Amish Mennonites
in Tazewell County, Illinois

GENEALOGY
Part Three of Three

Updated May 2013 • Compiled by Joseph Peter Staker
ZEHR - YORDY - ESCH/OESCH - EHRESMAN - HOCHSTETTLER
SCHWARZENTRAUB - SMITH - PETERSMITH - GOOD
PLANK - GOLDSMITH - REDIGER - STEIDER - KINSINGER
RINGENBERGER - SPRINGER - DELLENBACH - EIMAN - SCHANTZ
DETTWEILER - GASCHO - ORENDORFF - SCHLEGEL
ERNST - KLOPFENSTEIN - RAMSEYER - ZOOK
NEUHAUSER - HOUSEHOLDER
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Part Three of Three

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Zehr of Struth

In the Bernese dialect a Zehr can be a boeder or tenant. Niederstocken is located about six miles west of Lake Thun, in the parish of Reutigen at the foot of the 6,570-foot Stockhorn. It adjoins Erlenbach im Simmental, the birthplace of Jacob Amman. Anabaptist Peter Zer married Barbara Schultz, and had a son Christian Zer at Niederstocken before 1700.

Circa 1712 the family migrated down the Rhine River to Struth in 'Crooked Alsace' to work as cultivators. Several brothers or Zehr families made the trip in the same time frame.

Christian married Elisabette Koch at Struth circa 1732. Their son Daniel Zehr was born there circa 1734. In 1777 Daniel married Catherine Zehr. She was born at Struth circa 1750, and died there Dec. 24, 1805. Her German-language civil death entry describes her as age 55, a daughter of Jacob Zehr.

Daniel died in the home of his son-in-law Johannes/Jean Springer at Struth May 21, 1819. His French-language civil death entry describes him as a cultivator, the 84-year-old widower of Catherine Zehr, and a son of Chrétien Zehr and Elisabette Koch. It was witnessed by son-in-law and cultivator Jean Springer, 44 (he signed 'Johannes Springer'); and son and cultivator Joseph Zehr, 34.

The names of the children of Daniel Zehr and Catherine Zehr born at Struth were kept in a 1780 edition of Martyrs' Mirror that has been passed down in the Ingold family:

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

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

3. Joseph Zehr was born in May 1784, and died at Worth (also found as 'near Metamora'), Woodford County April 17, 1872. On Jan. 7, 1806 at Cirey-sur-Vezouze, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Anne Verly [Swiss Werli or Wehrl], also found in French as Verle]. She was born circa 1782, and died at Metamora, Woodford County after 1870, a daughter of Ulrich Verly and Magdalena Steiner. Joseph was a miller. They raised a family at Struth, Lower Alsace. Although they became a relatively well-known family in Woodford County, we could not determine their immigration year, and a passenger list would provide some missing points. Their daughters Marie and Anne are known to have immigrated in 1836. Anna Verly appears as 67-year-old Anna Zehr in the household of her daughter Anne/Anna on the 1850 census of Woodford County. Their son Pierre/Peter farmed at Worth, where her is found on the 1850 census, then died in August 1850; the 1860 census shows his farm occupied by his parents Joseph Zehr, 80, France; and Anna, 82, France. Joseph and Anne are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Their children include:
   a. Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr was born at Struth Sept. 21, 1807, and died in Woodford County Aug. 20, 1850. On Jan. 8, 1831 at Schalbach, Moselle (10 miles southwest of Struth) she married Pierre/Peter Schertz. He was born circa 1807, and died at Worth, Woodford County April 2, 1861, a son of Joseph Schertz and his first wife Marie Hirschi. For more on this couple see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL.
   b. Joseph Zehr was born at Struth April 29, 1809, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 10, 1883. His civil birth entry described his father as a 25-year-old land owner and plowman [Ger. Burger und Ackermann]. On Feb. 25, 1834 at Schalbach, Moselle he married Catherine Kohler. She was born at Rahleng, Moselle circa Jan. 2, 1815, and died at Flanagan Oct. 31, 1884, a daughter of Andreas/Andre Kohler and Anne Birki. Their son Christian, born March 6, 1835, sailed from Le Havre to America Dec. 22, 1855. They sailed from Le Havre on the Vision, arriving at New York Jan. 2, 1857. The passenger list shows Joseph Zehr, 46, France; Catherine, 41; Anne, 16; Andreas [later Andrew], 15; Catherine, 14; Babette [later Barbara], 8; Pierre [later Peter], 7; Elisabeth, 5; Jean [later John], 3; and Joseph, 11 months. The head of the family is found as Joseph Sears on the 1860 census of Washington, Tazewell County. The couple also had a son Valentine born in Woodford County in 1862. In 1880 they were living at Waldo, Livingston County. Herald of Truth, September 1883: ‘July 22nd, in Livingston county, Ill., of dropsey, Joseph Zehr, aged 74 years. Buried the 23rd. Many relatives and friends met to pay the last tribute of respect. Two daughters and a son of Seward county, Neb., came to see him a few days before his death, which gave him much satisfaction. During his sickness he suffered much from difficulty of breathing, yet he patiently bore it all. He set his housed in order, and had peace with God and man, and was prepared to die. He was a brother in the Amish Mennonite Church. He leaves an aged and bereaved wife, five sons, three daughters, and many grand children. Funeral sermons by Christian Schllegel and John P. Schmitt.’ Herald of Truth, December 1884: ‘On the 31st of October, in Livingston Co., Ill., Catharine, widow of Joseph Zehr (deceased), aged 69 years, 9 months and 29 days. Funeral services by
anish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Christian Rediger, William Egly, Christian Shlegel, and John P. Schmidt. Sister Zehr had to suffer much but she bore all her afflictions with patience and submission to the Lord. She expressed her desire to depart and to be with Jesus. She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

c. Anne Catherine/Anna Zehr was born at Struth Oct. 20, 1810. Her civil birth entry called her Anna Catharina, and described her father Joseph Zehr as a 25-year-old. Her civil birth entry described her father as a 29-year-old cultivator, and her mother as Anne Verlé. It was witnessed by 41-year-old day laborer Nicolaus Maurer.

