle.

JEAN/JOHN KIEFFER

Jean/John Kieffer was born at Folschviller, Moselle Sept. 29, 1798. Bénestroff

On Aug. 12, 1818 at Destry he married Catherine Farny.52 Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Jean Kailfeurt, 20, born at Folschviller. He was a son of cultivator Jean Kailfeurt and Magdeleine Hyrcy, residents of the tile factory at Faulquemont. The bride was described as Catherine Farny, 20, born at Besville, Bénestroff.

51 The couple was listed in the 10-year civil index as Josep Kieffer and Madlön Hörgy.
52 The 10-year civil index of Destry lists them as Jean Kailfeurt and Catherine Farny.
She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Farny, who had died at Benning, Harprich May 7, 1805, and Anne Elisabeth Guerber, a resident of Moulin Rouge [the red mill] at Destry who was present and consenting.

Catherine was a niece to Barbe Farny and Joseph Stecker (#1), the author’s great-great-great-grandparents; her father Pierre had been a witness at their wedding on Belgrade farm at Bistroff in 1802. She was also a niece to Anne Farny, who married Christian/Chrétien Jantzi of Belgrade farm. And she was an older sister to Jean Farny, who came to Spring Bay, Woodford County in 1853, and died there the following year (likely in the cholera epidemic). See FARNY, FARNY OF BISTROFF for background on her family

Circa 1830 Jean/John accepted employment from Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont [Jr.] to recruit potential settlers to purchase his properties in upstate New York.

Jean sailed from Le Havre to New York in 1831, then returned to Europe. He was responsible for Amish Mennonite passengers on the bark Statera arriving June 19, 1833; the Formosa April 17, 1834; the packet ship Groton June 4, 1834; and the Bolivar Aug. 3, 1838.

He later brought his own family over on the Xylon, sailing from Le Havre and arriving at New York June 18, 1838. (The Greek xylon describes ‘something made of wood’). They appear on the passenger list as Jean Kieffer, 40; Chatrine, 40; and Madeleine, 9.

The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County has the household of ‘John Keefer’: one male in the 40-49 age range; one female 40-49; and one female 10-14. They were living next door to the household of ‘Christian Keefer,’ Jean/John’s younger brother. Their brother Joseph was also living at Watson (found as ‘Joseph Keefer’).

The 1860 census of New Bremen shows farmer John Keefer, 60, France; Cathrin [Farny], 61, France; daughter Lany [already married to Joseph Zehr], 30, France; and granddaughter Nancy Sayer [Zehr], 6, N.Y.

Catherine Farny died between the 1860 and 1870 censuses. The child of Jean/John Kieffer and his first wife Catherine Farny was:

1. Madeleine/Magdalena/Lena/Lany Kieffer was born circa 1830, and died in Newton County, Missouri (near Joplin) in January of 1889. She may have been the Madeleine Kiffer whose birth entry created July 5, 1828 is found in the 10-year civil index of Amélecourt, 16 miles southwest of Grostenquin (the home of Jean/John’s brother Joseph Kiefer).

In Lewis County circa 1850 she married Joseph Zehr. He was born in Bischwald mill at Bistroff June 19, 1823, a son of Michel/Michael Zehr and Anne Jantzi (a daughter of Christian Jantzi and Anne Farny). The 1860 census of Crogham has miller Joseph Sair, 36, France; Lana, 30, France; Michael, 9; Emma, 8; Nancy, 6; Jacob, 5; and Cathrine, seven months; all children born in New York. In 1865: farmer Joseph Zehr, 37, France; Lana Zehr, 34, France; Michael, 14; Ermang [Emma], 12; Anna, 10; Jacob, 9; Catharin, 6; Marey, 4; and Benjamin, five months; all children born in Lewis County. They lived next door to the households of brothers Andrew Zehr, 37 (born at Crogham May 7, 1834, married to Mary Martin); and John Zehr, 43 (born at Bistroff Feb. 25, 1821, married to Catherine Kiefer); as well as uncle Christian Keffer [Christian Kiefer], 62 (born at Faulquemont July 26, 1802, married to Catherine Hirsch). The Lewis County Democrat [Lowville]: “Joseph Zehr has exchanged his farm…for a large tract of land in Missouri, said to be valued at $40,000. He is said to offer inducements to emigrate to settle on these lands, and is in hopes he may induce the Mennonites, recently emigrated to this country, to go there, as they are a very industrious, thrifty and desirable class of inhabitants.” Oct. 21, 1874: “Joseph Zehr and family and eight or ten other German families, from this town and New Bremen, numbering altogether over one hundred persons, start this week for Missouri. Their destination is North Western Missouri.”

In 1867 or later Jean/John remarried to Adelheit. She was born in 1830, and died in 1919. She was the widow of John Meyer (1813-1865). She brought at least three children to the marriage.

The 1875 state census of New Bremen has farmer John Keifer, 75, France; Adelhite Keifer, 44, Germany; farm laborer and son Adolph Keifer, 21, Germany [a stepson to John]; farm laborer and son John Meyer, 17, Germany [a stepson to John]; and daughter Mary Kiefer, 8, Lewis County [a stepdaughter to John]. The 1880 census shows the household as farmer John Keifer, 82, France; Adelheit Keifer, 47, Germany; laborer and stepson Adolph Meyer, 25, Germany; and laborer and stepson John Meyer, 21, Germany.

Jean/John died Aug. 14, 1884. He and Adelheit are buried in the Apostolic Cemetery at Croghan, Lewis County.

Lewis County became a transit point or final destination for so many Amish Mennonite families from the area of Grostenquin that we found ‘Jean Kiefer’ mentioned in the village history of Bistroff.

Sources that say Joseph Zehr [Sr.] died in October of 1899 may be confusing him with his son, Joseph Zehr, who was born Dec. 30, 1867, and died at Granby Oct. 17, 1899. He is buried in Granby Memorial Cemetery. We could not identify the burial places of Joseph Zehr (Sr.) and Madeleine/Magdalena/Lena/Lany Kieffer.
JOSEPH KIEFER

Joseph Kiefer was born at Folschviller, Moselle Aug. 29, 1800. On Aug. 7, 1824 at Grostenquin he married widow Barbe Guingerich. She was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching circa 1790, a daughter of Joseph Guingrich and Anne Ruby (as a widow Anne Ruby remarried to Michel Engel). Marriage witnesses included her stepfather, Michel Engel, described as a 39-year-old cultivator on Brandelfing farm. The civil entry makes a curious lapse: her father is correctly given as Joseph Guingerich, but her mother is given not as Anne Rubi, but as Anne Boulzeler.

Barbe was the widow of Jean Hirschy, who had died at Linstroff Dec. 14, 1822. The story of their life together is given in HIRSCHY/HIRSCHY.

Christian and Barbe sailed to America in 1831. We could not identify a passenger list. Their son Andrew would report on the 1900 census that he had immigrated in 1831; the birth of a son Peter in New York in 1832 supports this. It seems likely that they came on the first trip of Joseph’s older brother Jean/John. Barbe was described as domicilé en Amérique on the 1834 marriage entry of son Christophe/Christian Hirschy/Hirschey (from her first marriage).

The household of ‘Joseph Keefer’ is found on the 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County as one male in the 30-39 age range; one male 20-29; one male 15-19; one male 5-9; one female 40-49; one female 30-39; one female 20-29; and two females 10-14. In 1846 Christian and Barbe were reunited with a niece, Jacobine Engel Schertz.

THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF BUREAU COUNTY

On March 19, 1819 at Kalhausen, Moselle André Schertz (a son of André Schertz and Barbe Bachmann) married Jacobine Engel (a daughter of Joseph Engel and Madeleine Guingerich). Jacobine’s mother Madeleine was a sister to Barbe Guingerich.

André died at Lorentzen, Lower Alsace April 16, 1830. He left four sons (Jean/John, Joseph, André/Andrew, and Nicolas/Nicholas) and a daughter (Madeleine/Magdalena). On March 17, 1838 Jacobine had one more child, Caroline, described on her civil birth entry as naturelle [illegitimate].

In 1846 Jacobine accompanied some of her children to America. According to the obituary of son Andrew Schertz in the Walnut Leader, Dec. 22, 1911, they arrived at Chicago in the fall of 1846, and settled at Libertyville, Lake County in the spring of 1847.

Perhaps Christian Kiefer and Barbe Guingerich traveled from New York to Chicago with the Schertzes; or perhaps they arrived only after the Schertzes had settled in Lake County. By 1850 they were living in an adjacent community.

A census submitted Sept. 25, 1850 at Vernon (now Vernon Hills), Lake County shows farmer Joseph Kiefer, 50, France; Barbaray [Guingerich], 60, France; Andrew, 24, France; Barbaray, 22, France; Catharine, 21, France; Peter, 17, New York; and farmer Michael Neiderstock, 35, France. The census of adjacent Libertyville has Jacophene Schwartz [Schertz], 48; John, 30; Joseph, 27; Andrew, 22; Nicholas, 20; and Caroline, 12; all from France.

A census submitted Oct. 2, 1850 at Weaverville and Vicinity, Eldorado County, California has ‘miners for gold’ Joseph Keefer, 50, France; Nicholas Roggy, 22, France; John Sharts [Schertz], 28, France; Joseph Sharts, 25, France; and Christian Allbright [Albrecht], 32, Germany. Eldorado County is in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

54 Madeleine/Magdalena was already married to Joseph Roggy, at Sarralbe, Moselle May 1, 1841; they settled at Princeton, Bureau County. We could not identify the Schertz passenger list to verify that Joseph Roggy and Madeleine/Magdalena came with them.

55 Caroline Engel was born at Lorentzen Feb. 17, 1838, and died at Morton June 18, 1922. She became the second wife of Jakob/Jacob Schwarzentraub, 1819-1887, a son of Johannes Schwarzentraub/John Schwarzentraub and Magdalena Schwarzentrauber (see SCHWARZENTRAUB). They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

56 Nicolas/Nicholas Roggy was born on the Diefenbachhof at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace June 16, 1828, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 8, 1909, a son of Jean Roggy and Anne Catherine Güngerich. On the 1900 census of Princeton he reported that he immigrated in 1848. On April 26, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Elisabeth Baechler. She was born at Salonnes July 26, 1836 (her civil birth entry called her ‘Elisabeth Bekler’), and died at Princeton in 1874, a daughter of Andreas/André/Andrew Baechler and Anna/Anna Roupe. See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on her family. On Oct. 4, 1877 in Bureau County Nicholas remarried to Mary Yordy. She was born May 2, 1857, and died at Princeton Jan. 20, 1932. The 1900 census of Princeton shows Nicholas Roggy, 71, born in France in June 1828, immigrated in 1848; Mary, 43, born in Germany in May 1857, immigrated in 1872; and son Ralph A., 6, born in Illinois in June 1893 to parents from France and Germany. Elisabeth and Nicholas are buried under a joint headstone in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton.
It is known that Christian Albrecht arrived at Sutter’s Fort (now in midtown Sacramento, the state capital) before Thanksgiving of 1850. Sutter’s Fort was built in 1839 by immigrant Johann August Suter (1803-1880), and originally called New Switzerland [Ger. Neu Helvetia]. Gold was first found in the area by employee James Marshall Jan. 24, 1848, while constructing a saw mill for Suter on the South Fork of the American River at what is now Coloma, at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A treaty transferring the American Southwest from Mexican claim was not signed until Feb. 2, 1848.

The Kiefer and Schertz families relocated from Lake County to Bureau County in the spring of 1852. The 1860 census of Bureau, Bureau County shows farmer Joseph Keifer, 60, France; Barbara, 65, France; Peter, 26, New York; farm laborer Nicholas Rugee [Roggy], 20, France; and Elizabeth Gingrich, 19, Illinois. On the same page was farmer Andrew Kiefer, 25, France [note only one year older than the 1850 census]; Elisabeth, 23, Illinois; Adolph, 2, Illinois; and farm laborer Henry Breman, 30, Germany; as well as farmer Andrew Shirtz [Schertz], 27, France; Elisabeth, 23, Illinois; Adolph, 2, Illinois; and Andrew Rugee [Roggy], 22, France. The 1870 census of Walnut, Bureau County shows farmer Peter Kiefer, 39, New York (holder of an unusual $14,000 worth of real estate and $3,000 in personal property); Julia A., 24, Pennsylvania; Eliza Fisher, 22, France. The 1880 census of Walnut, Bureau County shows farmer Peter Kiefer, 47, born in New York to parents from France and Switzerland; Julia A., 33, Pennsylvania; Edgar, 9, Illinois; Clara M., Illinois; and father Joseph Kiefer, 79, born in France to parents from Switzerland.

We can only approximate that Barbe Guingerich died between the 1860 and 1870 censuses, and her second husband Joseph Keifer died after the 1880 census; both, presumably, in Bureau County.

The children of Joseph Kiefer and Barbe Guingerich (in her second marriage) include:

1. Marie Kiefer was born at Amélecourt, Moselle (16 miles southwest of Grostenquin) Aug. 24, 1824, and died there Feb. 28, 1825. She is found in the 10-year civil index as Marie Kieffert.

2. André/Andrew Kiefer was born April 25, 1825 (per headstone; note that this date conflicts with older sister Marie’s, and he is not found in the 10-year civil index of Amélecourt, suggesting it is not accurate or he was adopted), and died in Allen County, Kansas Jan. 1, 1910. On Nov. 11, 1856 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Beck (he is found in county records as Andrew Kerfier). She was born in Woodford County Oct. 9, 1836, and died in Allen County, Kansas Jan. 10, 1917, a daughter of Peter Beck and Katharina Güngerich/Catherine Gingery (see BECK for background on her family). They are found on the 1860 census of Bureau, Bureau County as Andrew Kiefer, 25, France; Elizabeth, 23; Joseph, 3; and Archibald, 1. He is found as Andrew Kiefer on the 1865 state census of the same location. The 1900 census of Salem, Allen County, Kansas shows farmer Andrew Kiefer, 75, born in France to French parents in April 1825, 42 years of marriage, immigrated in 1831; Elizabeth, 64, born in Illinois to German parents in October 1835; and daughter Bertha, 36, born in Illinois in November 1863 to parents from France and Illinois. They are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery at Humboldt, Allen County, Kansas.

3. Barbe/Barbara Kiefer was born at Amélecourt Nov. 11, 1826. She is found in the 10-year civil index as Barbe Kieffert. On Feb. 3, 1853 in Bureau county she married Johannes/John Schwarzentraub. He was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg, Baden (now Konigsbach-Stein) Dec. 27, 1820, a son of Johannes Schwarzentrauber/John Schwarzentraub and Magdalena Schwarzentrauber. See SCHWARZENTRAUB for background on this couple who lived at Morton.

4. Catherine ‘Kate’ Kiefer was born at Amélecourt Aug. 16, 1828, and died in Illinois Nov. 11, 1895. On Dec. 8, 1857 in Bureau County she married Wilhelm/William Holly. He was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse June 20, 1825, and died March 2, 1906, a son of Johannes Holly and his second wife Helena Jutzi/Jutzi. Wilhelm and his parents were passengers on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832. He went from Butler County, Ohio to Putnam County, Kansas Jan. 10, 1910. On Sept. 17, 1848 at Arispie, Bureau County he married Catherine Roggy. She was born in Germany Dec. 15, 1830, and died at Hemepin, Putnam County in 1909, a daughter of Peter Roggy and Magdelena Burkey. On March 1, 1849, he left his wife (who was unknowingly one month pregnant) with her parents and departed Illinois for the California Gold Rush. He returned the following year with no gold, but malaria contracted on the return trip via Panama, and found a new son. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY.

Suter was born at Kandern, Baden to Swiss parents, and went to school at Neuchâtel in French-speaking Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland (85 miles up the Rhine River). He later mismanaged a business, and fled the county without his wife and children to avoid bankruptcy proceedings. He obtained a French passport and sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Sully, arriving at New York July 14, 1834.

The reconstructed fort is now Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park, and the reconstructed sawmill is now Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

At a time when wealth was easily hidden, Peter was admitting to holding $17,000 in assets, worth about $314,000 in modern buying power.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
Appendix

County in 1848, then to LaSalle County in 1856. They are found on the 1870 census of Eden, LaSalle County as farmer Wm. Holly, 44, Hessia; Catherine, 41, France; Leda B., 11, Illinois; Edgar J., 9, Illinois; Helen J., 7, Illinois; Amelia J., 3, Illinois; and Jacob Gingery, 42, works on farm, Nassau Ger. They are buried in Granville Cemetery in Putnam County.

5. Peter Kiefer was born in New York (per 1860 census) in 1832 (per headstone), and died in 1897. He married Julia Ann Mostoller. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1847, and died in 1916. They are buried in Van Orin Repose Cemetery at Van Orin, Bureau County.

CHRISTIAN KIEFER

Christian Kiefer was born at Faulquemont, Moselle July 26, 1802, and died at Croghan, Lewis County Dec. 9, 1887.

On June 12, 1824 on Bérange farm at Château-Voué, Moselle (13 miles southwest of Grootenquin) he married Catherine Hirschy (the 10-year civil index lists them as Christian Kiffert and Cath. Hirschy). She was born June 8, 1796, and died at Croghan Oct. 28, 1879, a daughter of Joseph Hirschy and Anne Blank. She was the widow of Pierre Guingerich, who had died at Haboudange, Moselle Feb. 25, 1822. Pierre and Catherine had three sons who died at less than eight years of age, and a daughter who died in France in 1853. The story of her life with Pierre is told in HIRSCHY/HIRSCHEN.

Bérange farm had earlier been the home of Catherine’s older brother Jean. His children had been born there 1812-17.

Christian and Catherine departed from Le Havre on the bark Fanny, and arrived at New York May 28, 1846. The first names on the passenger list were farmer Christian Kieffer, 43, from France bound for Ohio; Catherine, 49; Christian, 29 [actually 21]; Michel, 15; Catherine, 18; and Madeleine, 12.

The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County shows the household of ‘Christian Kieffer’: one male in the 30-39 age range; two males under 5; and one female 30-39. They were living next door to ‘John Kieffer.’

They appear on the 1850 census of New Bremen as farmer Christian Kieffer, 50, Germany; Catherine, 46, Germany; Martin [Michel/Michael], 18, Germany; and Lena, 16, Germany. The 1860 census of New Bremen shows farmer Christian Kieffer, 57, France; and Catherine, 64, France. The 1870 census of Croghan shows them living next door to John Zehr and daughter Catherine as C. Kieffer, 67, France; and Catharin, 75, France. Catherine and Christian are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

The children of Christian Kiefer and Catherine Hirschy (in her second marriage) include:

1. Christian Kiefer was born at Château-Voué (where all entries were spelled ‘Kiffert’) Oct. 12, 1824, and died at Croghan in 1895. On Jan. 18, 1849 at Croghan he married Marie Madeleine Steiner. She was born at Robertsau, Lower Alsace Aug. 25, 1830, and died at Croghan March 2, 1906, a daughter of Philipp Steiner and Anne Marie Zehr. They were living next door to Christian’s parents on the 1850 census of New Bremen as farmer Christian Kieffer, 25, Germany; and Lena, 18, Germany. The 1860 census of New Bremen also has them next door as farmer Christian Keefer Jr., 33, France; Lany, 28, France; Christian D. Jr., 9, New York; Joseph G., 5, New York; Matilda, 3, New York; and Albert, three months, New York. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

2. Catherine Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Aug. 3, 1826, and died at Croghan April 12, 1885. In 1844 at Croghan she married Johannes/John Zehr. He was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle Feb. 25, 1821, and died at Croghan May 2, 1906, a son of Michel/Michael Zehr and Anne Jantzi. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

3. Elisabeth Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Nov. 1, 1828, and died there Feb. 4, 1829.

4. Jean Kiefer (twin) was born at Château-Voué Jan. 3, 1830, and died there Jan. 18, 1830.

5. Jean Pierre Kiefer (twin) was born at Château-Voué Jan. 3, 1830, and died there Jan. 19, 1830.

6. Michel Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Feb. 25, 1831. We could not follow him after the 1850 census.

7. Madeleine ‘Lany’ Kiefer was born circa 1834 (despite the date on her headstone). Between 1850 and 1855 she married Christian Farni/Farney. Christian Farney was born at Barst Nov. 11, 1826 (the 10-year civil index calls him Chrétien Farni), and died Jan. 11, 1902, a son of Joseph Farni and Catherine Gerber/Guerber. The 1855 census of New Bremen has farmer Christian Farney, 28, France; Lany, 21, France; Samuel, 1, Lewis; and mother Barbara [Joseph’s second wife Barbé/Barbara Mosimann, the widow of Christian Zehr], 63, France; and sister Catherine, 20, Lewis. A headstone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan identifies, “Magdalena Keiffier, wife of Christian Farney, born April 15, 1832, died June 26, 1910.” Christian is also buried there.
Hirschy/Hirschey

In Canton Bern a Hirschi is a deer.

A list of Anabaptist heads of households was created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1708. It names Frena Hertchy and Anna Hirschy. These were widows accompanied by their children. It seems likely that two of their children were forebearers of the branches in the region of Lorraine.

The overwhelming majority of Hirschi marriages in the vicinity of Grostenquin, Bistroff, and St. Avold were matches with Blank/Blanck, Farni/Farny, Gerber/Guerber, Gingerich/Guingerich, and Schertz. Not so coincidentally, these were also names found first in the Steffisburg parish and then at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

Because of this, we suspect that our family of interest may have been associated with Schangnau in Canton Bern. It was a ‘refuge village’ for Anabaptists at the end of a cul-de-sac road into the mountains 15 miles east of Steffisburg. This would be consistent with what we know about those who migrated in the early 1700s to what became Moselle, while it was still ruled by a Catholic.

Other than Schangnau, legal places of origin for citizenship rights (Ger. Heimatorte) for this surname include Trub, Guggisberg, and Rüschegg. All four locations are within 25 miles of Steffisburg.

A very tentative model of the Hirschis in the region suggests two branches of descendants coming down from Pierre (born in or before 1704) and Jacob/Jacques (perhaps born in or before 1705). They may have been brothers. But even without supposing this connection, it is obvious that their descendant branches considered themselves a blended family, and did not cross-marry. Another possible connection may have come from Jacob/Jacques’s marriage to a Rolle, while Pierre’s only son Jean Michel also married a Rolle.60 French records occasionally called them Hirschi, but just as often they are found as Hirchi, Hergy, or Hirschy. In America some descendants became Hirschey.

Pierre’s Descendants

Pierre Hirschi (found as Hirchi) was born in or before 1704.

He married Marie Kupperschmit (spelling as found on Grostenquin records). In Canton Bern a Küpferschmidt is a copper smith.

Two of their children are found in Catholic records at Grostenquin. This does not necessarily imply that the parents were Catholic, though neither was described as Anabaptist.

1. Marie Françoise Hirschi (found as Hirchi) was born and baptized at Grostenquin March 17, 1725. Her parents were described as Pierre Hirchi, miller at the mill de Tenge [Tenquin], and Marie Kupperschmit.
2. Jean Michel Hirschi (found as Hirchy) was born at Grostenquin Nov. 18, 1729, and baptized on the 20th. His parents were described as Pierre Hirchy, miller at the mill de Tengin [Tenquin], and Marie Kupperschmit.

See SMITH for background on the wife or wives of miller Johann/Jean Schmitt. He was born circa 1733, worked in the mill on Hingsange farm, and died there Sept. 27, 1793. His wife was variously called Barbe (on his death entry), Anne (on the marriage entry of a son), and Marie (on the death entry of a son). Johann/Jean’s 1793 death entry said she was 58 years of age, thus born circa 1735. She may have been a second daughter (or two) of this couple, but may also have been Marie Françoise Hirschi.

Jean Michel Hirschi was born at Grostenquin Nov. 18, 1729, and baptized Nov. 20. Circa 1749 he married Anne Rolle. Their children include:

1. Jean Georges Hirschy was born in the Oderfang mill at St. Avold Oct. 9, 1750, and died there May 11, 1751.
2. Jean/Johannes Hirschy was born at St. Avold April 15, 1752, and died at Haut-Clocher April 1, 1833 (the 10-year index of civil entries says he was age 81). Circa 1775 he married Anne Rouvenacht. She was born on Les Bachats farm at adjacent Rhodes, Moselle circa 1754, and died at Haut-Clocher Sept. 11, 1838 (the 10-year index of civil entries says she was 84), a daughter of Hans/Jeann Rüfenacht and Barbe Ringenberg. Their children include:
   a. Marie Hirschy was born at Sarraltross (five miles east of Haut-Clocher) circa 1777, and died at Gelucourt Jan. 10, 1811. On Aug. 7, 1799 at Gondrexange she married widower Pierre Schertz. He was born at Gelucourt April 23, 1765, and died in Campbell County, Kentucky Jan. 9, 1849. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BIHL for background on his three marriages.

60 If Rolle was a Swiss émigré surname, it may have been derived from the village of Rolle on Lake Geneva in Canton Vaud, Switzerland. The village was administered by Canton Bern 1536-1798.
b. Anne Hirschy was born on Alsing farm at Gosselming Jan. 9, 1779, and died at Maçoncourt, Haute-Marne April 4, 1866. On May 21, 1796 at Sarraltroff she married Valentin Gerber/Guerber. He was born in the hamlet Creutzfeld at Saverne, Lower Alsace April 22, 1774, and died at Dolving, Moselle Oct. 22, 1848, a son of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich.

c. Jean Hirschy was born at Haut-Clocher circa 1787, and died on Mouckenhoff farm at Buhl-Lorraine in 1876. On Aug. 16, 1813 at Destry he married Madeleine Farny. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Hierchie, 26, born at Haut Clocher, a son of cultivator Jean Hierchie and Anne Ruffenach of Sarrelfing farm at Haut-Clocher. The bride was described as Madeleine Farny, 19, born at Besville, Bénestroff. She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Farny, who had died at Beneprich [Harprich] May 7, 1805, and shopkeeper Anne Elisabeth Gerber, a resident of Moulin Rouge at Destry who was present and consenting. Their signatures looked like Jn. Hirschy and Elisabeth Gerber (Old German-style ‘e’ looking like “n”). Jean became minister/elder of the congregation at Sarrebourg. Madeleine’s younger sister Catherine married recruiter-land agent Jean Kiefer/John Kieffer. Her younger brother Jean married Catherine Gerber and arrived in Woodford County in 1853 (see FARNY, FARNY OF BISTROFF).

3. Jacques/Jacob Hirschy was born circa 1757. He died at Marienthal June 21, 1799. His civil death entry described him as age 42, the widower of the deceased Barbara Henry. It was witnesses by brothers Jean Hirschy, 45 (he signed as Johannes), and Simon Hirschy, 40.

4. Joseph Hirschy was born at Grostenquin circa 1759, and died there Jan. 17, 1838.

5. Simon Hirschy was born circa 1760, and died at Valmont, Moselle Oct. 28, 1824.

6. Jean Christophe Hirschy was born at Virming Feb. 12, 1761, and died there Feb. 17, 1765.

Joseph Hirschy was born at Grostenquin, Moselle circa 1759, and died there Jan. 17, 1838. He married Anne Blank. She was born at adjacent Bistroff Feb. 4, 1764, and died at Grostenquin Dec. 5, 1834, a daughter of Jean Blank and Barbe Gerber/Guerber.

When Joseph appeared as a 76-year-old witness at the wedding of his grandson Christophe in 1834, he was described as a laborer on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now part of Grostenquin). The children of Joseph Hirschy and Anne Blank born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff include:

1. Jean Hirschy was born circa 1790, and died there Dec. 14, 1822.

2. Catherine Hirschy was born June 8, 1796, and died at Croghan, Lewis County Oct. 28, 1879. On May 3, 1811 at Linstroff, age 14, she married Pierre Guingerich. He was born at Albestroff, Moselle April 30, 1791, and died at Haboudange, Moselle Feb. 25, 1822, a son of Nikolaus Güngerich/Nicolas Guingerich and Catherine Ruby. Nikolaus/Nicolas and his son Christian were well-known for having refused to serve in the National Guard in 1792. Christian became a minister/elder at Linstroff; in 1809 he went to Paris with minister/elder Christian Engel and others to petition the government for Anabaptist exemption from military conscription. Pierre and Catherine had three sons who died at less than eight years of age, and a daughter who died in France in 1853. On June 12, 1824 at Château-Voué, Moselle Catherine remarried to Christian Kiefer (the 10-year civil index lists them as Christian Kiffert and Cath. Hirschy). He was born at Faulquemont, Moselle July 26, 1802, and died at Croghan Dec. 9, 1887, a son of Jean Joseph Kiefer and Madeleine Hirschi (and a brother to recruiter-land agent Jean Kiefer/John Kieffer). Background on their life together was given in KIEFER/KIEFFER.

Anne Hirschy may belong here. She was born May 6, 1809, according to the 10-year civil index of Linstroff (found as Anne Hirgy). We have not seen the actual birth entry.

Joseph Hirschy may belong here. One source says he was born on Hingsange farm Dec. 11, 1812, though no civil birth entry is found in Linstroff records. On Oct. 15, 1831 at Azoudange he married Marie Vercler. She was born at Gros-Réderching Feb. 10, 1812, and died on Hingsange farm at Linstroff April 26, 1904, a daughter of André Vercler and Barbe Rupp. We have ordered the FHL microfilm for their marriage entry, and hope to view it in the near future. Some sources say Joseph was a son of Jean Hirschy and Barbe Guingerich (and thus a nephew to Joseph and Marie), but Joseph’s birth date Dec. 11, 1812 conflicts with their son Jean Hirschy, born Oct. 31, 1812. Joseph died at Grostenquin April 6, 1863.

Jean Hirschy was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff circa 1790, and died there Dec. 14, 1822.

On March 17, 1809 at Linstroff he married Barbe Guingerich (the 10-year civil index lists them as Jean Higey and Barbe Guingerich). She was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Rederching circa 1790, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Ruby (as a widow Anne Ruby remarried to Michel Engel). Marriage witnesses included her stepfather, Michel Engel, described as a 39-year-old cultivator on Brandelfing farm. The civil entry makes a curious

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61 Linstroff became part of Grostenquin in 1812, then part of Bertring in 1835. It returned to administration by Grostenquin in 1959.
Joseph Hirschy was born circa 1811. On Oct. 2, 1831 at Azoudange he married Marie Vercler. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Joseph Hirchy, 20, a resident of Hingsange farm at Grostenquin. He was a son of the deceased Jean Hirchy and Barbe Guingerich, 42, a resident of Hingsange farm who was on her way to America [Fr. maintenant partie pour l'Amérique]. The bride was described as Marie Vercler, 19, a resident of Azoudange. Her parents were cultivator André Vercler, 55, and Barbe Rub [Rüpp], 47, residents of Le Toupet farm at Azoudange.

Jean Hirschy was born on Bérange farm [Ger. Beringen] at Chateau-Voué Oct. 31, 1812, and died there June 28, 1813.

Christophe Hirschy/Hirschey was born on Bérange farm April 3, 1814, and died at New Bremen May 23, 1894.

Michel/Michael Hirschy was born on Bérange farm Nov. 27, 1815, and died at Granville, Putnam County April 30, 1889. Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties, Illinois (1907): “Michael Hirschy was born in Lorraine, France November 27, 1815, and came to America with his parents in early life, settling in the state of New York. After reaching manhood he made his way westward to Chicago, where he engaged in carpentering and contracting. He was married in 1850 to Miss Jacobine Holly, who was born in Germany December 23, 1829. In the year of their marriage they removed to Putnam County, and Mr. Hirschy’s first purchase of land was a tract of forty acres, on which a log house had been built. Soon afterward he erected a frame dwelling there, and as the years passed became a successful farmer, adding to his original holdings until at his death he left an estate of three hundred acres. He was a member of the Mennonite church of Granville, which he assisted in organizing… He died upon his farm in Granville township in 1888. His wife survived until 1893 when she, too, passed away.” On Sept. 25, 1851 in Lake County Michel/Michael married Jakobina Holly. She was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse Dec. 23, 1829, and died at Granville, Putnam County Oct. 11, 1893, a son of Johannes Holly and his second wife Helena Jutzi/Iutzi. Jakobina and her parents were passengers on the Hessian Mennonite voyage of 1832. (On Dec. 8, 1857 in Bureau County Michel/Michael’s younger half-sister Catherine ‘Kate’ Kiefer would marry Jakobina’s older brother Wilhelm/William Holly; he was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse June 20, 1825, and died March 2, 1906). On the 1865 state census of Granville Michael Hershey is listed between Daniel Holly and Jacob Bender. They are found on the 1880 census of Granville as farmer Michael Hirschey, 63, France; Jakobina, 50, Kuhr-Hessen; farmer John, 26, Illinois; Emma, 22, Illinois; Helen, 19, Illinois; farm hand son Willie, 16, Illinois; Ernst, 8, Illinois; and servant and farm hand Herman Utendorffer, 22, Kuhr-Hessen. They are buried in Granville Cemetery in Putnam County.

Anne/Anna Hirschy was born on Bérange farm Sept. 5, 1817, and died at New Bremen Jan. 19, 1882. She married Joseph Virkler, who became an Apostolic Christian minister/elder. He was born Sept. 24, 1816, and died at New Bremen Oct. 2, 1866, a son of Rudolf/Rodolph Virkler and Anna Brechbühl. His family had sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Formosa, and arrived at New York April 17, 1834. They are found on the 1855 census of New Bremen as farmer Joseph Virkler, 38, France; Anna, 37, France; Anna B., 13, Lewis [County]; Rudolph, 64, France; Anna, 60, France; and Michael, 19, Lewis. His father Rudolf was a prominent minister known for his strict adherence to simplicity, who had nephews at Worth and Metamora in Woodford County, and paid at least one visit to Tazewell County (see VERCLER). New Bremen censuses show ‘Anna H. Virkler’ age 52 in 1870, age 58 in 1875, and age 62 in 1880.

Jean Hirschy was born at Grostenquin Aug. 20, 1819, and died there July 24, 1830.

Pierre Hirschy was born at Grostenquin June 30, 1821, and died at Amelécourt, Moselle April 21, 1830. The 10-year civil index lists him as Pierre Herchi.

The story of Barbe Guingerich’s second marriage with Joseph Kiefer, her second set of children, the Gold Rush, and her subsequent life in Illinois is told in KIEFER/KIEFFER.

Christophe/Christian Hirschy/Hirschey was born on Bérange farm at Chateau Voué April 3, 1814.

On March 3, 1834 at Barst he married Marie Farny. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as laborer Christophe Hirschy, 19, residing on Hingsange farm at Linstroff. He was born on Bérange farm at Chateau Voué April 3, 1814. He was a son of the deceased laborer Jean Hirschy of Hingsange farm, whose death entry dated Dec. 4, 1822 had been obtained from Grostenquin, and Barbe Guingerich, 44, living in America [Fr. domicilé en Amérique]. (Barbe had remarried to Joseph Kiefer, and emigrated from Europe in 1831). He was accompanied by his grandfather Joseph Hirschy, 76, a laborer from Hingsange farm who was present and consenting. The bride was
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described as Marie Farni, age 15 years and eight months, born at Barst July 4, 1818. Her parents were laborer Joseph Farni, 34, and Barbe Guerber, 37, who were present and consenting. Witnesses included laborer and brother-of-the-groom Joseph Hirschy, 23, of Hingsange farm; laborer Valentin Guerber, 62, of Dolving; and Jean Guerber [he signed Hans Gerber], 24, of Valette, friends of the groom.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Groton, and arrived at New York June 4, 1834. The passenger list shows Joseph Farni, 38; Catherine [Gerb/Her/Guerber], 37; Marie, 16 [already married to Christophe/Christian]; Joseph, 17; John, 14; Pierre, 12: Magdalena, 9; Christian, 7; and Christoph Hirschy, 19.

On Sept. 9, 1834 in Lewis County ‘Christian Hirchy’ (as he signed), Joseph Farni, Hans/John Gerber, and Catherine Jantzi (found as ‘Yantzi,’ she signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate) made declarations of intent to become citizens.62

Christophe/Christian cleared land for a farm on Beach Hill in what was called the French Settlement. Though his residence did not change, the names used to describe it would change over the years.

The 1834 declaration of intent described him as a resident of Watson. The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County has the household of ‘Christian Hershy’: one male in the 20-29 age range; two males under 5; and one female 20-29. They lived next door to ‘Seymour Herschy’ (their traveling companion Simon Hirschy).

The 1850 census of New Bremen shows laborer Christian Hersey, 36; France; Mary 32; France; John, 14; France; Jacob, 12, France [John and Jacob were born in New York]; Christian, 8, New York; Jonathan, 6, New York; Catharine, 4, New York; and Joseph, 2, New York. They are also found there on censuses in 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, and 1880.

In Lewis County the families of Christophe/Christian Hirschy/Hirschey and fellow traveler Simon Hirschy/Hirsch would become ‘glue’ in the movement from Amish Mennonite to Apostolic Christian. There they married into Farny/Farny/Farney, Gerber/Gueber, Guingerich/Gingerich, Kempf, Kiefer/Kieffer, Lehman, Nafziger, Schantz, Vecler/Virkler, and Zehr families.

The Evangelist Baptist Society of New Bremen was established Aug. 5, 1867. The names on the charter documents were Christian Virkler, John S. Farney, and Christian Herschey.

The 1892 state census of New Bremen has them as farmer Christian Hirschy, 78, France; Mary, 74, France; and seamstress Hattie, 45, United States.

A number of their children resided at Castorland, seven miles southwest of New Bremen. It is now a village within the township of Denmark.

The children of Christophe/Christian Hirschey/Hirschey and Marie/Mary Farny born at New Bremen include:

1. John A. Hirschey was born March 4, 1836, and died at New Bremen Feb. 12, 1921. On Feb. 10, 1867 he married Margaret Schloop. She was born in Switzerland July 17, 1842, and died at New Bremen Nov. 27, 1927. The 1870 census of New Bremen has them as farmer John Hirshy, 31; New York; Margaret, 28; Switzerland; Mary S., 3; New York; Jacob, 1, New York; Mary, 14, New York (John’s younger sister); and Benjamin Roush, 14, works on farm, New York. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

2. Jacob Hirschey was born April 1, 1838, and died at Castorland Jan. 21, 1865. He is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

3. Christian Hirschey was born June 14, 1842, and died at Castorland June 9, 1918. He farmed for 16 years, then manufactured cheese at Beaver Falls, New York. In 1872 at Croghan he married Wilhelmina Bachman. She was born May 22, 1843, and died at Castorland Nov. 20, 1905, a daughter of Karl F. Bachman. They are buried in Naumburg Evangelical Baptist Cemetery.

4. Jonathan Hirschey was born May 28, 1844, and died at Castorland Dec. 26, 1912. On Aug. 17, 1873 he married Anna Virklk, a cousin of the wife of his brother Joseph. She was born at New Bremen Aug. 20, 1851, and died May 18, 1944, a daughter of Jacob Virkler and Catherine Zehr.

5. Catherine ‘Kate’ Hirschey was born May 20, 1846, and died in Illinois April 23, 1902. She married a Brahm, Braham, or Braham.

6. Joseph Hirschey was born June 28, 1848, and died Sept. 24, 1935. On March 5, 1876 he married Anna Virklk. She was born at New Bremen June 17, 1851, and died at Castorland May 29, 1929, a daughter of John Virkler and Barbara Gerber/Guerber. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

7. Rachel Hirschey was born Aug. 5, 1854, and died March 29, 1936. On Dec. 22, 1878 she married Joseph S. Virkler. He was born at Croghan March 18, 1853, and died at Lowville, Lewis County March 8, 1933, a son of Jacob Virkler and Catherine Zehr. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

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8. María/Mary A. Hirchey was born April 15, 1857, and died Aug. 6, 1937. On Aug. 13, 1885 she married her sister’s widower Christopher R. Schantz. He was born at New Bremen June 11, 1855, and died at Castorland April 22, 1918, a son of Joseph Schantz and Susan Rouvenaught. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

9. Barbara Emma Hirschi was born Sept. 5, 1859, and died at Castorland Jan. 13, 1885. She married Christopher R. Schantz. They are found on the 1870 census of New Bremen as Christopher Schuntz, 36, works in tannery, Germany; Barbara, 28, New York; Mary, 4, New York; and Joseph, 2, New York. Barbara Emma is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

10. Nathan John Hirschey was born Aug. 25, 1861, and died at Ogdensburg, New York July 19, 1920. On Oct. 1, 1885 he married Louisa Schwendy [Schwendi]. She was born at Naumburg March 1, 1864, and died March 1, 1936, a daughter of John Schwendy and Mary Herzig. Nathan and Louisa inherited the family farm. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

### Jacob/Jacques’s Descendants

**Jacob Hirschi** may have been a brother to Pierre from the first branch. We can only guess that ‘perhaps’ he was born in or before 1705.

He married Barbara Rolle. (Recall that Jacob’s son Jean also married a Rolle). The Catholic birth and baptism entries of their children describe the father as Jacob Hirsi, an *anabaptiste* miller at Hingsange mill (on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, now in Grostenquin).

- We suspect but cannot prove that **Simon Hirschi/Hirschy** belongs here. He was born at Grostenquin Jan. 14, 1726 (per Lorentz).
- 1. Françoise Susanne Hirschi was born at Altviller (eight miles northeast of Grostenquin) Oct. 7, 1729, and baptized the same day (found as Hirchy). She may have been the Susanne Hirschi who married Tobias Kiefer (see THE Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER); if so, she died at Faulquemont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1810, where the 10-year civil index lists her as Susanne Hirgy.
- 2. Jacques Hirschi was born and baptized at Bistroff (adjacent to Grostenquin) May 5, 1734 (found as Hirchy).
- 3. Barbe Hirschi was born at Bistroff April 12, 1736, and baptized the following day. French genealogist Jean François Lorentz has identified her burial certificate dated April 7, 1737. It identifies her parents as Jacob Hersy and Barbe Roll, *anabaptistes* at the Hingsange mill.
- 4. Jean Jacob Hirschi was born at Bistroff Aug. 11, 1738 and baptized the following day (found as Hirsi).
- 5. Anne Hirschi may belong here. She married Pierre Meyer (also found as Maier). Their son Joseph Meyer was born at Albestroff Sept. 29, 1759, and died at Grostenquin March 15, 1828. He married Madeleine Schwartz and Anne Blank. The youngest child of Joseph and Anne was Nicolas Meyer. He was born circa 1805, and died at Moncheux, Moselle Nov. 8, 1863. Circa 1833 he married Madeleine Kiefer. She was born at Faulquemont Dec. 7, 1810, and died at Moncheux Oct. 25, 1852, a daughter of Jean Joseph Kiefer and Madeleine Hirschi. They would have been second cousins, sharing great-grandparents Jacob Hirschi and Barbara Rolle.
- 6. Pierre Hirschi may belong here. Circa 1766 he married Anne Farny. We suspect that she was a sister to Christian Farny (born circa 1746) and Pierre Farny (born circa 1761). See FARNY for background on this family. Pierre and Anne lived in Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-lès-Harprich) and then on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont. Pierre died before 1787, when Anne remarried to Jacob/Jacques Martin. She died on Bonhouse farm May 19, 1795. Their children include:
  - A number of sources attribute Anne Hirschi as a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny, saying she was born in 1766. She married Christian ‘Christel’ Kennel. The marriage date is found as ‘circa 1780’ (the year their first child was born). He was born circa 1759-63, a son of Jean Kennel and Barbe Kennel. Christian was a miller on the Wenhecker Hof, a dairy farm that had been established to support the abbey of St. Avold (also found as Cense du Venec). It is in the lower quarter of St. Avold, near adjacent Valmont. Christian’s first child Jean was born May 5, 1780. When Anne died at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 9, 1834, her civil death entry witnessed by a son described her as Anna Hirschie, a 78-year-old born at Benning, wife of elderly cultivator Christiani Kennel and resident of Blâmont. Note that this would place her birth in 1756, predating by a decade the marriage of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny. When Christian died at Thuilley-aux-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 21, 1839, his civil death entry witnessed by a son described him as a 76-year-old miller from St. Avold, whose deceased wife was Anne Hergi.
  - c. Madeleine Hirschi/Hirschy was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont (nine miles southeast of St. Avold, nine miles northwest of Grostenquin) circa 1773, and died at Amélecourt, Moselle March 23, 1825. On Dec. 18, 1797 at Folschviller, Moselle she married Jean Joseph Kiefer (found on the civil
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Simon Hirschi/Hirsch was born at Grostenquin Jan. 14, 1726 (per Lorentz). He married Barbara Schertz. Their children include:

1. Anne Hirschi was born circa 1746 (per the civil marriage entry of son Joseph), and died between Nov. 1, 1796 (the marriage of son Joseph) and March 7, 1802 (the marriage of daughter Barbe). Circa 1766 she married Christian Farni/Farny. He was born before 1749, and likely died before Jan. 7, 1793. See FARNY for background on this couple.