d. Anne Marie Zehr was born at Struth Nov. 16, 1813. Her civil birth entry described her father as a 29-year-old cultivator, and her mother as Anne Verlez. She was a second cousin to Elizabeth Unzicker, the wife of Daniel Unzicker, the husband of Magdalena Kahn.

e. Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr. According to her obituary she was born in Lorraine Sept. 25, 1816, and died at Eureka June 28, 1896. On May 8, 1838 in the log structure called Burry's Church at New Sewickley, Pennsylvania she married Thiebaut/Debold Haushalter, later called Householder. They appear on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Debolt Householder, 35, France; Mary, 34, France; Henry, 10, Pennsylvania; Frederic, 8, Kentucky; Anne, 6, Illinois; and Mary, 4, Illinois; they were farming in the next section from her sister Anna/Anna Zehr and her husband Joseph Schertz (Jr.), and next door to her brother Pierre/Peter Zehr. See HOUSEHOLDER for more on this couple.

f. Pierre/Peter Zehr was born at Struth June 2, 1819, and died at Worth, Woodford County in August 1850. His civil birth entry described his father as a 38-year-old cultivator, and his mother as Anne Verlé. On Dec. 9, 1849 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Springer. She was born in Solnn near Munich in 1829, a daughter of David Springer and Elisabeth Guth. Catherine must have died within weeks of her marriage; her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora calls her, "Catharine Springer, Ehefrau des Peter Zehr gest. 1849." The 1850 census of Worth shows the household of farmer Peter Zehr, 30, France; Madalane, 25, France; and Anna, 65, France. While this initially appears to be a family, it is probable that the two female companions were tending to him during his last illness.

g. Anne/Anna Zehr. According to her obituary and Past and Present of Woodford County she was born in France April 1, 1826, though several of her census reports suggest she was born in 1821. She died at Worth, Woodford County Jan. 21, 1902. Her obituary and the 1900 census stated that she immigrated as a 10-year-old in 1836. She may have married circa 1844; after her married to Joseph Schertz, Past and Present of Woodford County described her first son as "Christian, a son of Mrs. Schertz by a former marriage." On Nov. 8, 1846 in Woodford County she married Joseph Schertz (Jr.). He was born at Oberstinzeln, Moselle March 3, 1811, and died in Woodford County Aug. 21, 1892, a son of Joseph Schertz and his first wife Marie Hirschi. For more on this couple see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL.

4. David Zehr was born circa 1789, and died at Struth March 1, 1799.
5. Barbe Zehr was born May 17, 1791, and died at Rozières-sur-Mouzon, Vosges Dec. 7, 1857. On Aug. 29, 1811 at Struth she married Johannes/Jean Zehr. He was born at Neuwiller, Lower Alsace Sept. 3, 1783, and died at Goncéourt, Haute-Marne Feb. 3, 1865, a son of Christian/Chrétien Zehr (deceased at the time of their marriage) and Véronique Zehr.
6. Elisabeth Zehr was born July 23, 1794, and died at Struth April 12, 1795.

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

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

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

In October 1803 the family entered a two-year lease on the dairy farm Abtsried of the Wessobrunn cloister, about 34 miles southwest of Munich. They lived at Berg am Laim 1810-17. This was a small mountain known for its brickworks, which is now a district on the east side of Munich. On Dec. 2, 1818, they purchased property at Mannried (27 miles northwest of Munich), which was sold Dec. 15, 1827. From 1828 they lived on the Mang estate at Hanfeld (18 miles south of Munich), where Magdalena died in 1838. Five of the children emigrated to Slabtown (now Congerville in Montgomery Township) in the spring of 1848. In 1849 Daniel emigrated from Hanfeld as a 67-year-old widower with the family of his nephew David Springer.

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1 1850 = 24 or 29 years of age: 1860 = 39; 1870 = 49, 1880 = 44, 1900 = 74, born April 1826.
2 The Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Tazewell County stated that Daniel Zehr's wife was Catherine Ringbuck. However, many errors of fact connected with this family were also given; we could not identify their source.
3 The dairy farm Abtsried was later leased by Daniel Unzicker and his second wife Elisabeth Hauter (see UNZICKER, BUTLER COUNTY UNZICKERS).
Daniel and David joined a group departing from Bremen on the *Minnesota* (his traveling companions are listed in EIGSTI). They sailed via Liverpool to New York, arriving June 21, 1849. Many in the group traveled directly to Central Illinois.