2. Christian Hirschi/Hirsch was born at Hombourg-Haut (13 miles north of Grostenquin) Dec. 3, 1747 (per Lorentz).

3. Madeleine Hirschi/Hirsch was born circa 1748. In 1797 she married Nicolas Blank. He was born (likely at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) circa 1744-48, and died at Bistroff Nov. 26, 1828, a son of Michel Blank and Elizabeth Hochstettler. For background on their children see BLANK.

4. Jean Hirschi/Hirsch was born at Hombourg-Haut Aug. 4, 1749 (per Lorentz).

5. Nicolas Hirschi/Hirsch was born at Hombourg-Haut Dec. 29, 1751 (per Lorentz).

Jean Hirschi was born at Hombourg-Haut Aug. 4, 1749 (per Lorentz). He married Anne Ziegler or Siegel (found as Siglerine and Zigel), who was born circa 1774. This may have been his second marriage.

On Feb. 21, 1800 Anne gave birth to a son, and died the same day. Her civil death entry created at Marienthal described her as Anne Siglerine, 26, wife of Jean Hirsch.

The son who survived was Simon Hirschi/Hirsch/Hirschey. On May 13, 1823 at Hoste-Haut (adjacent to Marienthal) Simon married Madeleine Gerber/Guerber. Their civil marriage entry described him as cultivator Simon Hirsch, 24, an anabaptiste resident of Valette farm in Hoste-Haut. He was born at Marienthal, St. Avold. He was a son of day laborer Jean Hirsch, 73, a resident of Henriville [four miles north of Hoste] who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Zigel, who had died on ‘the farm called Gehansviller’ [also called Johannisweiler, located at Farschviller, adjacent to Hoste] Sept. 7, 1799.

The marriage entry omitted the age and birthplace of the bride; she was born circa 1797. Her parents were described as the deceased Jean Guerber, who had died at Valette July 20, 1822 [the death was recorded at Hoste-Haut]; and Madeleine Guerber, 52, a resident of Valette who was present and consenting (see GERBER for background on them). Simon’s signature suggests he was illiterate; his surname looks like the letter ‘h’ followed by a series of bumps, culminating in an ‘l.’

They farmed at Valette. Valette is a tiny village; it was absorbed by Cappel in 1811, and then by Hoste-Haut in 1813.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Groton. Their three-year-old daughter Marie died on the voyage, and was buried at sea before the ship arrived at New York June 4, 1834. The passenger list shows Simon Hirschy, 44, Switzerland; Margueritte, 42 [note that both ages have been inflated, and Madeleine is misidentified]; Elisa, 10; Magdaline, 8; Catherine, 6; and John, 1.

63 Another minor mystery: the 10-year civil index tells us that at Barst, the village adjacent to Marienthal, a child named Simon Fritzchin Hirsch was born Feb. 18, 1802. ‘Fritzchin’ is a diminutive form of Friedrich/Fritz. He died there May 16, 1802. The death listing gives the name of the child as Fritzchin, and the name of the family of the deceased as Hirsch Simon.

64 The 10-year civil index listed them as Jean Hirsch and Magdalena Guerber.
The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County has the household of ‘Seymour Herschy’: one male in the 40-49 age range; one male 5-9; one female 40-49; one female 15-19; two females 10-14; and two females under 5. They were living next door to ‘Christian Herschy.’

The 1855 state census of New Bremen shows farmer Simon Hershey, 56, France; Madaline, 56, France; Laney, 37, France; Barbara, 19, America; John, 22, Lewis Co. [should have been France]; and Mary, 16, Lewis Co. In 1861 Simon retired from farming and deeded all but one acre of his property to daughter Mary. The 1865 state census of New Bremen has farmer Simon Hersha, 67, France; Lana, 67, France; farmer Samuel Lyman [son-in-law Simon Lehman], 28, France; Mary [Marie Hirschey], 27, Lewis [County]; and Samuel, 11 months, Lewis.

Simon died between the 1870 and 1880 censuses. We last find them as a couple on the 1870 census: retired farmer Simon Harshi, 75, France; and Malinda, 62, France. We last find Madeleine on the 1880 census as Laney law Simon Lehman, 28, France; Mary [Marie Hirschey], 27, Lewis County; and Samuel, 11 months, Lewis.

The children of Simon Hirsch/Hirschey and Madeleine Guerber include:

1. Elisabeth Hirsch (found as Hirsche) was born at Hoste-Haut Sept. 22, 1822. On her civil birth entry her parents were described as anabaptiste farmer Simon Hirsche, 25, and Madeleine Guerber, residents of the farm at Valette. Presumably this child died elsewhere before July 5, 1824.

2. Elisabeth Hirschey (found as Hirsch)/Elizabeth Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haut July 5, 1824, and died in Newton County, Missouri Aug. 15, 1905. Her civil birth entry described her parents as laborer Simon Hirsch, 28, and Madeleine Guerber, residents of Valette. On March 21, 1848 she married John Garber. He was born in France Feb. 16, 1816, and died in Newton County, Missouri July 25, 1907, a son of Jean Garber and Marie Famy/Mary Farmey; he had immigrated in 1822 with his widowed mother. They are found on the 1865 state census of New Bremen as farmer John Garber, 49, France; Elizabeth, 41, Germany; Catherine, 14; Joseph, 13; John, 9; Benjamin, 7; Samuel, 5; Jacob, 4; Lidia, one year and four months; all children born in Lewis County. They relocated to Missouri in 1874; a large contingent from Lewis County arrived there in November to establish an Apostolic Christian church. They appear on the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Marion, Newton County, Missouri. The 1900 census shows John Garber, 84, born in Germany in February 1816, immigrated in 1822; Elizabeth, 75, born in Germany in July of 1824, immigrated in 1835; and daughter Lydia, 34, born in New York in February of 1866 of German parents [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied and claimed by Germany 1871-1918]. They are buried under a joint headstone in the Garber Family Cemetery in Newton County, which says that Elizabeth was born July 15, 1822, and died Aug. 15, 1905.

3. Madeleine Hirschey (found as Hirsch)/Magdalena ‘Laney’ Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haut March 20, 1826, and died in Lewis County March 10, 1892. In 1860 she was living with her younger sister Catherine; she is found as Lany Hirshey. In 1865 she was living with her sister Barbara. The 1870 census of New Bremen shows her living next door to her sister Barbara and her husband Joseph Nofsier as Lany Hersche, 40, France; and school teacher Melissa Butts, 25. In 1880 she was living at New Bremen with her sister Catherine and Peter Kempf. She is buried as Magdalena Hirschey in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan. Her headstone describes her as, “Magdalena Hirschey died Mar. 10, 1892, ae. 66 yrs.”

4. Catherine Hirsch (found as Hirsch)/Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haut June 22, 1828, and died at New Bremen Dec. 14, 1931. Her civil birth entry described parents Simon Hirsch and Madeleine Guerber as cultivators at Valette. On Jan. 25, 1853 at New Bremen she married Peter Kempf. He was born Dec. 24, 1827, and died at New Bremen Oct. 20, 1906; a son of Michel Kempf and Margueritte Abresol. The 1855 state census of New Bremen shows them living next door to her parents: farmer Peter Kemp, 27, France; Catharine, 25, France; and Madaline, 1, Lewis. The 1860 census of New Bremen has them as farmer Peter Kempf, 32, France; Catharin, 32, France; Laney, 6, New York; Catherine, 5, New York; Mary, 3, New York; Peter, 2, New York; Lydia, one month, New York; and Laney Hershey [Catherine’s older sister], 36, France. The 1880 census of New Bremen shows farmer Peter Kempf, 52, France; Catharine, 52, France; Peter, 21, N.Y.; Lydia, 20, N.Y.; Martha, 18, N.Y.; Anna, 15, N.Y.; Sarah, 14, N.Y.; Rosa, 10, N.Y.; and sister-in-law Laney Heirschy, 54, France. They were living next door to mother Magdalena, 83, and another residence with brother John, 47. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

5. Marie Hirsch (found as Hirsch) was born at Hoste-Haut Feb. 10, 1831. She died at sea circa May of 1834, on the immigration voyage.

6. Jean John Hirschey/Hirshey was born in Moselle April 20, 1832 (headstone date), and died in Newton County, Missouri Nov. 22, 1926. In New York he married Ernestine Hereford. She was born May 29, 1839 (her headstone says 1840), and died in Newton County Jan. 17, 1926. They appear on the 1870 census of New Bremen on the same page as his parents: farmer John Hersche, 37, France; Ernestine, 36, Prussia; and five children born in New York. They relocated to Granby, Newton County, where they spelled their name ‘Hirshey.’ They are buried in Powers Cemetery at Pepsin (adjacent to Granby on the north side).

7. Barbara Hirschey was born in Lewis County circa 1836, and died from complications of child birth at Croghan March 27, 1871. Circa 1857 she married Joseph Nafziger. He was born at Utica, New York May 18, 1834, and died at Croghan Jan. 15, 1871 (a month before his wife), a son of Christian Nafziger and Marie Jantzi. The 1865 state census of New Bremen has farmer Joseph Nofsier, 34, Germany; Barbaray, 30, Germany; Lana, 5, Lewis; Mary, two years four months, Lewis; and sister Lany Hersha [Hirschey], 38, France. They are found on the 1870 census of New Bremen as farmer Joseph Nofsier, 37, New York; Barbara, 34, New York; Lana, 10, New York; Mary, 7, New
York; Catharine B., 5, New York; and Joseph, 3, New York. They lived next door to Barbara’s sister Laney. Joseph is buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery at Croghan as Joseph Noftsier, while Barbara was the first burial in the Kirschnerville Cemetery.

8. Mary Hirschey was born in Lewis County circa 1838, and died before 1875. Circa 1861 in Lewis County she married Simon Lehman. He was born at Harprich, Moselle Sept. 7, 1836, and died in Lewis County May 16, 1915, a son of Christian Lehman and Marie Sommer. On June 27, 1875 at Mornington, Perth County, Ontario Simon remarried to Marie/Mary Kipfer. She was born in Switzerland Feb. 19, 1845, and died at Kirschnerville, Lewis County Feb. 21, 1913. Simon and Marie/Mary appear on the 1880 census of New Bremen as farmer Simon Lehman, 44, France; Mary, 35, Switzerland; and six children born in New York. Simon and Marie/Mary are buried in Kirschnerville Cemetery.

A loose puzzle piece:
Who was Joseph Hirschy, who was born circa 1768 (per the birth entry of his son Joseph) and died at St. Avold Nov. 14, 1851? He married Catherine Blaser/Blaseur/Blazeur and worked as a day laborer at Rhodes. He may have been the minister who attended a meeting of Amish Mennonites on the Bildhäuserhof estate at Rosheim, Lower Alsace June 1, 1811. Joseph Hirschy, Christian Engel, and Hans Luginbühl were chosen to travel to Paris to petition the minister of religion for exemption from military conscription. They were joined there by Hans Graber. On April 30, 1812 their petition was denied by the emperor.
Helvetii

Two rich archaeological sites have influenced the way historians look at Iron Age Indo-European Celtic-speaking tribes. Neither site was the first or most central village of its culture.

**HALLSTATT (1,200 BC-465 BC)**
From 1846 to 1863 a prehistoric cemetery was excavated in the lakeside village of Hallstatt, Austria. Numerous ‘warrior elite’ burials were found to contain clothing, jewelry, bronze weapons, and pottery, as well as occasional horses and wagons. The village also had a salt mine yielding hundreds of metal relics.

The culture spread over highlands - what are now the Alpine areas of Switzerland, Bavaria (southern Germany), and Italy, Moravia and Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), and southeast along the Dinaric Alps as far as what is now Albania.

One theory holds that people of the ‘Hallstatt culture’ represented the ‘first true Celtic culture.’ This implies that forms of the Celtic language found far afield were dialects that evolved among the descendants of immigrants from Alpine areas.

**LA TÈNE (500 BC-15 BC)**
Many of the characteristics of the ‘Hallstatt culture’ were apparent when thousands of relics of the more recent ‘La Tène culture’ were discovered on the north shore of Lake Neuchâtel (25 miles west of the present city of Bern) in 1857. They traded salt, amber, metals, wool, and leather throughout central Europe.

It is believed that the Y-DNA haplogroup most prevalent in La Tène descendants in Austria, Bavaria, and Switzerland is R1b1a1a2a1a2b: haplogroup R-M269, subgroup U152 or S26, also known as the Alpine gene cluster. It passed from the La Tène culture tribes down to the Helvetii, as well as the Italic tribes, including the Romans.

Between 400 BC and 100 BC the climate in what is now Denmark and lower Scandinavia became cooler and wetter. Freshwater lakes and streams rose and became mixed with salt water marshes. This reduced the area of land that could be cultivated, prompting southward migration.

From 120 BC and 115 BC the Cimbri, Teutones, and Ambrones tribes left the Jutland Peninsula on the Baltic Sea (what is now Denmark and northern Germany) and began a slow 700-mile journey.

Along their path they were joined by the Helvetii tribe, which had been living in the Elbe and Main river regions on either side of the Upper Rhine River.

These tribes were ethnically Indo-European. The expression ‘Indo-European’ does not suggest that someone came from India. It relates to a family of languages spoken over the greater part of Europe and Asia as far as northern India. It can also describe the tribes that lived in Europe before those languages was refined and standardized.

All four tribes spoke a form of Celtic that would later be refined as Gaulish Celtic. (By the 6th century it was replaced by Vulgar Latin and forms of German).

Their migration reached the Danube River in 113 BC. Rome took notice. Conflict between the Roman Republic and migration tribes spread into what is now southern France and northern Italy, and lasted until 101 BC.

The Tigurini tribe were the Celtic-speaking descendants of the ‘La Tène culture.’ They lived around Lac Neuchâtel [Lake Neuchâtel] and the nearby Murtensee [Lake Murten]. In 109 BC they allied with the Cimbri, and went with them to the province of Provence, in what is now southwestern France. Together they engaged Roman legions near Agen on the Garonne River. The legions were led by two sons of a Roman senator. The sons and more than half of the Roman troops were killed, and the Tigurini and Cimbri were victorious in the Battle of Burdigala.

The senior surviving Roman officer bargained for the lives of his troops by giving up most of their supplies, and agreeing that they would crawl or walk under a yoke to demonstrate symbolic submission.

After this the Helvetii tribe separated from the larger migration, roughly circa 107 BC. They eventually occupied much of the area between the Jura Mountains and the Alps called the Swiss Plateau. Their settlement sites

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65 In 1857 the La Tène site was in the village of Thielle. In 2009 Thielle-Wavre and Marin-Espanier merged to become the village La Tène.

66 The Roman historians Strabo and Paterculus described the Teutones as Germanics. While living on the Jutland Peninsula many Cimbri, Teutones, and Ambrones were in territory the ancient Romans called Germania. But this Roman perspective did not make them ‘Germanic’ tribes or infer that they spoke an early (‘proto’) form of German. The misconception that a ‘German’ people defeated the Roman legions once held political overtones. Supporters of this theory bent over backwards to explain obvious anamolies, such as the Celtic names of the Cimbri and Teutones chieftains, or the immediate assimilation of remnants of the tribes as they went off to live with other Celtic speakers. David K. Faux methodically breaks down the pros and cons of the case for the Celtic language in his online essay The Cimbri of Denmark, the Norse and Danish Vikings, and Y-DNA Haplogroup R-S28/U152 (Hypotheses A).
were generally on hilltops surrounded by wooden palisades; these fortified heights were called *Oppida*. They were skilled metal workers, and created iron weapons, carts, and wagons comparable to Roman ones.

In 105 BC the Tigurini tribe figured in a huge victory over the Romans at the Battle of Arausio (now Orange, 20 miles north of Avignon in southeastern France). It has a place in military textbooks as a classic example of miscommunication. Two Roman generals refused to talk to one another. Their legions camped on opposite sides of a deep river, essentially fighting their strength in half. Then each side fought with the river to their backs. The two generals survived with a few hundred others, but 80,000 of their legionnaires were killed or captured. It was the worst defeat in the history of ancient Rome.  

Paradoxically, the decline of the fortunes of the Cimbri tribe began when they looted and pillaged the lands of other Celtic-speakers. In 104-103 BC they were confronted by a coalition of Celtiberians on the Iberian Peninsula (what the Romans called Hispania). These were tribesmen who spoke a different form of Celtic. The Cimbri were defeated in battle and fled. They returned to what is now southern France to reunite with their allies, the Teutones and Ambrones. Together they plotted to recoup recent losses by invading Italy and sacking Rome.

In 102 BC the Teutones and Ambrones marched with the intention of entering Italy through undefended western passes. They were met by legions commanded by consul Gaius Marius. His legionnaires were supplemented by Celtic-speaking Ligures tribesmen. It is thought that the Ligures had relatives living on the Iberian Peninsula.

Marius briefly engaged them, then gave way. The two tribes continued east on their planned route. Marius finally felt his position was favorable when he reached Aquae Sextiae (now Aix-en-Provence, 21 miles north of Marseilles in southeastern France).

He took up a position on a hill in plain view. His Roman archers rained down arrows, and Ligure horsemen made harassing skirmishes. The Ambrones were finally enraged and charged headlong. The Teutones may have thought they sensed an easy kill, and were drawn in too. At that moment 4,000 hidden legionnaires charged out from behind the hill, circled, and broke the undisciplined formations. Roman historians claim that 90,000 tribesmen were killed and another 20,000 taken prisoner.

Meanwhile the Cimbri made a slower and more arduous northerly trek across the Rhine River and through an undefended Alpine pass. It would now be described as Brenner Pass, on the border of Austria and Italy. The Tigurini accompanied them that far, but did not enter Italy.

As at Aquae Sextiae, the Romans chose an advantageous place of engagement. At the junction of the Po River and the Sesia River (now Casale Monferrato, Italy) the Cimbri were greatly outnumbered by forces that included those of recently-victorious consul Gaius Marius. The Battle of Vercellae, fought in 101 BC, brought the end of the Cimbri tribe. One pair of chieftains died, while another pair was captured. Cimbri women killed their own children, then committed suicide.  

After this the Swiss Plateau would be occupied by four tribes collectively called the Helvetii tribal confederation. Their settlements stretched from Lake Constance southwest to Lake Neuchâtel.

- The core Verbigenes, from the Upper Rhine River region. The Celtic roots of the Latin ‘Verbigeni’ describe ‘those who are speakers.’
- The Toutonoi (Roman historians also called them Tougeni), remnants of the Jutland Peninsula Teutones tribe remaining after the Battle of Aquae Sextiae.
- Remnants of the Jutland Peninsula Ambrones tribe remaining after the Battle of Aquae Sextiae.
- The Tigurini tribe, descendants of the ‘La Tène culture.’ They presumably gave up hope of invading Italy after hearing about Cimbri losses in the Battle of Vercellae.

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67 Consul Gnaeus Mallius Maximus lost his two sons in the battle. He was exiled. Quintus Servilius Caepio was stripped of his citizenship, fined 825,000 pounds of gold he had looted before the battles, and forbidden to speak or see his friends or family until he had arrived in exile at Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey).

68 Whether or not remnants of the Cimbri tribe survived is open to question. Groups that called themselves Cimbri in later years may have been trading on the tribe’s fierce reputation. Present day residents of Himmerland County in Denmark claim descent.
Much of what we know about the Helvetii was written by Julius Caesar.69 He devoted Chapters 2-29 of *Commentarii de Bello Gallico* (*Commentaries on the Gallic Wars, Book One*) to describe his encounters with the Helvetii people and their allies.70

In his writings Caesar’s perspective was obviously that of a victor emphasizing the importance of his own accomplishments. To him the Helvetii were barbarians. Nonetheless, unlike Caesar, they did not employ practices like the breaking of treaties and the use of trained soldiers to kill women and children.

Caesar: “The Helvetii are confined on every side by the nature of their situation: on one side by the Rhine, a very broad and deep river, which separates the Helvetic territory from the Germans; on a second side by the Jura, a very high mountain…; on a third by the lake of Geneva, and by the river Rhone, which separates our province from them. From these circumstances it resulted that they could range less widely, and could less easily make war on their neighbors, for which reason men fond of war were affected with deep regret. They thought that considering the size of their population, and their renown for warfare and bravery, that they had narrow limits, though they extended 240 miles in length and 180 miles in width.”71

About 60 BC the Helvetii tribal confederation collectively resolved to migrate into Gaul. They prepared for two years. “When they thought that they were at length prepared for this undertaking, they set fire to all of their towns, in number about 12 – to their villages about 400 – and to all the private dwellings that remained. They burned up all of the corn, except what they intended to carry with them.” “…They ordered everyone to carry provisions for three months, already ground. They persuaded their neighbors the Rauraci, Tulingi, and Latobrigi [tribes] to adopt the same plan, and to set out with them after burning down their own towns and villages. They also admitted to their party the Boii [tribe]...”

Archaeological evidence does not bear out the story of razed towns. But in fairness, this may have been something that was later told to Caesar to explain why the tribes did not want to return.

Their departure began with the formation of a migration procession on the south side of the Rhone River March 28, 58 BC. Population figures before the migration were cited in *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*: 263,000 Helvetii, 36,000 Tulingi, 32,000 Boii, 23,000 Rauraci, and 14,000 Latobrigi. Thus, according to Caesar, the entire procession may have totaled 368,000 persons, including 92,000 able-bodied men. He attributed these numbers to a census written in Greek that was found in a Helvetii camp (Gaulish Celtic was most often written in the Greek alphabet). Roman historians later recast the total figure as 200,000 or 300,000. The estimates of modern scholars run as low as 100,000 persons, including only 16,000 able men.

A chapter summary from the *Commentarii*: “It is again told Caesar, that the Helvetii intended to march through the country of the Sequani and the Aedui into the territories of the Santones…” [a Gaulish Celtic-speaking tribe]. The area of the Santones tribe was on the south-central Atlantic coast of what is now France. It later became the province of Saintonge, roughly overlapping what is now the department of Charente-Maritime.

The route the procession originally planned to take would have initially passed west through Geneva and territory inhabited by a Roman ally, the Allobroges tribe. They had been defeated and occupied in 121 BC, revolted once in 61 BC, and had “recently been subdued.” Caesar had the Rhone River bridge at Geneva destroyed before the migration procession could reach it. His soldiers and the Allobroges dug a trench and constructed barriers along a 17-mile front. Throughout this process he listened to proposals, playing for time and raising new troops.

Caesar later wrote that he offered to accept hostages and reparations in exchange for safe passage. According to him a chieftain replied that, “The Helvetii had been so trained by their ancestors, that they were accustomed to receive, not to give hostages; of that fact the Roman people were witness.”

Even as a proconsul/military governor of three provinces (Cisalpine Gaul, Illyricum, and Transalpine Gaul), Caesar would have been hard-pressed to justify an unsanctioned foreign war on tribes seeking to live 430 miles farther from Rome.72 But he explained that he recalled the death of the senator’s sons 48 years earlier, and the demeaning yoke ceremony after the loss. He assumed the tribes would become dangerously aggressive once outside the geographical restraints of the Swiss Plateau. “If this took place, he saw that it would be attended with great

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69 Julius Caesar was born Gaius Julius Caesar (100 BC-44 BC). The historian Pliny the Elder wrote that ‘Caesar’ was a cognomen/nickname passed down to his father from an ancestor who was born by caesarian section. It only became a title of imperial character during the power struggle after the death of emperor Nero.

70 Before *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, Roman texts described most of the population of northern and central Europe as Celts, and the population of central Eurasia as Scythians.

71 A Roman mile was roughly nine-tenths of a modern English mile.

72 From Geneva west to Saintes in the department of Charente-Maritime, with a diversion to Seysell where the Rhone River was forded, would be 430 miles on modern highways.

The legality or illegality of Caesar’s actions in the Gallic Wars became a moot point in 49 BC, when he returned to Rome with a legion behind him and sparked a civil war. The following year he was appointed dictator.
danger to the province to have warlike men, enemies of the Roman people, bordering upon an open and very fertile tract of country."

Cynical historians have suggested that Caesar needed a victory to pay off debts. But it may be just as likely that he was simply following the Roman military mindset - take any chance of victory when it is offered, or risk retribution from your peers. And he may have felt a responsibility to live up to the reputation of his uncle, Gaius Marius.

He also knew the tribes were vulnerable. The lengthy procession would travel slowly, unable to maneuver to opportune fighting ground. In any engagement a portion of the able men would be held back to protect the families. He could expect an initial wild charge, then a general lack of discipline and direction.

Caesar knew the procession would now turn toward a crossing at Seyssel on the Rhone River, 30 miles southwest of Geneva. He hurried to the eastern side of the Alps. There he took command of three legions and raised two more. He had initially commanded about 4,000 soldiers and 2,000 horsemen. His new army numbered 35,000.

These Roman troops marched over 500 miles to catch up. Once the procession was located, they regained their energy while slowly and patiently following about five miles behind.

Caesar’s account of June 20, 58 BC: “The Helvetii had by this time led their forces [actually their entire population including women and children] through the narrow defile and the territories of the Sequani, and had arrived at the territories of the Aedui, and were ravaging their lands. The Aedui, as they could not defend themselves and their possessions against them, send ambassadors to Caesar to ask assistance…for their fields not to be laid waste, their children carried off into slavery, and their towns stormed almost within sight of our army.”

The procession used rafts to cross the Arar River (now known as the Saône) just above Trévoux in what is now the department of Ain. There a sharp bend made the current extremely sluggish. After three-quarters of the migrants had reached the far side, the remaining quarter settled in for the night. Sometime after midnight three legions began marching toward them. At 6 a.m. the migrant camp was found in a forested valley north of Trévoux. A chapter summary of Caesar’s remarks: “Attacking them encumbered with baggage, and not expecting him, he cut to pieces a great part of them; the rest betook themselves to flight, and concealed themselves in the nearest woods.”

According to Napoleon III’s History of Julius Caesar, Volume II (1866), an investigation in 1862 confirmed the site. Excavations yielded partially burnt bones, iron arrow heads, and ornaments. One burial pit contained piles of complete skeletons of men, women, and children. The massacre would later be known as the Battle of the Arar, the first battle of the Gallic Wars. Caesar justified the result by describing his victims as members of the Tigurini tribe.

On the following day the legions built a pontoon bridge and crossed the river. The same crossing had taken three-quarters of the tribal procession 20 days.

The remaining Helvetii attempted to continue on, until they were approached by a runaway Roman slave. The slave disclosed that Caesar intended to divert his march to a fortified hill at Bibracte to obtain supplies.

About 15 days after the Battle of Arar, the Helvetii attacked Caesar’s rear guard at what is now Montmort in the department of Saône-et-Loire. The well-drilled Romans quickly formed around a hillside, and held them back with javelins.

The full engagement would later be known as the Battle of Bibracte. It soon became apparent that the mobility of the Helvetii was hindered by their baggage train pulled by draught cattle, which held most of their small children. Toward midnight the Romans succeeded in capturing it. But by that time most of the Helvetii and their allies had fled in the dark. Caesar later estimated that 130,000 men, women, and children escaped as his troops took three days to bury their own dead.

Without draft cattle or carts, the tribes were unable to reassemble. On July 3, “The Helvetii, compelled by the want of everything, sent ambassadors to him [Caesar]. When they had met him on the way and thrown themselves at his feet, and speaking in a suppliant tone with tears had asked for peace, he ordered them to remain in place.”

That night almost 6,000 Verbigenes prisoners fearing execution escaped and crossed the Rhine River. Caesar delayed offering peace terms until they were returned. He later wrote that they were then treated as his enemies (presumably either executed or enslaved).

Caesar wrote that on July 6 he ordered the Helvetii, Tulingi, and Latobrigi tribes to “…return to the territories from which they had come, and as there was at home nothing that might slake their hunger, all the produce of the earth having been destroyed, he ordered the Allobroges [neighboring tribe] to let them have a plentiful supply of corn. He ordered them to rebuild the towns and villages which they had burned.”

We have seen how rather than being outnumbered better than two-to-one, Caesar’s soldiers may instead have held a two-to-one advantage. Just as his numbers were inflated, it is doubtful that his victory was as punishing as his description makes it seem. Before departing, the Helvetii and Rauraci negotiated a foedus pact. A foederati was an
outlying territory that would receive benefits from Rome in exchange for military assistance. It promised permanent friendly relations.

Caesar diplomatically explained away his failure to capture and execute the leaders, writing that the real instigator was an organizer who had died even before the migration began. He knew that his point had already been made. And the return of the tribes to the Swiss Plateau would prevent even more aggressive northerly tribes from moving closer to Rome.

The word ‘Gaul’ was originally coined by the Romans to describe the Celtic tribes already living in what is now France. The greater point was made to them: they had seen that tribute to Rome would be rewarded with a certain level of protection from outsiders.

In the following year Helvetia became a province nominally under the authority of the Roman Empire. Helvetii = a noun describing the loose confederation of four tribes; Helvetic = the adjective; Helvetia = the place where they lived. This caused confusion for later historians, who had difficulty discerning when ‘Helvetii’ should apply to just the tribes, or to all residents of the province (including Romans living there).

In 52 BC the foedus pact was broken when many Helvetii joined Vercingetorix of the Arverni tribe in a short-lived revolt against Roman authority. The Gallic Wars that had begun with the Battle of Arar culminated with the defeat of Vercingetorix in the Battle of Alesia in 52 BC, and ended by 50 BC. By that time the Roman Empire had expanded over the whole of Gaul.

Circa 45 BC Julius Caesar sponsored an award of lands in Helvetia to his veterans. The properties were clustered around Noviodunum (now Nyon on the western shore of Lake Neuchâtel). This would later be called Colonia Julia Equestris, and served the function of keeping a Roman military presence in the region. A Roman oppida or fortified hill was created at Bois de Châtel, on the southwest corner of the lake.

It was not until 15 BC that Augustus Caesar wrested the Great St. Bernard Pass through the Alps, enabling construction of a military road there. That victory gave Rome real control of Helvetia by providing more immediate access.

At the same time the Romans established a Helvetic capital at Aventicum, inland from the southern shore of the Murtensee [Lake Murten] on the outskirts of what is now Avenches, Canton Vaud (25 miles west of the city of Bern). The oppida at Bois de Châtel was dismantled, and its garrison moved there. Aventicum straddled a road that now connected Rome to Gaul and Britain.\(^{73}\)

In 68 AD the emperor Nero committed suicide. The political scheming and confusion that followed in ‘The Year of the Four Emperors’ would have disastrous repercussions on Helvetia.

Servius Sulpicius Galba (3 BC-69 AD) became emperor with the support of the Praetorian Guard, and carried the title of Caesar. But he raised taxes, refusing to give rewards to his supporters or bribes to his opponents. These were characteristics that corrupt Romans cited as proof of senility.

On Jan. 2, 69 AD Roman soldiers in the provinces Germania Superior and Germania Inferior renounced allegiance to Galba. They agreed that he should be replaced by Vitellius, the military governor of Germania Inferior. Thirteen days later disgruntled members of the Praetorian Guard outside Rome announced their own candidate: Galba’s former supporter Marcus Salvius Otho, the former military governor of a province on the Iberian Peninsula.

After only seven months in office, Galba was assassinated by Otho’s cavalry April 15. Otho followed him, serving for only three months before suffering a battle loss to Vitellius and committing suicide Dec. 22.

Sometime in the interim period of Otho’s reign, the Helvetia provincial council captured or refused to acknowledge an emissary. He had come from the north, representing the ambitious military governor Vitellius. The Roman historian Tacitus later wrote that the council was ‘set up’ – they were unaware that Galba was dead. The situation was further aggravated when a legion stationed at Windisch (now in Canton Aargau) stole a pay wagon on its way to a garrison near Aventicum. In turn the garrison detained more of Vitellius’s messengers. They certainly did not understand the bigger picture, and probably did not realize that a legion loyal to Vitellius was about to pass through on its way back to Italy.

Tacitus considered an ambush in 69 AD a disaster for the Helvetii. Rather, it was a disaster for the residents of the province Helvetia, who would have been recently conscripted to meet the situation. These would have included aging Roman veterans and their sons, who had been living there as farmers. Complete Works of Tacitus, translated
by Church and Brodribb (1873): “Dispatches were sent [from the Romans] to the Rhaetian auxiliaries, instructing them to attack the Helvetii in the rear while the legion was engaging them in front.”… “Bold before the danger came and timid in the moment of peril, the Helvetii…knew not how to use their arms, to keep their ranks, or to act in concert. A pitched battle with veteran troops would be destruction, a siege would be perilous with fortifications old and ruinous. On the one side was Cecina at the head of a powerful army, on the other were the auxiliary infantry and cavalry of Rhaetia and the youth of that province, inured to arms and exercised in habits of warfare. All around was slaughter and devastation. Wandering to and fro between the two armies, the Helvetii threw aside their arms, and with a large proportion of wounded and stragglers fled for refuge to Mount Vocetius. They were immediately dislodged by the attack of some Thracian infantry. Closely pursued by the Germans and Rhaetians they were cut down in their forests and even in their hiding places. Thousands were put to the sword, thousands more were sold into slavery.”

After this battle the provincial capital at Aventicum surrendered to the northern legion. Nonetheless, prominent residents were executed. Then a man named Claudius Cossus was permitted to appeal directly to Vitellius in his camp. His simple grief and honest apologies won the day, and the city was ‘pardoned.’

Vitellius would serve as emperor for eight months before he too was executed and replaced by Vespasian. Through a remarkable coincidence, Vespasian had been taken to Aventicum as a boy, and his father had died there. Under his reign the fortunes of the city would recover. In 72 AD it was raised to the status of a Roman city [Latin colonia]. In Avenches are the ruins of a theater that would have seated 10,000, and an amphitheater that would have seated 8,000.

Recall from STAKER that from 260 AD to 443 AD Burgundian and Alemanni tribes raided settlements throughout Helvetia. Aventicum was sacked in the 280s. These Burgundians did not come from Burgundy (now in France) but from what is now Poland; they mainly occupied the western side of what is now Switzerland. Alemanni tribes came from both sides of the Upper Rhine River, the Elbe and Main river regions vacated centuries earlier by the Helvetii; they mainly occupied the eastern side.

The Christian Franks nominally subjugated the pagan Alemanni in 496 AD, but only gained complete control after the Alemanni were Christianized in the 8th century. In 534 AD the Franks also subjugated the Burgundians. The Alemanni culture later spread west along the Swiss Plateau. They brought their dialect of the early German language; this became the Old High German language, replacing Vulgar Latin in what is now Canton Bern.

The Helvetii did not resist these incursions, but initially drew away from major settlements. In later generations they would live side-by-side with descendants of these occupiers. The Frankish empire would become the Holy Roman Empire, which held authority over Canton Bern until 1499.

When France occupied the Old Swiss Confederacy during the Napoleonic Wars, it became the Helvetic Republic. When the cantonal states came together in 1848, the new country was called Confederatio Helvetica. ‘Helvetia’ is still used as a short-form name for the country (rather than giving variations from each of the four official languages – German, French, Italian, and Romansh). It is found on Swiss coins, currency, and postage stamps; ‘CH’ is found on license plates.

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74 Mons Vocetius is an area around the Bözberg Pass in the Jura Mountains of Canton Aargau. It has always been a route between Basel and Zürich, but now has road and rail tunnels beneath it.

75 The emperor Vespasian (9 AD-79 AD) was born Titus Flavius Vespasianis at Reate (now Rieti) in the Sabina Region of Italy. His parents were Titus Flavius Sabinus, a customs official and banker, and Vespasia Polla.
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There is often no single correct spelling for the name of a particular individual, even when his or her nationality is known. The spelling may have changed as the person crossed national boundaries. Families living in Alsace-Lorraine often spoke German, but not French (Alsace-Lorraine became a German territory under occupation 1870-1918). Some immigrant families in North America consciously chose mixed spellings for their children, such as Jacobina or Katharine. And of course in this time frame widespread illiteracy influenced every written document; particularly when the municipal clerk taking information was left to guess at a spelling.
Von Diesbach

Protestant Reformed Church records of Diessbach, Canton Bern (since 1870 Oberdiessbach) show numerous family crossovers from the parish of Signau. The same landlord family once owned both areas.

It may not be coincidental that many Anabaptists in those areas were described as weavers. Though they are typically pictured as weavers of table linens or shawls, many may have been directly or indirectly employed by the Diesbach-Watt Company. It traded canvas and metals throughout Europe.

Though modern canvas is made from cotton or linen, in Canton Bern at that time it was made from hemp. Canvas loom weaving has a simple over-and-under stitch. It was easy to learn, extremely repetitive, and could be performed by the light of a fire. It filled the hours over the dark winter months and yielded a modest income.

A co-founder of the company was merchant Niklaus von Diesbach (1370-1436). He built his fortune, and in 1427 purchased half of the lordship of Diessbach and nearby Kiesen from the monastery at Interlaken. His descendants became magistrates, legislators, military officers, and held positions in the foreign service.

One of his sons was Loy/Lucius von Diesbach (1400-1451). His marriage to Klara von Büren gave him possession of the lordships of Signau and Worb.

Their son Niklaus von Diesbach (circa 1430-1475) married Barbara von Scharnachtal (of the same wealthy family that served as patrons for the church at Hilterfingen). In 1450 Niklaus became a member of the grand council of Bern, then in 1452 joined the more prestigious small guiding council. He served as mayor of the city of Bern 1465-66 and 1474-75. Then he took a trip to the Sinai, where he visited St. Catherine’s Monastery (purportedly the site of the ‘burning bush’). In 1469 he managed to obtain properties that completed his family’s possession of the lordships of Diessbach and Worb.

A committee for Anabaptist matters [Ger. Kommittierte zum Täufergeschäft] was appointed Jan. 4, 1659. On Oct. 24, 1659 and April 16, 1660 Mennonite merchant Hans Vlamingh wrote letters from Amsterdam to two of its members, theology professor Christophe Luthard and Wilhelm von Diesbach. After seeing immigrant Anabaptists, he protested the way they had been treated. When these letters were ignored, a formal protest was made by the Dutch ambassador to the council.

The von Diesbach family constructed what is now called the ‘old’ castle over the ruins of an older castle at Diessbach in 1546. They sold the lordship and castle in 1647.

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76 What we call a lordship could also be called a seigniory or seigneury. It can describe the position, authority, or domain of a feudal lord. The lord’s privileges were purchased, and were protected by the government. They could be forfeited for non-payment of an annual tithe.
Laws of Canton Bern

Jan. 13, 1526  An Anabaptist woman is brought before the Council of Bern. When she recants, a sentence of exile is revoked. However, an unrepentant Anabaptist is banished only 13 days later.

Aug. 14, 1527  The cities of Bern, St. Gall, and Zurich agree to a Concordat forbidding Anabaptism. They warn against outsiders coming into their cantons to make converts. If caught, they will be banished; if they refuse, they will be drowned. Ministers from abroad and those who had escaped prison would also be drowned.

Jan. 7, 1528  The Council of Bern forbids Anabaptism throughout the canton.

July 1529  The first Anabaptist is executed by drowning in the Aare River.

July 31, 1531  Death by drowning is recommended for Anabaptists who are exiled and return.

Nov. 8, 1534  Protestant Reformed marriages and communions are mandatory.

March 5 or 15, 1535  An individual can be exiled after only eight days imprisonment. The method of execution for returning Anabaptist exiles is changed from drowning to beheading. A one-pound reward is offered to Anabaptist hunters [Ger. Täuferjägeren] for each arrest.

Sept. 6, 1538  The death penalty is extended to all Anabaptist leaders.

Feb. 16, 1564  The property of not just leaders, but any Anabaptist individual can be confiscated.

April 28, 1566  The Council of Bern tasks the Protestant Reformed clergy with identifying Anabaptists.

March 17, 1567  Persons not married in Protestant Reformed ceremonies can be considered adulterous, and banished. Their children lose inheritance rights.

Oct. 20, 1571  Hans Haslibacher is beheaded in the city of Bern. Despite the threatening wording of all later mandates, it is the last execution of an Anabaptist in the canton.

Dec. 30, 1579  The threat of confiscation of property and of the death penalty is renewed.

Sept. 3, 1585  Individual Anabaptists can be expelled, and given the death penalty without trial upon return. Anabaptist foreigners can be tortured on the rack to extract confessions, then banished. This mandate is to be read from the pulpit of every Protestant Reformed church annually. It was still in effect in 1600.

Feb. 10, 1597  The mandate of 1585 is renewed.

March 10, 1599  Property confiscated from Anabaptists will no longer be considered religious or community property, but will be the possession of the state.

Feb. 11, 1624  The penalty for marriage outside a Protestant Reformed church is imprisonment.

April 11, 1644  Anyone who does not join the Protestant Reformed Church will be imprisoned.

Dec. 26, 1644  Renewal of the mandates of 1585 and 1597.

Jan. 10, 1648  The Council of Bern proposes to send Anabaptists to serve as galley oarsmen-slaves in Italy. This was not enforced until six men were sent to Venice March 16, 1671 for two-year terms.

Dec. 20, 1658  Anabaptists will be expelled, and their ministers will be held for more severe penalties.


Aug. 9, 1659  The committee recommends that Anabaptists should be expelled with whipping and branding.

Feb. 1, 1669  The committee authorizes 30-kroner rewards.

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, places suspected of harboring Anabaptists.

March 6, 1690  Children who are not born in Protestant Reformed marriages have no inheritance rights.

March 16, 1690  Those who refuse the oath of allegiance or military training will be exiled.

April 6, 1693  The reward offer for Anabaptist leaders is raised to 25-50 Thalers.

77 In actual practice, those who returned from exile were often punished by dunking or being pilloried. In modern waterboarding the victim is dunked to the point of unconsciousness, then revived, then dunked until a confession is extracted. In medieval dunking the victim was simply dunked repeatedly in a cold river, inducing near-hypothermia to draw out a recantation. The punishment of being pilloried ("put in the stocks") was much more brutal. It was not done to induce public ridicule, but often took place over several days in a prison courtyard. The victim could suffer permanent physical damage from being exposed to the elements overnight.
May 21, 1693  The distribution of a Christoffel Froschauer *New Testament* is forbidden. Protestant Reformed clergy called it the *Täufer Testamente*.

July 10, 1693  The mandate of 1659 is reprinted.

April 25, 1694  The employment of anyone who does not have papers from officials or Protestant Reformed ministers is forbidden.

Feb. 22, 1695  The 18-page *Ordnung gegen Wiedertäufer* describes Anabaptists as ‘disobedient, seductive, and unruly.’ Legal contracts (including wills and deeds) signed by Anabaptists are invalid. Anabaptists may not be buried in Protestant Reformed cemeteries. The reward offered for an Anabaptist leader is raised to 100 reichstaler. Young women who do not join the state church may be expelled, and older women sentenced to life in prison. Anyone renting to someone without papers from officials or Protestant Reformed ministers will be fined 50 pounds. Church officials are to visit every home in their community at least once a year to ensure compliance with all laws.

March 27, 1695  Those who do not attend Easter communion in a Protestant Reformed church will be arrested.

1699  The committee on Anabaptist matters is replaced by the Anabaptist Commission [Ger. *Täuferkammer*].

April 26, 1709  Anyone who gives Anabaptists a room for meetings will have their property confiscated.

Dec. 18, 1709  A 30-kroner award is offered for reporting the return of an exiled Anabaptist.

Sept. 30, 1711  All past mandates are reiterated.

Dec. 11, 1711  Any male Anabaptist who fails to emigrate will be imprisoned for the remainder of his life, or until he conforms to state church standards.

May 23 or 24, 1714  The threat of enslavement for oarsmen service on Italian galleys is renewed. Later that year four men were sent to Venice. The Council of Bern reversed its decision after an appeal from the Dutch government, but by then two had already died.

March 12, 1720  Anabaptists who return from exile should be sent out again with whipping and branding.

July 10, 1734  A 50-100 thaler fine will be levied for providing a room for Anabaptist meetings.

Dec. 4, 1734  The Anabaptist Commission is dissolved, ending enforcement of religious laws.
The 1783 Anabaptist Census of Basel

A number of Amish Mennonites came into the area of Basel in the mid-1770s. At first they joined others in meetings on the grounds of Schloss Wildenstein. Schloss Wildenstein was a castle and dairy farm near remote Bübendorf, 17 miles southeast of the city of Basel, five miles below Liestal.

According to Rudolf Ernst Grobb in *Die separatistischen Strömungen im Basel im XVIII Jahrhundert* (1907), letters of the council of Basel indicated that eight families with 35 children had settled there between 1775 and 1777. They were described as quiet and industrious people living on 12-year leases.