Daniel reunited in Tazewell and Woodford Counties with his sons George, Christian, Peter, and Jakob/Jacob; oldest son Daniel followed in 1853, and only son Joseph remained in Bavaria. Daniel died at the Farnsville home of son Christian in 1856, and is thought to be buried in Slabtown Cemetery. The children of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker include:

1. Daniel Zehr was born at Struth June 8, 1803. On May 12, 1827 at Hilgertshausen-Tandern (adjacent to Mannried) he married Barbara Ingold. She was born on the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingbach (about four miles from Annweiler) in Nassau-Weilburg circa 1800, and died at Arzbach, Pellheim Aug. 5, 1831, a daughter of Joseph Ingold and Elisabethe Gungerich. She brought one child to the marriage, Joseph Ingold, born Jan. 24, 1826; they had two more sons named Daniel and Christian.\(^4\) Christian married at Arzbach, Pellheim July 27, 1831. On Nov. 6, 1832 at Pettenbrunn (adjacent to Freising; 22 miles above Munich) Daniel remarried to Magdalena Rocke (also found as Magdalena Miller). They had a daughter Magdalena born at Arzbach, Pellheim July 20, 1834, and a son Jakob born there July 25, 1837. Daniel was described as a castle carpenter/builder there (with Christian Birk). He became an elder in Bavaria. Daniel and Magdalena sold their Pettenbrunn property Sept. 1, 1853. Gary L. Yordy found the passenger list of the *Germania* out of Bremen, which arrived at New York Nov. 19, 1853. It gives the family as Daniel Zehr, 50, farmer; Mary, 45; Christian, 22, farmer; Magdalena, 18; James [Jacob], 16; and Mary, 14, and their place of origin as Pettenbrunn. The *Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database* shows that Daniel Zehr of Woodford County purchased 45.6 acres at what is now Congerville for 25 cents per acre (total $11.41) Dec. 15, 1854. Daniel’s status within the Mackinaw meetings is uncertain, given the presence of Christian Farny and other senior ministers, but he was regarded highly in deference to his status as an elder in Bavaria. Details of Daniel’s death from cholera Aug. 11, 1855 are given in SMITH. He was buried in Slabtown Cemetery with many other cholera victims. Magdalena died Feb. 27, 1899, and is also buried in Slabtown Cemetery.

2. George Zehr was born on the dairy farm Abtsried Jan. 23, 1806, and died in Livingston County Feb. 3, 1886; he is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. George arrived in America May 26, 1835 and settled near Slabtown. On Oct. 11, 1846 in Woodford County he married Catherine Gundy. She was born May 5, 1817, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Sept. 12, 1872. They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County next door to brother Peter Zehr as brewer George Seers, 44; Germany; Catharine, 34, Germany; and Madeline, 1, Illinois. George is found on the 1880 census of Gridley, McLean County as a 74-year-old father-in-law from Anhalt living with farmer Jacob Augspurger, 32; his daughter Lena, 32; and a grandson Albert Augspurger, 2.

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

4. Joseph Zehr was born at Berg am Laim Nov. 18, 1810, and died after a logging accident at Beigarten, Bavaria (12 miles east of Hanfeld) April 30, 1871. On May 14, 1837 he married Katharina Oesch. She was born at Hanfeld May 8, 1814, and died at Walchstadt, Bavaria (eight miles southeast of Hanfeld) Oct. 25, 1856; a daughter of Andreas Oesch (son of Christian Oesch and Katharina/Catherine Bürki) and Katharina Augspurger/Augsburger. On March 13, 1857 at Berg am Laim he remarried to Jakobina Miller. She was born at Wellenburg (a suburb of Augsburg) March 12, 1818, and died at Beigarten Jan. 13, 1890, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Magdalena Oesch. Joseph was the only son who did not emigrate from Europe.

5. Christian Zehr was born at Berg am Laim Nov. 12, 1812, and died at Deer Creek Sept. 19, 1893. See SIBLING #5.

6. Magdalena Zehr was born at Berg am Laim March 12, 1816. She may have been the first wife of Christian Oesch of Elm Grove; if so, she died before May 1860 (see ESCH/OESCH).

7. Peter Zehr was born at Mannried, Bavaria Dec. 30, 1818, died at Slabtown April 6, 1886, and is buried in Slabtown Cemetery. See SIBLING #7.

8. Jakob/Jacob Zehr was born at Mannried, Bavaria Sept. 17, 1825, and died at Goodfield Feb. 22, 1898. According to *Ausswanderung*, Jakob Zehr, a serving farmhand at Hanfeld, emigrated from Bavaria in 1848 bound for Illinois with 400 florins in hand. On April 21, 1850 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Ehresman.\(^5\) She was born in Germany Sept. 11, 1830, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 27, 1902, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and Elizabeth Barnett. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. They are found on the 1850 census of Woodford County living next to older brother Christian: Jacob Sears, 25; Germany; and Eliza, 20, Germany. Jacob was ordained by the Mackinaw meeting in 1859, which later became Roanoke Mennonite Church and Goodfield Mennonite Church. They are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer Jacob Zehr, 42; Bavaria; R. Annie Zehr, 36, Ohio; with six children born in Illinois, and Magdalena Zehr, 75, Bavaria (possibly Magdalena Miller, the

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\(^4\) Joseph Ingold sailed from Bremen on the *Teutonia*, and arrived at New York Aug. 29, 1861 with the family of Johannes/John Augsburger and Marie Oesch (see AUGSBURGER). He married Barbara Unzicker (1844-1871) in Tazewell County Nov. 8, 1863 (her name is found recorded as ‘Unsinger’), and remarried to Barbara Ernst (circa 1833-1888) in Tazewell County Jan. 14, 1872 (his name is found recorded as ‘Seegold’). See SCHLEGEL for his obituary.

\(^5\) The marriage entry lists Elizabeth Ehresman as ‘Eliza Anersman.’
widow of Daniel Zehr). Jacob attended assemblies of ministers in 1866, 1871, 1872, 1875, and 1878. *Herald of Truth*, March 1898: "Montgomery Township, Woodford County, Ill., lost one of its oldest and most respected citizens on Tuesday morning of Feb. 22nd, 1898 by the death of Pre. Jacob Zehr, at his home in Mackinaw valley, near Zimmerman’s Ford. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, Sept. 17, 1825 and immigrated to America in the spring of 1848. On April 21st, 1850, he was married to Elizabeth Ehresman and settled on the farm upon which he died. This farm he entered from the government and by hard labor succeeded in making it a comfortable home, leaving his family well provided for. His family consisted of four sons and five daughters of whom one son and two daughters preceded him to the grave; his wife, six children and eighteen grandchildren survive him. Bro. Zehr united with the Amish Mennonite Church in early youth and remained a faithful member to the time of his death. On the 12th of June 1859, he was chosen by the above named church as minister of the Gospel, and on May 17th, 1863 ordained as bishop. It was ever his highest aim to fill this charge according to God’s ordinances as long as He gave him power and health to do so. He was a sufferer from nervousness or sick-headache more or less for nearly forty years, which wore on him so that for the last four or five years his health has been so poor that he was unable to preach. This seemed to be his greatest sorrow in his declining years; yet by his patience in his sufferings and his trust in his Master he was ever setting a good example to others who visited him, and to his family. About four months ago he was partly paralyzed and from that time was confined to his bed and as helpless as a child, patiently awaiting his Master’s call to come up higher. His life on earth was an exemplary, upright, humble one, highly respected by all who knew him. While the sorrow of his death is general, yet it is mitigated by the knowledge that after a long and useful life a good man has gone to the home he so longed for.”

**Older brother Christian Zehr**

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, 1939. 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/bishop of the conservative Augspurger congregation in Butler County (see EHRESMAN). Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller also brought their family on that voyage (see ZIMMERMANN).

In 1842 Christian married Magdalena ‘Lena’ Landis. She was born circa 1816, and died in 1843, shortly after giving birth to a daughter, Magdalena/Madeleine. On Aug. 12, 1844 in Tazewell County he remarried to Marie/Mary Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle April 16, 1823, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 21, 1893, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his first wife Catherine Schrag (see OYER).

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

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

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

*Herald of Truth*, October 1893: "On the 19th of Sept. 1893, in Tazewell Co., Ill., of general debility, Bro. Christian Zehr, aged 81 y., 7 m. He leaves his wife and 6 children. Funeral services by Joseph King and Joseph Stuckey in German and English from Psa.90." See OYER for Marie/Mary Oyer’s obituary. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I was married in 1873 to Mr. Andrew Ulrich. We lived with my folks for two years and then moved in 1875 to Harlen farm, a mile and a half east of Deer Creek. From the Harlen place, we moved to Deer Creek. We raised four children. I have fourteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. My husband died February 13, 1919. Since then I have lived alone. Up to this time I have made 168 quilts.

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

The child of Christian Zehr and his first wife Magdalena 'Lena' Landis was:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Zehr was born in Illinois March 21, 1843, and died at Manson, Iowa July 28, 1914. On July 28, 1863 in Woodford County she married Andrew Zehr, who had immigrated in 1858. He was born at Struth June 9, 1839, and died at Manson June 10, 1915, a son of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Kohler. Magdalena/Madeleine and Andrew were given a farm by Christian. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Zehr, 32, France; Magdalene, 29, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Waldo also lists her birthplace as Illinois. The 1900 census of Lincoln, Iowa lists her place and date of birth as Illinois in March 1843, while Andrew was born in France in June 1839. Gospel Herald, February 1914: "Magdalena Zehr was born in Woodford Co., Ill., March 21, 1843; died Feb. 17, 1914, in Calhoun Co., Ia; aged 70y. 10m. 27d. She was united in marriage to Andrew Zehr, July 28, 1863. To this union were born 11 children. Two children and 1 grandchild preceeded her to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her departure husband, 9 children, 36 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. She united with the A.M. Church in her youth, and remained faithful until her death. She endured many trials and much suffering through her life. The last 8 months of her life she was confined to her bed the greater part of the time. Her last illness was dropsy. She had a great longing to go home and be at rest. Funeral services at the home Feb. 19, and at the Cedar Creek Church at Manson. Opening by Bro. Jos. Egli. Text, by Bro. A.H. Leaman of Chicago, Gen. 5:24. Internment in the Rose Hill Cemetery."

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

2. Joseph Zehr was born in Woodford County Jan. 22, 1846, and died at Aurora, Nebraska March 19, 1920. On Sept. 8, 1867 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Yoder. She was born at Pleasant, Ohio Dec. 11, 1847, and died at Aurora May 12, 1916, a daughter of Joel Yoder and Lydia Yoder.
3. Josephine 'Phoebe' Zehr was born in Woodford County Feb. 11, 1849, and died at Deer Creek April 16, 1897. On Aug. 20, 1874 in Tazewell County she married Christian King. He was born at Liberty, Butler County, Ohio Oct. 13, 1840, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 23, 1924, a son of Michael King and Elizabeth Burnett. They are buried in Stumbaugh Cemetery at Goodfield, Woodford County. See KING for details of his three marriages.
4. Elizabeth Zehr was born at Deer Creek Sept. 28, 1854, and died Aug. 1, 1948. On March 6, 1873 in McLean County she married Andrew Ulrich. He was born at Peoria June 5, 1848, and died Feb. 18, 1919, a son of Peter Ulrich and Anna Oyer. They are buried in Stumbaugh Cemetery at Goodfield, Woodford County.
5. Christian Zehr was born at Deer Creek March 12, 1857, and died at Olio, Woodford County Oct. 12, 1926. On Feb. 5, 1878 at Roanoke, Woodford County he married Magdalena 'Malinda' Roeschley. She was born at Washington March 29, 1858, and died in McLean County April 17, 1899, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Roeschley and Elizabeth Salzman. Christian and Malinda are found next door to his parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as Christian Zehr, 23, Bavaria; and Malinda, 22, Alsace. On April 29, 1900 in McLean County he remarried to Mary Almeda Imhoff Miller. She was born at Washburn, Woodford County Oct. 17, 1874, and died at Peoria Oct. 10, 1940, a daughter of Joseph Imhoff and Emma Jane Webber. She is buried in Parkview Cemetery at Peoria.
6. Barbara Zehr was born at Deer Creek in 1859. She does not appear on the 1870 census.