In 1777 a Protestant minister at Läufelfingen (10 miles southeast of Bübendorf) reported that there was an Anabaptist family headed by linen weaver Ludwig Plattner of Rüderswil, Canton Bern occupying a house in his village. He noted that the minister at Bübendorf had also accepted an Anabaptist on his estate, and said that 28 Anabaptists had come to a neighboring dairy farm (presumably Schloss Wildenstein). 78

The minister eventually visited Plattner, his wife, four daughters, and three sons. He saw his books including a *Froschauer Bible*, two *New Testaments*, two books of psalms and hymns, a book of confessions of martyrs, and other religious tracts.

In 1783 a census of Anabaptists was requested by magistrates. Its purpose was to see if there had been a significant increase in settlers since 1777.

We took our numbers from *Die separatistischen Strömungen im Basel im XVIII Jahrhundert*. However, we also noted that this publication duplicated an entry – a Friedrich Gerig family it has at Schloss Wildenstein was the same as the Friedli Gerig family at Mutzen – which also threw off its total count.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of arrival</th>
<th>Total in household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waldenburger district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jakob</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann Freienberger and family</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See FREYENBERGER in the Appendix)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bieler and family, from Steffisburg</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Freienberger, father</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See FREYENBERGER in the Appendix)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Gehrig, father</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Arxhof [arch farm] at Niederdorf (below Bübendorf)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jakob Schmucklin and family</td>
<td>1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See NEUHAUSER in Part Three)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Neuhauser and family</td>
<td>1781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See NEUHAUSER in Part Three)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monchensteiner/Munchenstein district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brüglingen in Münchenstein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two married couples</td>
<td>Circa 1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A note said that one couple had come from Alsace, the other from Baden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hohenstein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two married couples</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A note said one couple was from Emmendingen, the other from Breisgau, both in Baden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binningen, district of Arlesheim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Stauffer and family</td>
<td>1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of their day laborers on the castle estate was Anabaptist Jakob Würgler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stauffer may have moved away in 1782</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muttenz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedli/Friedrich Gerig and family</td>
<td>1781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They lived on the grounds of the former monastery <em>Roten Haus</em> where Anabaptist meetings were held.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnburger district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenniken, five miles east of Bübendorf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludwig Plattner and family</td>
<td>1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diegten, seven miles southeast of Bübendorf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

78 Schloss Wildenstein now falls within the municipal boundaries of Bubendorf in Canton Basel-Stadt. It was obtained by the canton in 1994, and is designated as a Swiss heritage site.
Appendix

On May 6, 1783 Protestant authorities requested a new government regulation. They asked that the children of Mennonite parents be entered in their baptism registers (already a requirement in Baden), and permission given to bury adults in their cemeteries. This would provide a measure of the immigrant population. However, when the total of Anabaptists was found to be a relatively small 98, the issue seemed relatively insignificant. Pressure to regulate Anabaptists was mitigated; instead a mild caution was crafted May 17. It requested ministers to provide information “...about their number, the length of their stay, and their moral conduct; and a watchful eye should be kept on them by the local parsons and any objectionable conduct be reported.”
Swiss Legends

Where did Moritz Stücker and the Joders get their names?

Theodor of Grammont was an Italian missionary-monk who settled in what is now Canton Valais (below Canton Bern) in the mid-300s A.D. There he attempted to bring together numerous religious 'hermits' who had rejected organized congregational life.

He created an abbey at Octodurum (now Martigny, Canton Valais), and became its first bishop. He was recorded in attendance at the Council of Aquileia as *Theodorus Episcopus Octodorensis* in 381 AD, and died in 391 AD. The ecclesiastical territory of Sion surrounding the abbey is now the oldest bishopric in Switzerland. 79

Over time the name Theodor evolved into the Latinized Theodorus and Joderus, thought to be the origins of the surname Joder.

Though Theodor was a real person, his name was enhanced by association with a romance legend.

In 434 AD Eucherius (circa 380 AD-454 AD) became bishop of Lyon in Gaul (now France). In 440 AD his son Salonius became bishop of Geneva. Some time between 443 AD and 449 AD Eucherius publicly posted a letter addressed to another bishop. It was called, *Passion of the Martyrs of Agaune*. In it he told a story that he said originated with Theodor, who told it to bishop Isaac of Geneva. Isaac then told it to ‘authorities.’

The story goes that Mauritius, a Christian soldier born in Egypt circa 250 AD, led a legion of the Roman army. A legion held 5,000-6,600 soldiers. In 286 AD they refused orders to pray to Roman gods or persecute Christians. They were subsequently martyred by Roman officers at Agaunum [Fr. *Agaune*, now St. Maurice, nine miles northwest of Martigny on the Rhône River].

In the story the high authority who gives the orders to execute is the emperor Maximian Herculeus. Eucherius included a Shakespearean-like plot twist from recorded history: after a tumultuous reign Maximian Herculeus was forced to abdicate; years later he was labeled a traitor and compelled to commit suicide by Constantine, the first emperor to convert to Christianity.

Mauritius is also found as Maurice, Moritz, Maritz, and Morris. Another name that often occurs in this genealogy is 'Verena' with its equivalents Freni and Veronica. In the same story Verena was a convert who accompanied Mauritius’s legion from Thebes to Aguanum, became a hermit after his death, and later saw him in a prison vision. She was also martyred. Mauritius would be revered as a patron saint of soldiers, while Verena would be revered as a patron saint of the poor.

The letter closes with a description of how Theodor later found the site of the martyrdoms and constructed a memorial basilica.

There were a number of historical anomalies in the story as told by bishop Eucherius, too numerous to mention here. But it had also passed through at least three hands before reaching him. Because of this, some historians suspect it had elements of truth and was simply written in a style that would be understandable to his readers.

Why would someone with significant responsibilities in Gaul take a scholarly interest in records at Geneva (100 miles east) to write about a 160-year-old incident in what is now St. Maurice, Canton Valais (180 miles east)? Perhaps we can assume that Eucherius first heard it from his son or 'authorities' while visiting. 80

Despite this, a majority of historians believe that the entire story of Mauritius was fabricated by the bishop or someone close to him. It is similar to other romance legends of the time invented to encourage pilgrimages and create revenue. Eucherius wrote that pilgrimages were already being made to Agaunum. But no historical traces of the alleged events were found before his publicly-posted letter.

Nevertheless, the story took on such significance that in 926 AD Henry I of East Francia (876 AD-926 AD) ceded land in what is now Canton Aargau to the abbey in exchange for what was purported to be the sword, lance,

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79 The French-speaking Prince-Bishopric of Sion became a state of the Holy Roman Empire in 999 AD. It resisted conversion to the Protestant Reformed Church, and in 1531 its supporters won a battle to maintain their Roman Catholicism at Kappel am Albis (on the borders of Cantons Zurich and Zug). The Prince-Bishopric of Sion survived as a Roman Catholic entity until 1798, when it was occupied by French troops and incorporated into the Helvetic Republic.

80 Son Salonius was bishop of Geneva 1440-75. Son Veranius succeeded Eucherius as bishop of Lyon.
head, and spurs of Mauritius.  

In 961 AD Otto I created an abbey at Magdeburg (100 miles west of Berlin) to house the relics.  

Over 240 years the abbey at Magdeburg had grown into a cathedral.  In 1207 a fire destroyed all but a few walls.  It was reconstructed over the period 1209-1520 as the cathedral of Saints Mauritius and Catherine [Ger. Dom zu Magdeburg St. Mauritius und Katharina, formerly Catholic, now Lutheran].  A sculpture installed there circa 1250 shows Mauritius as a Black African soldier in full medieval armor.  This was the first realistic depiction of an ethnic African in central European art.  But he was still depicted as a Caucasian in churches in Switzerland, France, and Italy.  

Mauritius became a patron saint of the Holy Roman emperors, and his purported relics were used in the coronation ceremonies of Austro-Hungarian emperors until 1916.  Several new emperors were crowned in front of Saint Mauritius's Altar within Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.  An Abbaye de Saint Maurice in Canton Valais was constructed around the original pilgrimage site in 1515.

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81 The name Mauritius was actually engraved on the lance head.  Circa 1084 Henry IV had a metal pin pounded into the blade and covered with a silver sleeve with an inscription 'Nail of Our Lord.'  This was analogous to the lance of the Emperor Constantine, which was supposed to have held a nail taken from the cross.  

In 1346 King Wenceslaus of Bohemia was selected as King of Rome over a sitting Holy Roman Emperor by a handful of elector princes.  His rival died in the following year.  He was voted to be the new Holy Roman Emperor in 1749, to reign as Charles IV.  Ostensibly because of the Black Plague in the German states, he ruled from Prague.  The Mauritius items in the Imperial Regalia were brought there from Magdeburg.  

Circa 1350 Charles IV had a larger gold sleeve attached over the lance head's silver sleeve, inscribed 'Lance and Nail of the Lord.'  This is the first indicator of a new story, that the 'Holy Lance' [Ger. Heilige Lanze] originally belonged to Longinus, a Roman soldier who used it to pierce the side of Jesus on the cross (in the Gospel of John).  Possession of such a holy relic might have helped to justify Charles IV's questionable accession to the throne.  

In 1354 he crossed the Alps and went to Milan.  He appeared in Rome for only four hours to be crowned by a cardinal.  The brief stay was promised to the pope to avoid political conflict, but may also have reflected a fear of assassination.  

The Imperial Regalia were later returned to the Nuremberg Cathedral.  When the Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806, a temporary caretaker sold them to the Habsburg family.  German requests for their return were rejected by the Imperial Treasury in Vienna.  

After Germany forced itself on Austria in 1838, the items once again returned in Nuremberg, a city that was now home to National Socialist party rallies.  During World War II they were stored in a bunker under Nuremberg Castle.  In 1946 they were found by occupation troops and returned to Hofburg Castle in Vienna.  

The lance head was tested by metallurgists in 1914 and 2002.  Each time it was concluded that it was created in the 7th century - roughly 400 years after the death of Mauritius.  

82 The millennial churches at Thun and Amsoldingen were also dedicated to Mauritius.
**Freyenberger: Freyênberg of Oberhofen**

*Freyênberg* means ‘free mountain.’

The Protestant Reformed Church at Hilterfingen, Canton Bern was repeatedly mentioned in ROPP and STAKER, where background was provided. We first became interested in Freyenberger families in the congregation of that church – though they may not have held it in high regard. We may not have found a connection to Ropp and Tazewell County, but we did find unexpected connections to Rupps in Fulton County, Ohio.

The Freyenberges were some of the earliest true Anabaptists living in adjacent Oberhofen. Oberhofen in the parish of Hilterfingen will be recalled as the home of Jacob Amman from 1655 until 1680.

Hilterfingen marriage records have been preserved back to 1529. The very first entry on May 16, 1529 names Üly Freyenber and Barbli Rytchart [later standardized as Ritschardt]. Others include Michel Frenberg and Cathrina Eiman on Sept. 16, 1530; Üly Fryenber and Anna Bronimma on Oct. 27, 1544; Jacob Fryenber and Bronimma Brümm on Dec. 15, 1573; Melchior Rittchart and Barbli Frienberg on May 7, 1569; Hans Freienbärigen and Ann Farm on March 6, 1592; Hans Ritschart and Anna Freienbarg on Nov. 20, 1594; Niclaus Kilcbärger and Anna Freienbarg on Feb. 6, 1595* Hanns Stahli and Anna Fryenbär on April 20, 1602; Christen Fryenbär and Chrystßna Müller on Jan. 16, 1613; Uëly Fryenberg and Barbara Oswald on Dec. 6, 1641; Christen Freyberg and Christina Linder on March 7, 1670; and finally Caspar Saurhofer and Anna Freyenberg on May 6, 1674. Then none. This dropoff may reflect the persecution of Anabaptists after 1670, but it is still puzzling.

Though they were married in the shared state church, there is very little documentation of infant baptisms.

The archives of the district of Thun has records of a business transaction in 1622. On Sept. 14 the Schultheiss [a local representative for the Council of Bern] and Rath [local council head] of the city of Bern sold properties to Hans Freyenberg von Oberhofen. A house and garden was located in the rose garden at Thun, while another garden was located on the Scherzlingweg. The combined price was 5,500 pounds.

It is possible that the family withdrew upland, perhaps to Heiligenschwendi, a hamlet that could only be accessed by a single footpath from Oberhofen. Heiligenschwendi was too small to have its own church or chapel until 1925. But it is more likely that after 1670 family church entries were made in the city of Thun. The family could have mandatory Protestant baptisms performed there, but still retained communal citizenship rights at Hilterfingen, where they still owned vineyards.

Recall from YODER that, 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. Thun records are not yet available to the public.

Fortunately the church at Hilterfingen maintained Band Sechs, Rodel der auswärts getauften, a register for baptisms that took place outside the area. By contributing news of family events from abroad, a family could hope to retain community citizenship rights. It can be viewed online at the website of the State Archives of Canton Bern.


This was the beginning point for our searches.

Christian Freyenberg had four children born at Oberhofen in the 1750s, though they were not baptized there. A search of local baptism records over a 40-year span from 1720 to 1760 shows not a single mention of the surname, either as a participant or witness.

He was reported to magistrates on a census of Anabaptists in Basel in 1783. He had been living since 1776 with his family (five members including himself and wife Magdalena Frey) on the grounds of Schloss Wildenstein at Bübendorf, 17 miles southeast of the city of Basel, five miles below Liestal. Friedrich Gerig and family also lived there (nine persons including himself) and Friedrich was elsewhere described as his brother-in-law. Christian and Magdalena may have been living on St. Jakob farm at Basel in 1810. Their children include:

1. Like his father, Christian Freyember was also listed as Christian Freyenberger on a census of Anabaptists in Basel in 1783. He had been living since 1776 with his family (five members including himself and wife Magdalena Frey) on the grounds of Schloss Wildenstein at Bübendorf, 17 miles southeast of the city of Basel, five miles below Liestal. Friedrich Gerig and family also lived there (nine persons including himself) and Friedrich was elsewhere described as his brother-in-law. Christian and Magdalena may have been living on St. Jakob farm at Basel in 1810. Their children include:

   a. Johannes/Jean Freyember was born circa 1780, and died at Muespach-le-Haut June 19, 1853. Recall from ZIMMERMAN that Andreas/André Zimmerman was born in 1788, and died in 1823. On April 7, 1819 at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace Zimmerman married Catherine Schneider. Witnesses included farmer
Jean Freyenberger (no age given). Signatures looked like Andreas Zimmerman; an ‘x’ for Catherine, indicating she was illiterate; and Johannes Freyenberg. On Oct. 17, 1824 a wedding announcement was placed in the Blotzheim register. Widow Catherine Schneider would remarry to Jean Freyenberger. He was described as farmer Jean Freyenberger, 44 [and thus born circa 1780], residing at present at Schopen [Schüpheim], Grand Ducheé de Bade, where he had been a resident for 10 years. He was a son of Chrétien and Magdeleine Freyenberger. Though the announcement was published, an actual marriage entry is not found at Blotzheim. Schüpfheim was in the Grand Duchy of Baden, 10 miles east of Lorrach and Basel, and 16 miles north of Liestal. When Johannes/Jean died at Muespach-le-Haut June 19, 1853, he was described as Jean Freyenberger, 71, husband of Catherine Schneider, he was born at Oberhofen [Oberhofen, though no entry is found there], a son of the deceased Chrétien Freyenberger and Madeleine Frey. The witness was his son-in-law Chrétien Goldschmit, described as a 29-year-old farmer and his son-in-law. The children that Catherine brought to the marriage include:

- Catherine Zimmerman was born at Blotzheim Oct. 11, 1820. On Dec. 1, 1842 at Bourgfelden she married Michel Lauber. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Michel Lauber, 24, a local resident. He was born at Bourgfelden Sept. 20, 1818, a son of farmer Michel Lauber, 61, and Barbe Zimmerman, 48. The bride was Catherine Zimmerman, a resident of Folgensbourg. She was born at Blotzheim Oct. 11, 1820, a daughter of the deceased farmer André Zimmerman, who had died at Blotzheim Dec. 1, 1823; and Catherine Schneider. Catherine was now remarried to Jean Freyenberger, a resident of Folgensbourg. One witness was farmer Jean Stauffer, 49.

- Barbe Zimmerman was born at Ungersheim April 8, 1823; her birth was entered at Blotzheim the following day.

Children of Catherine Schneider Zimmerman and her second husband Johannes/Jean Freyenberger born at Blotzheim include:

1) Marie Freyenberger was born May 13, 1826. On Dec. 13, 1844 at Muespach-le-Haut (two miles southwest of Michelbach-le-Haut) she married Chrétien Goldschmit/Goldschmit. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Chrétien Goldschmit, 23, a resident of Allschwil (on the west side of Basel). He was born at Buschwiller [Buschwiller, Upper Alsace] Jan. 5, 1822. He was a son of cultivator Jacques Goldschmit, a resident of Allschwil who was present and consenting, and the deceased Barbe Kauffmann, who had died at Allschwil Oct. 30, 1833. The bride was Marie Freyenberger, 18, born at Blotzheim May 13, 1826, and a resident of Bolrouishoff farm at Muespach-le-Haut. She was a daughter of farmer Jean Freyenberger of Bolrouishoff and Catherine Schneider. Her father was present and consenting.

2) Jean Freyenberger was born Sept. 29, 1828, and died in Maison No. 341 at Blotzheim Jan. 7, 1836; an entry was not created until April 15. His civil birth entry described his parents as farmer Jean Freyenberger, 43, and Catherine Schneider, 37.

3) Madeleine Freyenberger was born Jan. 30, 1832. Her civil birth entry describes her parents as farmer Jean Freyenberger, 48, and Catherine Schneider, 42, of Maison No. 198. On Jan. 6, 1857 at Illzach, Upper Alsace she married Joseph Riegsecker [Rügsegger]. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as farmer Joseph Riegsecker, 22, a resident of Moderheim for six months. He was born at Bliedesheim, Upper Alsace July 10, 1834. He was a son of the deceased Jean Riegsecker, who had died Sept. 24, 1855, and Anne Roth, 56, who was present and consenting. The bride was domestic servant Madeleine Freyenberger, 25, a resident of Modenheim for six months. She was born at Blotzheim Jan. 30, 1832, a daughter of farmer Jean Freyenberger and her second husband Johannes/Jean Freyenberger, who had died age 71 at Obermuespach [Muesbach-le-Haut] June 19, 1853; and Catherine Schneider, 67, a resident of St. Georges, Ensisheim who was present and consenting. Witnesses included farmer Jacques Zimmerman, 40, a resident of Mulhouse; farmer Jean Klopfenstein, 35, a resident of Dornach; and farmer Michel Lauber, 32, a resident of St. Georges; the last two brothers-in-law of the bride. They sailed from Le Havre on the Bellona, and arrived at New York July 24, 1867. The passenger list shows Joseph Riegsecker, 34; Mad., 33; Joseph, 9; Chrétien, 7; Benjamin, 5; and Jacques, 2; all from France. They are found on the 1870 census of Clinton, Fulton County, Ohio as farmer Joseph Ricksacker, 36; Magdalnie, 36; Joseph, 13; Christian, 11; Benjamin, 9; and Jacob, 6; all from France. They are also found as Reigsecker on the 1880 census of Ridgeville, Henry County, Ohio.

4) Chrétien Freyenberger was born circa 1834, and died at Folgensbourg (below Michelbach-le-Haut) Nov. 5, 1839, age five.

b. Barbe Freyenberg was born circa 1781. She married Joseph Gerig, who was born circa 1785, a son of Joseph Görig/Gerig and Marie Anne Ernst of Menoncourt in the Territoire de Belfort (see ERNST for background on this couple). Their children include:
1) Joseph Gerig was born at Blotzheim March 24, 1806, though a civil entry was not created until the 27th. It described his parents as farmer Joseph Gerig, 20, and Barbe Freyenberg. On June 19, 1845 on La Maie farm at Menoncourt, Territoire de Belfort he married Magdalena Augsti. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Gérique, 39, a resident of La Maie farm. He was born at Blazheim au Rhin [Blotzheim] March 24, 1806, a son of cultivators Joseph Gérique and Barbe Freyberger, residents of Menoncourt. The father was present and consenting. The bride was Madeleine Augsti, 28, a resident of La Maie farm. She was born at Bouseville [Bouxwiller], Lower Alsace Aug. 11, 1817, a daughter of the deceased Jean Augsti, who had died at Guevenheim Dec. 10, 1825, and Marie Sommaire. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-bride Christe Klopfenstein, 52; uncle-of-the-groom Christe Gérique, 53; and brother-of-the-groom Nicolas Gérique, 22, a resident of Menoncourt.

2) Marie Anne Gerig was born at Blotzheim July 13, 1808.

3) Jean Gerig was born at Blotzheim Aug. 1, 1811, and died at Bona/Bône/Annaba, Algeria July 30, 1855. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Gerig, 26, and Barbe Freyenberg.

4) Catherine Gerig was born at Reichen near Basel Nov. 26, 1819. On May 7, 1846 at Menoncourt, Territoire de Belfort she married Jean Klopfenstein. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Klopfenstein, 28. He was born on La Maie farm April 27, 1818, a son of cultivator Christe Klopfenstein, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Marianne Gérique, who had died on La Maie farm Sept. 12, 1824. The bride was Catherine Gérique, 27. She was born at Riehen canton de Basle en Suisse [an extension of the city north of the Rhine River] Nov. 26, 1819. She was a daughter of cultivators Joseph Gérique and Barbe Freyenberg, residents of La Maie farm who were present and consenting. Witnesses included uncle-of-the-groom and cultivator on La Maie farm Christ Gérique, 50; and Jacques and Nicolas Gérique, both 23, cultivators and brothers of the bride.

5) Jacques Gerig/Gérique was born circa 1823 [twin].

6) Nicolas Gerig/Nicolaus Gérique was born circa 1823 [twin].

c. Anne Marie Freyenberger was born circa 1782. She married Christian Gerig. Their children born on St. Jakob farm at Basel include:

1) Katharina/Catherine Gerig was born in 1802, and died at Ostheim, Upper Alsace Dec. 3, 1862. On May 5, 1823 at Gundelingen (adjacent on the west side of St. Jacob farm) she married Jean Rich. On March 18, 1834 at Gundelingen she remarried to Michael Klopfenstein.

2) Barbe Gerig was in 1807, and died on St. Jakob farm April 12, 1840.

3) Christian Gerig was born Feb. 12, 1819. On May 9, 1837 at St. Louis he married Vérone Eicher. She was born at St. Louis Oct. 2, 1820, and died there Aug. 27, 1840, a daughter of Chrétiens Eicher and Anne Marie Stucky. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Chrétiens Gerig, a resident of St. Jacques canton de Basle.

d. Jacques Freyenberg was born circa 1786. Servant Jacques Freyenberg, 24, died at Blotzheim April 14, 1810. A civil death entry named his parents as Christian Freyenberg and the deceased Madeleine Frey who had resided at St. Jacque, Canton de Bâle en Suisse. This was St. Jakob farm at Basel. One witness was the deceased Jacques Freyenberg, 26, who signed ‘Jean Freyenberg.’


a. Catherine Frey was born circa 1779. On July 10, 1823 at Liebsdorf, Upper Alsace she married Daniel Rich. The civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Daniel Rich. He was born [circa 1787] on Lieberstein farm at Liebsdorf, a son of the deceased Pierre Rich and Catherine Stauffer, who was present and consenting. The bride was day laborer Catherine Frey, 44, a resident of Binningen near Basel. She was born at St. Jacques dependance de la ville de Bâle. She was daughter of the deceased Jacques Frey and Madeleine Freyenberg. One witness was Jean Schtukli [Schmuckli?], 45.

b. Recall the marriage of Jean George Engel at St. Jean-Kourzerode, Moselle Jan. 14, 1817. According to the civil entry, his bride Magdalena/Madelene Frey was born at Zelsheim [Elsenheim?], Markolsheim, Upper Alsace, a daughter of Zelsheim residents laborer Jacques Frey and Madeleine Freyenberger. Other sources say she was born March 17, 1786. They immigrated in 1837, and settled in Woodford County. For background on this couple see ENGEL.

3. Johannes/Hans Freyenberger [sohn or junior].

4. A daughter married Friedrich Gerig of Lensburg, Canton Aargau. They arrived on the grounds of Schloss Wildenstein at Büedendorf, below Liestal in 1781. In 1783 their household was reported to have nine members. Her brother Christian and his wife Magdalena Frey had been living there since 1776.
According to a letter he wrote to the church at Hilterfingen from St. Jakob farm Oct. 8, 1813, Johanes/Hans Freyenberg of Oberhofen married Anna Marie Neuhauserin Feb. 8, 1775. She may have been a aunt to Elm Grove settlers Peter and Barbara Neuhauser (see NEUHAUSER).

The 1783 census of Anabaptists listed him as Johann Freienberger of St. Jakob, living with a family of four (including himself). The next listing is Christian Freienberger, Vater, 1. This may have been his father, but may also have been an incidental listing of Johannes/Hans’s older brother, who visited and may have later lived there.

His home was situated on St. Jakob farm, also called the orphanage farm [Ger. Waisenhausgut] at St. Jakob on der Birs. The Birz River runs south-to-north into the Rhine river, and St. Jakob is on the west side. The west side is now in Basel City, while the east side is in Canton Basel Landschaft.

The land had been pasture owned by the prince-bishop. After the establishment of an orphanage [Ger. Waisenhausgut] in 1667, parcels of land were leased to tenant farmers. They provided a portion of their produce to benefit the orphanage. In 1836 the farm and other lands on the Birs River were sold to commercial investors who built mills.

Anyone in modern Switzerland can immediately identify the exact location of the Waisenhausgut: it is near the site of what is now St. Jakob Park, a stadium complex that is home to Basel’s leading soccer team. But the site has a much older national significance.

**THE BATTLE OF ST. JAKOB AN DER BIRS**

The Battle of St. Jakob an der Birs took place in what is now the adjacent Münchenstein district Aug. 25, 1444. Seven cantons besieged Zürich. Zurich authorities requested assistance from France. When the dauphin (later Louis XI) and 30,000 French and mercenary troops crossed the Rhine River at Basel, about 1,500 local Swiss troops decided to intercept them. They formed three squares, each holding 500 men with pikes. The squares held their ground despite furious assaults by cavalry and archers. Many were severely wounded by arrows and crossbow bolts.

That night the survivors retreated to a small hospital at St. Jakob. In the morning the French surrounded the hospital with artillery. After a lengthy bombardment, they entered the hospital and killed everyone.

The delay and 2,000 casualties discouraged the French dauphin from pressing forward to Zürich. Within two months France and the Old Swiss Confederacy signed a treaty ending what is now called the Old Zürich War.

A city history says Johannes/Hans Freyenberg greatly improved his property by expanding vineyards. He also became a minister and elder of Amish Mennonite meetings held on his farm. (A permanent structure was not erected at nearby Binningen - now Holeestrasse - until 1847).

Children of Johannes/Hans Freyenberg and Anna Marie Neuhauser include:

1. Chrétien Freyenberg was born circa 1777. He is known to us from only two entries. He was likely the farmer ‘Chrétien Freyenberger, 55, cousin of the bride’ found as a witness at the marriage ceremony of Anne Marie/Anna Freyenberg and Jakob Egli at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace Jan. 12, 1832 – though he was actually the bride’s uncle. He signed ‘Christien Fünfiberin’ in a very shaky hand, though his surname was written very clearly above it and beside it, suggesting that he was illiterate. He also witnessed the marriage ceremony of his nephew Jean Freyenger at Michelbach-le-Haut Aug. 8, 1837. There he was described as uncle-of-the-groom Chrétien Freyenger, 60, a resident of Ober Hoffen [Oberhofen], Canton Bern. There he and his brother Jean signed ‘Freyenberg.’ We could not identify a baptism entry for him at the Protestant Reformed Church of Hilterfingen.

2. Johanes Freyenberg was born on St. Jakob farm Oct. 7, 1784.

3. Isaac Freyenberg was born on St. Jakob farm Nov. 28, 1786, and died there March 14, 1814. He received adult baptism on St. Jakob farm in 1801. He first married Barbe Steinbrunner. On Feb. 10, 1808 at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace he remarried to Barbe Tschantz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Isaac Freyenberger, 21, born at St. Jacques dependance de la ville de Basle en Suisse. He was the widower of Barbe Steinbrunner. He was a son of cultivator Jean Jacques Freyenberger and Anne Marie Neuhauser, residents of St. Jacques who were consenting. The bride was described as Barbe Tschantz, 19, born at Bollwiller, a daughter of Benoit Tschantz and Elisabeth Zimmerman who were present and consenting. His signature looked like Isaac Freiemberger. Their children born on St. Jakob farm include:
   a. Barbe Freyenberg was born Nov. 9, 1808. On Feb. 21, 1829 at Altkirch, Upper Alsace she married Nicolas Rich. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Nicolas Rich, 25, born at Obermichelbach [Michelbach-le-Haut] June 8, 1803. He was a son of cultivator Nicolas Rich and Anne Marie Eicher, residents of Bottmingen, Bale [Bottingen below Basel]. The bride was Barbe Freyenberg, 20, born at St. Jacques Nov. 9, 1808, a resident of Arlesheim. She was a daughter of the deceased cultivator Isaac Freyenberg, an anabaptiste who had died at St. Jacques March 14, 1814. His widow Barbe Tschantz was now married to cultivator Jean Schmuckly [Schmuckli], a resident of Arlesheim. One witness was cultivator Chretien Lugebnhul, 73, an uncle-by-marriage of the groom.
   b. Catherine Freyenberg was born Jan. 10, 1810, and died at Blotzheim Oct. 7, 1846. On May 6, 1833 at Huningue, Upper Alsace (on the Rhine River just above Basel) she married Jacob/Jacques Koenig. At
the time she was a resident of Arlesheim (five miles southeast of Basel). He was a resident of the Schiffmühl at Huningue, born on the Obernimburg estate in Baden Aug. 31, 1805. His father farmer Benoît Koenig was present and consenting; her mother Madeleine Reiniger had died at Wilmendingen, Baden April 25, 1826. (This was the same Benedict King who served as a minister at Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio and then retired to Fulton County). Her parents were the deceased Isaac Freyenberg and Barbe Schantz. One witness was her père adoptif [stepfather] Jean Schmugglin [Schmuckli], who signed Smuckly. Another witness was farmer Michel Lauber, 52, of Bourgfelden. Her civil death entry said that Catherine Freyenberg, 35, had died that day. She was born at St. Jacques, Canton de Bâle according to her husband farmer Jacques König, 41. On Sept. 13, 1847 at Blotzheim Jacob/Jacques remarried to Anne Schmuckly. She was born at Münchenstein, a district in the city of Basel Feb. 27, 1819, a daughter of the deceased Jean Schmuckly, who had died at Arlesheim Dec. 16, 1845, and the deceased Anne Barbe Schantz, who had died there July 26, 1833.

Johannes Freyenberger was born on St. Jakob farm, Basel Oct. 7, 1784, and died at Blotzheim Sept. 28, 1856. He was baptized at Basel in 1799.

Once again according to the letter, on March 6, 1805 on St. Jakob farm at Basel he married Anna Stuki of Ruggisberg, Canton Bern. She was born at Bolloronis, Upper Alsace Oct. 20, 1777, a daughter of Mathias Stucki. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Freyengerber, 25, a resident of St. Jacques born near the city of Basel Oct. 7, 1779 (all later documents such as birth entries and his death entry correct this). He was a son of cultivator Jean Freyengerber, who was present and consenting, and Anne Marie Neuhusserin, residents of St. Jacques. The bride was described as Anne Stockin, 26, born at Walbach, Upper Alsace (eight miles west of Colmar) July 24, 1778, a daughter of Mathias Stucký and his first wife Elisabeth Schwartz.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Freyengerber, 25, a resident of St. Jacques born near the city of Basel Oct. 7, 1779 (all later documents such as birth entries and his death entry correct this). He was a son of cultivator Jean Freyengerber, who was present and consenting, and Anne Marie Neuhusserin, residents of St. Jacques. The bride was described as Anne Stockin, 26, born at Walbach July 24, 1778, a resident of St. Apollinaire [perhaps muddled as ‘Bolloronis’]. She was the daughter of cultivator Mathias Stucky, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Elisabeth Schwartz.

Anne died at Blotzheim, Upper Alsace (six miles northwest of Basel) Feb. 19, 1841. Her civil death entry was witnessed by her husband farmer Jean Freyenberger, 56, and son-in-law farmer Joseph Stauffer, 40; she was 62. Johannes/Jean died in his home on Rue Oberdorff at Blotzheim Sept. 28, 1856, age 72; his civil death entry was witnessed by their grandson Jean, 48.

In 1813 Johannes/Jean had listed his children as Johannes, born June 24, 1807; Anna, born Feb. 8, 1809; Catharina, born March 10, 1810; and Christian, born Oct. 28, 1812.

Their children born at Blotzheim include:

a. **Johannes/Jean/John Freyenberger** was born June 25, 1807. His first marriage entry would give the date March 26, 1807. His father had given the date June 24, 1807.

b. Anne Marie/Anna Freyenberger was born Feb. 16, 1809, and died at Blotzheim Jan. 29, 1842. On Jan. 12, 1832 at Blotzheim we married Jacques Egle (found on the entry)/Jakob Egli (his signature). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jacques Egle, 51, born at Mulhausen, Grand Duché de Bade April 22, 1800. He was a son of Nicolas Eglé and Christine Hunzinger, who were present and consenting. The bride was Anne Marie Freyenberger, 22, born at Blotzheim Feb. 16, 1809. She was a daughter of farmer Jean Freyenberger and Anne Marie Stuky, residents of Blotzheim who were present and consenting. The first marriage announcement had been posted at Blotzheim, while the second had been posted at St. Louis, Upper Alsace. Witnesses included Jean Freyenberger, 24, brother of the bride and a resident of Blotzheim; farmer Jean Freyenberger, 48, cousin of the bride and a resident of Blotzheim; and farmer Christien Freyenberger, 55, cousin of the bride [he was an uncle]. Jacques died on Carlismattlé farm at Blotzheim Oct. 31, 1851. His civil death entry described him as farmer Jacques Eglé, 51, a resident of Blotzheim, born at Mullhausen, Grand Duchée de Baden. After the death of their father, their children went to Ringgold County, Iowa.

c. Catherine Freyenberg was born Feb. 22, 1811. Her father, described as 20-year-old cultivator Jean Freyenberg, signed her civil birth entry Johannes Freyenberg. This entry was mistakenly entered in the index as Catherine Freytag. On Dec. 10, 1832 at Schweighouse-Thann Catherine Freyenbergen married Chrétien Roth. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmand and cultivator Chrétien Roth, 26, a resident of Schweighausen. He was born at [illegible, written over, perhaps beginning with ‘D’] Feb. 16, 1806, a son of cultivators Nicolas Roth and Anne Schantz, who were present and consenting. The bride was Catherine Freyenberg, 22, a resident of Blotzheim. She was born there Feb. 22, 1811, a daughter of cultivators Jean Freyenberg, who was present and consenting, and Anne Stucky. Witnesses included cultivator Nicolas Schlegel, 25, brother-in-law of the groom and a resident of Heimsbrunn (later a resident of Ontario, see SCHLEGEL); Chrétien Wenger, 30, also a brother-in-law of the groom and a resident of Heimsbrunn; cultivator Chrétien Niehuser, 31, a resident of Blotzheim; and cultivator Jean Freyenbergen, 40, a cousin of...
the bride and resident of Blotzheim. Signatures looked like Christian Roth, Freyenberg, Johannes Freyenberg, Schlingnl (old-style German ‘n’ typical of his family), and Neuhausner.

d. Christian Freyenberger was born Oct. 21, 1812, and died at Blotzheim Aug. 9, 1837. His civil death entry described him as a 26-year-old unmarried cultivator.

e. Anne Marie Freyenberger was born June 1, 1815. We cannot account for the duplication of names; birth and marriage entries were verified. This occasionally happened when a child was thought to be gravely ill while another was born. On Oct. 3, 1837 at Blotzheim she married Joseph Stauffer (he signed his own name Stauffer). Their civil marriage entry described the groom as domestic-laborer Joseph Stauffer, 36, a resident of Schweighoff farm at Altkirch. He was born at Vézelois, Territoire de Belfort Feb. 2, 1798, a son of the deceased farmer-laborer Michel Stauffer and the deceased Catherine Conrad. His parents had died at Vézelois on March 26, 1808 and Jan. 21, 1810. The bride was Anne Marie Freyenberg, 22, born at Blotzheim June 3, 1815 (actually the day the entry was created, not the day she was born), and a resident. Her parents were farmer-laborer Jean Freyenberg and Anne Stucky, who were present and consenting.

f. Issac (as found on his civil birth entry) Isaac Freyenberger was born Oct. 1, 1817. His Colmar passport described him as a 28-year-old cultivator from Blotzheim. He sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York approximately March 14, 1846.

**Johannes/Jean/John Freyenberger**

On Aug. 8, 1837 at Michelbach-le-Haut (adjacent to Blotzheim) he married Elisabeth Rupp. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Jean Freyenberger, 30, a resident of Michelbach-le-Haut. He was born at Blotzheim March 26, 1807, a son of farmer Jean Freyenberger and Anne Stockin. His parents were residents of Blotzheim who were present and consenting. The bride was Elisabeth Rupp, 27, a domestic servant at Hagenthal - dit sur le Langenhart. She was born in the month of January 1810 at Sultz [now Sultz in Baden-Württemberg]. She was a daughter of cultivator Jean Rupp [also called Johannes], who was present and consenting, and the deceased Rosalie Billhartz, who had died at Sultz [dit sur le Langenhart] Sept. 17, 1814. She had a certificate from the minister for France in Baden. Witnesses included farmer Jean Freyenberger, 50, a resident of Folgensbourg, Upper Alsace [below and adjacent to Michelbach-le-Haut]; and Chrétien Freyenberger, 60, a resident of Ober Hoffen [Oberhofen], Canton Bern; both were described as uncles of the groom, though the first was his father. The groom signed Freyenberger, while his father and uncle signed Freyenberg.

**ELISABETH RUPP’S PARENTS**

An aside to this is that Elisabeth Rupp was not only a daughter to Johannes/Jean Rupp and his first wife Rosalie Billhartz, but a granddaughter to Johannes Rupp and Magdalena Walger of Orschweier, Baden, who have many descendants in Ohio. (See ROPP, RUPP OF FULTON COUNTY for background on Christian, another son of Johannes Rupp and Magdalena Walger who came to Ohio in 1834).

- Elisabeth’s mother Rosalie Billhartz has been largely forgotten or omitted in their family genealogies.
- Elisabeth’s father Johannes/Jean Rupp or Rupp applied for a passport at Colmar March 6, 1838. He gave his birthplace as ‘Orschweyer (Bade)’ and his residence as Michelbach-le-Haut. No one in his traveling party was identified in the record that remains. He apparently sailed later that year.
- His household is found as John Rupp of German, Lucas County (in a part that became Fulton County in 1850), Ohio: one male 60-69 years of age, one male 40-49, and one female 60-69 [a second wife?]. Up the page, Peter Wise [Wyse]. Further down the page, his younger brother Peter Rupp. And on the preceeding page his younger brother Christian Rupp is found next door to Christian Lauver [Lauber]; they had arrived in Ohio in 1834.
- Johannes/John died in Fulton County circa 1845. He is thought to be buried in an unmarked grave in Wyse Cemetery at German, Fulton County.

After their marriage Johannes/John and Elisabeth remained on St. Apollinaire farm at Michelbach-le-Haut. It had been a Benedictine and Cistercian abbey. It was nationalized in 1797, and sold to private buyers. Circa 1810 it was purchased by Georges Emmanuel Beuret, born in 1772. He became a brigadier general under Buonaparte, and held the titles viscount, Baron of the Empire, and Commander of the Legion of Honor. He improved the property and died suddenly there Oct. 22, 1828, spurring rumors that he had been poisoned by his wife. At the time the Freyenbergers were there, the property was occupied by their son Eugene Georges Jacques Beuret, born in 1806. In 1852 he reported as director of an army artillery school and held the rank of lieutenant colonel. By 1858, the year of the Freyenbergers’ emigration from Europe, he was a major general.83

On March 19, 1849 consecutive civil death entries were created at Michelbach-le-Haut for Elisabeth Rupp and her stillborn son Jean. She had died in the home of her husband, age 39. On both entries the witness was farmer Jean Freyenberger, 42, of St. Apollinaire.

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83 St. Apollinaire farm at Michelbach-le-Haut is now a golf course.
Children of Johannes/Jean/John Freyenberger and his first wife Elisabeth Rupp include:

1. Elizabeth/Lizzie Freyenberger was born at Michelbach-le-Haut May 17, 1838, and died in Fulton County, Ohio in 1925. She emigrated before her family, marrying Christian Rupp in Fulton County, Ohio in 1855. She was 17. We know that they did not marry in Europe because Christian is found on the 1850 census of German Township, Fulton County as Christian Rupp, 23, Germany, in the household of his parents. Christian was born in 1827, and died at Austin, Fulton County June 17, 1900, though the death report says he was still a resident of Clinton; his place of birth was given as Switzerland. He was a son of Jacob Rupp and Magdalena King; recall from KING the passenger list that shows him as a 12-year-old in 1840. They are found on the 1880 census of Clinton as farmer Christian Rupp, 53, Switzerland; Elisabeth, 42, Switzerland; and 11 children below the age of 22 born in Ohio. History of Henry and Fulton Counties, Ohio (1888): “Rupp, Christian, Clinton, Pettisville p.o., a successful farmer of Fulton County, was born in Candor Burton, Switzerland, in 1827 and was a son of Jacob and Magdalena (King) Rupp, who came to America and settled in German Township in 1840. They had a family of eight children, four of whom are now living: Christian, Magdalena, Joseph, and Mary. The mother died in German township and her husband Jacob died in Indiana, Allen County. Christian Rupp was married in German township in 1855 to Elizabeth Freyenberger who was born in France in 1838. They have had a family of fifteen children, eleven of whom are now living: Eli, John, Magdalena, Leah, Hannah, Catharine, Mary and Lydia, Louis, Christian, and Elizabeth. Mr. Rupp settled on his present farm of 160 acres in 1855, which was then heavily timbered, paying for the same $600. He now has one hundred acres cleared and under fine cultivation, and fine farm buildings erected thereon.” They are buried in Aeschliman Cemetery at Pettisville, Fulton County as “Mother, Elizabeth, 1838-1925” and “Father, Christian, 1827-1900” on either side of a Rupp family headstone.

2. Anne Freyenberger was born at Michelbach-le-Haut May 29, 1839, and died there Dec. 4, 1839.

3. Christian Freyenberger was born at Michelbach-le-Haut May 22, 1841 (his obituary says May 21), and died at Pettisville, Ohio July 23, 1910. On April 3, 1862 he married Catherine Frey. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio July 6, 1835, and died in Fulton County July 15, 1911, a daughter of Jacob Frey and Marie Ann Graber. The 1870 census of Clinton has farmer Christian Freienberger, 29, France; Catherine, 32, Ohio; Elizabeth, 17, Ohio [possibly Catherine Frey’s younger sister]; Rosa, 5, Ohio; Lydia, 3, Ohio; and Mary, two months, Ohio. The 1880 census of Clinton shows farmer Christian Freyenberger, 46, Germany; Catherine, 44, Ohio; Elisabeth, 17, Lydia, 13; Mary A., 11; Joel, 8; Catharine, 6; Sarah, 4; Louisa, 2; and Hannah, eight months. The 1910 census of Clinton has Chist Freyenberger, 69, Germany, married in 1862; Catherine, 71, born in Ohio to German parents; and daughter Lucy, 32, Ohio, servant. Christian’s death certificate said he was a minister and farmer born in Europe May 21, 1841, a son of John Freyenberger and Elisabeth Rupp. Gospel Herald, August 1910: “Christ Freyenberger was born in Alsace, Germany, May 21, 1841; died at his home near Pettisville, O., July 23, 1910; aged 69 y. 2 m. 2 d. He came to America with his parents in June, 1858; united in marriage with Catharine Frey, Apr. 3, 1862, to which union were born one son and seven daughters. The son and one daughter preceded him in death. In 1872 he was ordained as a minister of the Gospel, in which capacity he served faithfully as long as health permitted. Over two years ago his health began to fail. His disease was myocarditis or degeneration of the heart, which caused a dropsical condition, especially of the lower limbs. He was unable to lie down since the middle of last December. He bore his sufferings with much patience, ever comforting himself with God’s precious promises, especially Romans 8:18, I Cor. 10:13, etc. Bro. Freyenberger was an eloquent speaker, well versed in the Bible, and will be much missed. Funeral services at the Central Church, conducted by D. J. Wyse (Text, II Tim. 4:7,8), Daniel Rupp (Text, Dan. 12:23) and Henry Rychener (Text, Jno. 11:25, 26).” Gospel Herald, November 1911: “Sister Catherine Freyenberger, widow of the late Christian Freyenberger, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, July 6, 1838; died July 15, 1911; aged 73 y. 9 m. She came to Fulton Co., Ohio, with her parents when she was four years old, where she lived the remaining days of her life. She was married April 3, 1862. Her husband preceded her in death eight days less than one year. To them were born nine children. An only son and one daughter preceded her in death. She leaves seven daughters, 24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and an only sister, together with many relatives and friends to mourn their loss. A little over one year of her last days was spent in bed. Her disease was such that it required much patient watching and nursing, which was faithfully and well done by the family. May God comfort those that mourn.” They are buried in Eckley Cemetery in Fulton County.