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6 The 1860 census erroneously switched 'Phoebe' (found as a 5-year-old) and Elizabeth (found as an 11-year-old).
7. Lydia 'Liddy' A. Zehr was born at Deer Creek March 29, 1863, and died there Oct. 9, 1935. She is found as a 17-year-old living with her parents on the 1880 census of Deer Creek. On July 22, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Jacob D. Roeschley. He was born at Washington in March 1857, and died in 1909, a son of Johannes/Jean Roeschley and Elizabeth Salzman. They are found on the 1900 census of Montgomery as Jacob Roeschley, 42, born in Illinois in March 1857 to French parents; Lydia, 38, born in Illinois in March 1862 to parents from Germany and France; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mount Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

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

Younger brother Peter Zehr

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

Peter sailed from Le Havre on the Baltimore, arriving at New York June 17, 1844 (other Baltimore passengers are identified in BIRKY/BIRKEY).

On Aug. 12, 1845 at Farmdale he married Elizabeth 'Lise' 'Eliza' Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle April 23, 1828, died at Foosland, Champaign County March 21, 1896, and is buried in East Bend Mennonite Cemetery. She was a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller (see OYER).

In Illinois Peter and his brother George became brewers. They are found as next door neighbors on the 1850 census of Tazewell County. Peter's household appears as Peter Seers, 32, Germany; Elizabeth, 21, France; and Daniel, 1, Illinois.

In 1856 Peter and Elizabeth moved to the Rocky Ford area of the Mackinaw River. By 1860 they were farther southwest on the river, nearer to Mackinaw. They appear on the 1860 census of Mackinaw next door to brother Christian Zehr as farmer Peter Zears, 40, Germany; Elizabeth, 32, Germany; Daniel, 11; Peter, 8; Elisabeth, 5; and John, 1.

The Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database shows Peter Zehr purchasing 40 acres between Deer Creek and Mackinaw at $10 per acre on April 30, 1867. They are found on the 1870 census of Deer Creek as farmer Peter Zehr, 52, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 42, France; with seven children born in Illinois. They are also found on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as farmer Peter Zehr, 62, Bavaria; Lizzie, 53, France; Mary, 17; David, 15; Phoebe, 13; and Samuel, 11; all children born in Illinois.

The children of Peter Zehr and Elizabeth 'Lise' 'Eliza' Oyer include:

1. Magdalena Zehr was born at East Peoria Sept. 15, 1846, and died as an infant.
2. Joseph Zehr was born at East Peoria Oct. 28, 1847, and died Sept. 30, 1848.
3. Daniel Zehr was born at East Peoria March 9, 1849, and died at Morton June 5, 1942. On Jan. 13, 1874 he married Katharina Heiser. She was born at Pekin May 1, 1854, and died at Deer Creek May 15, 1911, a daughter of Jacob Heiser and Catherine Wagler. For her obituary, see HEISER. Gospel Herald, June 1942: "Daniel, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Oyer) Zehr, was born March 9, 1849, at East Peoria, Ill.; died June 5, 1942, at the home of his son (Peter Zehr, near Morton, Ill.); aged 93 y. 2 m. 26 d. His illness was of short duration, caused by a paralytic stroke, which occurred about 12 hours before his death. His passing was just as he lived. Calmly and quietly he passed into his eternal rest. He was united in marriage to Katherine Heiser Jan. 13, 1874. She preceded him in death May 15, 1911. His oldest son (Jacob) also preceded him in death. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth Oyer, Peter, Amos, and Matilda, all of near Morton; Mrs. Ida Birkey and Daniel, both of Fisher. He is also survived by 43 grandchildren and 33 great-grand-children, 1 brother, Samuel of Fisher, Ill., 1 sister, Mrs. Phebe Zehr of Manson, Iowa, and a host of other relatives and friends. In his youth he confessed Christ as his Saviour, was baptized and became a member of the Mennonite Church of which he has been a faithful member until death. He was ordained to the ministry in 1895 at the Goodfield Mennonite Church, in which capacity he served until recent years when he retired from active service. Though not able to preach any longer he has always attended church up to the last Sunday he lived and taken a great interest in his Master's service. The greatest part of his time during recent years was spent in reading the Bible which seemed to be his greatest treasure. He had a meek and quiet spirit and always showed great interest and love for his family and for his fellow men, manifesting a friendly spirit to every one he met. Funeral services were held June 8 at the Morton Mennonite Church in Morton, Ill., in charge of Bros. J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill., and Simon Litwiller, Minier, Ill. Interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery near Deer Creek, Ill."

7 Erroneous attribution of a son Teddy born in 1862 is a misreading of 'Liddy' on the 1870 census.
4. Peter Zehr (Jr.) was born in Tazewell County Aug. 24, 1851, and died at Foosland, Champaign County March 14, 1922. On June 8, 1876 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Heiser. She was born Nov. 1, 1857, and died at Foosland Nov. 16, 1934, a daughter of Jacob Heiser and Catherine Wagler. Gospel Herald, March 1922: “Bishop Peter Zehr was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Aug. 24, 1851; died at his home near Fisher, Ill., Mar. 14, 1922; aged 70 y. 6 m. 18 d. He suffered from a complication of diseases. He bore it very patiently. He was married to Barbara Heiser of Morton, Ill., June 8, 1876. To this union were born five children (Mrs. Catharine Cender, Dan P. Zehr, Mrs. Lizzie Cender, Mrs. Amelia Birky, and Joseph A., who preceded his father in his infancy). He leaves 15 grandchildren, three brothers, and three sisters. Five brothers and 1 sister preceded him to eternity. He united with the Mennonite Church in his youth. June 10, 1883, he was ordained to the ministry in Deer Creek, Ill. In 1893 he was ordained bishop in charge of the East Bend congregation near Fisher. He was known for his heart concern for the flock. His last prayers were for her welfare. The funeral was held Mar. 17, 1922, conducted by Bros. Samuel Gerber, C. F. Dersch, and Bros. Ezra B. Yordy, Text, I Thes. 4:14; II Cor. 5:1. ” They are buried in the East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.