4. Jean Freyenberger was born at Muespach-le-Haut (two miles southwest of Michelbach-le-Haut) Feb. 26, 1843, and died at Obermichelbach-le-Haut Nov. 16, 1846. Two civil entries were made, the second at Muespach-le-Haut Nov. 20, 1846. It described his parents as local residents cultivator Jean Freyenberger, 36, and Elisabeth Ropp, 34. His civil death entry described his mother as Elisabeth Ropp, 38. Witnesses were his father farmer Jan Freyenberger and grandfather Jean Freyenberger, 63, farmers on St. Apollinaire farm.

5. Catherine Freyenberger was born on St. Apollinaire farm at Michelbach-le-Haut Oct. 4, 1844, and died at Archbold, Ohio Nov. 6, 1916. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator Jean Freyenberger, 37, and Elisabeth Rub, 35, of St. Apollinaire. One witness was her grandfather Jean Freyenberger, 62. On Sept. 8, 1861 in Fulton County she married Jacob Rupp. He was born in Baden-Württemberg Jan. 12, 1834, and died at Archbold Dec. 3, 1886, a son of Jacob Rupp and Magdalena King, and a grandson of Johannes Rupp and Magdalena Wagler. They were living next door to his father on the 1870 census of German Township.
Dec. 8, 1832.

Elisabeth Tschantz, 22, a resident of Bollwiller. She was born there Sept. 23, 1827, a daughter of Benoit Tschantz, who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Stocky, who had died at Blotzheim Feb. 19, 1841. He was born at Blotzheim June 26, 1807. He was a son of farmer Jean Freyenberger of St. Apollinaire, the widower of Elisabeth Rupp, who had died at Michelbach-le-Haut March 19, 1849. The bride was described as civil mariage entry described the groom as farmer Jean Freyenbeger, 42, a resident of St. Apollinaire at Michelbach-

On May 13, 1850 at Michelbach-le-Haut Johannes/Jean/John remarried to Elisabeth/Elise Tschantz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farmer Jean Freyenbeger, 42, a resident of St. Apollinaire at Michelbach-le-Haut. He was born at Blotzheim June 26, 1807. He was a son of farmer Jean Freyenbeger of St. Apollinaire, who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Stocky, who had died at Blotzheim Feb. 19, 1841. He was the widower of Elisabeth Rupp, who had died at Michelbach-le-Haut March 19, 1849. The bride was described as Elisabeth Tschantz, 22, a resident of Bollwiller. She was born there Sept. 23, 1827, a daughter of Boenit Tschantz, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Marie Schmuckey [Schmuckli], who had died at Bollwiller Dec. 8, 1832.

Children of Johannes/Jean Freyenberger and his second wife Elisabeth/Elise Tschantz include:

Anne/Anna/Nanette Freyenberger was born on St. Apollinaire farm at Michelbach-le-Haut Feb. 4, 1851, and died at Wayland, Iowa in 1931. On March 31, 1873 she married Peter Roth. He was born at Montbéliard March 9, 1847, a son of Christian Roth and Catherine Wittmer. Herald of Truth, August 1890: “On the 2d of April, 1890, in Wayland, Henry Co., Iowa, Peter Roth, aged 43 years and 23 days. He was buried on the 4th in the Sugar Creek graveyard, followed to the grave by many relatives and friends. Services by S. F. Miller and S. Gerig in German and by Pre. Pusey in English. History of Henry and Fulton Counties, Ohio: “Peter Roth is the proprietor of a hotel and livery stable in Wayland. The History of Wayland would be incomplete without a sketch of the genial landlord and landlady of the Central House, which under their combined management has become one of the most popular inns along the line of the Iowa Central Railroad. In connection with the hotel is a barn and livery stable which furnishes accommodations to commercial travelers and brings a good income to the proprietor. The table is well furnished and Mrs. Roth makes the house a model of neatness and guests find better accommodations than at many houses of greater pretensions. Peter Roth, the owner and proprietor was born near Mombelier, France, March 9, 1847 and is the son of Christian and Catherine (Wittmer) Roth. The father was born in France and his wife in Switzerland, and their seven children were also born in France, three of them dying after coming to America. As the family has been favorably known to the people of Henry County since 1855, we are pleased to make special mention of each member.

Heb. 4:8
The father, Christian, died November 28, 1887 in his eighty-first year and the mother is now living on the old homestead, near Wayland, in her sixty-seventh year. Christian Roth, Sr., was an enterprising farmer and purchased on his arrival in Henry County 160 acres of land to which he made large additions later in life. He erected a brewery on the homestead the next year after coming to the county, which was completed at a cost of over $4,000 and until its closing by the laws passed in the State of Iowa, in 1884, did a prosperous business, and had a capacity for ten barrels a day. In the distribution of his estate among his children, Peter, who was a practical brewer, took the brewery in lieu of real estate, and its closing has entailed upon him a severe loss. Peter Roth was married March 31, 1873 to Miss Anna, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Schantz) Frienberger who were both born, reared, and married in Alsace, France, now a part of the German Empire. Four children were born to them, of whom only Anna, wife of Mr. Roth, our subject, is living. The others were Mary, Barbara, and Mattie. Their mother was the second wife of John Frienberger who first wedded Elizabeth Rupp, who was the mother of several children, four of whom are living: Joseph, wedded to Mary Slaughter [Schlatter]; Christian, married to Katie Fry [Frey]; Elizabeth who became the wife of Christian Rupp, and Katie, wedded to Jacob Rupp. The latter three reside on farms in Fulton County, Ohio. All the children of the Roth family are happily married and well settled on farms with the exception of our subject, who is a permanent resident of Wayland. Jacob married Barbara Yoder, and lives a retired life at Louisville, Ohio. Fannie is now the widow of Joseph Mast, who died November 29, 1887; her first husband being Christian Wise [Wyse]. Christian married Fannie Augsberger; Katie became the wife of Peter Wise [Wyse]; Joseph is the husband of Barbara A., daughter of Christian Eicher; and Mary died unmarried. Mr. and Mrs. Roth have no children of their own but are rearing a pretty and vivacious little girl, Mamie Whitman, born December 31, 1876. To her they give the love and care that parents could bestow upon their own child and she never feels the lack of anything that affection can provide. In the enterprising village of Wayland, the Roths are deservedly held in esteem.” They are buried in Sugar Creek Cemetery at Wayland.

9. Anne Marie Freyenberger was born at Blotzheim July 16, 1852, and died before the family’s application for a passport.
10. Barb/Barbara Freyenberger was born at Blotzheim Jan. 30, 1854, and died there Nov. 16, 1855.
11. Madeleine/Mattie Freyenberger was born at Blotzheim May 6, 1857, and died before the family’s application for a passport.

Johannes/John’s oldest child Elisabeth came to America first. She married Christian Rupp in Fulton County, Ohio in 1855.

In 1858 the remainder of the family resolved to emigrate and applied for a passport at Colmar. It described Johannes/John as a 51-year-old cultivator from Blotzheim. He was listed with Elise [his second wife Elisabeth Tschantz], 30; Chrétien, 30 [closer to 17]; Joseph, 17 [closer to 11]; Catherine, 12; Nanette, 7; and Marie, 6.

Judging by the ages given sons Christian and Joseph, the issue spurring their departure was military conscription or training. The Crimean War had ended in February of 1856. They departed in April of 1858, and arrived at New York in June.

They are found on the 1860 census of Clinton, Fulton County, Ohio as farmer John [Freyenberger], 53, France; Elsibet, 33, France; Christian, 19, France; Joseph, 13, France; Anny, 9, France; and Mary, 7, France. In addition daughter Catherine is found as a domestic servant next door, in the household of her older sister Elisabeth/Elizabeth: farmer Christian Rupp, 33, Switzerland; Elizabeth [Freyenberger], 23, France; Ferena, 3, Ohio; Elias, 1, Ohio; and Catherine Fribargar [Freyenberger], 16, domestic, France.

Taken altogether, this family can be reconciled with an 1823 list of Anabaptists from the district of Thun [Ger. Amt Thun]. It named five Freyenger heads of families from Oberhofen: Johannes at St. Jakob farm in Basel; Johannes; and two Christians. The last name on the list was Isaak (Isaac) at Schopfheim, Baden. This was an Isaac who lived on St. Jakob farm at Basel. We know that Johannes/Jean Freyenger born circa 1780, a son of Christian Freyeng and Magdalena Frey, lived at Schupfheim from 1814 until his marriage with widow Catherine Schneider Zimmerman in 1824 (per their marriage entry). After marriage they lived at Blotzheim.
Bürcki/Buerge of Egglen and Wilmot

The Bürcki/Buerge family migrated from Diessbach to Oberhofen to Emmendingen, Baden to Horburg, Basel; via Baltimore to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; and finally to Wilmot, Ontario. At all of these places they associated with families found elsewhere in this text. But to the best of our knowledge, none of their descendants came to Central Illinois.

EGGLEN, BLEIKEN, AND DIESSBACH

In the 1700s there was an area called Bleiken adjacent to the southeast corner of Diessbach. It was slightly more than a square mile beside Aschlenalp mountain (upper east side), broken up into pastures called Egglen, Kirch, Oberbleiken, and Niederbleiken.

At the time it was mainly a seasonal grazing area for cattle. By 1870 a proper village called Bleiken bei Oberdiessbach had evolved. It had Brenzikofen on its west side, Diessbach and Äschlen above (now Aeschlen bei Oberdiessbach), and Fahrni (now Fahrni bei Thun) and Steffisburg below. It grew with the construction of a medical spa resort in 1880. In 2014 the area lost its status as a municipality and was absorbed into Oberdiessbach.

The entire area was Nieder Diessbach, that is, one of the outlying places within the parish of the Protestant Reformed Church at Diessbach.

On July 27, 1714 at Diessbach Christen Bürcki von Egglen married Barbara Haüerter von Äschlen. On June 14, 1737 at Diessbach Christen remarried to Barbara Stücki, widow of Peter Schlüppach of Bleiken. She married Schlüppach at Diessbach May 21, 1728; he had died there May 30, 1734.

Christen Bürcki was a son of Christen Burcki and his first wife Barbara Haüerter. He was baptized at Diessbach Dec. 15, 1715.

On the same day that his father remarried to Barbara Stücki, ‘Christen Bürki von Egglen’ (the son) married Elsbeth Baümgartner von Trub.

Shortly after marriage they relocated seven miles south to Äbnit in Oberhofen (now Oberhofen bei Thun), on the eastern shore of Lake Thun. This location is now a street called Aebnitstrasse. They may have gone to Oberhofen to be closer to Catharina Baümgartner, who was married to Christen Köng. ‘Christen Bürki von Oberdiessbach’ was a witness to the baptism of their daughter Catharina at Hilterfingen July 20, 1755.

Oberhofen in the parish of Hilterfingen will be recalled from ROPP as the home of Jacob Amman from 1655 until 1680.

However, Bürcki children were baptized in the town of Thun in 1755 and 1759.

EMMENDINGEN

Anabaptists who wished to live in Baden-Durlach had to pay a 12½-guilder protection fee. This kept their numbers low, but for those willing to pay it provided the security of official recognition.

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84 There were so many Bürckis in the parish of Diessbach that it confused even the ministers keeping records. Here is an example of a ‘near miss’ Bürcki family with similar names (even a Christen-Christen-Jacob and Hans generational sequence) in the same time frame in essentially the same place:

On June 21, 1723 at Diessbach Christen Bürcki von Bleiken married Verena Strahm. The marriage entry also gave a hometown for Verena, but it is illegible under heavy corrections. The children of Christen Bürcki and Verena Strahm baptized at Diessbach include:

1. Barbara Bürcki was baptized Oct. 21, 1725.
2. Elsbeth Bürcki was baptized Feb. 1, 1728.
3. Anna Bürcki was baptized April 23, 1730.
4. Christen Bürcki was baptized May 22, 1732.

Christen Bürcki was baptized at Diessbach May 22, 1732. The entry describes his parents as Christen Bürcki von Bleiken and Verena Strahm. One witness was Jacob Bürcki in der Neümatt. On Oct. 3, 1755 at Diessbach ‘Christen Bürki von Bleiken’ (the son) married Magdalena Reüsser. She was baptized as Madlena Reüsser at Steffisburg April 28, 1837, a daughter of Hans Reissner and Madlena Gürtner. Their two sons baptized at Diessbach include:

1. Jacob Bürki (as found on his baptism entry) was baptized Feb. 6, 1757.
2. Hans Jacob Bürki (as found on his baptism entry) was baptized Jan. 21, 1759. His entry described his parents as Christen Bürki von Egglen [we assume mistakenly, unless his parents had moved] and Magdalena Reüsser. One witness was Hans Bürcki of Egglen.

85 König and König are variations of König, a king.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Appendix

Emmendingen was a village in the district of Hochberg within Baden-Durlach. It was associated with Amish Mennonite Berner, Eyer, Grieser, Hodel, Iseli, Joder, König, Leutweiler, Müller, Roth, Rŭpp, and Zimmerman families. In 1764 and 1766 the noble von Dungern family put up two large estates near Emmendingen for sale to the public. Recall from LITWILLER that as Swiss citizens, the members of the Hochburg congregation could lease but not own land, and could not place a bid. The properties included their burial ground. They were sold in parcels to bidders including the mayor of Emmendingen.

This lessened the relative importance of Emmendingen, but it was still a meeting place not too distant from the markets in the city of Freiburg.

Oberhofen residents attended the Protestant Reformed Church in adjacent Hilterfingen. The first six children of Christen Bürcki and Elsbeth Baŭmgartner include:

1. Hans Bürcki was born at Abnit, Oberhofen and baptized at Hilterfingen July 4, 1738. His baptism entry described his parents as Christen Bürcki von Diessbach living at Äbnit and Elsbeth Baŭmgartner. A Montbéliard record says Hans Bürcki from Basseler Gemeinde [Basel community or congregation] married Marreÿ [Marie] Wicter Sept. 14, 1780. She was a daughter of Jacob Wicter. Their ceremony was affirmed by minister/elder Hans Rychen (who signed ‘Jean Rieche’).

2. Christ/Christen Bürcki was born at Abnit, Oberhofen and baptized at Hilterfingen Oct. 21, 1742. In 1781 the magistrates of the Horburg district of Basel listed Anabaptists associated with their community. Among them was Christian Bürgy of Emmendingen, who was living on the Wieland estate at Rothenflüh (22 miles southeast of Basel, now in Canton Basel-Landschaft). Another Anabaptist living at Rothenflüh at the same time was David Rothacker (found on the list as David Rohdacher). Rothacker came from Karlsruhe, Baden, and is thought to have been related to the minister/elder Peter Rothacker. The 1781 list said that Bürgy and Rohdacher had leased property together 2½ years earlier for a term of eight years. Rothenflüh had been a settlement area for Anabaptists since the mid 1500s.

3. Jacob Bürci was born at Abnit, Oberhofen and baptized at Hilterfingen Sept. 13, 1744.

4. Úllrich Bürcki was born at Abnit, Oberhofen and baptized at Hilterfingen Feb. 18, 1748, and died at Hilterfingen Oct. 6, 1750.

5. A child was born at Abnit, Oberhofen, but died there before baptism. His/her death was recorded at Hilterfingen Nov. 20, 1750.

6. Úllrich Bürci was born at Abnit, Oberhofen, but baptized at Hilterfingen Dec. 12, 1751.

The next two children were baptized at the Protestant Reformed Church in the town of Thun. This suggests three possibilities: 1) The family changed location; 2) for some reason the clergy at Diessbach and Hilterfingen did not continue to accept them in their congregations; or, 3) they continued to live in Oberhofen, but were required for some reason to record life events at Thun – placing them under the eyes of higher clergy.

7. Elsbeth Bürcki was baptized at Thun Aug. 24, 1755.

8. Peter Bürcki was baptized at Thun Nov. 16, 1759.

Some time after Nov. 16, 1759 a list of Christen and Elsbeth’s living children was submitted for the Diessbach Täufrodel, in the auswärts Getaufte category [residents who were baptized elsewhere]. It may have been created at the request of the parents, to meet legal requirements, just before they migrated to Baden. The baptism date of Hans was given as July 20, 1738; the baptism date of Christen was given as Jan. 21, 1742. These date changes are obviously unreliable, since the original Hilterfingen baptism entry dates were entered in sequence with others on the

86 Baden-Durlach’s local administrators reported to the councils of a margrave at Karlsruhe. The margrave was the ultimate authority to decide all legal matters. A margrave [Ger. Markgraf] ranked higher than a count or earl but lower than a duke in the Holy Roman Empire. He generally owned land on a border, and maintained his own militia to resist foreign incursion.

87 Hanspeter Jecker of the Institut für Historische Theologie at the Universität Basel identified not only the record of the marriage of Hans, but of Jacob as well. They were adjacent on the same page, indicating they were not created on the same day as the marriages.

88 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.

89 Oberdiessbach Book 10, online image 159/page 311.

The entries immediately afterward were dated 1763, 1767, and 1769. Does this mean the list of Christen and Elsbeth’s children was entered in or after 1769? Not necessarily – many of the events after online image 148/page 291 are out of order, and the entire section may have been transcribed from parish letters or notes collected over many years, at a much later date. The very next entry is dated 1749.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
Appendix

days they took place. Baptisms for youngest children Elsbeth and Peter were presumably entered in a Täufrodel at Thun, and also appear on this list.

Jacob Bürcki was born at Abnit, Oberhofen, and baptized at Hilterfingen Sept. 13, 1744. He would have been approximately 15 years of age when his family migrated to Emmendingen.

By 1780 he had moved 51 miles south from Emmendingen to the city of Basel. In Basel he worshipped with the Basel-Binningen meeting of Amish Mennonites. It was often visited by ministers and families from Upper Alsace (bordering the city) and Montbéliard (33 miles to the west).

A Montbéliard entry says that on Nov. 31, 1780 Jacob married Cathrin Ulrich. It describes Jacob Bürcki from Basseler Gemeinde [Basel community or congregation] and Cathrin Ulili, a daughter of Christen Ulili, a lease holder [Ger. Lehenmann]. The minister/elder Hans Rychen signed ‘Jean Rieche.’

In May 6, 1783 Evangelische ministers in Canton Basel agreed that the names and birthdates of Anabaptist children could be kept in their registers. A list of Anabaptists compiled by Basel magistrates included Jacob Bürgy im Horburg.

HORBURG

The Rhine River divides the city of Basel, with about one-third on its north side. This is called the Kleinbasel district.

The Schloss [castle] Horburg and an adjoining farm were established by cloth merchant Dietrich Forcart-Ryhner in 1713. After his death in 1740 they passed through a number of hands. We could not identify the owner while Jacob was there.

By 1790 it was the site of a tavern and accommodations for carters and coach drivers. The present Horburgstrasse ran beside the surrounding walls, then west out of the city into Klybeck before turning north.

The manor house was torn down in 1915, and no trace remains at Horburgstrasse 98. Horburg is still the name of a street, park, and tunnel.

According to Hanspeter Jecker, a report created by Obervogt Leonhard Schart March 23, 1791 is preserved in the Staatsarchiv der Kantons Baselland at Liestal. Schart must have interviewed Jacob as part of a naturalization process, and found that Jacob was misrepresenting his birthplace. (This raises questions about the circumstances of his family’s departure from Oberhofen).

The report said that Jacob Bürgi of Augst [10 miles east of the city of Basel] had been in the country for eight years. He had worked as a servant at Neu-Schauenburg [the grounds of a ruined castle three miles southwest of Augst] for two years, then spent six months on the Semmweid near Olsberg [three miles east of Augst], two years with the innkeeper Herr Wullschleger at Augst, and then a year with Herr Glatz at Augst. He was currently working as a day laborer, and requested the rights of a resident.

Jacob said he did not know his home town of Oberhofen in Canton Bern, and had never actually been there himself. He was born on a leased property held by his parents at Emmendingen. As a young man he had served at the Rotenhaus [Roten Haus, a salt works at Muttenz where Reist-faction Mennonite meetings took place] and other locations in the Basel area. Now he was married to a woman from Montbéliard and had five children with her – three sons and two daughters. The oldest was eight years old.

Jacob’s application for the rights of a citizen of Canton Basel was rejected three days later. It was just as well, because on Dec. 17, 1792 Basel became part of the short-lived Rauracian Republic, a client state of France. France promised equality to all citizens.

90 One of the odd footnotes in the religious history of the city of Basel concerns the exhumation of a long-dead corpse to be burned at the stake. In 1544 citizenship was given to a quiet Dutch Protestant refugee named Johann von Brugge. He faithfully attended the Protestant Reformed Church, and excelled as an artisan making glass paintings with religious themes. He was buried with honors in the church of St. Leonard in 1556. Over the next three years it was discovered that he had actually been David Joris, an important Anabaptist leader. In the Netherlands he had been pilloried, and a hole had been bored through his tongue. In the city of Basel he had continued to secretly write essays in the Dutch language favoring Anabaptism. On May 13, 1559 the magistrates and clerics of Basel carried out a belated ‘execution by fire.’

91 Jacob left the area of Lake Thun at age 15. Could he convince someone in Basel that he had been born 51 miles to the north at Emmendingen, rather than 80 miles to the south at Oberhofen? Would he have difficulty disguising its voice inflections? In 2018 Matthew Gilsenan of Basel wrote, “If someone were born at Oberhofen in modern times, one could distinguish their accent from a Basel one, even if they tried to speak Baseldeutsch [a localized form of Alemmanic Swiss German dialect]. The mass media has not succeeded yet in standardizing accents, although there is a slow drift in that direction. And it is more than just a difference in accent, but also of vocabulary and grammar. Multiple dialects in Switzerland sometimes impede communications from one canton to another.”
The records of the Basel-Binningen congregation have been preserved since 1777. After 1796 someone created a Familienbuch family group sheet for ‘Jacob Bürgy und Catrina Uhly von Niter Diesbach’ and their children.

Children of Jacob Bürki/Bürcki and Catrin Ülrich include:

1. Marey [Maria] Bürcki was born Sept. 5, 1781, and died at Muttenz (on the southeast side of Basel) Jan. 8, 1868. A death entry identified by Helmut Gingerich identifies her as a single Anabaptist, and a daughter of Jacob, Heimat Diesbach.
2. Bettly [Elsbeth] Bürcki was born Feb. 16, 1783.
3. **Jacob Bürcki, toward the end of his life known as Jacob Buerge**, was born Feb. 14, 1785.
4. Hans Bürcki was born March 22, 1787.
5. Better [Petter or Peter] Bürcki, toward the end of his life known as Peter Buerge, was born Dec. 24, 1791. But note above that the family already had three sons by March 23, 1791. So this date, recorded some years after the fact, and may actually have been earlier. Later Ontario censuses would show Peter as 62 in 1851, and 71 in 1861.
6. Baby [Bäbi]/Barbara Bürcki was born Sept. 8, 1793, and died at Muttenz in 1864. Her death entry, identified by Helmut Gingerich, describes her as an unmarried Anabaptist, Heimat Nieder-Diesbach. Her heir was sister Maria.
7. Annly [Anneli] Bürcki was born March 10, 1795.
8. Christen Bürcki was born Sept. 16, 1796.

The third child Jacob is found under a variety of spellings. These were largely the interpretations of English-speaking tax assessors and census takers. In the German Block of Wilmot Township in Upper Canada (now Ontario) he would be described on a survey document as Jacob Birkey (1829); on assessment documents as Jacob Birky and Jacob Burche (1830); and on censuses as Jacob Birki (1851) and Jacob Berge (1861).

He or his children settled on 'Buerge,' but this does not begin to appear until decades after his arrival in North America. We might properly call him **Jacob Bürcki/Buerge**.

It is possible that Jacob had to serve in the military. A decree in 1808 said that Mennoniten (one German word described Mennonites and Amish Mennonites) would not have to serve, provided they made a contribution of money or public works. This held up until 1812, when circumstances made universal conscription necessary. This did not change until 1818, when the constitution of the Grand Duchy of Baden said that adult male Mennoniten who were physically capable could avoid service by providing a substitute.

Thus by 1820 a single male adult Mennonit who had accumulated savings for marriage faced a decision. He could marry and continue to save for the day when he would have to provide paid substitutes for sons (and risk the chance that even this might not be enough in wartime). Or, he could emigrate before his family was established.

A National Archives Baltimore Quarterly Abstract says J. Burgy, 34, arrived at Baltimore on the Plato Sept. 30, 1820. The Plato was an 87-foot merchant ship that made regular transits between New Orleans, Savannah, Baltimore, New York, Boston, Liverpool, and Le Havre.

J. Burgy was one of only six listed passengers, all farmers from Switzerland. Transport on such a small vessel suggests that the six unnaccompanied men may have accepted reduced fares in exchange for labor. The Steerage Act of 1819 would still have required that they be listed as passengers, since they did not possess qualification papers as Able-Bodied Seamen. (Recall from MILITARY ACQUAINTANCES, CORPORAL ABRAHAM REUST that Christian Reüst/Reust of Steffisburg traveled on the same vessel in 1833).

For someone traveling from Europe specifically bound for Lancaster County, Baltimore was comparable to Philadelphia as a transit destination. The Plato would have turned up into Chesapeake Bay rather than Delaware Bay, then moored at the city port to offload items such as textiles and porcelain. Disembarking at Baltimore, Jacob might have traveled on a small boat 37 miles over water to Havre de Grace, Maryland at the mouth of the Susquehanna River, then another 20 miles upriver to reach the Pennsylvania state boundary and step into the southern end of Lancaster County. In comparison the muddy toll road from Philadelphia to Lancaster was about 68 miles, and would have required a driver, team, and wagon to transport trunks.

On Jan. 9, 1825 Jacob married Elisabeth Grieser. She was born at Freiburg, Baden circa 1797, and died at Wilmot in 1886.

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92 The other five listed passengers were D. Kreiger [Kreider?], 33; C. Lagenbuhl [Luginbühl?], 27; M. Stanfer [Stauffer or Staüffer?], 55; J. Lagenbuhl, 25; and T. Kommell, 50.
93 Havre de Grace, Maryland was named after the formal name of the port of Le Havre in France, after the Marquis de Lafayette visited and remarked that he found them similar. It almost became the nation’s capital, failing by only one vote of the First Congress in 1789.
Elisabeth had sailed from Europe 15 months before Jacob. Recall from WAGLER that 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 colorful title celebrates the discovery of a previously unknown typewritten transcription of a passenger list documenting a voyage of the Montgomery.

The Montgomery departed from Le Havre April 30, 1819, and arrived at Philadelphia June 18 or 19, 1819. It brought passengers named Augspurger, Berse, Erb, Frey, Goldschmidt, Güngerich, Kropf, Mülle, Rothacker, Schwar, Sommer, and Stücki.

The list described the two Griesers onboard as natives of Fribourg (Freiburg below Emmendingen, Baden). They were Lisethe Grieser, 22 (Elisabeth Grieser) and Jean Paul Grieser, 26, who may have been her brother.

Ontario Mennonite historian Lorraine Roth wrote that, “Jacob had lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for some time but must have joined the migration of Amish Mennonites who went to Canada in 1824 and the years following. Their oldest daughter Catherine was born in Canada in 1826. She was among the first white children to be born in the area.” Later censuses corroborate that they were in Canada for the birth March 10, 1826.

Recall from ROPP the excerpt from Ezra Eby's History of Waterloo: “…The cause of so many arrivals here [Ontario] during 1826-27-28-29 was owing to the very hard times in old Pennsylvania in 1825. Many failed financially, and in order to procure homes for themselves and children, they came to Canada where land could be had very cheap. During haying and harvesting in 1825, people worked from sunrise until sunset for 37 ½ cents per day. For threshing grain during winter months, days then being only 12 hours long, wages were 12 ½ cents per day, and many worked receiving only their board as wages.” The German Block at Wilmot was set aside for European immigrants with limited means. Those with savings were expected to purchase elsewhere.

Canada did not have a naturalization process until 1828. However, before 1947 non-British immigrants were required to swear an oath of allegiance before receiving land grants. Jacob ‘affirmed, but did not swear’ in 1831, according to a Petition for Citizenship letter in the provincial archives. One source takes this as proof that Jacob must have arrived in Canada in or before 1824, citing a seven-year residence requirement for citizenship. But this would not have been necessary for pre-1828 immigrants. Taking this into account, we suspect that Jacob and Elisabeth arrived at Wilmot between spring (the first warm weather for travel) and fall of 1825 (their first child born the following March, too early in the season for travel).

After marriage the path of Jacob and Elisabeth paralleled that of Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith, a Montgomery passenger who would become their minister. Joseph met Elizabeth Schwartzentruber in Philadelphia. They were married Jan. 4, 1824. That spring they resettled on the north side of Snyder’s Road in the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario. Later that year elder John Stoltzfus of Pennsylvania organized the first Wilmot congregation and ordained Goldsmith and Johannes/John Brenneman as ministers. The Goldsmiths moved to Butler County with the Ropps and others circa 1831. (See GOLDSMITH for background on this couple).

Jacob and Elisabeth settled on Lot 21 on the north side of Bleams Road in the German Block of what became Wilmot, Ontario (see ROPP for background on this location). 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger lived only three lots away. These lots are now on the east side of the town of New Hamburg.

A survey map created Nov. 4, 1829 names settler 'Jacob Burkey.' Surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot's records show that by Feb. 11, 1830 'Jacob Birky' had cleared 40 of his 50 acres, cleared his road allowance, and had constructed a house and a barn. The property is now on the east side of the unincorporated community New Wilmot within Wilmot Township.

94 1851 and 1861 censuses say Elisabeth was a native of Alsace. When Jean Paul Grieser made a Declaration of Intent for naturalization in Wayne County, Ohio in 1829, he told the judge that he was born at ‘Wittlezey’ in France. We checked records at Wittelsheim, Upper Alsace and found the birth and death of an Elisabeth Grisser there. She was born Sept. 30, 1793, and died Sept. 14, 1794. The parents were described as Michel Griesser von Emmendingen aus Margrafen land [Emmendingen, Baden], 37, and Elisabeth Kupferschmitt of Reindwir, 30. This suggests that Elisabeth and Jean Paul were adopted by this uncle and aunt after the deaths of their own parents. It was not something done to obtain French travel documents, because the Montgomery passenger list said they were from Fribourg (Freiburg).

Jean Paul Grieser married Mary Yoder. She was born April 28, 1797, a daughter of Peter Yoder and Veronica/Freni/Frany Kauffman. In 1831 they settled on land in Green Township, Wayne County, Ohio. They are buried in Union Cemetery (now called Paradise Cemetery at Smithville) as ‘John Greaser, died Aug. 26, 1864, aged 72 y. 6 m. 26 d.’ and ‘Mary, wife of John Greaser, died Dec. 10, 1864, aged 67 y. 7 m. 12 d.’ See KING for background on the families in the Oak Grove Amish Mennonite congregation.

95 Wilmot Township now encompasses the towns of Hamburg and Baden, as well as smaller settlements St. Agatha, Petersburg, Mannheim, New Dundee, Philipsburg, Shingletown, Wilmot Centre, Haysville, Luxembourg, Lisbon, Sunfish Lake and Foxboro Green.
The documents also state that he made his claim under the terms of Christian Nafziger's agreement. He received the land patent for his lot July 3, 1834. It gave him ownership of the 150 additional acres, though he did not make the final payment until 1853.

Various tax reports 1831-40 estimate Jacob’s personal wealth anywhere from 56 pounds to 153 pounds. He is consistently described as the owner of 200 acres.

The family appears on the 1851 census of Wilmot, where every member of the household except one was described as Mennonite: Peter Birki, 62, Germany; farmer Jacob Birki, 67, Germany; Elisabeth, 56, Germany; Magdal., 24, Upper Canada; labourer Christ, 23, Upper Canada; labourer Jacob, 22, Upper Canada; labourer John, 20, Upper Canada; Elisb., 18, Upper Canada; Daniel, 15, Upper Canada; Frohni [Freni or Fronica, equivalent to Veronica], 14, Upper Canada; Magd. Shwartzentruber, 5, Upper Canada; and German servant Wm. Roth, 16, Lutheran. The comment Lag house ('at home') follows the entry.

On Dec. 8, 1853 Jacob made the final payment on the 150 acres adjoining his original 50 from the King's College (now the University of Toronto) for 93 pounds, 15 shillings. This was part of the original 'Christian Nafziger agreement.'

The 1861 census of Wilmot shows farmer Jacob Berge, 76, Germany; Elizabeth, 63, Germany; labourer Daniel, 25, Upper Canada; labourer Frances [Veronica], 23, Upper Canada; and labourer Peter, 71, Germany; all categorized as Mennonite. The comment 'log house' follows the entry. The household of son Christian is found on the same page.

Jacob died at Wilmot (a part that is now in New Hamburg) April 1, 1862. He is buried in Wilmot Centre Cemetery on Bleams Road, three miles east of his farm. The original marker or headstone no longer survives, but his grave has been identified as one in the fourth row, sixth sites in. Cemetery records agree that Jacob was born Feb. 14, 1785.

His will created Feb. 5, 1859 was proved April 22, 1862. It was witnessed by Christian Eicher Boshart. A few excerpts: “…That my children left might at all times walk in the fear of God and first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and he to whom all belongs will grant what is necessary for the present… My brother, Peter Buerge shall be maintained by my children of the whole estate, but should one alone maintain him then the others shall be helpful to him… I nominate and appoint as my Executors my wife Elizabeth Buerge, as well as Christian E. Boshart and Nicolaus Lichi…”

At the time of his death 100 acres of his land had been sold for a railroad right-of-way and a school. The remaining 100 was sold to his son Christian in 1866 as part of the estate settlement.

Sons Christian, Jacob, and Daniel became residents of Reeds City and Harrison, Michigan. In the early 1880s Christian and Jacob moved on to Jasper, Missouri. In 1883 the minister John Holdeman (1832-1900) and his entire 'Church of God in Christ, Mennonite' congregation moved there from Wayne County, Ohio. Holdeman founded his own movement, and claimed visions. They told him the old Mennonite Church as well as all other elements of established religion were heretical. Holdeman moved again to McPherson County, Kansas in 1897, but the Buerges remained at Jasper.

Son John and daughter Elizabeth apparently worshipped with offshoot congregations started by Holdeman at Middleton, Gratiot County and Harrison, Clare County in Michigan.

A child born in the United Kingdom in 1830 could typically expect to live 46 years. A child born in the United States in 1830 had a one-in-three chance of reaching age 60. Despite living most of their lives in Canada in the 19th century (born 1826-38), the eight Buerge children lived to ages ranging from 72 to 94, averaging an amazing span of 84.9 years.

The children of Jacob Bürk/Buerge and Elisabeth Grieser born at Wilmot/New Hamburg include:

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96 An odd loose end: Magdalena Schwartzentruber was living with the Bürk/Buerge in 1851 because her father John was a widower farmer (he would remarry to Catherine Erb in 1855). Magdalena was born at Wallace Township, Perth County, Ontario July 30, 1847. John was born in Pennsylvania July 13, 1816, a son of Jacob Schwartzentruber of Mengerinhausen and Catherine Schmucker of Pennsylvania. Magdalena's presence in the Bürki/Buerge household raises questions because her mother is remembered as Barbara Birkey. She was born Dec. 19, 1819, and died at Wilmot Oct. 5, 1848. Barbara married John at Wilmot Jan. 21, 1838. We could not identify her further.

97 This cemetery was also known as Geiger Cemetery, because Geiger Mennonite Church was located nearby on Bleams Road. Buildings were constructed in 1844, 1876, and 1979. The Geiger Mennonite Church became the Wilmot Mennonite Church after merging with another congregation in 1977.

98 The Church of God in Christ, Mennonite was denounced by some as a cult. Mainstream Mennonite publications like the *Gospel Herald* still published the obituaries of its members.
1. Catherine 'Jennie' Berkey/Buerge was born March 10, 1826, and died in Linn County, Oregon Dec. 8, 1920. On May 19, 1844 in Wellesley Township, Ontario she married Christian Boshart. He was born at Luemschwiller, Upper Alsace Oct. 20, 1818, and died at Milford, Nebraska July 31, 1892, a son of Jean/John Boshart and Marie Eicher. Herald of Truth, September 1892: "On the 31st of July, 1892, near Milford, Nebraska, of dropsy, Chr. E. Boshart, aged 73 years, 9 months and 13 days. Bro. B. was born in Upper Alsace Europe, in 1818, emigrated to America in 1834 and in 1844 was married to Jennie Burkey, by whom he had 12 children. His wife, 10 children and 27 grandchildren survive him. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church. He was buried on the 2d of August. Services by Joseph Schlegel and Joseph Gascho from Jno. 5:21-29." Gospel Herald, December 1920: "Catherine Boshart (nee Berkey) was born Mar. 10, 1826, in Ontario; died Dec. 8, 1920, at the home of her daughter (Katie Koupfer) near Albany, Oreg.; aged 94 y. 8 m. 28 d. She was united in marriage to Christian C. (sic) Boshart, May 19, 1844, in Ontario, living in matrimony more than 48 years. To this union were born 5 sons and 7 daughters. Her husband, one son, and three daughters preceded her in death. Those who remain are Jacob, Katie Keupher, Marie Brenneman, John, Daniel, Mattie Jantzi, and Leah Beilistine. In the year 1890, they moved from Ontario to Milford, Nebr., where her husband died in 1892. In 1915, she came with her daughter to Albany, Oreg. In her youth she accepted Christ and united with the Amish Mennonite Church and remained a faithful member until death. She had been ailing for some time, her death being caused by a bad cough and old age. She bore her afflictions patiently, often expressing her desire to be with Christ. She leaves four sons, four daughters, 41 grandchildren, 76 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral services Dec. 11, 1920, conducted by Joseph Schrock, Dan Erb, and C. R. Gerig. Texts, Psa. 39, 103, 23. Burial in Riverside Cemetery, near Albany, Oreg." She is buried as Catherine Boshart in Riverside Cemetery at Albany, Oregon.

2. Magdalena Buerge was born Nov. 16, 1827, and died at St. Agatha, Ontario May 4, 1914. On July 12, 1852 at Wilmot she married Christian Boshart's cousin Peter Boshart. He was born at Luemschwiller, Upper Alsace Dec. 12, 1829, and died at Wellesley July 21, 1893, a son of Joseph Boshart and Catherine Conrad. They are found on the 1861 census of Wellesley living in the household of Christian's parents as Mennonite farmer Peter Boshart, 29, France; and Mennonite Magdalena, 30, Ontario. Gospel Herald, May 1914: "Magdalena Buerge (nee Burge) was born Nov. 16, 1827; died at the home of her son Jonas near St. Agatha, Ont., May 4, 1914; aged 86 y. 5 m. 19 d. Her husband, Peter Boshart, departed this life July 21, 1893. They lived in matrimony 41 y. 9 d. To this union were born four sons and six daughters. She leaves to mourn her departure four sons, four daughters, 39 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren. She united with the A. M. Church in her youth, and was faithful to the end. Funeral services at the St. Agatha A. M. Church by C. S. Zehr (text, II Tim. 4:7,8), and C. B. Zehr (text, I Pet. 1:22-25)." Magdalena is buried as Magdalena Burre in the Saint Agatha Church Cemetery.

3. Christian Buerge was born Feb. 28, 1829, and died at Jasper, Missouri Feb. 21, 1918. On Nov. 15, 1854 in Wayne County, Ohio he married Magdalena Jutzi. She was born in Ontario Jan. 9, 1832, and died in Ontario April 16, 1864, a daughter of George Jutzi and Catherine Miller. The 1861 census of Wilmot shows farmer Christian Berge, 32, Upper Canada; Magdalen, 29, Upper Canada; and five children born in Upper Canada. They are found on the same page as Christian's parents. In 1868 widower Christian relocated to Reeds City, Michigan. In 1883 he relocated to a farm four miles east of Jasper. Gospel Herald, March 1918: "Christian Buerge was born in Waterloo Co., Canada, Feb. 28, 1829; departed this life Feb. 21, 1918 at the age of 88 y. 1 m. 21 d., at his home four and three fourths miles east of Jasper. He professed Christ when quite young and became a member of the Mennonite Church. May 2, 1852, he was united in marriage to Magdalena Jutzi, who departed this life April 16, 1864. To this union 6 children were born, one having died in infancy and the other, Mrs. Katherine Dinteman, passed away in January, 1915." Christian is buried in Mitchell Cemetery at Jasper.

4. Jacob Buerge [Jr.] was born Dec. 19, 1830, and died at Jasper, Missouri Feb. 12, 1913. On March 14, 1854 in Waterloo County he married Barbara Kurtz. She was born at Wooster, Ohio March 26, 1834, and died at Jasper, Missouri April 9, 1920, a daughter of Michael Kurtz and Mary Miller. Jacob is found on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Richmond, Michigan, then in Jasper County, Missouri. Gospel Herald, March 1913: "Jacob Buerge was born Dec. 19, 1830, in Waterloo Co., Ont.; died Feb. 12, 1913, in Jasper City, Mo.; aged 82 y. 1 m. 23 d. He was for many years a resident of Jasper Co., Mo. He was married to Barbara Kurtz, Mar. 14, 1854, in Wayne Co., O. To this union were born seven sons and three daughters. Two sons died in infancy. He leaves a beloved wife and the following children: D. K. Buerge, D. M. Buerge, Mrs. Lizzie Holdeman, W. W. Buerge, A. A. Buerge, J. J. Buerge, Mrs. C. F. Hedge, also 30 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Katharine Buzzard, aged 87; Mrs. Magdalena Buzzard, aged 85; Christian Buerge, aged 84; John Buerge, aged 81; Daniel Buerge, aged 78; Mrs. Fannie Teters, aged 74. Bro. Buerge was at one time a member of the Holdeman faith. He has been for some time a faithful member of the Mennonite Church. His affliction was dropsy and he suffered much, but through it all his mind was stayed on Christ who had become his all in all. Funeral services were conducted in the M. E. Church of Jasper City by Perry J. Shenk. Text, EccI. 11:3. Burial in Jasper Cemetery." Gospel Herald, May 1920: "Barbara Kurtz was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, March 26, 1834. She was married to Jacob Buerge March 14, 1854. Immediately after their marriage they went to Canada, where they resided fourteen years, then returned to Michigan, coming to Missouri from that state in 1881. For four years the family lived in Cass county, then moved to Jasper county, locating east of Jasper City. Ten children were born to this union. Two died in infancy. One son died six years ago. Bro. Buerge died in 1913, at the age of 82 years. For the past six years Sister Buerge lived with her daughter, Mrs. John Zeiset, of Carthage, Mo., at whose home she died. She had
been a member of the Mennonite Church since childhood, living a devoted Christian life. It was said of her that she kept all the friends she made. She leaves seven children, 32 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and two brothers. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Andrew Shenk, at the Methodist Church in Jasper, on April 11, 1920.

Burial in Jasper Cemetery." Jacob and Barbara are buried in Green Lawn Cemetery at Jasper.

5. John Buerge was born Mar. 24, 1832, and died at Harrison, Michigan June 21, 1920. On Sept. 5, 1854 he married Catherine Miller. She was born in Waterloo Co., Ontario, May 26, 1834. She was united in marriage with Jacob Litwiller, who has been an invalid for three years, died April 3, 1907, after an illness of five days, with LaGrippe and bronchial trouble, complicated with heart disease. Her maiden name was Buerge. She was born in Waterloo Co., Ontario, May 26, 1834. She was united in marriage with Jacob Litwiller(sic), Jan. 27, 1857. She was converted and united with the so-called Holdeman congregation June 1866, remaining faithful until death. They moved to near Reed City, Mich., in 1872, and in 1883 to near St. Johns, Mich., and later to the vicinity of Ithaca, where she passed away, leaving her dear husband, six children, twenty-eight grandchildren, four brothers and three sisters to mourn their loss. Two children and four grandchildren preceded her in death. Funeral services were conducted by F. C. Fricke and C. R. Peters, from Rev 7:9-17. The remains were laid to rest in the hope of meeting her again at the great resurrection day." Elizabeth is buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Middle ton, Michigan.

6. Elizabeth Buerge was born May 26, 1834, and died at Middleton, Michigan April 3, 1907. On Jan. 27, 1857 at Reed City, Mich., in 1872, and in 1883 to near St. Johns, Mich., and later to the vicinity of Ithaca, where she passed away, leaving her dear husband, six children, twenty-eight grandchildren, four brothers and three sisters to mourn their loss. Two children and four grandchildren preceded her in death. Funeral services were conducted by F. C. Fricke and C. R. Peters, from Rev 7:9-17. The remains were laid to rest in the hope of meeting her again at the great resurrection day." Elizabeth is buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Middle ton, Michigan.


In BECK we told the story of two children of Christian Beck and Barbara Danner: Barbara Beck who married 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, and Magdalena Beck who married Johannes/John Steiger. And in NAFZIGER we told how a son of the first couple (Valentine F. Naffziger born 1828) married a cousin, a daughter of the second couple (Elizabeth Steiger born 1837).

In addition to Elizabeth Steiger (born 1837), at least two other children of Johannes/John Steiger and Magdalena Beck came to Tazewell County.

The first was Jakobina/Phebe/Bena Steiger, who was born in Ohio in 1841. She is found as boarder Bena Steiger in the household of her widowed sister Elizabeth Steiger on the 1900 census of Boynton.

The second was Mary Steiger, who was born in Kentucky July 6, 1846, and died at Delavan Jan. 29, 1919. On March 5, 1871 in Tazewell County she married her second cousin John Steiger. He was born in 1844, a son of Johannes/John Steiger (born in 1816) and Mary. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery.

How did her second cousin come to Tazewell County? The explanation starts in Hesse-Darmstadt.

**Johann Peter Steiger** was born at Birkert April 6, 1753, and died there Dec. 8, 1817. He married Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich.

Their son Johann Philipp Steiger was born at Birkert Dec. 26, 1773, and died at Rimhorn (five miles northeast of Birkert) April 13, 1843. He married Maria Hoffman.

As noted earlier, they became the parents of Johannes/John Steiger. He was born at Rimhorn in 1803 and married Magdalena Beck (see BECK for background on this couple).

Another son of Johann Peter Steiger and Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich was **Johann Adam Steiger**. He was born at Birkert March 26, 1777. He married Maria Katharina Friedrich.

They became the parents of **Johannes/John Steiger**, who was born at Rimhorn Sept. 27, 1816. He married Mary (1825-1919) in Germany.

They were the parents of **John Steiger**. He was born in Pendleton County, Kentucky Jan. 6, 1844, and died at Peoria May 26, 1828.

Thus Mary (born 1846, a daughter of Johannes/John born in 1803) and John (born 1844, a son of Johannes/John born in 1816) shared Johann Peter Steiger and Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich as great-grandparents.

A Steiger grouping departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York on the packet ship *Ville de Lyon* July 9, 1841. The passenger list reads:

- Adam Steiger [Johann Adam Steiger], 64
- Johannes [overwritten as John] Steiger, 37 [nephew of Johann Adam Steiger]
- Magd. [Magdalena Beck], 35
- Elisab., 12
- John, 6
- Lisette, 3
- Joh. Steiger {son of Johann Adam Steiger, cousin to Johannes/John}, 24
- Mary, 23

Like John and Magdalena, John and Mary may have initially settled in Butler County, Ohio; they certainly settled near them in Pendleton County, Kentucky.

*The Pendleton County Court Order Book, Volume J*, says that, "John Steiger, of Hesse Darmstadt, who made declaration of intention in Campbell County court, was made a citizen Nov. 6, 1848." They are found on the 1880 census of Sandsuck, Pendleton County as farmer John Steiger, 64, Germany; Mary, 55, Germany; George, 19, Kentucky; Carolina, 18, Kentucky; and Mary, 16, Kentucky.

Johannes/John and Mary came to Delavan after 1880. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery. His headstone says he died June 16, 1887, aged 70 years and 10 months; hers says she died June 5, 1901, aged 76 years, three months, and 22 days.

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99 Some sources say Johann Adam Steiger died at Rimhorn June 5, 1854. However, since he immigrated with his son and nephew in 1841, we suspect he died in America.
Zwalter of Gondrexange

Though the Amish Mennonite Zwalter family of Gondrexange had no sons to come to Central Illinois, it was well-represented by numerous descendants.

Zwalter is also found as Swalter, Svalter, and Schwalter, suggesting that it may have been a variation of Schowalter. German-speaking clerks also wrote 'Zwalti.'

The names of parents Michel Swalter and Elisabeth Naxier [Nafziger] are found on the civil death entry of their son.

Their son Christian Zwalter was born circa 1737, and died at Gondrexange Feb. 24, 1797. He was an Amish Mennonite minister and elder.

Christian married Marie Risser before 1766. Marie is also found as 'Marie Richard' on the marriage entries of two daughters. Other sources give 'Riser' or 'Reyser.' She was born circa 1735, and died at Gondrexange Oct. 4, 1800.

Christian's civil death entry said that he was 60. It named his wife as Marie Richard, and identified his parents. It was witnessed by cultivators Christiane Neyhouser [his son-in-law], 29, and Jean Réchely, 27. The Tables Decennale index of death entries describes him as Christiane Zvalteur, 60, husband of M. Richard.

Marie's civil death entry describes her as Marie Riseur, 65, wife of Christianne Zvalteur. It was reported by her son-in-law, Jean Perquy [Birk], 23.

According to a letter from David Petersheim dated Dec. 10, 1986 they had eight daughters. The known children of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser include:

1. Barbe Zwalter was born circa 1766. She married Jean Abresol of Rhodes, Moselle. He was born there circa 1762. See PLANK for background on their son Christophe/Christian (later found as Ebersol and Ebersoll), who was born at Rhodes March 1, 1788, and died at Wilmot, Ontario March 25, 1862. Their daughter Marie Abresol was born at Imling May 24, 1792, and died Sept. 23, 1881. On May 27, 1814 at Verdenal, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Joseph Schertz. Their daughter Barbara Schertz immigrated and married Christian Imhoff and Joseph Hodler (see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF OBERSTINZEL.

2. Catherine Zwalter was born in 1768, and died before 1831. On Aug. 7, 1797 at Gondrexange she married Joseph Gascho (found as Svalter and Gachot). He was born circa 1773, and immigrated in 1831. See GASCHO for more on their family.

3. Anne/Anna Zwalter was born in 1769, and died at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 5, 1839. Before 1794 she married Andreas/André Gascho, a brother to Joseph Gascho ('before 1794' because he was described as a brother-in-law on the marriage entry of Magdalena/Madeleine). He was born circa 1768, and died at Imling, Moselle April 24, 1812. Their son Johannes/John Gascho immigrated in 1831, and settled Spring Bay, Woodford County. See GASCHO for more on this family.

4. Magdalena/Madeleine Zwalter was born at Gondrexange Dec. 1, 1772, and died at Imling, Moselle Jan. 1, 1814. On April 20, 1794 at Gondrexange she married Christian Neuhauser (found as Christiane Neyhouser, 27). Witnesses included brother-in-law of the bride André Cacho [Gasco], 26; and sister of the bride Catherine Zwalter, 25. When he died at Imling Aug. 17, 1809, Madeleine was approximately two months pregnant. Andreas/André Gascho appeared at the office of a municipal clerk at Imling to attest to the birth of her child. The état civil birth record created March 26, 1810 described him as "farm equipment operator [Fr. manouevre] André Cachot, 43, brother-in-law of the mother of the child, a resident of Badonviller, presenting an infant born at Imling March 25, the son of the deceased cultivator Christian Neuhauser and Magdaleine Zwalter of Imling; the child to be named Jean."

5. Anne Marie Zwalter was born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1776. On Dec. 12, 1793 at Gondrexange she married Joseph Mosimann. See MOSIMAN for more on this family.

6. Freni Zwalter was born circa 1777, and died in Putnam County before the 1850 census. On March 5, 1798 at Gondrexange she married Johannes/Hans/John Birkki/Burkey. He was born circa 1776, and likely died in Putnam County between 1850 and 1860. They immigrated in 1836. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this family.

According to the notes of Jean Sears, "David Petersheim's records indicate another daughter married a Burkey."

An eighth daughter could not be identified.

Another Zwalter found in Part One may have been related to this family, perhaps as another child of Michel Swalter and Elisabeth Naxier [Nafziger]. Catherine Zwalter was born circa 1752, and died at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges May 25, 1823. In 1783 she became the second wife of Rudolf/Rodolphe/Rudolph Bältzli. He was born in the hamlet of Freistett at Fribourg circa 1743. He tended livestock on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes. See BELSLEY.
The Puzzle of Barbara Eyer

In earlier versions of this text we put out all the information we had on Barbara Eyer in the HEISER portion. We have moved her here, in the 'miscellaneous' netherworld of the Appendix, because we are still lacking direct proof of a link we hope to make.

One Barbara Eyer was born at Hatten, Lower Alsace in 1813. She came to America in or shortly after 1830. She initially settled along the Erie Canal in upstate New York, where she married George Ramige. They later came to Groveland with a number of companions that would be known as 'the Erie Canal families.'

When Magdalena Eyer became the second wife of Jacob Heisser in Bavaria in 1816, she brought a three-year-old girl named Barbara Eyer to that marriage. We initially assumed that this was an illegitimate daughter.

Was there one Barbara Eyer in Lower Alsace, who came to America, and another Barbara Eyer in Bavaria, both born in 1813? Or were they the same person?

Our late great aunts from Groveland and Morton, who were a relatively reliable source of information on the families in the county, recalled the wife of George Ramige as 'Barbara Heiser' (of course they were born a generation after Barbara left the county). This led us to believe that the Barbara Eyer born at Hatten, who lived in New York and Illinois, was the same as the one who was brought up by the Heiser family in Bavaria.

Yet this is nothing but a guess until hard evidence can be found. Here is the information we originally placed in HEISER:

On Nov. 25, 1816 Jacob Heisser remarried to Magdalena Eyer. She was born circa 1788, a daughter of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Birk.

Magdalena brought a three-year-old child Barbara Eyer to this marriage. She was noted on their marriage entry, and raised in their family.

She was a daughter of Jean Eyer (he signed his own name Johannes Eýer), who could have been Magdalena's younger cousin or a more distant relative. A civil birth entry created at Hatten, Lower Alsace Feb. 25, 1813 states that Barbe Eyer had been born a day earlier in House No. 231. It describes her parents as vitrier Jean Eyer, 22, and his wife Marie Eve Strohm. A vitrier is a finishing carpenter who specializes in the installation and replacement of windows.

In 1830 Jean Eyer traveled from Hatten to Le Havre to New York City. His travel group included Heidt/Heit and Müller/Miller families. Barbara either accompanied them in 1830, or traveled to them a short while later. They settled at Lyons, a village on the Erie Canal in upstate New York. Jean (now called John) signed a naturalization Declaration of Intent there Sept. 28, 1830, stating that he was born at Hatten and was 38 years old. He would become an American citizen at Lyons Sept. 27, 1836.

THE ERIE CANAL

Construction of the Erie Canal was begun at Rome, New York in 1817. The banks were paved, 50 locks were constructed, and a stone tow path for harnessed draft horses ran along its 360-mile length. This provided work for thousands of unskilled laborers and stone masons. Many immigrants simply labored until they earned savings, then abandoned their employers to settle on inexpensive land farther west.

The canal reached Lyons in 1821, and opened in 1825-26, connecting the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie. In 1834 work began to expand its width from 40 to 70 feet. Lyons was one of only two locations with dry docks to repair damaged flatboats.

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100 The marriage entry for Jean Eýer and Marie Eve Strohm at Hatten Jan. 9, 1812 says he was born there Feb. 12, 1791 to carpenter Jean Eýer and Barbe Friedel, and that his parents were present at the ceremony. Both father and son signed the page, along with witness Michel Eyer, a 57-year-old weaver described as an uncle of the groom. Jean's son George Eyer was born at Hatten Dec. 18, 1815, and died at Lyons Sept. 14, 1894. On Nov. 27, 1838 he married Magdalena Stell at Lyons. She was born at Hermerswiller, a village four miles east of Hatten (Kutzenhausen, associated with the Gerber family, is only two miles east). They had 10 children at Lyons, leaving many Eyer descendants in the area.

101 The Heidt/Müller/Eyer group may have come to America in response to correspondence from the Ramige family. George's father weaver George Henry Ramige was also born at Hatten, Lower Alsace Jan. 6, 1788. He married Marie Salomé ‘Sally’ Kuntz there Dec. 26, 1809. They departed from Le Havre on the packet ship Sally, arriving at New York July 15, 1829, no doubt attracted by a community that was receptive to Alsatian and German immigrants. The Sally passenger list includes George Ramage, 40; Salomie, 40; George Jr., 18; Madelina, 15; Salomie Jr., 13; Mary, 10; Dorothy, 8; Justina, 3; and Barbara, 1. Some Hatten records show 'Ramige.'
On Feb. 22, 1834 at Lyons Barbara Eyer married George Ramige. He was born Aug. 29, 1812 (his headstone shows Oct. 22, 1811), a son of George Henry Ramige and Salomé Kuntz. George and Barbara were members of the congregation when the Lyons Evangelical Church was established in 1835.102

In 1848 Ramige, Espenschied, Eller, Lux, and Wagner families departed Lyons and traveled 775 miles west to Groveland. In 1848 there was still less than 100 miles of railroad track in Illinois.

The household of George Henry Ramige is found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer John H. Ramige, 62, Germany; Salome, 52, Germany; and laborer Fredk., 17, New York. Their next door neighbors were farmer Nicolas Eller, 25, Germany; Barbara [Ramige], 22, Germany; and Peter, 1, Illinois.103 The household is found again on the 1860 census of Groveland as gentleman George N. Rumage, 71; and Mary, 71. They possessed $10,000 of real estate and $200 in personal property, a considerable sum. Their next door neighbors were still the Ellers, now with five children.104

The 1860 census of Groveland shows the household of their son George Ramige and Barbara Eyer as farmer George Rumagy, 57, Württemberg; Barbary, 46, Württemberg; George, 23, New York; Henry, 21, New York; William, 19, New York; Christian, 15, New York; Frederick, 11, Illinois; Emeline, 6, Illinois; and Sarah, 3, Illinois. Their son George lived next door. Barbara's relative John was living with them in 1870. That household is described as farmer George Ramige, 59, France; Barbary, 54, France; school teacher Frederick, 21, Illinois; Emma, 16, Illinois; farmer William [son of George and Barbara], 29, New York; Mary, 26, Missouri [William's wife]; Alice, 4 months, Illinois; and John Eier, 79 [closer to 68], France. They also appear on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Geo. Ramige, 69; wife Barbary, 66; and daughter Emma, 26, born in Illinois to parents from Germany.

The farm of 'G. Ramage' is located below Wesley City on the 1864 plat map of Groveland.

George Henry Ramige died at Groveland Dec. 6, 1867 (his headstone gives the age 79 years, 11 months, 21 days). Maria Salome 'Sally' Kuntz died there July 28, 1861 (her headstone gives the age 72 years, 3 months, 13 days). They are buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery at Groveland.

Their son George Ramige and Barbara Eyer moved to Rockwell City, Iowa in 1883, where Barbara died May 13, 1892. George died there March 21, 1892. They are buried in Lake Creek Cemetery in Rockwell City.

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102 The ebullient personality of Philip Dorsheimer played a part in the growth of Lyons. He was born at Wöllstein (now in the Pfalz) April 15, 1797. He emigrated to Harrisburg, Pennsylvinia in 1815, and married there in 1821. He moved to Lyons in 1825-26 to work as a flour miller. He later purchased hotels within sight of the flatboats. There he interpreted English for new German arrivals and attracted German businessmen to buy farms. Dorsheimer left Lyons in 1836 and moved to Buffalo with his son William, where he died in 1861. His son later became lieutenant governor of New York. See Lloyd Espenschied's Early Wayne County Settlers and their Rhineland Origins online for more on this family and Lyons.

Two of the German settlers attracted by Dorsheimer were John Espenschied Sr. and John Espenschied Jr. On Aug. 22, 1834 they arrived at New York from Le Havre on the Normandie, traveling from Siefersheim, Hesse-Darmstadt (a village adjacent to Donsheim's birthplace). Also on the passenger list were Philip Dorshheimer's 68-year-old father Wilhelm, as well as several more families that settled at Lyons.

The surname Espenschied originates from a village located 13 miles east of Sankt Goarhausen. A Mennonite branch of this family emigrated to Lancaster County in the 1780s. A number of spelling variations are found in that area.

103 Nicholas Eller was born at Wonsheim, Hesse-Darmstadt Aug. 25, 1825, and died at Groveland Dec. 30, 1911. Wonsheim is located next to Wöllstein and Siefersheim, the hometowns of the Dorsheimers and Espenschieds. He arrived at New York on the Argo Nov. 6, 1846; made his way to Lyons; then moved with relatives to Groveland in 1848. On July 30, 1848 in Peoria County he married Barbara Ramige. She was born in Hatten, Lower Alsace Aug. 11, 1827, and died at Groveland Dec. 5, 1872. They are buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery at Groveland.

104 Three-month-old Salome 'Sally' Eller later married Benjamin F. Ropp (see ROPP), a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel.
Wolber of Königsbach

A Wolber is a person who makes the posts and trellises for arbors, so that cultivators can raise grapes and other fruits to be distilled into wine and brandy.

The Swiss Heimatort or legal place of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname is the remote village of Adelboden in Canton Bern, at the end of the valley of the Engstlige River, 18 miles southwest of Lake Thun.

Joseph Wolber worked as a miller at Eusserthal. With Christian Rinkenberg he was a witness to a document created at Essingen in March 1760, where the deceased Ulrich Nafziger's European children (including minister/elder Johannes Nafziger) relinquished claim to his estate in Pennsylvania.

His son Christian Wolber lived on the Rodenhof at Rodenbach after the departure of Ulrich Nafziger and der alte Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrismann. Nafziger left in 1728, while Ehrismann passed the lease over to his oldest son and moved to the Lauberthalderhof before 1743 (the son moved to Mechtersheim between 1753 and 1759). When Christian died on the Rodenhof at Rodenbach in June 1762, he left his five children in the guardianship of minister/elder Johannes Nafziger.

One of the children, Joseph Wolber, was born circa 1745. He married Catherine/Katharina Oesch. Joseph died at Mattstall, Lower Alsace Jan. 16, 1808 (Mattstall merged into Lembach in 1972). His civil death entry called him 'Joseph Wolmer,' and described him as a 62-year-old cultivator at Mattstaller Glashütt (the Mattstall glassworks).

Christian Wolber was born at Steinfingen (presumably a location in Mattstall) Oct. 31, 1792 (per his marriage entry), and died at Königsbach, Baden June 25, 1860.

Christian married at Riedseltz Feb. 4, 1815. The civil marriage entry describes the groom as Chrétien Wolber, born at Steinfingen Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Joseph Wolber who had died at Steinfingen, and Catherine Esch, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Eyer (she signed her name that way), born at Mattstall March 12, 1785, a daughter ofChrétien Eyer and Veronica Jordin (Jordi, but also known as Verena Jordy, see JORDY), who had both died at Mattstall (actually no death entries are found there). Mother-of-the-groom 'Catherine Esch' was present and consenting. The entry was witnessed by 26-year-old laborer Chrétien Schantz.

Although the marriage entry explicitly states that Christian was born and resided at Steinfingen, the supporting documents gathered before his marriage stated that he was born and lived on Dieffenbach at Riedseltz. On Jan. 21, 1815 Jean and Chrétien Roggi of the Dieffenbach attested that Chrétien Wolber was born there Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Dieffenbach day laborer Joseph Wolber (now deceased) and Catherine Esch. The farm that is also known by its German equivalent, Diefenbacherhof. This is significant because the Diefenbacherhof farm at Riedseltz had been leased by Valentine Nafziger, a cousin of minister/elder Johannes Nafziger, before the lease was passed to the Roggys who signed the pre-marriage document.

Catherine Eyer was born at Mattstall March 11, 1785, and died at Königsbach May 9, 1848. The parents of Catherine Eyer leased the Johannistalerhof at Königsbach, Baden, and the couple resided there.

We will only follow two of their children.

1. Catherine Wolber was born on the Johannistalerhof at Königsbach Jan. 13, 1820. On July 26, 1840 at Königsbach she married Daniel Ehresman. They immigrated circa 1852-58, and settled in Montgomery Township, Woodford County. See EHRESMAN for background on this couple.

2. Christian Wolber was born on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach March 28, 1824, and died there Feb. 18, 1872. He married Susanna Hochstetler. She was born at Eisenberg in the Pfalz Feb. 12, 1826, and died at Überlangen am Bodensee March 24, 1902. They were the parents of Jacob Wolber, who was born at Königsbach Feb. 13, 1849. He immigrated in 1868, and settled at Deer Creek. See ZEHR for background on his marriage with Magdalena Zehr and possibly her younger sister Phoebe Zehr, or REDIGER for a list of those who accompanied him on his immigration voyage.
Albrecht of Bureau County

The Albrecht family of Bureau County married into a number of Tazewell and Woodford County families. In 1774 Michael/Michel Albrecht left the Lauberthal estate at Essingen leased by Johannes/Hans Jakob Ehrisman. He leased the church-owned estate Hermersbergerhof at Wilgartswiesen in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. It is located six miles southwest of Eusserthal, 13 miles west of Landau in der Pfalz, and 45 miles northwest of Langensteinbach; at the time it was in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. It sits at the highest elevation of any community in the Pfalz.

The estate was partially destroyed by French troops in 1794, and occupied in 1800. In 1802 it was sold. Among the workers employed by Michael/Michel were Hans Oyer (senior) and Hans Oyer (junior).

He had three children:

1. Elizabeth Albrecht was born circa 1745, and died at Wischenka/Vyshenka in the northern Ukraine (now part of Russia) in 1796. Circa 1763 she married Johannes/Johann Schrag. He was a son of Ulrich Schrag and Elizabeth or Anna Meyer, residents the Duchy of Zweibrücken. See SCHROCK for background on this couple.

2. Christian Albrecht married Barbara. They also went to Galicia in 1784. Christian died at Ensiedel (adjacent to the village of Falkenstein, Galicia) in 1794. Barbara remarried to Andreas Schrag, a son of Johannes/Johann Schrag and Elizabeth Albrecht (see SCHROCK, JOHANNES/JOHAN SCHRAG AND THE SWISS VOLHYNIAN MENNONITES).

3. Johannes Albrecht was born circa 1753.

Johannes Albrecht was born circa 1753. Circa 1776 he married Magdalena Güngerich. She was born circa 1757, a daughter of Valentin Güngerich and Anna Nafziger. They farmed the Hermersbergerhof estate until it was partially destroyed by French troops in 1794, and then relocated to Essingen. The estate was sold to a private owner in 1800.

Their son Christian Albrecht was born at Wilgartswiesen Dec. 4, 1779. On Aug. 15, 1802 at Hochspeyer he married Elisabeth Engel.

THE DIEMERSTEIN ENGELS

An Amish Mennonite family of weavers named Engel lived in the tiny hamlet of Diemerstein between Hochspeyer and Frankenstein in the Pfalz. It is not known how this family was related to the Engels of Lorraine.

Jakob Engel and Anna König were the parents of weaver Jakob Engel. He was born circa 1753, and died in 1828. (He is occasionally confused with another Jakob Engel born at Diemerstein, of roughly the same age). Circa 1779 he married Anna Imhof. She may have been a daughter of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika Rocke/Rogg (see IMHOF for background on this couple). They had six children born on the estate of ruined Diemerstein Castle between 1779 and 1798.

Jakob and Anna's daughter Elisabeth Engel was born at Diemerstein July 23, 1780. Another child of Jakob and Anna was Johann Jakob Engel. He was born Oct. 18, 1786. On Jan. 20, 1810 at Hochspeyer he married Elisabetha Jotter, who was a daughter of Christian Joder and Magdalena Naftziger.

Their son Christian Engel was born at Diemerstein on the Rhine River July 16, 1818, and died at Bloomington Jan. 17, 1912. He emigrated from Germany in 1846 and settled at Monroe, Butler County, Ohio. He married Susan Miller Oct. 15, 1854, and moved to Bloomington, McLean County the same year. She was born Sept. 27, 1826, and died at Montgomery Jan. 16, 1861, a daughter of a Hessain congregation elder Jacob Müller/Miller and Magdalena Moser.

On Nov. 7, 1861 in Woodford County he remarried to Magdalene Ehresmann.105 It is likely that she was born at Sippersfeld April 9, 1824, a daughter of Jakob Ehresmann and Veronika Eyer (see EHRESMAN for background on this family's voyage to America in 1841). If so, she was a cousin to Christian Ehresman of Montgomery.

A Christian Engel household is found on the 1865 state census of Dry Grove: one male 40-49, one male 30-39, and one or three males below the age of nine years.

Gospel Herald, September 1879: "May 16th, in McLean Co., Ill., Sister Magdalena Engel, born Ehrisman, aged about 56 years. She was a faithful sister of the Mennonite Church. Buried the 18th. Ceremonies conducted by Jos. Stuckey."

Christian is found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as a single head of household from 'Rhine River' (the river ran past his original home). Gospel Herald, February 1912: "Christian Engel was born in Rhinepfalz, Germany, July 16, 1818; died Jan. 17, 1912; aged 93 y. 6 m. 1 d. He emigrated to this country in 1846 and arrived at Monroe, Butler Co., O., and lived there till 1854, when he moved to Illinois and settled near Bloomington and has lived there ever since. He was married to Susan Miller Oct. 15, 1854. To this union were born four children. He leaves three sons and 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to mourn his death. His wife died Jan. 17, 1861. In 1862 he was

105 They are found in Woodford County records as Christian Engle and Magdalene Ehresmann.
married again to Magdalene Ehrisman of Morton. She died in May, 1880, and since then he lived with his son, John. He joined with the Mennonite Church in his younger days and has been a faithful member ever since, very seldom missing his place in church when health permitted him to be present. He was blessed with remarkable health until the last few months when he was failing of old age. He was down in bed only a few hours before he was called away. It had been his desire that after his time to depart was here, he need not linger long. When the call came he quietly fell asleep in Jesus. The motto of his life always was to live right and live in peace."

Christian and Magdalena are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock.

After marriage Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel lived in a large communal house at Kaiserslautern and on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach. Sesslach is a medieval walled village in Upper Franconia, Bavaria, about 200 miles east of Kaiserslautern.

A family story says that oldest son Jacob was excused from military service to support his family. When a military officer visited the Albrechts again, he found the next son Peter playing with pebbles by the side of the road. He waived him on the grounds that he was mentally deficient. The third son Johannes was not so lucky, and was conscripted for a term of three years. This prompted his parents to plan for emigration.

According to Fritz Braun's "Auswanderer aus Kaiserslautern im 18. Jahrhundert," an Albrecht contingent applied for permission to emigrate at government offices in Kaiserslautern in 1836 (Kaiserslautern is about 10 miles west of Diemerstein). The applicants included Christian Albrecht and his wife Elizabeth Engel; sons Jacob, Peter, Johannes, Joseph, and Christian; daughters Barbara, Elizabeth, Katharina, and Magdalena; seven grandchildren; son-in-law Joseph Joder and four of his relatives. However, Johannes was conscripted into the army before the intended date of departure, and the family was forced to carry out its plans without him.

**THE ELUSIVE PASSENGER LIST**

For many years the arrival of the Albrechts in America was a bit obscure, and no passenger list could be identified.

One account says that only a few days after Johannes was inducted into the army, a party of 23 boarded a ship at Bremen. "One son and three daughters were already married, and there were seven grandchildren..." (Barbara, Jacob, Elizabeth, and Katharina were married). On the trip Johann Joder, the young son of Joseph Joder and Barbara Albrecht, became extremely ill. He ran a high fever and suffered slight brain damage that affected his behavior until his early death at age 26.

The passenger list of the *Barque Elisa* says the ship departed from 'Hale' (a location we could not identify, though the ship was registered at Bremen), and arrived at New York Aug. 1, 1837.

One passenger group includes farmer Jacob Aldwright, 30, destination Ohio; Catherine, 27; Johann, 3; Magdalena, nine months; farmer Christian, 61; Elisabeth, 59; Catherine, 21; Joseph, 19; Christian, 16; and Johannes, 2. This represents Christian and Elizabeth with their four youngest children, as well as their eldest son Jacob with his wife and two children. A little farther down the page is farmer Joseph Juder (Joder), 31, destination Ohio; Barbara, 32; Catharine, 4; Jacob, 3; and Johannes, nine months. And below that stone mason Caspar Cearline (Zierlein), 30, destination Pittsburg; Elisabeth, 35; Catharine, 5; and Elisabeth, nine months.

The list fails to mention four persons who would have completed a party of 23: son Peter Albrecht, and daughter Katharina Albrecht with her Heimer husband and child. If they arrived in Illinois at a different time than the rest, it is not mentioned in any history we viewed.

History of the Family of Christian Albrecht (1777-1842) and wife Elizabeth Engel Albrecht (1780-1814) says the party arrived at New York. From there they traveled upriver on the Hudson, crossing the Erie Canal and then the Great Lakes to Fort Dearborn (now Chicago). The land journey south from Chicago to Hennepin, Putnam County took more than three weeks. Hennepin is located on the east bank of the Illinois River, 30 miles north of Peoria. Adults walked while children rode and trunks were carried in a wagon pulled by oxen.

Bureau County histories say the Albrecht family arrived there in November 1837.

There were already two 'Burchey' families in Putnam County. Past and Present of Bureau County: "Mennonite Church of Indiantown: The first family of this sect [that of Johannes Burcky and Marie Schoenbeck] came to Putnam County in 1835 or 1836, from Ohio. In the family, whose name was Burchey, were four boys, Daniel, Christian, Frederick, and Jacob, the latter being a minister of the gospel, and thus was a nucleus formed for the Mennonite church, which has been maintained up to the present time." This family came from Hesse, and the youngest son held meetings at Granville. "About a year later came another family of the same name [that of Johannes/Hans/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter] with four sturdy sons and one daughter (leaving four daughters in the mother country, Germany). Then from Germany also came Christian Albrecht with six sons and four daughters. Many others joined them from time to time. Until 1867 meetings were held in private parlors, once in three weeks, and till 1873, they met every two weeks." (The two Bürki-descendant families can be found in BIRKY/BIRKEY).
Family notes say the Albrechts made the trip to reunite with Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter, whom they had known in Europe.

Land on the west bank had recently become available for purchase from the government. 19-year-old Joseph Albrecht was the first of the family to search for fertile land across the Illinois River in Bureau County. Six weeks of rain stranded him on the west bank, and he was forced to live on berries under a bark shelter while he waited out the bad weather.

The Illinois Land Tract Sales Database shows that Christian Albrecht purchased 160 acres of government land at Arispie, Bureau County for $1.25 per acre Nov. 17, 1837. The same day his oldest son Jacob purchased 80 acres about two miles to the west. Other Mennonite families followed and continued to settle in the bottom one-third of the county.

"Christian Albright" appears on the 1840 census of Bureau County. He is checked in the 60-70 year age group; Elizabeth in the 60-70 age group; with three sons and a daughter in the 20-30 age group. The household of oldest son 'Jacob Albright' appears elsewhere on the same page.

Christian's 160 acres became a family farm that has passed through many generations. Elisabeth Engel Albrecht died there Nov. 24, 1842, and Christian Albrecht died there Feb. 3, 1843 from what was described as 'lingering pneumonia.' Their burial place became a cemetery on the farm.

In Europe, son Johannes received a letter telling about the death of his parents. His term of enlistment had been involuntarily extended beginning in 1848, because of a threat of war with France. He was discharged from his cavalry regiment April 16, 1842, and reunited with his brothers and sisters in Illinois in August.

The children of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel include:

1. Barbara Albrecht was born at Kaiserslautern March 12, 1804, and died in Bureau County Jan. 13, 1878. In 1831 she married Joseph Joder/Ioder/Yoder. He was born on the Horbacherhof estate at Hinterweidenthal (now in the German state Rheinisch-Pfalz) in 1805, a son of Josef Steinmann Joder and Maria Katharina Germann of the Hermersbergerhof estate at Wilgartswiesen. They are found on the 1850 census of Bureau County as farmer Joseph Joder, 44, Germany; Barbara, 45, Germany; Catharine, 18, Germany; Jacob, 17, Germany; John, 14, Germany; Daniel, 12, Illinois; Joseph, 8, Illinois; Louisa, 6, Illinois; and William, 2, Illinois. Joseph died at Tiskilwa Aug. 28, 1857 after a train accident. They are buried in the Albrecht Family Cemetery at Willow Springs. Descendants spell the surname 'Joder.'

2. Jacob Albrecht was born at Hochspeyer Jan. 9, 1805, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 11, 1878. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton. His first wife was Katharina Ackerman (1813-1842). The two children who immigrated with them were:
   a. Johann/John Albrecht was born Nov. 20, 1833, and died in Livingston County Feb. 12, 1900. Herald of Truth, April 1900: "On the 12th of February, 1900, in Livingston Co., Ill., Pre. John Albrecht passed peacefully away at the age of 66 years, two months and 22 days. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, on the 20th of November 1833. When he was four 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 Naizger. 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 Orendorf 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." Gospel Herald, May 1923: "Albrecht - Barbara Naizger was born in Rheinbayern, Germany on Aug. 28, 1851; died at her late home in Champaign, Ill., April 9, 1923; aged 71 y. 7 m. 12 d. In 1870 she came to America with her parents, living with them near Bloomington, Ill., for four years, when she was married to John Albrecht of near Flanagan, Ill. This happy marriage terminated when her husband died in Feb., 1900, but by her courage and faith in God she carried on the family responsibilities. Her life was ever guided by the prayer that she might be given the ability to see the right and have the strength to follow it. For several years she made her home in Flanagan. The last ten years were spent in Champaign, where she moved for the purpose of educating her two younger sons. It was said that she was ever ready to help a good cause along by giving of her means. She leaves four sons and three daughters: Mrs. Joseph Ingold, Mrs. P. L. Guth, Mrs. E. J. Gable, P. D., and S. A., of Flanagan, Ill.; W. A., of Columbiana, Mo.; and D. A. of Champaign, Ill. One daughter, Mrs. S. J. Sutter of Flanagan, preceded her to the great beyond. A
number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, besides many friends also survive. Short services were
held at her home in Champaign, April 10, after which her remains were brought to the home of her son S.
A., at The Homestead, where services were held April 12 by D. W. Slagel (Acts 1:3-25) and at the
Walco Church by Bros. J. D. Hartzier (Acts 9:36-42) and C. F. Derstine (Heb. 11:16). Many friends and relatives had assembled. Interment in the Waldo cemetery.

b. Magdalena Albrecht. Her headstone in Willow Springs Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County says she
_was born April 18, 1835, and died June 2, 1907. Her immigration passenger lists would indicate that she
was born circa December of 1836. On Aug. 19, 1855 in Bureau County she married Peter
Bachmann/Bachman. He was born in Germany Aug. 31, 1830, and died at Senachwine, Putnam County
April 18, 1907. See BACHMAN for background on his family.

On Jan. 7, 1844 in Tazewell County Jacob remarried to Barbara/Barbe Ringenberger; the ceremony was performed
by minister Michael Mosiman. She was born Sept. 25, 1821 and died at Walnut Jan. 4, 1864, a daughter of Peter
Ringenberger and Anna Schrag. In 1837 Casper Zierlein found employment as a bricklayer and helped to
build the Hennepin Courthouse, which was completed in 1839. It is the oldest courthouse in Illinois still in use in its
original form. He can be found on the 1840 census of Putnam as 'Casper Zerlin.' They later lived at Tiskilwa.

Centennial History of the Mennonites in Illinois 1829-1929 discussing minister John Michael Kistler: “Prior to his
coming, whenever a member married a person outside the church they could no longer hold membership unless the
other person joined the church also. Kistler permitted the members to remain, even though the one married did not
belong to the church. Before his arrival, Elizabeth [Albrecht] Zierlein, who had been a member, was no longer
permitted to commune because she had married a Lutheran. He reinstated her and received her children into the
church by baptism, though her husband [Casper] remained a Lutheran until his death.”

4. Peter Albrecht was born Nov. 30, 1810, and died in Bureau County Jan. 23, 1888. On a naturalization application
submitted April 29, 1853, he stated that he was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden. However, this may only have been
some confusion over the political allegiance of the Franconia region during the Napoleonic wars. The 1850
census of Putnam County gives the birthplace of Peter 'Albright' as Germany. His birthplace is given as Bavaria on
the 1860 census of Granville, Putnam County (Peter 'Albright'); the 1870 census of Macon, Bureau County (Peter
'Albright'); and the 1880 census of Macon (Peter Albrecht). In Illinois he married Catharina Birki/Catherine Burkey.
She was born at Obersanding, Bavaria Feb. 4, 1819, and died at Macon, Bureau County March 4, 1895, a daughter of
Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter (see BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple). Her civil
birth entry described her as a daughter of 'Joannis Birki of the Mennonite sect, living at Obersanding Number 16, and
Veronica, also an Anabaptist, whose father Joannis Zwalter is a preacher of that sect.' (Her father was actually
Christian Zwalter; see the MOSIMAN footnote on this family). The Putnam household of Peter Albrecht appears on
the 1850 federal census with his widowed father-in-law John Burkey Sr., 73, born in France. He does not appear on the
1860 census. They can be found on the 1880 census of Macon, Bureau County, as Peter Albrecht; 71, Bavaria;
Catharine, 61; Bavaria; and daughter Mary, 20, Illinois. Their household is listed between those of Jacob and John
Eigsti (see EIGSTI). Herald of Truth, February 1888: "On the 23d of January, in Bureau County, Ill., of the
infirmities of old age, Peter Albrecht, aged 77 years, 1 month and 23 days. He was buried on the 25th, in the Amish
Mennonite graveyard in Indiantown, Bureau County, Ill. He leaves his widow, 3 children and 8 grandchildren and
many friends to mourn his death. Services by Joseph Burkey and Chr. Zehr, from Matt.24:44 and Ps. 90, for the
comfort of the bereaved ones and a warning for all. Herald of Truth, April 1895: "On the 4th of March 1895, near
Lombardville, Stark Co., Ill., of general debility, sister Catherine, widow of Peter Albrecht, aged 75 y., 9 --. Of seven
children, three survive her, also 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, besides many relatives and friends.
Buried on the 7th in the Willow Spring graveyard. Funeral services by Joseph Buercy in German and E. Hartman,
of Washington in English."

5. Johannes/John Albrecht was born on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach April 3, 1814 according to his emigration
application, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Oct. 6, 1905. History of Bureau County, Illinois says, "John
Albrecht was reared in Germany, where he entered the regular army at the age of twenty-one years and served six
years in a cuirassier regiment. Unable, on account of military duties, to accompany his parents to America in 1837 he
waited patiently till his time expired, when he borrowed $100 of a relative and in August, 1843 came to America. He
was fifty-four days on the ocean and running out of money after landing, was obliged to borrow of a traveling
companion with whom he came to St. Louis, Mo. He reached home in Bureau County, poor in purse but rich in
strength of mind and body." His trip to Hennepin was prolonged by a misunderstanding: when he asked directions
for Hennepin, he was given directions to Hannibal, Missouri. John worked three years at Hennepin and Tiskilwa,

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106 A train depot for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was named Albrecht. It was later changed to Ohio after a
nearby post office.
then married Mary Ackerman in Tazewell County in March of 1847. She was born May 19, 1819, and died Jan. 27, 1875, a daughter of Henry Ackerman. In 1851 they purchased 80 acres of prairie and 40 acres of timber at $5 per acre. They are found on the 1850 census of Dover, Bureau County as John Allbright, 35; Mary, 30; and two children. They had five children, two of whom married children of Nicholas Stecker/Staker and Magdalena Eimer. Christian Albrecht, born Nov. 22, 1850, married Fanny Stecker on March 10, 1878. Henry V. Albrecht, born Feb. 4, 1860, married Mary Stecker on March 4, 1883. Daughter Mary Ackerman, born Oct. 4, 1853 and died July 31, 1904, married Andrew W. Ropp, a son of Andrew Ropp and Jacobine Verceler. The household is found on the 1880 census of Arispie as John Albrecht, 66, born in Bavaria; son Thurston, 29, born in Illinois; Fannie Albrecht, 23, born in Ohio; and son Henry, 20, born in Illinois. Gospel Witness, January 1906: "John Albrecht was born in Bavaria, Germany, Apr. 3, 1814. Died at his home, near Tiskilwa, Ill., Oct. 6, 1905, of the infirmities of old age. Aged 91 y., 6 m., 3 d. He came to this country in 1843. From that until the time of his death he had resided in Putnam and Bureau counties, Ill. In 1847 he was married to Mary Ackerman, also from Bavaria. To this union were born nine children. In early life he united with the Amish Mennonite church, of which he was a faithful member until he was called home. His wife and six children preceded him to the spirit land. Funeral services at the home and church by Bro. Jacob Ringenberg in the German language from I Kings 2:2, assisted by Pre. Alford (of the Tiskilwa M. E. church), in the English language, from the same text and also from Job 5:26. This aged brother was loved and respected by all who knew him. He leaves three sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but they do not mourn as whose without hope. May the Lord abundantly bless those who so faithfully ministered to this loved one during his sickness."

6. Katharina Albrecht was born July 8, 1815, and died at Spring Bay in 1859. She married a Heimer in Germany and had one son. They settled at Spring Bay, Woodford County, where Heimer died before 1844. Katharina remarried to Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf of Hesse-Darmstadt, who was born at Burg-Gemünden in 1803, and died at Morton July 27, 1872. They had their first child together in 1844. They farmed at Spring Bay until her death there. See OENDORFF for a list of their children.

7. Joseph Albrecht was born March 19, 1817, and died Oct. 17, 1895. On Oct. 15, 1842 in Woodford County he married Barbara Gingery [Gingerich]; the ceremony was performed by minister/elder André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman. Barbara was born at Laubach, adjacent to Grünberg, Hesse-Darmstadt May 3, 1815, and died at Arispie June 25, 1883, a daughter of John Gingery and Magdalena Eckhardt. Joseph and Barbara are found on the 1850 census of Bureau County living only a few houses away from Joseph 'Yoder.' Their household appears as Joseph Albright, 33; Barbara, 34; Catharine, 8; Joseph, 5; Daniel, 2; William, two months; William Rose [?, barely legible], 18; Daniel Gingery, 22; Daniel Imhoff, 48; and Louisa [Gingery] Imhoff, 26. They are found on the 1880 census of Arispie as farmer Joseph Albrecht, 63, born in Bavaria; Barbara, 62, born in Hesse-Darmstadt; Daniel, 33, born in Illinois; Magdalena, 23, born in Illinois; and grandson Otto, 5, born in Illinois. By 1877 they owned 420 acres. Their farm was managed by oldest son Daniel, who married Lena Unzicker, a daughter of blacksmith-deacon Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krehbiel, who lived at Elm Grove (DeRham passengers). Herald of Truth, November 1895: "On the 17th of October, 1895, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Joseph Albrecht, aged 75 years, 6 months and 29 days. He leaves three children, and seven grandchildren. Two of his children and his wife preceded him. He was for a number of years deacon in the church, which office he filled faithfully. His parents came to America in 1837. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th in the Mt. Bloom graveyard. Funeral services at the home and church by Bro. Jacob Ringenberg in the German language from I Kings 2:2, assisted by Pre. Alford (of the Tiskilwa M. E. church), in the English language, from the same text and also from Job 5:26. This aged brother was loved and respected by all who knew him. He leaves three sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but they do not mourn as whose without hope. May the Lord abundantly bless those who so faithfully ministered to this loved one during his sickness."