5. Christian Zehr was born in Tazewell County Nov. 1, 1853, and died there Jan. 3, 1854.

6. Elizabeth Zehr was born in Tazewell County Feb. 2, 1855, and died at Goodfield Jan. 29, 1933. On Feb. 25, 1877 at Goodfield she married Christian W. Heiser. He was born at Allentown, Tazewell County in 1854 (per his headstone), and died at Goodfield Dec. 12, 1938, a son of Jacob Heiser and Catherine Wagler. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek.

7. Jacob Zehr was born at Mackinaw July 15, 1857, and died there Nov. 16, 1857.

8. John Zehr was born at Mackinaw Nov. 22, 1858, and died there Nov. 21, 1860.

9. Andrew Zehr was born at Mackinaw Aug. 15, 1860, and died five days later.

10. Mary Zehr was born at Mackinaw Aug. 6, 1861, and died Jan. 18, 1937. In 1886 she married Joseph Baecher. He was born March 31, 1853, and died at Fisher, Champaign County June 30, 1931, a son of John Baecher and Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in East Bend Memorial Gardens at Fisher.

11. David Zehr was born at Mackinaw April 21, 1864, and died at Manson, Iowa Feb. 7, 1924. On Dec. 28, 1886 he married Elizabeth M. Zehr. She was born in Woodford County April 12, 1866, and died at Manson, Iowa April 12, 1924, a daughter of Andrew Zehr and Magdalena Zehr. Gospel Herald, February 1924: “Bro. David D. Zehr was born at Deer Creek, Ill., April 4, 1864; died Feb. 7, 1924; aged 59 y. 9 m. 16 d. He died of injuries sustained in a railroad accident. He lived in the neighborhood of his birthplace until manhood. On Dec. 28, 1886, he was married to Lizzie, daughter of Andrew and Magdalena Zehr. He lived in Fisher, Ill., 2 years and at Flanagan, Ill., 6 years. In the spring of 1897 he moved with his family to Manson, Iowa, where he resided until God called him. Those who remain of his family are his wife and five children as follows: Martha E., Mrs. Rosa Roth, Silas P. Zehr, Alvin W. Zehr (who is suffering from the effects of the accident, but is doing nicely at present), and Anna L., wife of Clyde Garber, all residing in this vicinity. The following brothers and sisters survive: Elizabeth, wife of C. W. Heisey, Mary, wife of Joseph Baecher, Phoebe, wife of Christian Zehr, Daniel Zehr, and Samuel Zehr. He united with the Mennonite Church in his early youth and in his early manhood was much interested in Sunday school and church work. He was of the number who helped to organize the Sunday School at Fisher, Ill., and served as superintendent while living there. He was among the first ones to move to this neighborhood and was active in the organization of this congregation. He was the second ordained minister in this congregation and was ordained May 16, 1909, serving as minister 22 years and as bishop 15 years. The last few weeks of his earthly life he would say about every night, "I wish Jesus would come." Just before he left his home on the night of the accident he was reading in our church paper, and said, "I wish I were well so I could go and do more or could get the young people together so they could do more." Funeral services were held at the Manson Mennonite Church in charge of Bro. J. W. Hess. Text, II Cor. 5:1. There were about 500 people present who had come to pay their last tribute of respect to our departed brother. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery.”

12. Phoebe Zehr was born at Mackinaw Dec. 3, 1866, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 25, 1949. On March 30, 1886 in Tazewell County she married Christian S. Zehr. He was born May 18, 1864, and died at Manson May 17, 1938, a son of Andrew Zehr and Magdalena Zehr. Gospel Herald, October 1949: “Phoebe, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Zehr, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Dec. 3, 1866; passed away at her home in Manson, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1949; aged 82 y. 9 m. 22 d. She was the last surviving member of a family of thirteen children. Even though she carried the heavy responsibility of raising a large family, she was always in relatively good health until the last two years, when she was bedfast most of the time. On March 30, 1886, she was united in marriage to Christian Zehr, who preceded her in death eleven years ago. They lived in Illinois the first twelve years of their married life, after which they moved to Manson, Iowa. One son (Emanuel) passed away five years ago. Surviving are 9 children (Bertha - Mrs. Will Birkey, Arthur, Ben, Ada - Mrs. Ray Sutter, John, Lena - Mrs. Aaron Sutter, Clarence, Elmer, and Cora, all of Manson, Iowa), 22 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a large number of other relatives and friends. In her youth she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, of which she was a faithful and consistent member until death. As a mother in the home she was devoted to her task. During her illness she was patient and appreciative of the care given by her daughter (Cora) and other members of her family. Funeral services were held Sept. 27 at the Manson Mennonite Church, with Nick Stoltzfus in charge, assisted by Ed Birkey. Interment was made in the Rose Hill Cemetery.”
13. Samuel Zehr was born at Deer Creek Feb. 24, 1870, and died at Fisher, Champaign County March 31, 1943. On Sept. 27, 1892 in Champaign County he married Lena Unzicker. She was born in 1870 and died March 1, 1939, a daughter of Christian Unzicker and Maria Gingerich. Gospel Herald, April 1943: "Samuel S., son of Peter and Elizabeth (Oyer) Zehr, was born near Goodfield, Ill., Feb. 24, 1870; departed this life March 31, 1943, at the home of his son, Sam M., near Fisher; aged 73 y. 1 m. 7 d. He had been in failing health for the past 18 months and for the last 10 months has been bedfast. He lived in this vicinity for the past 53 years. In his early youth he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite church, of which he was a faithful and consistent member until the time of his death. He was united in marriage to Lena Unzicker Sept. 27, 1892, who preceded him in death March 1, 1939. He was the youngest of a family of thirteen, one sister Pheobe Zehr, Manson, Iowa, surviving him; also three sons (Aaron E., Foosland; Sam M., Fisher; and Albert R., Foosland) and six grandchildren. He was ordained to the office of deacon June 1906 at the East Bend Mennonite Church in which capacity he served in the Church, also assisting in the ministry until his health failed and he asked to be relieved from this responsibility. Funeral services were conducted at the home of his son by Bro. Harold Zehr, and at the East Bend Mennonite Church by Bro. J.A. Heiser. Text, Job 14:15. Burial in the East Bend Cemetery. The room is quiet, all is still; the place is vacant, 'tis God's will. Soon long you have waited for your rest, our blessed Lord knows what is best."

Ontario Zehrs

A splinter from the Zehr families of Struth migrated from Alsace-Lorraine to Ontario. Though none of their descendants came to Central Illinois before 1855, they were familiar with families that did.

Joseph Zehr and Barbe Eymann were the parents of Joseph Zehr. He was born at Ottwiller (adjacent to Struth, on its southwest corner) Dec. 31, 1784, and died at Woolwich Township, Ontario Jan. 29, 1845.

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

On Jan. 23, 1819 at St. Avold Joseph remarried to Barbe/Barbara Kennel. She was born at Hellimer June 9, 1789, and died at Wilmot Township, Ontario Sept. 26, 1877, a daughter of Christian Kennel and Anne Hirschi.

Joseph and Barbe/Barbara sailed from Amsterdam on the Margaret, and arrived at New York Aug. 18, 1825. The passenger list shows miller Joseph Swier or Snier, 36; Babary, 34; Joseph, 7; Catharine, 4; and Susannah, 2.

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

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

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

On March 16, 1841 at Wilmot Township he married Anne Marie Liechti/Lichty. She was born at Largitzen, Upper Alsace (the last European home of the Ropps) Aug. 19, 1819, and died at Wilmot Township Sept. 20, 1900, a daughter of Christian Liechti and Madeleine Litwiller. They had 10 children. They are buried in Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot.
Yordy: Jordi of Jaegerthal

_The information in this portion leans heavily on the research of Gary L. Yordy and Carol Yott Heilman. In December 2007 Gary found the key to the puzzle when he discovered the family connection to Jaegerthal._

Saint Theodorus was an Italian missionary-monk who established the abbey of Saint Maurice d'Agaune in the Valais region of what is now southern Switzerland. Theodorus evolved into Joder. Joders lived at Steffisburg in Bern for approximately 11 generations before the Anabaptist movement. A German-language diminutive indicating affection or familiarity is created when an 'i' is added to the root of a proper name. At some point a 'Joder' became a 'Jordi.' This splintered into Jordy in the German states, and Yordy in Alsace-Lorraine.

**Johannes 'Hans' Jordy** and Verena Lang are known to us from the civil marriage entries of their children. Their family appears on at least two Palatine census lists. In 1752 a census shows Johannes Jordi, wife, two children, and a farmhand living on property of the treasury office of the administrative district of Hohenecken, four miles southwest of Kaiserslautern. It was noted that Johannes had been a resident there for 18 years. In 1759 the same family appeared on a census of Kaiserslautern that described them as Hans Jordi, temporary tenant with Franz Dellmuth on the Bremerhof estate, wife, two sons (8.5 and 2.5 years old), and two daughters (15 and 5).

In _Amish Mennonites in Germany_, Hermann Guth states that in 1765 the family was living in the Eselsfürth estate, now a district on the north side of Kaiserslautern. They relocated before 1773. The children of Johannes 'Hans' Jordy and Verena Lang include:

1. Anna Jordy was born circa 1744. She married Jakob Müller of the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen, Kircheimbolanden. His first two wives had been Elisabeth Schenk and Anna Brenneman. He was one of the original three Anabaptist lesers of the Münsterhof in 1764, and they lived the remainder of their lives there.
2. **Jean Jordy** was born circa 1750.
3. Verena Jordy was born circa 1754. In 1785 she married Christian Eyer. He was born in 1757, and died on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach, Baden-Württemberg in 1812, a son of Rudolf Eyer and Veronica Kurtz. Their children include:
   a. Catherine Eyer was born at Mattstall, Lower Alsace March 11, 1785, and died at Königsbach, Baden May 9, 1848. On Feb. 4, 1815 at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace she married Christian Wolber. He was born at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Joseph Wolber and Catherine Esch. Their daughter Catherine Wolber married Daniel Ehresman and settled in Illinois (see EHRESMAN for an extended footnote on the Wolbers).
   b. Daniel Eyer was born in 1792, and died Feb. 7, 1812.
   c. Jakobine Eyer was born Sept. 9, 1793. In 1818 she married Jakob Egli.
   d. Jean Eyer was born in 1802. He married Jacobine Rediger. She was born circa 1775, a daughter of Sebastian Reutiger and his second wife Anne Lederer.
4. Jacob Jordy was born at Eselsfürth circa January 1758. In 1781 he married Magdalena Imhoff. She was born on the Langensohlerhof at Trippstadt circa 1760-63, and died Sept. 17, 1787, less than two months after giving birth to her son Jakob. She was a daughter of Peter Imhoff and his first wife Veronika Roggy. The lived on the Wilensterinhof at Trippstadt, eight miles south of Kaiserslautern. 8 At some point during the Napoleonic wars they took up the lease on the Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace. The name Jacob Jordy, *bestander auf dem frönsburger hoff* is found as a witness on the civil death entry of Carolatha Häberlin at Lembach July 28, 1797. His age was given as 39 and one-half years. The children of Jacob and Magdalena include:
   a. Johannes/Johann/Jean Jordy was born Dec. 23, 1784, and died at Trippstadt in 1807. On March 24, 1805 at Trippstadt he married Veronika Habecker. She was born at Höfstatten Sept. 19, 1786, a daughter of Johannes Habecker and Elisabeth Imhoff of Höfstatten. On April 7, 1809 at Trippstadt she remarried to Johannes Roggy (found on the civil entry as 'Jean Rocke'), a son of Johannes Roggy and his first wife Barbara Jutzi of the Lauberhof below Trippstadt.