8. Magdalena 'Len' Albrecht was born on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach June 17, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 12, 1886. In 1838 at Hennepin she married Andrews/Andrew Burkey. He was born at Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace, France; and Christian Albright [Albrecht], 32, Germany. See the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on his companions. He returned the following year with no gold, but malaria contracted on the return trip via Panama, and found a new son. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Indiantown as farmer Joseph Albrecht, 66; son Thurston, 29; Fannie Albrecht, 23; born in Illinois; and grandson Otto, 5, born in Illinois. By 1877 they owned 420 acres. Their farm was managed by oldest son Daniel, who married Lena Unzicker, a daughter of blacksmith-deacon Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krehbiel, who lived at Elm Grove (DeRham passengers). Herald of Truth, November 1895: "On the 17th of October, 1895, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Joseph Albrecht, aged 75 years, 6 months and 29 days. He leaves three children, and seven grandchildren. Two of his children and his wife preceded him. He was for a number of years deacon in the church, which office he filled faithfully. His parents came to America in 1837. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th in the Mt. Bloom graveyard. Funeral services at the home and church by Bro. Jacob Ringenberg in the German language from I Kings 2:2, assisted by Pre. Alford (of the Tiskilwa M. E. church), in the English language, from the same text and also from Job 5:26. This aged brother was loved and respected by all who knew him. He leaves three sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but they do not mourn as whose without hope. May the Lord abundantly bless those who so faithfully ministered to this loved one during his sickness."

9. Christian Albrecht was born at Bamberg (23 miles below Sesslach) Feb. 10, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa Jan. 10, 1910. On Sept. 17, 1848 at Arispie he married Catherine Roggy. She was born in Germany Dec. 15, 1830, and died at Hennepin in 1909, a daughter of Peter Roggy and Magdelena Burke. On March 1, 1849, Christian left his wife (who was unknowingly one-month pregnant) with her parents and departed Illinois for the California Gold Rush. He arrived at Sutter's Fort before Thanksgiving. The 1850 census of Weaverville and Vicinity, Eldorado County, California has 'miners for gold' Joseph Keefer, 50, France; Nicholas Roggy, 22, France; John Sharts [Schertz], 25, France; and Christian Albright [Albrecht], 32, Germany. See the Appendix, KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on his companions. He returned the following year with no gold, but malaria contracted on the return trip via Panama, and found a new son. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Indiantown as farmer Christian Albrecht, 59, born in Bavaria; Catharine Albrecht, 58, born in Hesse-Darmstadt; Daniel, 33; born in Illinois; and grandsons Otto, 5, born in Illinois. By 1877 they owned 420 acres. Their farm was managed by oldest son Daniel, who married Lena Unzicker, a daughter of blacksmith-deacon Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krehbiel, who lived at Elm Grove (DeRham passengers). Herald of Truth, November 1895: "On the 17th of October, 1895, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Joseph Albrecht, aged 75 years, 6 months and 29 days. He leaves three children, and seven grandchildren. Two of his children and his wife preceded him. He was for a number of years deacon in the church, which office he filled faithfully. His parents came to America in 1837. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th in the Mt. Bloom graveyard. Funeral services at the home and church by Bro. Jacob Ringenberg in the German language from I Kings 2:2, assisted by Pre. Alford (of the Tiskilwa M. E. church), in the English language, from the same text and also from Job 5:26. This aged brother was loved and respected by all who knew him. He leaves three sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but they do not mourn as whose without hope. May the Lord abundantly bless those who so faithfully ministered to this loved one during his sickness."

For background on Daniel Gingery, Daniel Imhof, and Louisa Gingery, see GINGERICH.
then moved to Tiskilwa, where both remained until their death. Mrs. Albrecht was called to 'Great Beyond' less than a year ago. Her husband at the time said, 'I will soon follow.' This came true Jan. 10, 1910, making his age 88 y. 11 m. and 20 d. He was an honest, energetic and faithful Christian and respected by all who knew him. He never forgot the hospitable way of a pioneer. He passed through many hardships, but was contented. But now he is gone and a family of six children are to attest how sadly he will be missed. It must be so, these tender ties cannot be severed without a pang. Yet in such a death there is really no cause of grief. He has done his life's work, and did it well. Besides the bereaved children he leaves to mourn 13 grand-children and seven great grand-children. The funeral services were held at the Willow Spring Mennonite church on Wednesday at 1:30 p. m., M. Troyer of Normal, Ill., and D. Orndorff of Flanagan, Ill., officiating.
ROCKE

The Rocke family that passed through Tazewell County in the 1850s left very few footprints. **Joseph Rocke** was born either at Ismannsdorf, Bavaria (26 miles southwest of Nuremburg) March 16, 1809 (per headstone), or at an unidentified location March 17, 1811 (per *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska*). He died at Buda, Lancaster County, Nebraska Jan. 31, 1883.

According to a biography of a son in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska* (1888) he first married Philippine Imhoff. She was born in ‘the Rhine province’ [Pfalz], and died in 1844. *Portrait* makes a point of saying that Joseph and both of his wives were Mennonites (the German Mennoniten encompasses Mennonites and Amish Mennonites).

The child of Joseph Rocke and his first wife Philippine Imhoff was:

1. Jacob Rocke was born at Eisenberg (20 miles southwest of Kaiserslautern, 130 miles south of Ismannsdorf) Nov. 7, 1843 (per obituary), and died at Atkinson, Nebraska June 16, 1915. He enlisted for a three-year term Aug. 12, 1862, and mustered in at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 17. As a private in Company H, 94th Illinois Infantry, he fought in the battles of Prairie Grove, Vicksburg, Yazoo City, and Brownsville. He mustered out at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865. His obituary in the *Atkinson Graphic* says, “During his three-year service he was at first with the Missouri Artillery, afterward with the sharp shooters, and later with the scouts along the Texas border.” He returned to farm in Livingston County, then went to Nebraska in 1868. The following year he returned to assist his parents with their move west. He put in a homestead claim on the southern half of Section 12 at Buda. After improving the land and fulfilling the five-year tenancy requirement he sold it to his father and bought another farm. In 1879 he moved to Lincoln, where he and his younger brother Christian became proprietors of the Washington House hotel. On March 14, 1883 at Lincoln he married Kate Wittmann/Whitman, who was born circa 1858. In 1898 he was elected treasurer of Lancaster County; in 1898 he was elected to the state senate. In 1900 they relocated to Atkinson in Holt County. They are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery (formerly Greenwood Cemetery) at Atkinson.

Joseph remarried to Marie/Mary Nafziger. She was born Feb. 2, 1824, and died at Cortland, Gage County, Nebraska June 19, 1886.

Marie/Mary is thought by descendants to have been a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Barbara Oesch. Jean had come from Imsbach in the Pfalz (14 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern) to be married to Barbe at Hellering-le-Grand, Moselle March 9, 1809. Hellering-le-Grand is now part of Hombourg-Haut. They sailed from Le Havre to New York in the fall of 1850. It is certain that they were at sea on Oct. 21, the day their son Christian was born.

A family story says that son Christian was named after the Danish vessel, the *Christiana*. We could not identify a date of arrival or passenger list. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska* says they sailed on the *Venus* and arrived at New York in October. “He [Joseph Rocke] 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.”

A descendant maintains that in the early 1850s Joseph and Mary lived in Tazewell County with widow Catherine Nafziger Jantzi (circa 1810-1866), the second wife of Michel Jantzi. If Marie/Mary was a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Barbara Oesch, Catherine would have been her second cousin. Catherine was a daughter of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Guingrich/Gingerich, and had been the second wife of Michel Jantzi of Macheren, Moselle. She had been a resident of Macheren, adjacent to Hombourg-Haut. In 1849 she sailed in a party of 16 to New York, then traveled via Lewis County, New York and Wilmot, Ontario to Illinois, where she arrived in 1850 or 1851. See NAFZIGER, GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER and JANTZI for background on her family.

The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County (this community became Allin in 1867) has farmer Joseph Rocker, 53, Byronne [Bayern/Bavaria]; Mary, 35, Byronne; Jacob, 16, Byronne; Christian, 9, Illinois; Melinda, 8, Illinois; Joseph, 3, Illinois; and Lizzie, 2, Illinois.

In 1869 Joseph and Mary relocated to what became Buda, Lancaster County, Nebraska. They were assisted by Joseph’s son Jacob, who had claimed land there a year earlier. Joseph constructed a home on a homestead claim comprised of 80 acres in Section 12.

The county seat of Lancaster County is Lincoln. It is north of Buda, and 50 miles southwest of Omaha.

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108 Ismannsdorf is in the administrative district [Ger. Landkreis] of Ansbach.
NEBRASKA

When the Nebraska Territory was created in 1854, public land was made available for sale or claim by homesteaders. The Preemption Act of 1841 and the Homestead Act of 1862 outlined requirements. The only land that was not offered had been set aside for railroads or educational purposes.

The Preemption Act of 1841 allowed settlers to put in a claim on up to 160 acres of public land, even if the land had already been surveyed. It could then be purchased for $1.25 per acre. A Declaration of Intent to be Naturalized and residence on the land were required of the purchaser.

The Homestead Act of 1862 became effective Jan. 1, 1863. Anyone could establish residence on 40-160 acres of unclaimed public land, file a homestead entry, then wait five years to obtain it for free. A few new requirements were added: the settler could not own more than 320 anywhere else in the country, and could not have quit another claim. A small filing fee was all that was needed to finalize the claim at a land office. "Homestead proof" documents submitted to support the claims are now valued sources of information for genealogists.

Veterans of the Union Army (such as Jacob Rocke) could deduct their time in service from the five-year period. If the veteran had been discharged early because of wounds or disability, he was allowed to deduct the full term of the enlistment that would have been served. The maximum that could be deducted was four years, so that even the most qualified veteran had to establish residence for a year before obtaining a deed. When someone had filed a homestead entry and lived on a parcel of land for more than six months, they had the option of purchasing the land at a reduced price to close out the claim period. This often happened when farmers were able to bring in one or two good crops.

Railroad construction halted during the Civil War. In 1862 the Union Pacific Railway was organized at Chicago. Construction of the first railroad tracks to cross Nebraska was begun July 10, 1865. By the end of the year Union Pacific Railroad tracks were in place from Omaha (on the eastern border) 40 miles west to Fremont. In 1866 another 260 miles were laid. In 1867 they reached the summit of the Black Hills near Cheyenne, Wyoming. They continued to build west and met the Central Pacific Railroad at Promontory Point, Utah May 10, 1869.

The 1870 census of Lancaster County, Nebraska shows farmer Joseph Rocke, 61, Bavaria; Mary, 40, Bavaria; Jacob, 26, Bavaria; Christian, 20, on Atlantic Ocean; Malinda, 14, Illinois; Lizzie, 12, Illinois; Mary, 9, Illinois; and Joseph, 14, Illinois. The 1875 state census of Buda has Joseph Rocke, 65, Germany; Mary, 50, France; Jacob, 30, France; and Christian, 24, 'born on the Atlantic Ocean.’ The 1880 census of Buda has Joseph Rocke, 71, Bavaria; Mary, 44, born in Bavaria to parents from Hesse and France; Jacob, Illinois; and Mary, Illinois.

Joseph and Mary are buried in Stockfeldt Cemetery at Sprague, Nebraska. Their joint headstone says they were “Joseph Rocke, born March 16, 1809, died Jan. 31, 1883; Mary, wife of Joseph Rocke, born Feb. 2, 1824, died June 19, 1886.”

The children of Joseph Rocke and his second wife Marie/Mary Nafziger include:

2. Christian Rocke was born on the immigration voyage Oct. 21, 1850, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska in 1930. In 1879 he became proprietor of the Washington House hotel at Lincoln with his older brother Jacob. In 1887 at Princeton, Nebraska he married Amanda Stockfeldt. She was born at Ceres, Iowa circa 1862, and died at Lincoln April 13, 1949, a daughter of minister Paul Stockfeldt and Eleanor Alvindorland McDonald. She is buried in Lincoln Memorial Park at Lincoln.

3. Magdalena/Lena/Malinda Rocke was born in Illinois circa 1855. She married Henry Wiedemann. Circa 1900 Magdalena remarried to James Halvey. They are shown on the 1910 census of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska as laborer James Halvey, 59, born in Indiana to parents from Indiana and Ohio, wells; Lena, 56, born in Illinois to German parents, mother of six children of whom six were living; and daughter Marie Wiedemann, 22, born in Nebraska to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois [Marie is also found on the Lincoln census that year, living with her aunt Lizzie].

4. Joseph Rocke was born in Illinois Oct. 28, 1856, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska Nov. 17, 1925. On April 3, 1887 in Lancaster County he married Mary Emma Rocke. She was born Dec. 23, 1864, and died at Lincoln March 15, 1922. They owned 80 acres in Section 1 of Buda, and 320 acres at Rawlins. They are found on the 1920 census of Buda as Joseph Rocke, 64, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; Mary E., 55, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; and four children born in Nebraska. They are buried in Hallam Community Cemetery in Lancaster County.

5. Elizabeth/Lizzie Rocke was born in Illinois Nov. 15, 1859 (per headstone), and died at Lincoln, Nebraska Nov. 15, 1944. On Sept. 24, 1887 in Lancaster County she married John Fisher (the record found as Lizzie Rocke). He was born May 30, 1844, and died Nov. 23, 1915. During the Civil War he had served as a private with Company K of the 136th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. They participated in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Elizabeth and John are found on the 1910 census of Lincoln Ward 5 as woodworker John Fisher, 65, born in Pennsylvania to German parents, repair shop; Lizzie, 52, born in Illinois to German parents; Elizabeth, 9, Nebraska; and niece and sales lady Marie Wiedemann, 21, born in Nebraska to parents from Germany and Illinois, millinery store. They are buried in Wyuka Cemetery at Lincoln.

6. Mary Rocke was born in Illinois April 22, 1861, and died in Lancaster County March 15, 1889. She married Johann Gerhard Richard Alex Stockfeldt (also found as Richard Stockfeld or Stockfield). He was born at Garnavillo, Iowa
Nov. 20, 1856, and died before 1910, a son of minister Paul Stockfeldt and Eleanor Alvidore McDonald. He was the principal of schools at Cortland, Gage County, and later a grocery salesman. Circa 1892 Richard remarried to Mary. She was born in Ireland in June of 1869, and immigrated in 1889. They are buried in Stockfeldt Cemetery at Sprague, Lancaster County.
Boshart

In Canton Bern **Bosshart** was a description of sturdy shoes. One **Heimatort** or legal place of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname is Zäziwil. This village is located between Grosshöchstetten and Signau, 12 miles north of Steffisburg.

We have mentioned that a Boshart was witness to the christening of Jacob Amman at Erlenbach in 1644. And earlier we noted that the Ropps and Bosharts were members of the congregation surrounding minister Jacob Hirschi of Sigolsheim and Bollwiller.

Andreas Ropp emigrated in 1826. Christian Boshart and Catherine Litwiller, who was a cousin to Tazewell County settlers Peter and Joseph Litwiller, became his close neighbors in 1826 or 1827. They lived on Erb Street, only one lot removed from Andreas Ropp's lot on Snyder’s Road, in the German Block of Wilmot, Ontario.

**Heinrich Boshart** was born circa 1727, and died at Staffelfelden, Upper Alsace Aug. 27, 1794. His civil death entry described him as a 67-year-old miller, and named his wife as Catherine Zimmerman. It was witnessed by Christian Zimmerman, 60, a resident of Ungersheim; and Johannes Ringenberger, 28, a miller at Staffelfelden.

The father of immigrant sons, **Johannes/Jean Boshart**, was born circa 1750. He died on the Schönensteinbach convent farm at Wittenheim, Upper Alsace Oct. 31, 1794. (Wittenheim is adjacent to Staffelfelden and Wittelsheim; all three would now be called suburbs of Mulhouse).

He married Anne Marie Müller. She was born in 1744.

Their second daughter was born at Geishouse, Upper Alsace (14 miles northwest of Wittenheim/Staffelfelden/Wittelsheim) in 1784. Geishouse is a remote village located in the **canton** or township of St. Amarin, in the **arrondisement** or administrative district of Thann, in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains.109 The next child was born a year later at Staffelfelden.

Johannes/Jean's place of death, the Schönensteinbach convent at Wittenheim, was administered by a Cistercian order. Pledged to poverty, the order was spared much of the looting and destruction of the French Revolution. They also administered rudimentary hospitals, and the presence of Johannes/Jean at Wittenheim at the time of his death may not necessarily reflect his family's residence there.

After 1794 widow Anne Marie resettled her family at Luemschwiller, 16 miles south of Wittenheim/Staffelfelden/Wittelsheim. She died after 1823.

Their children include:

1. Anne Marie Boshart was born March 22, 1783. On June 2, 1802 at Staffelfelden she married a much older Mathias Stücký; she was younger than the groom's son Mathias. The groom was born circa 1746, and died at Michelbach-le-Haut Jan. 11, 1808. See **STUCKY** for background on this couple and their descendants.
2. Catherine Boshart was born at Geishouse Nov. 25, 1784, and died at Luemschwiller Nov. 2, 1824. On July 17, 1811 in the civil hospital at Colmar she gave birth to an illegitimate daughter also named Catherine. The event was reported by the midwife, who described the mother as Catherine Boshart, 23, a native of Geishausen and a daughter of Joseph Boshart and Marie Müller. On Sept. 11, 1817 at Meyenheim, Upper Alsace she married 'Francois Joseph Moeglen' (he signed 'Joseph Möglon') in a caretaker arrangement. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 68-year-old merchant, born and residing at Meyenheim; he was the widower of Anne Marie Gondé, who had died Nov. 1, 1815. The bride was described as Catherine Boshard, 33, born at Geishausen in the district of Belfort Nov. 25, 1794, a daughter of the deceased Anabaptist weaver Jean Boshard and Anne Marie Müller. A daughter Anne Marie Möglen, born at Meyenheim Dec. 20, 1816, was brought to the marriage. Moglen died less than three months later. Catherine remarried to Christian Joder at Luemschwiller April 19, 1824. The groom was described as a 23-year-old cultivator residing at Luemschwiller. He was born at Belfort, a son of resident cultivator Jacques 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 Möglon, 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 'Wittenheim,' near Mulhouse. The entry was witnessed by cultivators Joseph Ropp, 25, and Jean Ropp, 25. See **YODER** for background on her second husband.
3. Christian Boshart was born at Staffelfelden circa 1785, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Nov. 20, 1850. He became a farmer and cultivator, and was a witness at the wedding of Christian Hirschi and Anne Marie Ropp, a cousin to Andreas Ropp. On June 24, 1813 at Tagsdorf he married Catherine Litwiller. She was born April 10, 1786, and died...
in Waterloo County, Ontario April 11, 1873, a daughter of Jacob Litwiller and Anna Maria Maurer. Christian was still living at Luemschwiller at the time of their marriage, but afterward they lived at Taggsdorf. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 28-year-old cultivator 'Cretien Poshart,' born at Staffelfelden but living at Luemschwiller, a son of the deceased Jean Poshart and Anna Maria Müller. The bride was described as 'Catarina Lüttwüller,' 27, a daughter of Jaques Lüttwüller and Maria Murer of Taggsdorf. The bride and groom signed with an 'X,' indicating they were illiterate; signatures of witnesses include Jacob Litwiller and Maria Mäurer. Catherine and Christian are thought to have arrived at Wilmot, Ontario in 1827. They settled on the northern side of Erb Street in the German Block of Wilmot. Catherine can be found as a widow on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wilmot, nationality France, religion 'Amish.'

4. Johannes/Jean/John Boshart was born at Wittelsheim Feb. 25, 1788, and died in Upper Alsace before 1834. On June 8, 1818 at Luemschwiller he married Marie Eicher. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Bossart, 23-year-old anabaptiste, a resident of Luemschwiller. He was born at Wittelsheim Feb. 25, 1788, a son of the deceased Jean Bossard, who had died at Schönensteinbach Oct. 31, 1794, and Anne Marie Müller, a local resident who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Marie Eicker, 30, born at Herricourt [she was born Sept. 10, 1788]. Her parents were the deceased farmer Jean Eicker, who had died at Altkirch July 27, 1814, and Anne Hostatteler, a resident of Altkirch. Witnesses included cultivator Christian Eicker, 22, a resident of Altkirch; and cultivator Michel Richard, 45. Widow Marie, her five children, and nephew Nicolas Stucky 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). Nicolas Stucky was born at Michaelbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace Dec. 14, 1806, a son of Mathias Stücky and Anne Marie Boshart; thus he was a nephew to Marie Eicher. The passenger list shows them as Marie Eicherin, 49, France; Chrétien, 18; Josephe, 16; Pierre, 14; Catherine, 12; Benoîs, 8; and Nicolaus Stucky, 29. They traveled to Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario, where they were initially taken in by Christian Boshart. Marie died at Wilmot Feb. 15, 1850; she is buried in Old Baden Cemetery, also called Kropf Cemetery, at Baden, Waterloo County.

5. Joseph Boshart was born in 1790, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Nov. 6, 1866. On Feb. 6, 1823 at Luemschwiller he married Catherine Conrad. She was born at Belfort, Territoire de Belfort Feb. 2, 1797, and died in Waterloo County Oct. 3, 1869, a daughter of Isaac Conrad and Elizabeth Schlegel. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Luemschwiller farmer Joseph Bosard, 23. He was a son of the deceased Jean Bosard, who had died at Wittenheim, and Marie Müller, a resident of Luemschwiller who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Cathrine Conrad, 26, born at Belfort Feb. 12, 1797. She was a daughter of the deceased Isaac Conrad and Elisabeth Schlægel, who had died at Belfort [see SCHLEGEL for more on this couple]. Witnesses included farmer Jean Bosard, 35, brother of the groom; and cultivator Jean Schlegel, 50, a resident of Walheim who was a cousin of the bride and gave consent in the absence of her parents. Joseph and Catherine resettled their family at Wellesley, Ontario in 1838 or 1839. They are found on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wellesley.

Another Anabaptist Boshart family resided in the same area of Upper Alsace. We could not determine their relationship. Perhaps the father was a later son of Heinrich Bosshart and Catherine Zimmerman.

Christian/Chrétien Boshart was born circa 1760-1762, and died at Seppois-le-Haut, Upper Alsace Jan. 1, 1824. His civil death entry described him as a 60-year-old anabaptiste. The entry was witnessed by his sons Christian and Joseph.

His wife Judith Rüpp was born on the Spitalhof estate at Sundheim, Baden (adjacent to and below Kehl) circa 1763, and died at Eckbolshem, Lower Alsace Dec. 9, 1808. She was a daughter of Johannes Rüpp and Judith Detweiler, and a granddaughter of Durst Detweiler and Katarina Germann (see the footnote on this family in REDIGER). Her civil death entry created at Eckbolshem Dec. 10 described her as a resident of Rothig at Eckbolshem, and a daughter of Johannes Rüpp and Judith Detwiller born at Spitalhof bei Kehl. Her husband was age 46; he signed 'Christian Boshard.'

Their children include:

1. Christian Boshart was born circa 1788. His father's 1824 civil death entry describes him as a 36-year-old farmer working on the farm of Jean Ulrich Keiler at St. Ulrich, Upper Alsace.
2. Joseph Boshart was born at Strasbourg (adjacent to Eckbolshem) Jan. 21, 1795. His civil birth entry describes his parents as weaver Chrétien Boshart and Judith Ropp, living near the Porte Blanche (a gate to the city). On Nov. 8, 1824 at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace he married Marie Anne Roth. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as day laborer Joseph Boshart, age 29 years and nine months, born at Strasbourg Jan. 21, 1795. He was the son of the deceased Judith Ruppe, who had died at Eckbolshem Dec. 9, 1808. The bride was described as Marie Roth, 34, born

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110 Jean Eicher died at Altkirch July 27, 1814. His civil death entry described him as a 64-year-old farmer (thus born circa 1750). It was witnessed by farmer Chrétien Luquebilh, 59 (he signed 'Lügbŭhl'). A civil death entry created at Luemschwiller March 16, 1822 stated that Anne Hochstetterlin had died in the home of Jean Schuell March 11. Her age was 74 (thus born circa 1748). She was the widow of Jean Eichert. The entry was witnessed by farmer Jean Bossart, 36, of Luemschwiller.
at Altkirch Nov. 21, 1790, a daughter of weaver Nicolas Roth who was present and consenting, and the deceased Anne Müller, who had died at Aubure Oct. 23 [illegible].

3. Benjamin Boshart was born at Eckbolsheim May 12, 1806, and died at Madagascar Hôpital Militaire May 19, 1831. His civil birth entry described his parents as Christian Boshart, 42, and Jüdit Rüb, residents of Redigfeld, Eckbolsheim. His civil marriage entry described his parents as Christian Bossart, 42, and Jüdit Rüb. At the time of his death he was a first cannoneer in a regiment of the French royal corps of naval artillery.
Holi/Holli/Holly of Kürzenberg

Minister Christian Holi/Holli/Holly was born at Kürzenberg, Canton Bern. One indication of his birth year might be his signature ‘Christian Holi’ from March 13, 1694. It appeared on a joint statement by leading ministers of the moderate Reist faction after a failed reconciliation meeting at Ohnenheim (recall Part One, BERNESE ANABAPTISTS, THE AMISH DIVISION). Thus we can assume that he had been married and was likely at least 30 years of age.

Kürzenberg is found on newer documents as Kurzenberg. The village of Kurzenberg has not existed since 1945. It was located in what is now Linden, on the north side of Buchholterberg, eight miles north of the town of Thun. ‘Kürzenberg’ is still used to describe the geographic area, a school, and the parish.

Before 1705 Christian married Magdalena Stagman. Daughters born in 1705 and 1708 were baptized in the Protestant Reformed Church at Schwarzenegg. Schwarzenegg is on the north-south boundary line between Unterlangenegg (on the west side) and Oberlangenegg (on the east side); they are adjacent below Buchholterburg. The Schwarzenegg entries identified the father as someone from ‘Kilchöri Diessbach.’ Kilchöri is not a place, but a Swiss-German dialect word for the local church or congregation (before 1820 Kürzenberg). The Schwarzenegg entries identified the father as someone from ‘Kilchöri Diessbach.’

Buchholterburg is eight miles north of the town of Thun. Most likely Christian was the occupant of one of the farmhouses on the north side of Buchholterberg, which became Oberdiessbach in 1870.

They arrived on the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1718. We could not determine the year of Magdalena’s death. Christian held the lease until his death in 1748.

They are thought to have had three daughters and four sons:

1. Magdalena Holli/Holly was baptized at Schwarzenegg Feb. 22, 1705.
2. Barbara Holli/Holly was baptized at Schwarzenegg Sept. 7, 1708. The entry describes her father as ‘Christen Holly aus der Diessbach Kilchöri.’ She married future elder Johannes/Hans Nafziger on the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1729 (see NAUFZIGER). Thus she would have been approximately 21 years of age at their marriage. This baptism date and age is contradicted by a letter Johannes wrote in 1790. Lamenting the passing of his wife, he wrote that she had ‘departed from this life’ Dec. 15, 1789, age 76 [taking five years off her age], and that they had lived together in marriage over 50 years. Two possible explanations: 1) The Barbara who was baptized in 1708 died, and another was born circa 1713. Or, 2) Johannes, who was roughly 82, did not have a grasp of Barbara’s correct age. He might also have noticed that they had lived together in marriage more than 60 years.
3. Johannes Holly/John Hooley was born circa 1714-18, and died at Caernarvon, Berks County, Pennsylvania May 3, 1783. Circa 1737 at Landau he married Fremi/Franey/Veronica Müller. She was born circa 1714, and died in Berks County Feb. 19, 1769, a daughter of Niclaus/Nicholas Müller of Mühlfhofen. They lived at Insheim (four miles northeast of Mühlfhofen, and south of Landau) until their emigration from Europe. Before departing they requested a warrant for 100 acres near Irish Creek in what is now Berks County, Pennsylvania (but was then Lancaster County) from a land agent for the Penn brothers. The Lancaster County register shows ‘John Hooley’ as the owner of a warrant for 100 acres at Bern dated March 22, 1750. They sailed with seven children on the Brotherhood from Rotterdam via the tax station at Cowes, arriving at Philadelphia Nov. 3, 1750. The list from the Oath of Abjuration created at the city hall that day names ‘Johannes Holly.’ Other immigrant surnames found on that list include Albrecth, Dielebach, Fahme, Fisher, Frey, Hertzler, Holly, Kauffman, Konig, Lehman, Lugenbiehl, Mühler, Naufziger, Rub, Schowalet, Stuky, and Zorr. They went south to Elverson, Chester County during uprisings, but in 1764 they purchased 170 acres at Caernarvon in the Conestoga Valley of Berks County with son-in-law Jacob Mast. They had three more children in Pennsylvania. One source cites a family Bible and says Johannes died at Shartlesville, Berks County (34 miles northwest of Caernarvon) and is buried in the Northkill Amish Burying Ground. Another says that Johannes may be buried in Pine Grove Cemetery on the former Berks County farm of Jacob Mast. Descendants spell their surname ‘Hooley.’
4. Jacob/Jakob Holly died between 1763 and 1780. In 1729 he married Anna Müller on the Bärbelsteinerhof. The ceremony was performed by his father; a single entry was recorded in Latin at Niederschlettenbach for the marriages of ‘Jacob Holli cum Anna Mullerin’ and ‘John. Nafziger cum Barbara Hollin.’ Anna was a daughter of Niclaus/Nicholas Müller of Mühlfhofen. Jacob/Jakob likely relocated there to live near her family, signing a nine-year lease with his father-in-law on April 22, 1757. When Anna died, he remarried to Maria Kurtz. She was born on the Steinweiler estate near Mühlfhofen April 9, 1720, a daughter of Steffen Kurtz and Magdalena Bürcki. Jacob/Jakob became a minister/elder at Mühlfhofen, representing the congregation at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759.
5. David Holly was born on the Bärbelsteinerhof. Recall from KENNEL: “The Münsterhof estate is located near the village of Drisen, about midway between the cities of Kaiserslautern and Worms in the district of Kirchheimbolanden...The first 12-year lease was signed in 1764. Hans [Kennel] was one of the three original

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[111] Some sources say Christian Holi/Holli/Holly was born in 1696. A child named Christen Holi was born to Niclaus Holi of Kürzenberg and Cathrjna Peter. He was baptized at Diessbach, Canton Bern April 19, 1696. The problem with this entry is that it takes place too late. Christen could not have been the minister Christian whose daughter Barbara married in 1729 – unless he was married at age 21, and his daughter was married at age 12.
Anabaptist leasors with David Holly and Christian Güngerich (he was replaced by Jakob Müller in 1769). Holly was married to Susanne Fischer, a niece of Ulrich Fischer… Jacob Hochstetter, a son of Isaac Hochstetter and his first wife Maria Siegel, came to the estate in 1790 after marrying Holly's daughter Barbara. He was ordained as a minister in 1798, and served as elder from 1815 to 1857.” Recall from UNZICKER: “In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited a royal property, the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Pfälz. 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 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 Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztaub. Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Guth, Holly received a 200 Gulden reward from the chancellor.”

6. Jörg/Georg Holly was born on the Bärbelsteinerhof circa 1723, and died at Nehwiller-près-Woerth, Lower Alsace [Ger. Nehweiler, and since 1972 Reichshoffen-Nehwiller] Jan. 20, 1794. In 1756 at Nehweiler-près-Woerth he married Barbara Bürki. She was born circa 1724, and died at Nehwiller-près-Woerth Nov. 28, 1793, a daughter of Johannes/Hans Burki and Barbara Güngerich. At the time of the marriage he was living at Mühlhofen. After marriage they resided at Nehwiller-près-Woerth, as early as 1756, and later leased the Tauferhof estate at Gumbrechtshoffen, Lower Alsace. Jörg/Georg represented the Wissembourg-area congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759. Their descendants account for the Hollys in Germany:

7. Anna Holly died on the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1749. In 1743 on the Bärbelsteinerhof she married Hans/Jean Ringenberger. He was born on the castle estate Ketzing before 1723, and died in 1763, a son of Christian Ringenberg and his first wife Anna Maurer. After her death he inherited the Bärbelsteinerhof lease, and remarried to Anna Rupp. His death left three children who have not been identified. (See RINGENBERGER).
Ordinarily this family would be outside our parameters - they arrived after 1856 - but this information is included to answer the specific questions of a descendant.

Recall from KLOPFENSTEIN that the children of Peter/Pierre Klopfenstein and his first wife Anna Luginbühl born on Niederwil farm included daughter Marie Klopfenstein. She was born May 15, 1738, and died at Montbéliard Feb. 8, 1804.

On Dec. 12, 1756 on Niederwil farm she married Jacob Eicher. He was born circa 1736, and died at Montbéliard April 8, 1799, a son of Jacob Eicher and Katharina Graber. Their descendants came to Elm Grove in 1867.

**Jacob Eicher** was born in or near Diessbach, Canton Bern circa 1693 (we could not identify a baptism entry there), and died before 1755. He is found on a 1723 census of Montbéliard in the French department of Doubs. He married Verena Oberli, then remarried to Katharina/Catherine Graber. She was born about 1709 at Etobon, 13 miles northwest of Montbéliard.

Jacob and Katharina's son **Jacob Eicher** was born circa 1736, and died at Montbéliard April 9, 1799. On Dec. 12, 1756 he married Marie Klopfenstein (her dates were noted earlier). His civil death entry describes him as 69-year-old cultivator Jacques Eicher.

Their son **Christian Eicher** was born circa 1766. On April 24, 1798 on Grange la Dame he married Anne/Anneli Riche (Grange la Dame is a farm at Grand Charmont, which touches the northeast corner of Montbéliard). Anne/Anneli was born March 10, 1774, and died on Des Gouttes farm at Exincourt near Montbéliard Dec. 15, 1811.

On Feb. 9, 1815 at Levoncourt, Upper Alsace Christian remarried to Anne Ummel. The civil marriage entry describe the groom as Christ Eicher, 48, born at Brougniard [Brognard]. He was the widower of Anne Riche, who had died on the farm Des Gouttes at Montbéliard Dec. 15, 1811. The bride was described as Anne Humel, 35, born at Grandvillars, a farmer on Montingo farm at Levoncourt. She was the widow of Michel Kauffmann, who had died on Montingo farm Nov. 10, 1813. It was witnessed by brother-of-the-groom Jacques Eicher, 58, a resident of Darbach [Dambach] near Altkirch; and brother-in-law Christian Lugbühl, 59, a resident of Altkirch.

**Pierre/Peter Eicher** was a son of Christian and his first wife Anne/Anneli Riche. He was born at Montbéliard March 7, 1804, and died at Luemschwiller, Upper Alsace Sept. 4, 1851.

He married Catherine Ropp. She was born at Luemschwiller Nov. 10, 1808, a daughter of Joseph Ropp and Elisabeth Maurer of Luemschwiller. She was a cousin to Andreas Ropp, patriarch of the Central Illinois family.

Their children born at Willer, Upper Alsace (six miles south of Luemschwiller, three miles southwest of Jettingen) include:

1. Christian Eicher was born Sept. 8, 1833, and died in Daviess County, Indiana Aug. 25, 1886. On April 16, 1874 in Allen County, Indiana he married Adeline Ruby.
2. Catherine Eicher was born Feb. 27, 1835, died in 1890, and is buried in Stoll Amish Cemetery in Daviess County, Indiana. On Feb. 18, 1868 at Ellice, Ontario (now Ward in Perth East) she married Joseph Springer. On March 25, 1886 in Daviess County, Indiana she remarried to Christian Lengacher.
3. **Pierre/Peter Eicher** was born March 27, 1837, and died in Tazewell County Oct. 15, 1912.
4. Joseph Eicher was born May 2, 1838, died in Allen County, Indiana March 29, 1915, and is buried in Amish Cemetery in Allen County, Indiana. On April 2, 1867 at Ellice he married Catherine Springer.
5. Anne Marie Eicher was born July 2, 1840, and died in Oxford County, Ontario Sept. 3, 1911.
6. Elizabeth Eicher was born July 6, 1842, and died at Willer July 31, 1842.

**Pierre/Peter Eicher** was born at Willer, Upper Alsace March 27, 1837.

On May 28, 1860 at Récéhsy he married Verène Stocki/Veronica Stucky. She was born at Waldighofen, Upper Alsace, three miles blow Willer (though no civil birth entry is found there) March 26 or 27, 1837, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Stucki and Anna Maria Aeschliman.

Peter and Veronica had one child in France, Catherine/Katharine, born at Récéhsy July 6, 1860. Récéhsy is near Florimont in the territory of Belfort, about one mile from the Swiss border.

On Feb. 18, 1861 widowed mother Catherine Ropp Eicher applied for passports at Colmar to reunite with her older brother Joseph Ropp in Canada - to "rejoine son frére Joseph Ropp." She was described as 52-year-old day laborer Catherine Eicher of Luemschwiller, the widow of Pierre Eicher, but born a Ropp. Her children were listed as Pierre, 24, with his wife Véronique Stucky, 24, and daughter Catherine, seven months; Chrétien, 28; Joseph, 23; Catherine, 26; and Marie, 20, all agricultural laborers.
The *Helvetia* sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 10, 1861. The passenger list shows Cathri Eicher, 52, Switzerland; Christian, 27; Cathrin, 26; Peter, 25; Joseph, 23; Maria, 20; Theresia [Verène], 25; and Cathrin, 1.

The location where they first settled has been described as Mornington Township or Ellice Township (now Ward), Ontario. Both locations are now in Perth East Township. Peter and Veronica had five children born there: Mary, Anna, Christian, Peter, and Anna.

Peter's mother died at East Zorra Feb. 13, 1866, and Peter and Veronica moved to Elm Grove in 1867. They lived next door to Peter's second cousin, Peter Ropp (they shared great-grandfather Jacob Roup of Plaine).

The family appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as Peter Eicher, 33, France; Veronika, 33, France; Catharine, 10, France; Mary, 8, Canada; Anna, 6, Canada; Christian, 4, Canada; Veronika, 2, Canada; and Peter, six months, Canada. They can also be found on the 1880 census of Danvers and the 1900 census of Mackinaw.

Peter died of pneumonia in Tazewell County Oct. 15, 1912, and was buried in Railroad Cemetery. Veronica died in the home of a daughter at Eureka Feb. 25, 1919, and was buried next to her husband. *Gospel Herald*, April 1919: "She united with the Mennonite Church at an early age and has been a devoted Christian all her life. She was mother of eleven children, ten of whom are living. Besides these children, 40 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren are left to mourn her departure."

Peter and Veronica's children include:

1. Catherine/Katharine Eicher was born at Réchésy July 6, 1860, and died at Delafield, Hamilton County Nov. 30, 1946. On May 10, 1879 at Danvers she married Solomon E. Yoder. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio March 10, 1849, and died at Delafield Aug. 3, 1943, a son of Joel Yoder and Lydia K. Yoder. He had come to Illinois in 1851. Catherine and Solomon are buried in Blooming Grove Cemetery at Bloomington.

2. Mary Eicher was born at Mornington in 1862, and died at Alliance, Nebraska Dec. 8, 1939. She is buried in Alliance Cemetery. In about 1892 she married Frederick Kauffold. He was born in Illinois Sept. 28, 1873 and died at Alliance Feb. 17, 1936.

3. Anna Eicher was born at Mornington Feb. 29, 1864, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Aug. 6, 1938. On Jan. 3, 1886 she married Harry Sauder. He was born at Lancaster, Pennsylvania Feb. 8, 1862, and died at Roanoke Oct. 17, 1935, a son of Henry Sauder and Catherine Zeisset. They are buried in Roanoke Cemetery.

4. Christian Eicher was born at Mornington Nov. 18, 1865, and died at Pekin April 2, 1943. On May 7, 1887 he married Lydia Anna Schrock. She was born at Pekin March 26, 1868, and died at Fisher, Champaign County Feb. 6, 1938, a daughter of Peter Schrock and Anna Garber. According to Donna Schrock Birkey, "Christian developed a drinking problem and after the birth of two girls he disappeared and was never heard from again. Lydia then lived with her sisters in Fisher and was cared for by her family. At her death she had been an invalid for nearly seven years, following a stroke of paralysis."

5. Veronica 'Fanny' Eicher was born at Mornington Nov. 25, 1867, and died in Medina County, Texas Jan. 27, 1929. She married Andrew Cender/Zendner. He was born in France March 4, 1862, and died at San Bernardino, California Feb. 26, 1948, a son of Christian Cender/Zendner and Mary Barbara Gerard.

6. Peter Eicher was born at Mornington Dec. 12, 1868, and appears as a 6-month-old on the 1870 census of Elm Grove. He died before the Danvers census in June 1880.

7. Barbara Eicher was born at Elm Grove July 16, 1871, and died at Sawyer, North Dakota Dec. 8, 1945. She is buried in Rosehill Cemetery at Minot. On Dec. 31, 1891 at Pekin she married Frederick Weidler. He was born at Wittenberg, Germany June 18, 1866, and died at Sawyer, North Dakota Nov. 6, 1957.

8. Magdalena Eicher was born at Elm Grove Jan. 10, 1874, and died at Chicago June 7, 1957. She is buried in Irving Park Cemetery. On Dec. 30, 1890 she married Christian Rich. He was born at Washington March 8, 1865, and died there Nov. 20, 1939, a son of Joseph Rich and Catherine Zimmerman (a niece of Andreas Ropp). They divorced, and she remarried to a Fischer before 1912.


10. Jacob John Eicher was born at Lily Sept. 5, 1878, and died at Peoria June 22, 1964. On Dec. 17, 1901 at Mackinaw he married Lulu Pettey. She was born at Mackinaw June 13, 1877, and died at Peoria June 6, 1972, a daughter of William Pettey and Elizabeth Stout.

11. Elizabeth Eicher was born Jan. 10, 1881, and died at Howard, South Dakota May 1, 1922. On Jan. 1, 1901 she married John Weishaupt in Illinois. He was born at Wittenberg, Germany Dec. 13, 1877, and died at Howard March 31, 1963, a son of Joseph Weishaupt and Louise Hofmann.
Kurtz

The Kürtz/Kurtz family figures in the background of the König/King family, but influenced others as well as leaseholders of the Katharinenthal. This estate at Göbrichen, six miles above Pforzheim in Baden-Durlach, became the central meeting place for Amish Mennonites in Baden-Durlach. It was also a starting point of departure for many emigrants from Europe.

Entries made before the family migrated from Canton Bern spell the surname ‘Kürtz.’ Those made later omit the breve pronunciation mark above the vowel. In Swiss German dialect the breve gave the vowel a short sound.

Some sources say Úli Kürtz was born at Röthenbach (now Rothenbach im Emmental) circa 1610. But no baptism entry is found there.  He married Anni Zimmerman. Four of their children were baptized at Steffisburg 1641-49. None of the entries denote residences out in the parish, indicating the parents lived in town.

1. Anna Kürtz was baptized Dec. 4, 1641.
2. Adam Kürtz (twin) was baptized May 11, 1645.
3. Eva Kürtz (twin) was baptized May 11, 1645.
4. Adelheit Kürtz was baptized Jan. 21, 1649.

There may have been male children who were not baptized, or baptized elsewhere, and this might account for a number of ‘loose’ Kürtz events at Steffisburg. Christen married Christina Gerber Nov. 30, 1663; Jacob married Barbara Stutzman Feb. 23, 1672; Peter married Elisbeth Rüfenacht Aug. 15, 1687; and Jacob of Schwarzenegg married Barbara Eyser Jan. 27, 1708 (on the same day Michel Eyer married Barbara Schenck). In addition Samuel Kürtz of Diessbach married Barbara Baumann of Diessbach at Schwarzenegg June 26, 1714.

Adam Kürtz was baptized at Steffisburg May 11, 1645.

On May 26, 1673 at Steffisburg he married Marget/Margreth Schenck. Their marriage entry says she was from Diessbach, but no baptism entry is found there.

In 1713 Adam was a leaseholder at Mühlhofen; this was the first year that Mennoniten were permitted by law to lease properties in the area. Though Mühlhofen was technically within an enclave of land administered by the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, the bishop-prince [Ger. Fürstbischof] of Speyer owned an estate there. The Mennoniten who leased his fields were first brought in to improve the rundown property. Their success encouraged the bishop-prince to build four houses specifically for them, and to invite their relatives to settle on his other properties including the Mechtersheimerhof near Speyer. For more on Mühlhofen, see DONNER.

The children of Adam Kürtz and Margreth Schenck include:

1. Steffen (per baptism entry)/Stephan (as he called himself in his family Bible) Kürtz was baptized at Steffisburg Oct. 4, 1674 (the original name of the community was Sankt Stephansburg). The entry called him Steffen Kürtz. Circa 1712 he married Magdalena Bürci. In 1713 they left Steffisburg and went to the Steinweiler estate near Mühlhofen in the Pfalz. They later lived at Tiengen bei Breisach in Baden, and Itzingen (the grounds of Schloss Lieberstein at Neckarwestheim below Heilbronn, now in Baden-Württemberg). Detailed family entries were kept in a family Bible that is now in the Lancaster Theological Seminary Library.
   a. Anneli/Anna Kürtz was born Dec. 16, 1714. In his article Jost Yoder and the YRB Yoder Family in the January 2016 issue of Mennonite Family History, John F. Murray proposed that she married Jost

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112 At Röthenbach we found an entry for the marriage of Hanns Kürtz and Christina Kolerin Jan. 7, 1630.
We also looked at Rothenbach. It is now a road within Rüschegg, which was part of Guggisberg until 1860. No baptism entry was found at Guggisberg.

113 One early Kürtz event at Steffisburg cannot be explained. On Aug. 11, 1623 Gladi Kürtz married Anna Klatt or Klay.
Joder/Yost Yoder. He was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 21, 1710, a son of Jacob Joder and Margretha Stahl of Oberhofen.\textsuperscript{114} He immigrated with her brothers and König/Kings on the Musccliffe in 1744 (listed as Jost Jotter). He is known to have married on the Steinweiler estate in 1733. If so, she died before 1760, when Yost remarried to a Barbara (after his death Barbara remarried to Christian Beiler).

b. Two sons were born circa 1716, and died as infants.

c. Maria Kurtz was born on the Steinweiler estate near Mühlhofen April 9, 1720. She became the second wife of Jacob/Jakob Holly, a son of minister Christian Holl/Holly and Magdalena Stagman. Jacob/Jakob became a minister/elder at Mühlhofen, representing the congregation at the assembly of Amish Mennonite ministers at Essingen in 1759.

d. Hansli (family Bible)/Hans Kurtz (also known as Johannes, Hanshi, Hennes, or John) was born on the Steinweiler estate near Mühlhofen Dec. 11, 1722, and died in Berks County in 1796. He and his younger brother Stephan sailed on the Musccliffe Galley with Samuel König/Koenig in 1744. The Lancaster County register says Hans Kurtz obtained a warrant for 25 acres at Bern (now Centre, Berks County) April 11, 1751. He married Elizabeth Rickenbach. She was born at Basel in 1724, and died at Womelsdorf in February of 1796, a daughter of Henry Rickenbach and Barbara Thommen. They lived at Womelsdorf, in Heidelberg Township, Berks County, where Hans became a deacon for the northern part of Berks County.

e. Steffeli (family Bible)/Stephen/Stephan Kurtz was born on the Steinweiler estate near Mühlhofen July 23, 1724. The Lancaster County register says that Stephen Kurtz obtained a warrant for 75 acres at Bern (now Centre, Berks County) June 2, 1746. The land was surveyed as 80 acres before it was paid off by Christian Zug [Zug] Nov. 5, 1784. Berks County was created out of Lancaster County in 1752. The Berks County register says that Stephen Kurtz obtained a warrant for 25 acres at Bern March 7, 1754; it was surveyed as 88 acres before it was paid off by Christian Zug Nov. 5, 1784. He later lived at Meyerstown in what is now Lebanon County. He married Freni/Veronica Yoder, and became a deacon of the Conestoga congregation in Lancaster County. His will was written at Heidelberg Aug. 7, 1771, and executed April 12, 1773. His wife was named as Ferena Veronica. Executors were his brother John Kurtz and Christian Jorder [Yoder] Jr. Their daughter Catherine Kurtz was born in Mifflin or Berks County Jan. 28, 1763. She married Christian King, a son of Samuel König/Koenig.

f. Abraham Kurtz was born at Tiengen bei Breisach May 24, 1729, and died as an infant.

g. Adam Kurtz was born at Tiengen bei Breisach Nov. 15, 1730, and died as an infant.

Jacob Kurtz is thought to belong here, though no baptism entry has been identified. He was born circa 1690. In 1714, 1723, and 1732 he held leases at Mühlhofen in the Pfalz. He also became a deacon there. He may have served a wide area; in September 1729 he signed a petition from the ministers of the Hohenwettersbach estate (now a neighborhood on the southeast corner of Karlsruhe, 25 miles southeast of Mühlhofen). He came to the Katharinentaler Hof in 1728 and entered into a lease agreement as a partner with Hans Hürzler.\textsuperscript{115} The estate 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. In the 1700s it was a possession of the Margravate of Baden-Durlach (the northern part of Baden). Older documents also call it Heumaden, Heumatte, or Katharinenthal auf dem Heldmauer. Crops were raised on loess as deep as 25 feet. Loess is a thin layer of topsoil covering layers of finely ground silt, sand, and clay. It is created by wind over thousands of years. It drains well, but occasionally gives way to sinkholes. The land can be very productive if the farmer does not plow too deep and wind or water do not erode the surface. The margrave may have offered generous terms to settle Swiss emigrants in the area because they had experience with the problem. The estate became the central meeting place for Amish Mennonites in Baden-Durlach. Hürzler functioned as a minister while Jacob served as his deacon. Jacob became the leaseholder on the adjunct farm Karlhäuserhof at nearby Dörren in 1740. From that year forward it was held by Kurtzes, Hürzler, or Brennemans related by marriage (Nikolaus Brenneman, the younger, married Jacob Kurtz’s daughter Barbara). In 1744 the Katharinentaler Hof was the European starting point of two Kurtz brothers and Jacob König, and possibly for Samuel and Christian König/Koenig as well. According to records discovered by Hermann Guth, Musccliffe Galley passenger Jacob König was a sub-leaseholder on the Katharinentaler Hof until 1744. The records mention his emigration to America in that year. Hürzler retired from active farming in 1746. On Feb. 8, 1750 Jacob Kurtz and Ulrich Fischer signed a lengthy agreement making them co-leaseholders of the Katharinentaler Hof.\textsuperscript{116} A facsimile of the signature page can be found in Amish Mennonites in Germany. Guarantors for the leaseholders included Nikolaus/Nikolaus/Clauß Brönniman (later generations spelled this Brenneman) and his stepson

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Field} & \textbf{Owner} \\
\hline
Katharinentaler Hof & Jacob Kurtz \\
\hline
Stefen & Stephan Kurtz \\
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\end{tabular}
\caption{Fields owned by members of the Kurtz family.}
\label{table:kurtz_fields}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{114} Jacob Joder and Margretha Stäbli of Oberhofen were married at Steffisburg May 30, 1684.
\textsuperscript{115} Minister Hans Hürzler did not emigrate. The Hertzlers and Hartzlers of Berks County are descendants of his son, minister/elder Jacob Hertzler. See LANTZ for background on the son.
\textsuperscript{116} At the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759 minister Peter Rothacker represented Baden-Durlach with Benedikt Eyer, Christian Oesch, and Hans Steiner. He leased the Hohenwettersbach from before 1729 to after 1759. The estate was owned by the Margrave Wilhelm Friedrich Schilling, who had come from Canstatt and married Karoline von Wangen there in 1711. Amish Mennonite-leased estates at Königsbach, Remchingen, and Rüppurr were all within five miles of one another, just west of the Katharinentaler Hof.
Hans Kennel of the Karlshäuserhof estate; Benedikt Eyer [Sr.] from the Steinisch estate between Königsbach and Langensteinbich and his son Rudolf from Remchingen (married to Jacob Kurtz's daughter Veronika Kurtz); and minister Peter Rothacker of the Hohenwettersbach estate. Minister/elder Johannes/Hans Nafziger signed on behalf of Benedikt Eyer [Sr.] and his son.117 Nafziger lived on the Katharinentaler Hof briefly in 1754, after his lease at Rüppurr had expired and before he moved to the Dalberg estate at Essingen (see NAFZIGER). The document had to be revised in 1752 when Fischer announced his intentions to go to America, and again in 1754 when Benedikt Eyer [Jr.] married Jacob Kurtz's daughter Jakobina and became a co-leaseholder. When the margraviate of Baden took over management of the estate in 1763, Jacob was given permission to extend the lease for the remainder of his lifetime. It was extended by Benedikt Eyer [Jr.] in 1769. The Katharinental was later rebuilt as an agricultural complex, and nothing survives of the original.118 Sons Abraham and Jacob came to America. The children of Jacob Kurtz include:

1. Abraham Kurtz was born near Mühlhofen circa 1719.  
2. Jacob Kurtz was born near Mühlhofen circa 1722. 

The birth years and birth order of three daughters could not be identified:
- Barbara Kurtz married Nikolaus Brenneman.  
- Veronika Kurtz married Rudolf Eyer.  
- Jakobina Kurtz married Benedict Eyer [Jr.].

**Jacob’s son Abraham Kurtz**

**Abraham Kurtz** was born near Mühlhofen circa 1719.

He is thought to have made five transatlantic passages. As a 21-year-old he sailed from Rotterdam on the *Robert and Alice*, arriving at Philadelphia Dec. 3, 1740. The passenger list shows only 'A. Kurtz,' but the date of this first voyage has been passed down by descendants.

He soon returned to the Mechtersheimerhof, where he married Margaret Bollinger, a daughter of Rudolph Bollinger. They had sons Christian and Jacob.120 He is listed as a co-leaseholder of the Mechtersheimerhof in 1743.

Abraham (and perhaps Margaret) sailed from Rotterdam on the *Phoenix* with Christian Fischer, Christian Schowalter, and Martin Ritter, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. Margaret may have died shortly before or during the voyage.

He returned to Europe again and remarried to her sister Barbara Bollinger. Abraham had a third son Abraham [Jr.] born in 1753. Abraham, Barbara, and their new son sailed to America in 1754 - his fifth crossing. They ultimately settled at Earl on the Conestoga Creek in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where they had nine more children.121

He was naturalized at Earl Aug. 29, 1761. He became deacon of the Conestoga Church. The Pequea congregation alms book he kept from 1768 has been preserved. His second wife Barbara died Jan. 22, 1775, and he may have remarried to 'Catherine,' who is only known from his will. She could not be further identified.

Abraham was a witness at the signing of Samuel König/Koenig's will in 1777 (he appeared as a witness on many Berks County and Lancaster County wills, perhaps in his function as deacon).

His will was drafted at Earl April 2, 1782, and probated Nov. 8, 1782. The executors were his two oldest sons Christian and Jacob; his wife was named as Catherine. His extensive estate was inventoried Oct. 17. It included a *Bible* and 'six Martyr books.' Several property holdings brought the total value to more than 3,000 English pounds

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117 Nafziger lived on the Katharinentaler Hof briefly in 1754, after his lease at Rüppurr had expired and before he moved to the Dalberg estate at Essingen (see NAFZIGER).

118 In *Freidrich Winebrenner, Architect of Karlsruhe* David B. Brownlee writes of the building director of the Grand Duchy of Baden that, "It was also for her [Luise Caroline, Margrave Karl Friedrich's second wife] that he built his most complete model farm, Katharinental, in 1808 and 1809. A self-sufficient agricultural unit, its buildings lie alone in the center of a broad valley, whose houses and barns line the streets of nearby villages like Göbrichen...The farm survives, although the house has been altered."

119 A Kurtz distraction: the best-known Kurtz in Berks County was an unrelated Lutheran. Johann Nicolas/John Nicholas Kurtz was born at Lützellinden, Hesse-Kassel Oct. 12, 1720, and was educated at Geissen. He was a son of Johann Georg Kurtz and Anna Katharina Bender of Reichenbach, Hesse-Kassel. He was a deacon when he arrived at Philadelphia Jan. 14, 1745. In 1747 he married Anna Elizabeth Seidel of Hanover, York County. He was ordained as an Evangelical Lutheran minister at Philadelphia Aug. 13, 1748; this was the first ordination of a Lutheran minister in America. The minister's letters mention that he lived at Tulpehocken and was minister to a congregation at Heidelberg until 1771. In 1773 he resettled at Hanover. In 1792 he relocated to a son's home at Baltimore, Maryland, and died there May 12, 1794.

120 Jacob is also found as 'Eochley' in *A Brief Biographic Memorial of Jacob Hertzler*.

121 The 1754 voyage is only known from a contract made at Rotterdam. It is cited in David W. Kurtz's excellent article *Cleaning out the Attic* in the July 2001 issue of *Mennonite Family History*.
(more than $430,000 in modern buying power). Over the years he had owned 189 acres at Earl, 106 acres at Salisbury, 114 acres as Caernarvon, and 54 acres at Cumru.

The children of Abraham Kurtz and his first wife Margaret Bollinger born on the Mecktersheimerhof include:

1. Christian Kurtz was born Aug. 27, 1747. He married Barbara Sollenberger. She was born circa 1748, a daughter of Ulrich Sollenberger and Maria. Circa 1783 he remarried to Magdalena Yoder. She was born circa 1760, a daughter of Michael Yoder.
2. Jacob Kurtz was born circa 1748, and died at Little Britain, Lancaster County Jan. 20, 1816. He is found on the 1785 tax list of Cumru as the owner of 400 acres, 6 horses, 7 cattle, and 15 sheep; 15 people lived in his household. Circa 1768 he married Barbara Ritter. Shortly after 1877 they relocated to Tredyffrin in Chester County.

Children of Abraham Kurtz and his second wife Barbara Bollinger born at Earl, Lancaster County include:

3. Abraham Kurtz [Jr.] was born July 5, 1753, and died in Berks County Sept. 21, 1831. On Jan. 22, 1775 he married Barbara Ritter. She was born Dec. 22, 1749, and died in Berks County Oct. 11, 1823. 'Abraham Kurtz' appears on the 1785 tax list of Cumru as the owner of 100 acres, 2 horses, 2 cattle, and 4 sheep; 5 people lived in his household.
4. Joseph Kurtz was born May 21, 1754, and died at Reading, Berks County in 1815. On Oct. 19, 1787 in Berks County he married Veronica/Frances/Fanny Miller. She was born in Berks County Sept. 18, 1769.
5. Barbara Kurtz was born April 25, 1755, and died in Chester County April 17, 1834. On Dec. 26, 1775 in Chester County she married Henry Zug/Zook. He was a member at Center, Berks County May 8, 1752, and died in Lancaster County Deb. 21, 1826, a son of Moritz Zug and Maria/Mary (Moritz came from the Wilensteinherhof at Trippstadt on the Francis and Elizabeth in 1742). Henry and Barbara had a son David Zook who left his Amish Mennonite congregation. He served as a major in the Revolutionary War and married Eleanor Stephens. Their son Samuel Kurtz Zook was born March 27, 1821. At an early age Samuel moved to the home of his maternal grandmother at Tredyffrin. He grew up playing on the battlefields surrounding Valley Forge, and became absorbed in military history. At some point he changed his name to Samuel Kosciusko Zook. He became an officer in the state militia at age 19, and reached the rank of brigadier general. He died in the Battle of Gettysburg July 3, 1863. An earlier footnote also noted that David and Eleanor's daughter Hannah J. Zook married Williams Evans/Wayne, who inherited the farmstead Waynesborough from Mad Anthony's son Isaac Wayne.
6. Peter Kurtz was born circa 1757, and died at Earl in 1793. Circa 1781 he married Esther Lapp. She was born circa 1759. He remarried to Mary Blank. She was born at Cocalico Nov. 12, 1762, and died in Chester County Feb. 21, 1842, a daughter of Hans/John Blank and his wife Maria/Mary Eichelman. Mary remarried to Bernard Wolff circa 1793; he was born in Lancaster County circa 1765. Mary is buried in Cambridge Cemetery at Earl.
7. John Kurtz was born in 1759, and died at Delaware, Juniata County in 1822. Circa 1785 he married Barbara Gerber/Garver. She was born in Leacock, Lancaster County circa 1763, and died at Delaware Township, a daughter of Hans/John Gerber and Catherine. In 1812 they purchased 250 acres at Delaware Township (Juniata County was then part of Cumberland County). They built a log house and a barn, and farmed in what was later known as the Kurtz Valley. They are buried in Renno Graveyard at Milltown.
8. Catherine Kurtz was born Aug. 27, 1761, and died at Cumru, Berks County April 20, 1837. On June 1, 1783 she married Christian Miller. He was born at Cumru Feb. 17, 1760, and died there Feb. 10, 1832, a son of Christian Miller and Veronica Mishler. They are buried in Miller Cemetery at Shillington, Berks County.
9. David Kurtz was born circa 1769, and died in Lancaster County in 1813. Circa 1790 he married Barbara Lapp. She was born in Chester County in June 1768, and died at Bluffton, Ohio in 1837, a daughter of Michael Lapp and Mary.
10. Samuel Kurtz was born May 1, 1771, and died in Lancaster County Aug. 16, 1835. He married Barbara Schowalter. She was born at Earl March 1, 1772, and died there April 17, 1862, a daughter of Jacob Schowalter and Barbara Eyer. They are buried in the Kurtz Family Cemetery at Earl.
11. Elizabeth Kurtz was born circa 1773, and died in Chester County in 1810. Circa 1794 she married Philip Landis. He was born in Bucks County May 6, 1764, and died in Butler County, Ohio Jan. 31, 1838; he is buried in Miltonville Cemetery there. He was a son of Frederick Landis and Elizabeth Hoch.

Jacob’s son Jacob Kurtz

Jacob Kurtz was born near Mühlhofen circa 1722.\textsuperscript{122}

He sailed on the Francis and Elizabeth, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742.

\textsuperscript{122} Some sources say this Jacob Kurtz was baptized at Wahlern, Canton Bern Oct. 25, 1722. However, this was another family, though possibly related. We found Jacob Kurtz and Elisabeth Beijeler as the parents on these Wahlern baptism entries:

1. Anna Kürzt was baptized Aug. 22, 1715.
2. Christ Kürzt was baptized Dec. 18, 1716.
3. Hans Kürzt was baptized Dec. 17, 1719.
4. Jacob Kürzt was baptized Oct. 25, 1722.
Circa 1746 he married Maria Elizabeth Eberly, who was born at Schwarzenau (now in North Rhine-Westphalia) in 1722, and died at Manheim, Lancaster County in 1797, a daughter of Michael Eberly and Veronica Ulrich. They settled at Manheim, where Jacob purchased 75 acres on May 24, 1748.

Jacob registered his will at Leacock Aug. 9, 1788, and died at Salisbury May 26, 1792. He is buried in the Kurtz Cemetery at Leacock. The children of Jacob and Maria Elizabeth born at Manheim include:

1. Jacob Kurtz (#3) was born circa 1747, and died at Salisbury, Lancaster County Oct. 22, 1822. In 1766 he married Magdalena 'Martha' König/King, a daughter of Samuel König/Koenig and Anna Yoder. She was born in 1745 or 1748, and died in Lancaster County in 1814. Magdalena's headstone is so worn that the date cannot be read with certainty (some say 1745, others say 1748). At age 21 he was naturalized. The document in the *Pennsylvania Archives* says, "Jacob Kurtz, hereafter named being a foreign Protestant, who conscientiously scruples to take an Oath, on the aforementioned thirteenth day of May, before the said Judges of the Supreme Court at Reading, Berks Co., aforesaid took the affirmation and made and repeated the Declaration according to the directions of the act of the thirteenth of King George the Second. Jacob Kurtz, Cumru Berks." Biographies say he started as a poor man before becoming a prosperous farmer. He was also unusually large for the time, weighing over 200 pounds. Jacob was designated executor on the will of his father-in-law Samuel König/Koenig. They are found on the 1800 census of Salisbury. Jacob and Magdalena were buried on their farm at Salisbury, described as the 'John Yost farm' or '12 miles east of Pequea meeting house.'

2. Christian Kurtz was born Dec. 25, 1749, and died in 1837. In 1775 he married Mary Rupp. She was born at Earl in 1751, and died in 1817, a daughter of Johannes/John Rupp and Anna Guth/Good. They are buried in Salisbury.

3. Anna Kurtz was born circa 1751. She married Christian Weidman, who was born circa 1745.

4. Catherine Kurtz was born in 1754 (twin?). She married John Kurtz. He was born in Berks County in January 1751, and died in Lancaster County circa 1826, a son of Hans/John Kurtz and Elizabeth Richenbach.

5. Abraham Kurtz was born in December 1754 (twin? - one source says 1759), and died in Lancaster County in 1799. Circa 1783 he married Barbara Blank. She was born at Cocalico in 1763, and died in 1804, a daughter of Hans/John Blank and Maria/Mary Eichelman. Abraham's will was drafted at Cocalico Oct. 7, 1799 "sick and weak in body," and probated Nov. 19, 1799. It names his wife as Barbara. Executors were, "My brother John Kurtz, and my brother-in-law Jacob Kurtz, and my brother-in-law Jacob Blanck."

6. John Kurtz was born March 16, 1756, and died in Lancaster County Feb. 13, 1826. Circa 1781 he married Veronica/ Frances Zug/Zook. She was born at Center, Berks County in January 1763, and died at Lancaster, Lancaster County Feb. 15, 1826, a daughter of Moritz Zug and Maria.

7. Barbara Kurtz was born Nov. 5, 1762, and died Feb. 16, 1826. She married Jacob Kurtz. He was born in Berks County March 8, 1753, and died at Cocalico Oct. 30, 1832, a son of Hans Kurtz and Elizabeth Richenbach. They are buried in the Church of the Brethren Cemetery/Kurtz Family Cemetery at Ephrata.
Fahsbender

The Fahsbenders were not one of the Amish Mennonite families who came to the county before 1856. We were asked to look at them because their background has been somewhat of a puzzle. The result is given here to make the information accessible.

As noted in GRUBB, André Kropp/Andrew Grubb Jr. was born in France circa 1834, and died at Elm Grove in 1867. On Feb. 7, 1858 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Maurer. She was born in France in May 1827 (per the 1900 census), immigrated in 1832, and died at Elm Grove Dec. 6, 1907.

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, who all took the surname Grubb, were noted earlier.

On July 5, 1870 in Tazewell County widow Barbara Maurer remarried to widower Carl/Charles Fahsbender. He was born in Prussia March 4, 1834, died at Pekin Sept. 9, 1911, and is buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove. Though no headstone can be found, the county cemetery book calls him Charles Fahsbender, and says that he died Sept. 9, 1911, aged 77 years and three months.123

There has been some confusion because Carl/Charles had been married earlier in Germany. The name of his first wife Amalia Kühler is found on the civil birth entry of their youngest daughter.

In 1866 Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck provoked a war with Austria, which was quickly defeated. Carl/Charles is thought to have emigrated from Europe in 1869. His timing may have reflected an interlude between wars, or the institution of mandatory military training and conscription in the Kingdom of Prussia.

Carl/Charles came to Illinois alone. Three of his four underage children did not follow him until 1872. We suspect that he had intended to travel ahead of Amalia and the children. However, his wife died, and the passage of his underage children was delayed by war.

As noted, the widower and widow remarried in Tazewell County July 5, 1870. On July 19, 1870 Napoleon III of France declared his own war against Prussia. The disastrous decision resulted in a stunning loss at the Battle of Sedan Sept. 2. Napoleon III and his entire army were captured. Paris fell on Jan. 28, 1871. Bismarck became chancellor and the most influential man in Europe. Alsace and Lorraine were occupied until 1918.

The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows Charles Fasebender, 36, Prussia; Barbara [Maurer], 39, France; Joseph, 10, Illinois; Veronika [Fannie], 9, Illinois; Magdalen, 5, Illinois; Joseph Maur, 79, France [Barbara's father?]; and Mary Schweizer, 71, France [Barbara's mother-in-law Anne Marie Schwitzer].

Three of Carl/Charles's four known children from his first marriage sailed from Bremen on the Deutschland, and arrived at New York Aug. 13, 1872. They are found on the passenger list as Berthold Fassbinder, 14; Martha, 9; and Ernst, 8. They were presumably escorted by another passenger found on the same page: farmer Jacob Maurer, 28.124

The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Carl Fasbender, 46, Germany; Barbra, 53, France; Malinda Grubb, 15, Illinois; and Carl Fasbender, 8, Illinois - one child from Barbara's first marriage and one child from the second marriage. Carl/Charles Fahsbender Jr. married his cousin Fanny Forney; see RISSER/REESER for more on this couple. The three Fahsbender immigrant children can also be found on that census, employed in local households as servants or farm hands.

The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows retired farmer Charles Fosbender, 66, born in Germany in June 1834, immigrated in 1868, and married in 1870; and Barbara, 73, born in Germany in May 1827, married in 1870, and immigrated in 1832.

123 We initially assumed that Carl/Charles was a passenger on the Westphalia, though the age on the passenger list would have been incorrect by about six years. The Westphalia sailed from Bremen Jan. 27, 1869, and arrived at New York. The departure passenger list shows carpenter [Ger. Zimmermann] Carl Fassbender, 28, a resident of Jüchen, Preussen [Prussia]. Jüchen is located 16 miles west of Leverkusen, the vicinity of the births of his children. However, a birth entry at Jüchen shows that there was a Carl Fassbender who was born there May 21, 1840, a son of Johann Fassbender and Margaret Königs. Thus the only scenario that would make this possible were if he had fathered Berthold at age 19, and the age assumed in Illinois (birth in 1834) was mistaken.

124 The Deutschland passenger list actually shows farmer Jacob Maurer; farmer Ferdinand Scherzinger; miller Johann Frank; laborer Carl Wegerich, 30, laborer; and then the three Fahsbender children.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois
Appendix

The children of Carl/Charles Fahlbender and his first wife Amalia Kühler born in the vicinity of Leverkusen, Germany include:

1. Berchtold Fahlbender was born circa 1859, and died before 1935. He was likely the B. Falsbender, 21, Germany, found in the household of John Summers on the 1880 census of Elm Grove. On March 28, 1893 in Tazewell County he married Mary Wagler. We could not follow him after his marriage.

2. Martha Fahlbender was born at Burscheid, Germany (eight miles northeast of Leverkusen) Aug. 26, 1860, and died at Brown, Champaign County May 26, 1935. She was likely the domestic servant Martha Fosbender, 19, Germany found in the Gottfried Schreck household on the 1880 census of Cincinnati, Tazewell County. On June 21, 1887 in Champaign County she married Johannes/John B. Zimmerman. He was born in Baden July 23, 1846, and died at Foosland Sept. 24, 1939, a son of Johannes/John Zimmerman and Anna Bacher.

3. Ernst/Ernest Fahlbender was born March 5, 1863, and died at Chicago March 19, 1946. He was likely the 17-year-old servant and farm worker in the household of Jacob Spaits on the 1880 census of Boynton. On June 15, 1902 at Chicago he married Sophie Richards. They appear on the 1910 census of Chicago (which says Ernest was born in Pennsylvania), the 1920 census of Chicago (as E. Faksbender, whose year of immigration was 1873), and on the 1930 census of Chicago (his year of immigration from Germany is given as 1872, and Sophie's as 1888). Sophie's death entry created at Chicago June 10, 1944 called her Sophie Falsbender. It said that she was born at Carlburg, Sweden May 15, 1870, and died at Kankakee June 8, 1944. Ernest and Sophie are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery at Beverly, Cook County.

4. Emma Fahlbender was born at Schlebusch, Germany (now part of Leverkusen) Aug. 6, 1864. Her civil birth entry names her parents as Carl Fahlbender and Amalia Kühler. She may have died young, and was not on the 1872 passenger list.

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125 A transcription in Illinois County Marriages 1810-1934 describes the groom as John B. Zimmerman, 40, a son of John Zimmerman and Anna Bacher. The bride is described as Martha Fahlbender, 27, a daughter of Charles Fahlbender and Aravia Kaen.
Esch of Lancaster County

This portion of text is far afield of Tazewell and Woodford Counties. It was put together to answer a query from a descendant.

**Jean Pierre Oesch** was born in the Oderfang mill at St. Avold, Moselle Nov. 8, 1804, a son of Chrétien Oesch and Barbe Oesch.

His family soon moved north to live on the Gottes Belohnung [God's Reward] estate at Schmelz in the Saar region, 30 miles north of St. Avold. He labored in a mill and saved his money, then resettled and sought a wife at Dalem, Moselle (12 miles northwest of St. Avold).

On Nov. 10, 1825 at Dalem he married Catherine Engel (the entry is indexed under Osch). She was born at Heckenransbach May 1, 1808, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Barbe Nafziger (see ENGEL for background on her family). Heckenransbach was a hamlet that was absorbed by Ernestviller, Moselle (22 miles east of St. Avold) in 1811.

They had six children at Dalem, though the first lived only a year. The children were described as Osch or Oesch in civil entries.

As noted in SCHERTZ, on March 27, 1854 the United Kingdom declared war on Russia. The following day France announced an alliance with the United Kingdom, and the Crimean War began.

It is highly probable that Jean Pierre and Catherine’s 24-year-old son Pierre/Peter was the Pierre Esch who sailed from Le Havre Feb. 14, 1855 on the Adelaida Metcalf, and arrived at New York March 27, 1855. A transcription of the passenger list dated March 28 says ‘Pierre Esch, 26, Prussia.’

The remainder of the family sailed from Le Havre on the Helvetia, arriving at New York Oct. 17, 1855. The passenger list shows Pierre Esch, 50; Cathar., 48; Joseph, 27; Madeleine, 22; Maria, 19; and Nicolas, 9. All were described as natives of France.

The 1860 census of Salisbury, Lancaster County shows a household comprised of farmer Saml. Shiltzfous [Stoltzfus], 33, Pennsylvania; Mary [Marie/Mary Esch], 23, France; Amos, 2, Pennsylvania; Catharine, three months, Pennsylvania; Nicholas Ash [Esch], 15, France; Peter, 56, France; Catharine, 54, Pennsylvania [born in France]; and Magdalena Engle, 44, nativity left blank [Catherine’s sister Madeleine/Magdalena Engel, who was born at Dalem Feb. 27, 1817, and died in Lancaster County June 17, 1898]. Next door was farmer Peter Ash [Peter Sr.’s son], 28, France; Catharine [Stoltzfus], 28, Pennsylvania; Christian, eight months, Pennsylvania; and Magdalene [Peter Sr.’s daughter], 25, France.

The 1870 census of Salisbury has farmer Peter Ash, 65, Bosendorf, Germany; Catherine, 64, Saralven [Sarralbe], Germany; and farm laborer Joseph, 42, Bosendorf. The identification of Bosendorf initially seems obscure. But when one realizes that Catherine’s birthplace was given not by village but by the French canton it was located in, it is clear that Bosendorf was meant to be a German-language equivalent of Bouzonville, the French canton that encompasses Dalem and may once (under older boundaries) have encompassed St. Avold.

The 1880 census of Salisbury has farmer Joseph Esch, 52, France; Madeleine, 46, sister, France; farm laborer Nicholas, 34, brother, Germany; retired farmer and father Peter, 75, France; and mother Catherine, 72, France.

Peter Oesch died in Lancaster County Jan. 10, 1881, and was buried in Millwood Mennonite Cemetery at Gap, Lancaster County. His headstone says he was Peter Esch, aged 79 years and two months.

Children of Jean Pierre Oesch and Catherine Engel born at Dalem, Moselle include:

1. Barbe Osch was born July 30, 1825, and died at Dalem Aug. 16, 1826.
2. Joseph Osch/Esch was born Oct. 25, 1827, and died in Lancaster County Aug. 10, 1890. He may have been the Joseph Esch who filed a Declaration of Intent in Lancaster County March 17, 1868 (the same day a Nicholas Esch was naturalized), and was naturalized Aug. 20, 1872. His headstone in Millwood Mennonite Cemetery gives his age as 62 years, nine months, and 16 days.
3. Pierre Oesch/Peter Esch was born July 8, 1830, and died at South Hermitage, Lancaster County Nov. 15, 1911. On Dec. 2, 1858 in Lancaster County he married Catherine/Katie Stoltzfus. She was born in Lancaster County Oct. 10, 1836.

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126 Madeleine/Magdalena ‘Martha’ Engel may be found on the passenger list of the William Tell as “farmer Madeleine Engel, 43, France.” It sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York Nov. 12, 1859. She is buried near Esches in Millwood Mennonite Cemetery at Gap, Lancaster County. Her headstone identifies her as “Magdalena Engle, died June 17, 1898, aged 82 yrs. 6 months & 11 days.”

127 St. Avold is now its own canton. Both cantons Bouzonville and St. Avold now fall within the administrative district [Fr. arrondissement] of Forbach-Boulay-Moselle.
Christian Esch was born in Lancaster Co., Pa., and died March 26, 1910, aged 50 y. 4 m. 28 d. He had taken a severe attack of pneumonia only four days previous to the day of his death, being hale and hearty during his entire life. He was married to Lydia Byler, who still survives him with one young daughter and a son to mourn his departure. Bro. Esch was a member of the Amish Mennonite Church. He was a kind and loving father, and was greatly respected by all who knew him for his remarkable disposition in public. He sustained a great loss about two years ago, when their only daughter and son died with diphtheria. The funeral was held at his home, March 29, and also the same day at Millwood, where he was a farmer resident of the vicinity, and was conducted by Bishop Gideon Stoltzfus and John S. Mast. Interment in the Millwood Cemetery.”
miner laborer Nicholas Esch, 51, born in France in July of 1845, immigrated in 1854. His headstone in Millwood Mennonite Cemetery says he was age 56 years, five months, and 28 days.
Strubhar of Lafrimbolle

The first noteworthy American immigrant with this surname was Hans Straubhaar. He was thought to have been born at Niederstocken in the parish of Reutigen, Canton Bern Aug. 31, 1727 (though no baptism entry is found there), and died in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Jan. 15, 1795, a son of Michael Staubhaar and Barbara Michel.

His name is found as Hans Strubhar on a list of male, 16-and-over Phoenix passengers created in the courthouse at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. It named immigrants who had taken the Oath of Abjuration to the Pope, one of the customary steps upon arrival in an English colony since 1727. The Phoenix had sailed from Rotterdam via the tax station at Cowes to Philadelphia. The substantial number of familiar surnames among the passengers stand out: Bender, Dartweiler [Dätwyler], Fischer, Hochstätter and Hochstetter [the original forms of Hochstettler], Isch [Ösch], Kauffman, Keim, Kurtz, Lans [Lantz], Miller [Müller], Mischler, Nosker and Nafziger [Nafziger], Perquy [Birki], Rupp, Springer, Stauffer, Stecker, and von Gumden [von Gunden]. The oath list noted that they came from Pfalz-Zweibrücken, the Pfalz, Nassau, and Württemberg. A number of these immigrants figured in these pages.

In the 16th century the surname Straubhaar was found in the area of the town of Thun in Canton Bern. It is now sparsely distributed throughout Switzerland.

A contemporary Strubhar might be mildly surprised by our inclusion of this family. They are generally thought of as McLean County settlers until the last third of the 19th century. Only Magdalena/Madeleine Strubhar (1804-1887), the second wife of Christian Farny, is considered in the history of early Tazewell County settlers and her story is told in FARNY.

The Strubhar family came to Central Illinois in 1837. The land that became the family homestead was situated in an area that was caught between Tazewell and McLean from 1837 to 1841. In 1841 it was formally ceded to McLean County. We include the Strubhars to clarify relationships, because of their multiple marriages with Tazewell County families.

The Central Illinois family is descended from Christian StrŪbhar. He was born circa 1725, and died at Lafrimbolle Feb. 8, 1812. Though his name is found in a variety of spellings on French documents, such as Strouhbar or Shrouhhard, he wrote his signature this way.

He married Anne Fongond/Vongond/Vongonden.129 She was born circa 1720, and died at Lafrimbolle March 27, 1796, age 71. Her civil death entry described her as Anne Vongonde, wife of Chetianne Stroubhard. It was witnessed by laborer Bastien Chemette, 40, and weaver Jacob Lez 31 (her sons-in-law). They signed as Bastian Smitt and Jacob Lehe.

Christian remarried to Elisabeth Stieren.

His death entry was created at Lafrimbolle Feb. 8, 1812. It described him as Christiane Strhoubard, 87, the widower of Elisabeth Stieren. His son-in-law laborer Jacob Lehe, 43, stated that Christian had died in Jacob's home. It was witnessed by Christiane Verly, 33, and Joseph Boulange, 27.

Children of Christian Strūbhar and Anne Fongond/Vongond/Vongonden are found on French documents with a variety of spellings. They include:

1. Anne Strubhar (found as Strup) was born in 1759, and died at Imling, Moselle Aug. 18, 1839 (the death entry of 'Anne Strop' gives age 80). She married Sebastien Schmitt/Bastian Smitt. He was born circa 1756, and died at Imling April 27, 1838. His first wife was Catherine Maurer. Their names appear as Bastien Chemotte and Anne Stroubhard on the birth entries of three children at Lafrimbolle 1793-1797.

2. Marguerite Ann Strubhar (found as Stroubar) was born at Turquestein (now Turquestein-Blanerupt, Moselle) May 26, 1760.

3. Barbe Elisabeth Strubhar was born at Turquestein in 1764, and died at Val de Bonmoutier, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 28, 1840. In 1784 she married Jacob Lehé. He was born circa 1765, and died at Métairie-St. Quirin (adjacent to Lafrimbolle) Jan. 23, 1826, a son of Jacob Lehé and Elisabeth Kauffman. They had nine children at Lafrimbolle 1802-1812.

4. Marie Strubhar (found as Shroubard) was born circa 1767, and died at Lafrimbolle June 15, 1807. On Jan. 22, 1797 at Lafrimbolle she married Pierre Maier. Their marriage entry described the groom as farmer Pierre Maier, 36, a resident of Angomont, Meuse; a son of the deceased Michel Maire and Marie Eparque, a resident of Angomont. The bride was described as Marie Stroubhard, 30, a daughter of Christianne Stroubhard, a resident of Lafrimbolle.

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129 Fongond, Vongond, and Vongonden were derived from von Gunten. The surname implies that someone is from the hamlet of Gunten near the village of Sigriswil on the eastern shore of Lake Thun, Canton Bern. Gundy and Vongundy were also derived from the location.
and the deceased Anne Vongond. Witnesses included laborer Nicolas Boulanger, 60, and cultivator Andre Simon, 22, who were neighbors; and farmer Bastien Chemette, 43, and Jacques Ley, 37, who were brothers-in-law. Signs of the entry include M. [likely Marie who was illiterate], Christian Strübhar, Pierre Maire, N. Boulanger, and Bastian Smit. After the marriage they farmed at Angomont. Marie's death entry was declared by her father, who was described as 69-year-old laborer Christiane Stroubhard. It was witnessed by Jacob Lehé, 45, and Christiane Ströhmbard, 28, described as porters or valets [Fr. vottier].

5. **Peter/Pierre Strubhar** (also found as Stroubhar and Struphar) was born at Lafrimbolle circa 1772, and died at Oberstinzel, Moselle Aug. 20, 1835.

6. Christian Strubhar was born circa 1779. He was a porter/valet at Lafrimbolle. He married Marie Maire. Their son Christian Strubhar/Christianne Stroubhar was born at Lafrimbolle May 3, 1802. A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 shows 'Christianne Struther' as a head of a household at Lafrimbolle holding only one resident.

**Peter/Pierre Strubhar** (found as Stroubhar and Struphar) was born at Lafrimbolle circa 1772, and died on Sarrekin farm at Oberstinzel, Moselle Aug. 21, 1835.

Circa 1798 he married Madeleine Abresol/Habresol. She died at Météairie-St. Quirin March 17, 1806. Children of Peter/Pierre Strubhar and his first wife Madeleine Abresol/Habresol born at Météairie-St. Quirin include:

1. Joseph Strubhar (also found as Stroubhar) was born March 14, 1799, and died at or near Clifford, Butler County, Kansas Feb. 21, 1885. On Nov. 14, 1829 at Robert-Esgpane, Meuse he married Madeleine Engel. She was born at Herbéviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 9, 1807, and died at Montiers-sur-Saulx, Meuse Nov. 6, 1845, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Marie Elisabeth Gerber and a niece to minister Christian Engel. On Dec. 7, 1846 at Blevaincourt, Vosges he remarried to Magdalena/Madeleine Kempf. She was born at Rhodes Aug. 2, 1804, and died between 1860 and 1870, a daughter of Christian Kempf and Anne Pillman [Bielemann]. Their marriage entry described the groom as Joseph Stroup, 47, miller at Menil at Saulx in the district of Bar le Duc [in Meuse], born March 16, 1799, a son of the deceased Pierre Stroub and Magdelaine Aborsol [Abresol], and the widower of Magdelaine Eange, who had died Nov. 8, 1845. The bride was described as Magdelaine Kempf, 42, living in the Moulin Rouge at Blevaincourt, born at Rhodes Aug. 2, 1804. Her parents were described as miller Christian Kempf, 68, and Anne Billeman, 64, living in the Moulin Rouge; present and consenting. One witness was brother-in-law of the bride and miller Jacob Franck, 38, a resident of Blevaincourt. In 1854 or 1855 Joseph and Magdalena/Madeleine came to America with daughter Barbara (first marriage) and sons Nicholas and Emile. The 1860 census of Danvers shows farmer Joseph Strupe, 62, France; Madeline, 50, France; and Nicholas, 19, France. The 1870 census of Danvers shows farmer Nicolas Stroubhar [Joseph's son], 28, France; Samuel [Joseph's grandson], 8, Illinois; and Joseph Stroubhar, 68, retired, France. The 1874 plat map of Danvers shows 'Jos. Strubhar' on 130 acres in northeast Section 34, below the 'Imhoff' farm. Joseph is found on the 1880 census of Clifford, Butler County, Kansas as 81-year-old Joseph Strupher, retired, France. The 1874 plat map of Danvers shows farmer Joseph Strubhar, 46, born in France to French parents, in the household of son Nicolas Strupher, 54, born in France to French parents; Hannah [Yoder], 34, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; and three children born in Illinois. He is buried as 'Joseph Struber, Feb. 21, 1885' in Fairmount Lonestar Cemetery in Butler County, Kansas. Children of Joseph Strubhar and Madeleine Engel include:

a. Joseph Strubhar was born at Robert-Esgpane, Meuse Aug. 17, 1830.

b. Marie Strubhar was born at Lacroix-sur-Meuse, Meuse May 29, 1832, and died at Wassy, Haute Marne July 17, 1876. On April 23, 1855 at Wassy she married Christian Neuhauser. He was born at Langatte, Moselle Feb. 19, 1834, a son of Jean Neuhauser and Madeleine Saltzmann. On Feb. 12, 1877 at Signéville, Haut Marne he remarried to Madeleine Saltzmann.


d. Barbara Strubhar was born at Commery, Meuse March 13, 1834, and died at Colfax, McLean County Aug. 13, 1895. On Dec. 25, 1856 in McLean County she married John Stucky; the ceremony was performed by justice-of-the-peace Henry Deal. John was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 23, 1833, and died at Carlock, McLean County April 13, 1912, a son of Peter Stucky and Elisabeth Sommer and a brother of minister Joseph Stucky. They are found on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer John Stucky, 46, born in Ohio to French parents; Barbara, 45, France; 10 children born in Illinois; and John's widowed mother Elizabeth Stucky, 79, France. Barbara is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. *Herald of Truth*, September 1895: "On the 13th of August, 1895 in Colfax, McLean Co., Ill., of diarrhea, Barbara (Strubhar) Stucky, aged 61 years and five months. She leaves a deeply sorrowing husband, five sons, four daughters and four grandchildren to mourn her death. Her remains were laid to rest on the 16th at the Danvers M. H. Funeral services in German and English by John Stahley, Joseph King and Peter Schantz, and at the grave by Peter E. Stucky of Kearney, Neb. Sister Stucky was born in France, came to America in 1855, was married in 1856 to John Stucky, and has lived in this neighborhood since. Joseph Stucky."

e. Nicholas Strubhar was born at Commery, Meuse Dec. 6, 1842, and died at Hubbard, Oregon March 12, 1920. On Oct. 17, 1865 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Rupp; the ceremony was performed by justice-of-the-peace Henry Deal. John was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 23, 1833, and died at Carlock, McLean County April 13, 1912, a son of Peter Stucky and Elisabeth Sommer and a brother of minister Joseph Stucky. They are found on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer John Stucky, 46, born in Ohio to French parents; Barbara, 45, France; 10 children born in Illinois; and John's widowed mother Elizabeth Stucky, 79, France. Barbara is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. *Herald of Truth*, September 1895: "On the 13th of August, 1895 in Colfax, McLean Co., Ill., of diarrhea, Barbara (Strubhar) Stucky, aged 61 years and five months. She leaves a deeply sorrowing husband, five sons, four daughters and four grandchildren to mourn her death. Her remains were laid to rest on the 16th at the Danvers M. H. Funeral services in German and English by John Stahley, Joseph King and Peter Schantz, and at the grave by Peter E. Stucky of Kearney, Neb. Sister Stucky was born in France, came to America in 1855, was married in 1856 to John Stucky, and has lived in this neighborhood since. Joseph Stucky."

**Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois**
by minister Joseph Stuckey. Elizabeth was born at Madison, Butler County, Ohio circa Oct. 13, 1843, and died in McLean County Jan. 16, 1867, a daughter of Christian Rupp and Jacobine Raber (see ROPP, THE UNFORTUNATE RUPP FAMILY OF DANVERS). Nicholas was naturalized in the McLean County court house Nov. 8, 1864; he gave his age as 21, and his witness was Jacob Jacoby. Nicholas and Elizabeth had one son, Samuel. *Gospel Herald*, March 1867: "On the 16th of January, 1867, in McLean Co., Ill., Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas Strubhber, aged 24 years, 3 months, and 3 days. Funeral sermons were preached by the writer from the 38th chapter of Isaiah and by Jonathan Yoder from Jn. 5. Joseph Stuckey." On Jan. 27, 1874 in McLean County Nicholas remarried to Hannah Yoder; minister Joseph Stuckey performed this ceremony as well. Hannah was born at Juniata County, Pennsylvania Oct. 7, 1841, and died at Hubbard, Oregon May 16, 1920, a daughter of Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder. 136 They writes that their children included Solomon, Andrew, and Emma; they adopted Amy, who was born Sept. 1, 1883. Circa 1880 they resettled at Clifford, Butler County, Kansas, where father Joseph Strubhar died in 1885; circa 1887 they went to Arkansas; and circa 1891 they arrived in Oregon. The 1900 census of Needy Precinct, Clackamas County, Oregon shows farmer Nicholas Strubhar, 57, born in France in December 1842, immigrated in 1854; Hannah, 57, born in Pennsylvania in October 1842; farm laborer and son Solomon N., 24, born in Illinois in July 1875; farm laborer and son Andrew J., 23, born in Illinois in May 1877; and daughter-in-law Rosa, 18, born in Missouri in July 1881 to German parents. They are also found on the 1920 census of East Hubbard, Marion County, Oregon where Nicholas and Hannah were living in the household of their son Andrew J. Strubhar; their entries appear as father Nicholas, 77, born in France, immigrated in 1855, naturalized in 1866; and mother Hanna, 78, born in Pennsylvania. *Gospel Herald*, April 1920: "Strubhar - Nicholas Strubhar was born in Abramae village, France, Dec. 6, 1842; died March 12, 1920, at his home near Hubbard, Oreg.; aged 77 y. 3 m. 6 d. His mother died when he was quite young. Father, one brother and one sister came to the U.S. A. In 1858 he married Barbara Roop. To this union one son was born. In 1861 his wife died. Several years later he married Hanna Yoder, who survives him; also three sons and one adopted daughter, and a number of grandchildren. When a young man he united with the Mennonite Church and remained faithful until death. Funeral on the 14th at the Zion A. M. Church near Hubbard, Oreg. A. P. Troyer conducted the services. Remains were laid to rest within the cemetery nearby." *Gospel Herald*, July 1920: "Strubhar - Hannah Yoder was born in Juniata Co., Pa., Oct. 7, 1841; died May 16, 1920, at her home near Hubbard, Oreg.; aged 78 y. 7 m. 9 d. She was the last one of the Joel Yoder family [see the footnote on her parents]. She was married to Nicholas Strubhar in McLean Co., Ill., who preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves three sons and one adopted daughter. She became a member of the A. M. Church in youth and remained faithful until death. Funeral services conducted by Dan Erb and E. Z. Yoder at the Zion A. M. Church. Text, Psa. 115:15. Remains laid to rest in cemetery nearby." *Woodburn Independent*, May 20, 1920: "Death of Hannah Strubhar. Mrs. Hannah Strubhar, relict of the late Nicholas Strubhar, died at the home of her son Andrew, two miles east of Hubbard, last Sunday, May 16, in the 79th year of her age. Deceased had received two strokes of paralysis and was stricken with a third which caused demise. Hannah Yoder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Yoder, was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1841. With her parents she moved to Illinois, where she married in McLean county Nicholas Strubhar, who passed away last March. They moved to Kansas, resided there for eight years, then lived in Arkansas for four years, coming from there to Oregon. She lived in Oregon for 28 years. Mrs. Strubhar was a devoted wife and mother and one held in the highest esteem. In early life she joined the Amish Mennonite church and had been a faithful member. She leaves two sons, Andrew Strubhar of near Hubbard and S. N. Strubhar of Woodburn; a stepson, Samuel Strubhar of Wichita, Kans., and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Frank Romer of Oakland, Cal., who recently visited her. The funeral was Tuesday morning, services being held at her late home and also at Zion church. Interment was at Zion cemetery." Hannah is buried in Zion Mennonite Cemetery at Estacada, Oregon.

136 In YODER there is substantial evidence that Hannah was a daughter of Yost Yoder and Leah Yoder, who were next door neighbors to Nicholas Strubhar's family in 1860. A number of sources say Hannah was a daughter of Joel Yoder and Lydia K. Yoder, making an assumption from the obituary that incorrectly names her father as Joel Yoder. Joel was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania Aug. 29, 1817, and died in McLean County July 7, 1902, a son of John Yoder and Susannah Stutsman. Lydia K. was born in Mifflin County Oct. 4, 1811, and died in McLean County Aug. 19, 1899, a daughter of Jacob Yoder and Mary 'Polly' Keim. They did not come to Danvers, McLean County until 1851. The 1860 census of Danvers shows the household of Joel Yoder, 43, Pennsylvania; Lydia, 43, Pennsylvania; Gideon, 17; Elizabeth, 14; Solomon, 11; and Nancy, 10; all children born in Ohio. Joel and Lydia are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock, McLean County.
the company was used for sentry duty at Galveston, Texas. On July 16, 1865 he transferred to Company G, 37th Illinois Infantry. He was discharged from Galveston Jan. 23, 1866. On Jan. 31, 1869 in Woodford County he married Anna Erb. The Strubhars are shown on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Emil Strubhar, 34, France; Annie, 33, France; Emma, 10, Illinois; Frank, 8, Illinois; Louisa, 7, Illinois; Alvin, 6, Illinois; Henry, 5, Illinois; infant Louis, Illinois; Ida, 2, Illinois; widower father-in-law Joseph Erb, 73, France; and laborer Frank Felix, 61, France. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton as Emil Strubbar and Anna Erb Strubhar.

2. Barbe Strubhar was born Sept. 8, 1800, and died at Metaires-St. Quirin April 5, 1804. Her civil death entry called her Elizabeth Stroubhart and said she was four years old. Her civil birth entry had described her parents as cultivator Pierre Stroubhart and Madeleine Habresole. It was witnessed by cultivator Christianne Mosimann, 45, and Marie Barbe Haffenmayer, 44.

3. Pierre Stroubhard was born Dec. 27, 1802, and died at Metairies-St. Quirin Jan. 9, 1804. The civil death entry gave his age as 15 months.

4. Madeleine Strubhar was born Dec. 15, 1804, and died at or near Plum Grove, Kansas Feb. 1, 1887. On June 14, 1840 in McLean County she became the second wife of Christian Farny (one of 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln'). See FARNY, FARNY OF BISPING for more on this couple.

Within a month of his first wife's death - on April 16, 1806 at Dolving, Moselle - Peter/Pierre remarried to Anne Marie Gerber/Guerber/Kerber. She was born in the hamlet Kreutzfeld at Saverne, Lower Alsace circa 1782, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich.

A census of Mennonite families created April 24, 1809 shows 'Pre. Strouhard' as a head of a household at Nitting, Moselle holding six residents.

The birth entries of children born in 1813 and 1815 describe Peter/Pierre as a cultivator or stock raiser [Fr. marquaire] on Videlange farm [Ger. Videlingen] at Gelucourt in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle, about 20 miles northwest of Lafrimbolle.

On Sarreck farm at Oberstinzel, Moselle father Peter/Pierre cut himself while skinning an animal. He died from septicemia Aug. 21, 1835.

His widow obtained a Certificat de Moralité from the mayor of Oberstinzel April 10, 1836. It stated that Marie Guerber, widow of Pierre Straubar, and her children "Pierre, Falatin, Andres, et Magdalena" lived in his community and departed honorably and with distinction. The document was a prerequisite for emigration.

They sailed from Le Havre on the Troy, and arrived at New York May 20, 1836. The passenger list shows Maria Gerber, 54, France; Magdalena, 36; Valentin, 17; Petre, 8; and Andreas, 2.

That summer they arrived in Butler County. They initially lived at Hamilton. They eventually lived in Central Illinois.

Anne Marie Gerber/Guerber/Kerber died Sept. 29, 1864, at age 82. Her headstone describes her as "Maria, Ehefrau von Peter Strubhar, gest. 29 Sep. 1864, 82 Jahre alt." Peter Maurer Cemetery is located near County Road 75 N, southeast of Congerville on the Woodford-McLean county line.

Children of Peter/Pierre Strubhar and his second wife Anne Marie Gerber/Guerber/Kerber include:

5. Chrétien/Christian Strubhar was born at Nitting, Moselle (adjacent to Metaires St. Quirin on its north side) March 16, 1808. The 10-year index of civil entries listed his birth name as Chrétien Strouharch. Christian Strouphar died at Rémering-les-Puttelange Jan. 6, 1818.

6. Jean/John Strubhar was born at Nitting Nov. 6, 1809, and died at Danvers Nov. 17, 1883. The 10-year index of civil entries listed his birth name as Jean Strouharch.

7. André Struphart was born circa 1810, and died at Ernestviller, Moselle Aug. 4, 1820. His death entry stated that he was 10 years old, a son of cultivator Pierre Struparh, 47, and Marie Guerber.

8. Catherine Strouphan died at Rémering-les-Puttelange Aug. 2, 1816, according to their 10-year index of civil entries. She was presumably born in the same place as older brother André in 1811 or 1812.

9. Marie Strubhar was born at Gelucourt Aug. 1, 1813, and died there March 16, 1814.
10. Pierre Strubhar was born at Gelucourt Feb. 27, 1815, and Pierre Strouphan died at Rémering-lès-Puttelange Feb. 18, 1819. Many of the civil entries created at Rémering-lès-Puttelange, Moselle (below Ernstviller) have an unusual spelling of Strubhar. Perhaps the municipal clerk purposely chose 'Stro' perhaps to differentiate this family from others in the community with similar surnames such as Strooper and Strasser.

11. Valentin/Valentine Strouphan was born at Rémering-lès-Puttelange, Moselle (below Ernstviller) Sept. 15, 1816, and Strubhar. Perhaps the municipal clerk purposely chose 'Stro' perhaps to differentiate this family from others in the community with similar surnames such as Strooper and Strasser. Many of the civil entries created at Rémering-lès-Puttelange, Moselle (below Ernstviller) have an unusual spelling of Strubhar. Perhaps the municipal clerk purposely chose 'Stro' perhaps to differentiate this family from others in the community with similar surnames such as Strooper and Strasser.

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Iowa (also in Clark County); on that census Elizabeth has parents from Germany and Kentucky. They are buried in Murray Cemetery at Murray, Clark County, Iowa.

g. Rosine (headstone) Rosa/Rosanna Strubhar was born at Danvers Feb. 16, 1865, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Feb. 8, 1918. On Dec. 13, 1883 in McLean County she married farmer hand James F. ‘Frank’ Tobias. He was born Aug. 26, 1860, and died April 8, 1910. They are found on the 1900 census of Danvers as farmer James F. Tobias, 39, born in Ohio in August 1860 to parents from Ohio; Rosine, 37, born in Illinois in February 1863 to French parents; and Arthur, 11 or 12, born in Illinois in June 1888. They appear on the same census page as her brother John W. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

h. Emile E. Strubhar was born at Danvers Feb. 25, 1865, and died in Hollywood, California Jan. 15, 1935. On March 1, 1883 in McLean County he married Nannie A. Hall. She was born March 8, 1868, and died May 9, 1923. They are found on the 1910 census of Chicago as Emile E. Strubhar, 45, Illinois; Nannie A., 42, Illinois; and three children born in Illinois. They were placed in a crypt in the main hall chapel in Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, California, where Emile is identified as a Freemason. The cemetery was formerly called Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery. 134

i. Elizabeth Anna 'Lizzie' Strubhar was born at Danvers May 6, 1867, and died at Piper City, Ford County Dec. 21, 1946. On Dec. 10, 1885 at Danvers she married Jacob Ehresman. He 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, a son of Christian Ehresman and his third wife Veronica ‘Fannie’ Barnett. 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. They are buried in Brenton Cemetery at Piper City.

j. Jacobine 'Phebe' C. Strubhar was born at Danvers June 5 (Leys) or 15 (headstone), 1869, and died Aug. 8, 1887. She is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

k. Ulysses Strubhar was born at Danvers May 13, 1872, and died May 17. Herald of Truth, August 1872: "On the 17th of May, in McLean Co., Ill., a little son of Valentine and Barbara Strubber, aged 3 days. Sermon by Christian Risser and John Stahly." He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

12. André Strouphan was born at Rémering-lès-Puttelange (entry André Strouban) Dec. 9, 1819, and died there as André Strophart Aug. 4, 1829.

13. Anne Strouphan was born at Rémering-lès-Puttelange Feb. 28, 1822, and died there as Anne Strubhard Jan. 8, 1825.

14. Peter/Pierre Strubhar was born at Rémering-lès-Puttelange Nov. 12, 1827, and died at Washington, Tazewell County Oct. 22, 1902. His civil birth entry describes his parents as day laborer Pierre Strouhhar, 55, and Marie Guerber. On Sept. 26, 1850 in Woodford County he married Barbe/Barbara Schweitzer. She was born at Imlin, Moselle Jan. 10, 1831, and died at Danvers Aug. 23, 1912, a daughter of Jean Suisse (later known as John Schweitzer or Switzer) and Marie/Mary Engel. Leys: “Peter Strubhar lived on a farm near Cooper Station for several years before he purchased a timber farm, with a log cabin, four miles northwest of Danvers. Later he borrowed the money to buy 160 acres of school land adjoining his farm. He bought a saw mill, and with the revenue from the black walnut trees and war prices for his grain, he soon paid off his indebtedness.” They are found on the 1860 census of Danvers as farmer Peter Struphart Aug. 4, 1829, Bavaria; Barbara, 29, Bavaria; Joseph, 7, Illinois; Peter, 3, Illinois; Christian, 6, Illinois; Valentine, 1, Illinois; and Mary [Marie Gerber], 80, Bavaria. Leys: "In 1865 the family moved out of the log cabin into a comfortable house on a farm near Washington, Illinois. He lived in this community the rest of his life...” They appear on the 1870 census of Washington as farmer Peter Strubhar, 44, France; Barbaray, 39, France; Joseph, 17, Illinois; Christian, 15, Illinois; and Valentine, 11, Illinois. The 1873 plat map of Washington shows P. Strubhar on 80 acres in Section 19, just east of the town center. They also appear on the 1880 census of Washington as farmer Peter Strubhar, 52, born in France to parents from Switzerland [France] and France; Barbara, 48, born in France to parents from France; and son Valentine, 21, born in France [Illinois] to parents from France; and on the 1900 census of Washington. The households of sons Joseph and Valentine can be found on the same census page. Peter/Pierre and Barbe/Barbara are buried under a joint headstone in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. Their children born at Stout's Grove include:

a. John Strubhar was born July 10, 1851, and died at Danvers July 23, 1852.

b. Joseph Strubhar was born Aug. 8, 1853, and died at Danvers, McLean County June 20, 1916.

On March 9, 1876 at Washington he married Jacobine Ropp. She was born July 27, 1854, and died Aug. 15, 1917. They were placed in a crypt in the main hall chapel in Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, California, where Emile is identified as a Freemason. The cemetery was formerly called Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery. 134

134 Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located on Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood. Paramount Studios was built on adjacent land purchased from the cemetery owner. Emile is surrounded by celebrities such as Mel Blanc, Harry Cohen, Douglas Fairbanks (Jr. and Sr.), John Houston, Adolph Menjou, Paul Muni, Johnny Ramone, Nelson Riddle, Ann Sheridan, Bugsy Siegel, Carl 'Alfalfa' Switzer, Norma Talmadge, Toto, Rudolph Valentino, Clifton Webb, and Fay Wray, as well as minor movie industry professionals. His son Artis H. Strubhar (1899-1972) and daughter or daughter-in-law Katharina (1901-1983) are also buried there.
Washington. On Feb. 9, 1886 in Tazewell County Joseph remarried to Jakobina ‘Phoebe’ Kinsinger. She was born at Congerville March 1, 1854, and died Feb. 19, 1939. She is found on the 1930 census of Washington as widow Phoebe Strubhar, 76, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; two sons Chester and Jesse, and a grandson Joseph. Joseph and Phoebe are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

c. Christian Strubhar was born Dec. 29, 1854, and died in Tazewell County July 11, 1924. On Feb. 15, 1877 in Tazewell County he married Catherine ‘Katie’ Ropp. She was born Jan. 5, 1857, and died in Illinois March 11, 1892, a daughter of Joseph Ropp and Catherine Birky. "Strubhar - On the 14th of March 1892, in Tazewell Co., Ill., Sister Catharine Strubhar, maiden name Rupp. She was born Jan. 5th 1857, was married in 1877. Of her six children, 3 preceded her in death. She was a faithful member of the church. Her mortal remains were laid to rest in the Washington graveyard on the 16 of March. Funeral services by M. S. Moyer of Missouri in English, and by David Augsburger and Michael Kinsinger in German. A large concourse of people assembled on the solemn occasion." On Nov. 21, 1893 in Tazewell County he remarried to Susan Reeser. She was born at Washington March 24, 1861, and died there Dec. 20, 1932, a daughter of Joseph Reeser and Elizabeth Guth. They are found on the 1900, 1920, and 1930 censuses of Washington. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

d. Peter Strubhar [Jr.] was born March 18, 1857, and died July 9, 1907. Circa 1880 he married Katharina ‘Kate’ Donner. She was born at Panola, Woodford County Oct. 5, 1858, and died May 11, 1953, a daughter of Christian Donner and Katharina/Catherine Roggy. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington, where Katharina is 'Katherinne Strubhar.'

e. Valentine Strubhar was born April 23, 1859, and died at Washington July 28, 1941. On Feb. 1, 1883 in Tazewell County he married Katharina 'Katie' Guth. She was born at Washington Feb. 21, 1865, and died there March 8, 1941, a daughter of John Guth/Good and Marie/Maria Ehresman. "Valentine Strubhar was born in McLean County, four miles northwest of Danvers, April 23, 1859. His father was Peter Strubhar. Peter Strubhar's father and mother were Peter and Mary Garber Strubhar of Alsace-Lorraine. Peter's father died in America in 1835, settling in Butler County, Ohio. Peter and his mother came to McLean County in 1837. Peter Strubhar was married to Barbara Sweitzer, the oldest daughter of John and Marie Sweitzer, natives of Nancy, France. Peter Strubhar settled on a farm northwest of Danvers where Valentine was born. In the spring of 1865 Valentine with his parents moved to Washington, Illinois. Here he grew to manhood. Valentine Strubhar was baptized in the autumn of 1879 by Rev. Peter Stuckey, and became a member of the East Washington Church. He was married to Katie Guth, daughter of John and Mary Guth of Washington, Illinois, on February 1, 1883. He was active in church work before he was ordained. At the age of fourteen he taught a Sunday School class in German spelling and was also superintendent of the Sunday School for about one year. He was ordained to the ministry January 10, 1893, by Bishop Peter Stuckey and Rev. Peter Schantz. A few years later he was ordained to the office of bishop. Rev. Strubhar has served on the Foreign Mission Board from its beginning, and has been very much interested in all the activities of the church. He is at present the senior pastor of the Calvary Mennonite Church and one of the oldest ministers in the Conference." He filed an application for a patent Feb. 23, 1916, which was approved as serial number 79,851 on Nov. 7, 1916: "Valentine Strubhar of Washington, Ill. Scraper. Application led February 23, 1916. To all whom it may concern be it known that I, Valentine Strubhar, citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the county of Tazewell and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Scrapers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same. This invention relates to a device for removing mud and dirt from boots and shoes. It pertains more particularly, however, to a so called scraper adapted to be driven into the ground or attached to a suitable support, adjacent door ways or entrances to buildings, by which persons before entering may remove the mud and dirt from their shoes. One of the objects of the invention is to furnish a simple scraper of this nature that can be manufactured at little cost and so arranged that both the sole of the shoe and the upper may be thoroughly cleaned..." Valentine and Katharina are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington, where Catherine is 'Katherine Strubhar.'

15. Andreas/André Stroubar was born circa 1834. He appears on the Certificat de Moralité created at Oberstinzel in 1836, and on the passenger list. However, we could not follow him after his arrival at New York, and he may have died young. He is absent from the family on the 1840 census.

Jean/John Strubhar was born at Nitting, Moselle Nov. 6, 1809, and died at Danvers Nov. 17, 1883.
He departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Charles Carroll*, and arrived at New York May 12, 1834. The passenger list shows ‘Jean Strouppart, 25, France’ immediately before ‘Anna Gingerich, 23, France.’ We could not identify Anna further. 135

 While Jean/John worked in a distillery in Butler County, his mother and brothers Valentine and Peter resettled in McLean County in 1837. He joined them in 1839.

 On Dec. 7, 1839 at what is now Congerville John married Anne/Anna/Anna Nancy/Nannette Schertz. She was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle March 14, 1823, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Margueritte Müller, who were living at adjacent Bihl. She died at Danvers Nov. 8, 1901. See SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF BIHL for background on her parents.

 According to *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* (1887), Jean/John “…operated a farm in his native country until 1833, then emigrated to America and located in Butler County, Ohio, where he engaged in distilling for about six years. In 1839, after having come to this county, he was married to Miss Anna Schertz. The parents of Mrs. S. came here from New Orleans. After marriage John Strubhar purchased 80 acres of land, to which he afterward added 650 acres, and in due time became proprietor of one of the finest farms in this section of the country. Upon the homestead which he had thus established, he remained until his death, which occurred Jan. 17, 1884, when he was over seventy-five years of age, being born in 1809. “The mother, born in 1820, is still living.”

 The *History of McLean County* (1879) simply says, "...John Strubhar, emigrated from France and settled in Danvers Township as early as 1839."  

### STOUT'S GROVE AND DANVERS

Regardless of the date of the purchase, the lot that Jean/John bought was located at Stout's Grove. The area was caught between Tazewell and Woodford Counties from 1837 and 1841, then ceded to McLean County. It was tallied with McLean County on the 1840 federal census.

The farm was northwest of the village of Concord, which was renamed Danvers in 1861. Danvers was incorporated as a village in 1869. Since that year Stout's Grove has been a part of Danvers Township, which borders Morton in Tazewell County.

However, the federal census of 1860 enumerated the residents of Stout's Grove as if they were already part of Danvers, the nearest business center. The families of Jean/John and his two brothers Pierre/Peter and Valentine did not spread out from the area of their initial settlement for a few years. But for our purposes, we will say that children born there after 1859 were born at Danvers (reflecting the way we found the information on census pages).

The land of 'J. Strubhar' is found on the 1874 plat map of Danvers as 40 acres in southeast Section 32. The same map shows V. Strubhar on 72 acres in northeast of Section 5; V. Strubhar on 160 acres in northwest Section 34; and Jos. Strubhar on 130 acres in northeast Section 34 (below the Imhoff farm).

 Someone looking for the site of John Strubhar's farm might drive four miles west from Carlock on County Road 2050 North. Turn right and head north on 55 toward Congerville to find the Imhoff Cemetery.

The 1840 federal census was taken beginning June 1, over a period of 18 months. The census of McLean County shows the John Stroup household: one male 20-29 [Jean/John]; one male 15-19 [Valentine]; one male 10-14

135 A family genealogy written by Estella Risser Leys and published in 1939 was a piece of fiction. It seems to have been a composite of snippets from the biographies of other early settlers. “In 1826, when he was 19 years old, after a journey of 78 days, he arrived at Hamilton, Ohio. Here he secured a job in a distillery, and by hard work and frugality, he accumulated a sum of money, which he invested in 80 acres of land four miles northwest of Danvers, Illinois. He paid $4.50 an acre for this land on which there was a small house and other improvements. He made the trip from Hamilton, Ohio to Danvers, Illinois and return by walking the entire distance, averaging about 50 miles per day…He continued in his work at the distillery, and for two years did the work of two men, thereby earning enough money to bring his parents and other members of the family to America.”

“Unfortunately the weather kept them on the ocean 130 days, and the latter part of their voyage they were compelled to subsist on a biscuit a day.”

William B. Weaver's *History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* offers another historically inconsistent version of events. The author wrote in 1926, "The first Amish of which there is any record to come to Central Illinois was Peter Maurer. He settled in McLean County near what is now Rock Creek fair grounds, five miles north of Danvers, in 1829. Mr. Maurer came from Alsace to Butler County, Ohio, in 1827, and two years later came to McLean County, Illinois. In 1830 two young men, John Strubhar and Nicholas Maurer, walked all the way from Butler County to McLean County. John Strubhar took a claim and settled in what is now Danvers Township. Nicholas Maurer crossed the line into Woodford County and took a claim a mile north of Congerville. These three are the first Amish or Mennonites to be found in Central Illinois and the first Amish to be found west of the state of Ohio." However, considerable doubt has been cast on almost every aspect of this story. Strubhar did not arrive in the country until 1834. It is now thought that Peter Maurer did not arrive in Central Illinois until 1837, the year of his first land purchase (see MAURER). And according to Christian Engel's autobiography, he accompanied Nicholas Maurer on his immigration voyage in 1839 – nine years after Maurer purportedly accompanied Strubhar to Illinois.
Farmer Valentine Stroop [Strubhar], 32, France; Barabry [Gingerich], 21, France; and Joseph, 2, Illinois.

Farmer Peter Stroop [Strubhar], 22, France; Barbary [Barbara Schweitzer], 19, France; Malinda Gingery [Barbara Guingrich's younger sister Magdalena Gingerich], 19, France; and Mary Stroup [Marie Gerber Strubhar], 68 France.

Farmer John [Strubhar], 41, France; Nancy Ann [wife Anne/Anna/Nanette Schertz], 27, France; Mary, 8, Illinois; Christian, 6, Illinois; Nancy, 4, Illinois; Magdaline, 1, Illinois; and Barbary, one day old marked as ‘1/365’), Illinois.

Farmer Christian Shirts, 64, France; and Margaret M. [Müller], 54, France.

On the 1860 census of Danvers they appear as farmer James Strouper, 52, France; Anna, 36, France; Mary, 18, Illinois; Cristian, 17, Illinois; Ann, 15, Illinois; Melinda, 12, Illinois; Barbary, 10, Illinois, Catherine, 7, Illinois; Margaret, 4, Illinois; laborer Margaret Shirts, 63, Penn.?France [sic]; laborer John Sankey, 21, Baden; and laborer Ferdinand Woldy [Welte], 22, Baden. They are found on the census page after Peter and Valentine Strubhar, and on the same page as minister Joseph Stuckey [found as Stokey] and his first wife Barbara Roth.

The 1870 census of Danvers shows farmer John Stroubher, 61, France, Anna, 50, France; Nanny, 24; Lany, 22; Barbary, 21; Kate, 18; Margret, 13; Vernika, 11; and Peter, 7; all children born in Illinois. The next household on the census page is that of brother Valentine.

The 1880 census of Danvers shows farmer John Strubhar, 70, born in France to parents from Switzerland and France; Anna, 58, born in France to French parents; Anna, 34, born in Illinois to French parents; Peter 17, works on farm, born in Illinois to French parents; farm hand Frank Tobias, 19, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio; and servant Mary Chatlain, 11, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church: "He was one of the men who were responsible for the organization of the first Amish Sunday School in about 1865, and also in the building of the first Amish church house in 1853. The Amish conference of Unites States and Canada that was held in Danvers, Illinois, in 1866 was held in his barn [The Diener Versammlung] assembly of ministers drew 1,500 people; he also spoke at the 1871 assembly of ministers at Gridley Prairie]. He was ordained to the office of deacon April 8, 1860, by bishop Jonathan Yoder. He served as treasurer of the church until 1872. He remained deacon of the Rock Creek Church and later the North Danvers Church until 1883."

Herald of Truth, December 1883: "On the 17th of Nov., of old age, John Strupher, aged 74 years, and one month. He leaves a widow and six children to mourn his departure. Buried on the 19th in the presence of many friends and acquaintances. Funeral services were held by Joseph Stuckey and others in the English and German languages." They are buried under a joint headstone in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

Children of Jean/John Strubhar and Anne/Anna/Anna Nancy/Nannette Schertz include:

1. Mary Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Oct. 11, 1842, and died Feb. 17, 1875. On March 26, 1861 in McLean County she married Christian Imhoff Jr. Christian was born at Lemon, Butler County, Ohio Oct. 31, 1838, and died at Danvers May 31, 1881, a son of Christian Imhoff and Barbara Schertz. For background on this couple see IMHOFF.

2. Christian Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove June 13, 1844, and died April 19, 1919. On Feb. 20, 1866 in McLean County he married Magdalena Ehresman; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born Jan. 22, 1845, and died Feb. 25, 1925 (according to Leys; the Illinois Statewide Death Index says Lena Ehresman died in McLean County Aug. 7, 1924), a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his third wife Veronica 'Fannie' Barnett. On the 1870 census of Danvers they appear on the page after Valentine Strubhar, as farmer Christopher Stroubber, 26; Magdaline, 25; Liddy A., 3; and Samuel, 2; all born in Illinois. They are found on the 1880 census of Danvers as farmer Christian Strubhar, 36, born in Illinois to parents from France; Magdalena, 35, born in Illinois to parents from Württemberg; Lydia, 13, born in Illinois; and Samuel, 12, born in Illinois. In 1889 Christian sold his farm and moved into Danvers Village, where he sold farm hardware. Christian and Magdalena are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. The History of McLean County (1879): "Christian Strubhar, farmer, P.O. Danvers; was born in Danvers Township, McLean Co., June 13, 1844; his father, John Strubhar, emigrated from France and settled in Danvers Township as early as 1839. He obtained a fair education at the common schools, and spent his early life upon his father's farm; in 1874, he purchased 40 acres of his present farm; this has since increased to one hundred and sixty. He was married Feb. 22, 1866, to Magdalena Ehresmann, a native of Illinois; has two children - Samuel, Lydia. Has held the offices of School Director, Commissioner of Highways, and at present holds the office of School Trustee for Danvers Township..."
3. Anna 'Nanny' Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Jan. 14, 1846, and died Feb. 21, 1910. She was living with her parents in 1880. She is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

4. Magdalena 'Lany' Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Feb. 12, 1849, and died at Danvers June 16, 1935. On Jan. 10, 1871 in McLean County she married Christian W. Kinsinger; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Congerville July 11, 1846, and died March 25, 1914, a son of Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger. They are buried in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

5. Barbara Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Sept. 30, 1850, and died May 18, 1914. On Dec. 28, 1875 she married Peter Risser. He was born Aug. 18, 1850, and died March 5, 1932. The 1900 census of Danvers Village shows them as farmer Peter Risser, 49, born in France in August 1850, immigrated in 1860; Barbara, 49, born in Illinois in September 1850 to French parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

6. Catherine 'Kate' Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Sept. 10 (Leys) or 21, 1852, and died at Danvers Aug. 2, 1872. On Dec. 23, 1872 in McLean County she married Christian Roth Stuckey; the ceremony was performed by his father. He was born at Concord (now Danvers) Sept. 21, 1852, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Jan. 21 1933, a son of minister Joseph Stuckey and his first wife Barbara Roth. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers. Catherine and Christian were the great-grandparents of historian Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.

7. Jakobina Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove Sept. 5, 1854, and died March 18, 1857. She is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery.

8. Marguerite (headstone)/Margaret (obituary) Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove March 14, 1857, and died Dec. 20, 1872. Herald of Truth, February 1873: "In McLean county, Ill., December 20th 1872, of epilepsy, Margaret Strubher, aged 15 years, 9 months, and 6 days. Buried the 22nd in Imhoff's burying-ground. Occasion improved by Jos. Stuckey, from 1 Cor. 15."

9. Veronica 'Fanny' Strubhar was born at Stout's Grove July 15, 1859, and died Feb. 15, 1860. She is buried in Peter Maurer Cemetery.

10. Peter Strubhar was born at Danvers May 2, 1863, and died there July 16, 1894. On May 17, 1891 at Danvers he married Mary Musselman. She was born in McLean County circa 1864, and died at Danvers Jan. 26, 1911, a daughter of blacksmith Jacob Musselman and Magdalena Ehrisman. Herald of Truth, August 1894: "Strupher - On the 16th of July 1894, in Danvers, Illinois, of typhoid fever, Peter Strupher, aged 31 y., 2 m., 14 d. He suffered only ten days, and leaves his wife with an infant of 8 months; also his mother, a brother and four sisters. The blow falls heavily upon the widow and the mother who has had two strokes of paralysis and is very feeble. He was the youngest in the family. Buried on the 18th. Funeral services in the Danvers Baptist church by preachers Schleswig and Lawrence in English and Joseph Stuckey in German."

In the near future we hope to visit the Family History Center at Salt Lake City to view FHL microfilm 1979969 (DGS 8011421). The online 10-year index of civil entries at Rémering-lès-Puttelange, Moselle shows a number of births and deaths that cannot be explained (Struper to Strouphan to Strubhard). The actual texts of the entries are not online. STRUBHAR will not be complete until we can explain those entries.
An Anabaptist

An Anabaptist...
...describes someone who believes that baptism should be the reasoned choice of an adult. This placed them at odds in locations where church and state were considered one. Swiss authorities suspected that couples who avoided the early baptism of children lacked patriotism, and were trying to avoid future military service for males.

A Mennonite...
...describes an Anabaptist who also follows the path of nonresistance proscribed by Menno Simons.

Amish Mennonite...
...describes the followers of Jacob Amman of Erlenbach, Canton Bern and their descendants. Amman was less tolerant than other Mennonite leaders. He endorsed the Ban (shunning) to exclude some from communion and thus church membership. He also stressed a modest appearance. Unique rituals that came out of his following include twice-yearly communions (Nov. 11 and Easter) and a foot washing ceremony with communion.

The great majority of Amish Mennonite immigrant families that came to North America were absorbed into the Mennonite church or mainstream Protestant denominations within a few generations. In practice 'Amish ' can now describe customs, clothing, dialect, or religious practices.

Old Order Amish...
...think of the Harrison Ford movie Witness.
A number of ministers who attended the Diener Versammlungen assemblies of ministers in the Midwest in the mid-1800s withdrew from participation. They saw no point in constant argument over social boundaries, requiring concessions on everything from weather vanes to bow ties to hair tonic to crop insurance to reach general agreement. Though unorganized, their collective actions can be seen as a reactionary movement toward orthodoxy that continued from 1880 to 1920. The 'old orders' resisted mechanical innovation and overtly stressed humility and conformity.

The Old Order Amish numbered only about 5,000 in 1900, but high birth rates and improved mortality rates pushed that number over 200,000 by 2000.136
A good source on this movement is The Amish Struggle With Modernity (1994) by Donald B. Kraybill and Marc A. Olshan.

136 The math: Assume there were about 2,000 couples in 1900. If each couple had eight or nine children, and 5.25 remained in the faith, there would have been 5,250 couples in 1925 (assuming a typical generational lapse of 25 years, then multiplying 2,000 by 5.25, and dividing by two). 14,438 couples in 1950. 37,898 couples in 1975. 104,221 couples in 2000, or 208,441 individuals.
Acknowledgements

The idea of creating a genealogy for 93 interrelated families may have come from the booklet *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio*. Author William Henry Grubb (1879-1929) made his best effort to collect family histories from the 19th century. But he left dozens of blank lines for missing names and dates, because much had already been lost.

Grubb was a minister of the Apostolic Mennonite Church at Trenton, Butler County when his booklet was published in 1916. In 1921 he moved to McLean County and ministered at the First Mennonite Church of Normal. There he and his wife Della Reed knew my grandparents, Moses Roy Staker and Anna Maria Fischer. Their son Chester Grubb was a minister at Bloomington, and performed a marriage ceremony for my parents James Staker and Virginia Osterhoudt.

Information was collected from May of 1999 to May of 2019. The project owes a debt to a number of past authors we would like to have had the opportunity to meet. They include Walter A. Ropp, who preserved the autobiographical notes of Christian Ropp; and Ruth C. Roth and Roy D. Roth, who compiled the *Roth-Zimmerman Genealogy*. Their pages gave our starting points. As the project moved along, we have learned to appreciate the authors who have taken the time to research and present names, dates, and events in an honest and accurate manner. Family historians like Gail Earles, Hermann Guth, Erwin Hochstättler, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, Ardys Serpette, the late John Alma Hüppi, and the late J. Virgil Miller proved to be accurate, reliable sources. The Illinois Mennonite Genealogical & Historical Society and the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society have also helped to preserve the history of Central Illinois from an objective perspective.

On a trip from Maine to Washington State in the fall of 2001, Sam Steiner allowed access to the stacks at the Mennonite Archives of Ontario at Conrad Grebel College. Bob McMaken provided invaluable assistance at the Butler County Records Center in Hamilton, Ohio and found marriage entries and naturalization documents.

On a trip to Illinois in 2001 Pastor Bruce Rocke of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland unknowingly re-introduced us to our late great-aunts Pearl and Ethel Staker of Morton. That led to an acquaintance with our late second cousin Mary E. Bowers, who had put together her own *Staker Family History*; she was a daughter of Reuben Staker and Cora Zimmerman. And Levi Schock invited us into his kitchen to explain the history of his Morton home, originally the farm of Joseph Stecker/Staker (1808-1872). Levi passed away the following summer.

On a second trip to the Midwest in the summer of 2002, we had the pleasure of meeting second cousin Lena Lehman of Wolcottville, Indiana. Her genealogy of Nicholas Staker and Magdalena Eimer descendants is a wonderful complement to Mary E. Bowers' detailed lists of Illinois Stakers. We explored the Pleasant Grove and Landes Mennonite Cemeteries, where we were guided by second cousin and mayor of Morton, Don Roth. The highlight of that trip was an afternoon at the home of Mary Staker Bowers in Peoria, which brought Pearl, Ethel, and Mary together with Lena – a meeting of two sides of the Staker family (descendants of Joseph, born 1808, and Nicholas, 1815) that had not met since branches divided between the Pleasant Grove and Groveland congregations in the 1870s.

We also had opportunities to visit the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center at Germantown Hills, Illinois and Chrisholm Historic Farmstead at Trenton, Ohio.

Following that trip some unusual new materials arrived in the mail from the late Steven Estes. He took the time to put together several pages of corrections and suggestions, and put us in touch with Kenneth Baughman of Monticello, Illinois. Baughman is the great-great-grandson of Jean/John Bachman and Anna Stecker/Staker, and he provided entirely new information on the family. The Bachman search was aided by information from the late Glenn E. Kauffman, church historian of the North Danvers Mennonite Church, and by Jeff Miller of Draper, Utah (another great-great-grandson of Anna Stecker).

We also had an opportunity to visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. for three days in 2002.
Joe Springer of Goshen College and Lorraine Roth of Waterloo, Ontario were kind enough to point out erroneous Roth history and provide correct information. Joe also pointed the way to the Schlegel family. Sheila Aranvos of the Smith Library of Regional History in Oxford, Ohio provided the obituary of Barbara Schertz, and John Stalter of Washington, Illinois provided a copy of the Zimmerman Genealogy compiled by Elias E. Zimmerman. Alice Luepke provided much of the information on the Merchenthaler/Mosiman Stakers. Neil Ann Stuckey Levine generously sent a list of corrections that pointed out errors of fact, offering suggested improvements and possible references.

On a third Illinois trip we attended a Staker reunion at Morton. It was an opportunity to meet a number of Stakers who are related through the Mosiman-Merchenthalers. The reunion participants donated $250, which was given to the Groveland Evangelical Mennonite Church that afternoon.

We also had the pleasure of finally meeting archivist-minister Steven Estes – solely by chance, while asking for directions at the North Danvers Mennonite Church. We were still exchanging e-mails when he passed away in December 2009.

One of the more unusual developments was a correspondence with Thierry Stucker of Geneva, Switzerland. Thierry was born in Mulhouse, Upper Alsace. His ancestors lived in Günsbach, Upper Alsace from the early 1700s into the 20th century. They dropped the spelling ‘Stücker’ during World War I. We came in contact after he found this text on the Tazewell County Historical & Genealogical Society website.

Jean François Lorentz of the French department of Savoie has been especially helpful with suggestions that corrected our Mosiman genealogy after we thought it complete. We returned again and again to the wealth of material he has posted for public use, and thank him for the thousands of hours that must have gone into it.

Large pieces of the puzzle came from Gary L. Yordy of Arizona. His excellent research with Carol Yotty Heilman filled in background on John Forney, Yotty, Yordy, and Zehr, and pointed out a number of inconsistencies in the text.

Bryan Nicklow made a fortunate find in 2006. He purchased the original family Bible of Pleasant Grove minister Peter Ropp at a yard sale in Havelock, North Carolina. After ‘googling’ the names he found, he contacted us by e-mail in March 2008. His generous arrangements to return the Bible to the Ropp family turned into a nice Easter feature article in his local newspaper. A handwritten note in the margin of the Bible also provided the vital clue to solve the King family tree.

Jane Germann located and photographed the headstone of Joseph Schweitzer/Switzer of Morton, and found related court house documents in Clackamas County, Oregon.

Larry Zimmerman answered a number of questions about the Müller, Reeser, Roth, and Zimmerman families when he investigated their employment on student farms near St. Valentin, France in the 1820s and ‘30s. We subsequently corresponded with French author Annette Surrault, who generously provided additional information from her article in Souvenance anabaptiste and her book De la campagne d’Égypte au Berry, le général Bertrand et le savant Hervé Faye, Alice Lyner éditions.

Hack away at any project long enough, and nice things happen. In November of 2017 my daughter Jen Staker of Seattle visited my nephew Matthew Gilsenan in Basel, Switzerland. They set out on an 80-mile day trip to the area of Lake Thun, carrying a shopping list of family genealogy sites to photograph. At Steffisburg they were kindly led through the Protestant Reformed Church by minister Veronika Michel Schaad.

Many others have provided information or permission to use their text or photographs, including Corrine Afton (Farny), Stephanie Aschauer (Gern), Larry Ball (Farny), Alana Bauman (Zimmerman), Diane Gary Beller, John Bieber, Donna Schrock Birkey (Oyer, Salzman, and Schrock), Bob Brodbeck (De Rham), Cheryl Budde (Ehresman), Susan Yost Clawson (Ehresman and Zimmerman), Duane Egle (Egli and Ehresman), Mary Ann Augsburger Eng (Augsburger), Anita Fiedler (Nafziger), Helmut Funck (Gern), Rose Oyer Gauthier (Oyer), Helmut Gingerich and Herbert Holly (Ackerman, Augsburger, Beckler, Birky, Ehresman, and Imhoff), Marilyn Gottwald (Roberts), Lou Ann Gray (Farny), Hermann Hage (Eigsti), Paul Hart (Imhoff), Julie Hedrick (Farny), Leigh Ann Hofferth, Herbert Holly (Holly and Augsburger), Bruce Jantzi (Jantzi), Tia Jantzi (Jantzi), Linda Heiser Jones (Belsley, Strubhar, and
Wagner), Dorothy Klockow (Zug/Zook), Ardelle Koperski (Zimmerman), Susan Esch Lees (Esch), Edd Marks (Augsburger), Russ McClallen (Ringenberg), Frank Miles (Belsley), Jim Miller, Deb Morrison (Mound Cemetery information), Mary Oyer (Oyer), Ronald Prins (Gingerich), Rob Raeside (Hilterfingen and Riggisberg flags), Jan Roggy (Roggy and Albrecht), Jane Sheridan (Householder), Frederick Schwink (Montbéliard register translation), Dominique Spahn (Goldschmidt), Karen Stickler (Ehresman), Terry Tabb (Part Three cover photo), Philippe Tovena (Schlegel), Ruth Unzicker (Unzicker), Carolyn Whaley Vosburg (Landes), Vicky Hasvold Walker (Bachmann/Bachman), Carolyn Wenger (King), Edward Widrick (Lewis County), Elaine Yeackley Wampler (Yordy), and Russell Yordy (Eigsti and Yordy).

The project would not have been possible without the assistance of the staff of volunteers at the Family History Center of Silverdale, Washington. We also had a dozen opportunities to visit the Family History Library of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, most recently in August of 2018. Their microfilm collection has been our single greatest source of material.

Webmaster Mike Dickson of the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society has patiently posted well over a dozen versions of the text as it inched forward over the years.

After 20 years and 1,325 pages, we reach the end of this long project. Hopefully it will be a good place for someone else to start.

Comments, suggestions, or corrections would be greatly appreciated: joestaker@hotmail.com.

Joseph Peter Staker
Gott mit uns

‘IA,’ the odd signature of Jacob Amman Nov. 7, 1799.
Above, a view from the church at Hilterfingen across Lake Thun to the Alps.

Photo by Jen Staker, November 2017.