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8 The Wilensteinhof Castle has been rebuilt on the same elevation at Trippstadt a number of times since the 12th century. The most recent stone ramparts was severely damaged during the Thirty Years War. The estate surrounding it was leased by Anabaptist as early as 1688 (four years before the Amish Division), when Christian Zug and Michael Müller rented 17 acres. Their agreement gave very liberal terms in return for the construction of a dwelling and outbuildings on the estate. Zugs and Guths emigrated to America from there in the 1740s. Other surnames found there in the 18th century include Imhoff, Schenk, Müller, and Habecker (Habecker intermarried from nearby Höfstatten).

The economy of Trippstadt depended on the oak forests surrounding it and a foundry established by the von Hacke family in 1727. Oak burning to make charcoal for smelting supported about 50 families. In 1792, during the French Revolution, the area was pillaged again by French troops and more damage was done. The foundry was purchased by the industrial Gienanth family in 1803. The region became the French Department of Mont-Tonnere from 1803-1815, then returned to Bavaria.
b. Elisabeth Jordy was born in 1785. On Dec. 26, 1806 at Trippstadt she married Jakob Unzicker. He was born at Graveniek in 1781, a son of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Holly. This couple leased the Offental estate at Sankt Goarhausen after 1813. See UNZICKER for a list of their children including Peter Unzicker of Morton.

c. Jakob/Jacob Jordy was born July 22, 1787. On July 29, 1806 at Windstein, Lower Alsace he married Katharina/Catherine Zehr. She was born in 1787, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Bäch/Beck of Soultzthal, a part of Lembach. They had nine children born at Windstein.9 Jakob Jordy remarried to Veronika/Veronica Habecker. She was born at Höfstaten in November 1765, and died on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach Dec. 22, 1827.

d. Christian Jordy was born at Trippstadt in the Palatinate circa 1790, and died on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach, Lower Alsace March 18, 1833. On Sept. 5, 1812 at Lembach he married Magdalena Zehr, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Catherine Bäch/Beck. She was born at Soultzthal, Wissembourg in 1792. The entry stated that Jacob Jordy was deceased ("Jacque Jardy décédé, fermier à la cense de Willstein près Trippstatt, Departement du Mont Tonnerre"), and 'Veronque' Habecker was present and consenting. Witnesses included farmer Jacques Jordy, 27, of Windstein; and farmer Valentine Nafziger, 28, of Fleckenstein. Christian's civil death entry described him as a 43-year-old laborer born on the 'Willsthnhoff' in Bavaria [the Wilensteinhof estate at Trippstadt], a son of the deceased 'Ferone Habecker' and an unknown father.

As a widow Veronika/Veronica Habecker remarried to Peter Nafziger at Lembach, Lower Alsace April 10, 1802. The civil marriage entry called her the widow of 'Jacob Yartÿ.' One witness was her stepson, Katzentalerhof leaseholder [Ger. Bestander] Johannes Habecker, 25. Peter was born on the Fleckensteinerhof Sept. 26, 1762, a son of Peter Nafziger and Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz. Veronika/Veronica's civil death entry described her as Franque Habecker, 62-year-old widow of Jacques Jordi (deceased) in her first marriage, and Pierre Nafziger (deceased) in her second. It was witnessed by son Christian, described as a 34-year-old cultivator; he was noted in the text as Chrétien Jordy but signed as Christian Jordi.

5. Magdalena Jordy was born at Eselsfürth in 1765, and died on the Wahlerhof at Mittelbach-Hengsbach near Zweibrücken July 24, 1814. She married Johannes Imhoff. He was born on the Aschbacherhof (now a community four miles south of Kaiserslautern) circa 1760-63, and died on the Wahlerhof March 30, 1812, a son of Peter Imhoff and Katharina Roggy. They had one known child:

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

Jean Jordy was born in the Palatinate circa 1750.

He married Barbara/Barbe Esch. Their daughter Madeleine was born in Germany according to her French death entry, and died at Windstein, Lower Alsace in 1816, age 37 (thus born circa 1779).

Descendant Gary L. Yordy has suggested that this couple may have been the parents of Jacob/Jacques Jordi (also found as Jordy). This seems like a probable match, because Jacob was born circa 1778 and lived at Jaegerthal adjacent to Windstein.

From 1602 to 1885 the Jaegerthal valley below Windstein was the site of an iron foundry. Industrialist Jean Dietrich (1719-1795) purchased the foundry in 1685. It is now a ruined brick shell, and Jaegerthal is part of Windstein.10

Jacob/Jacques Jordi married Catherine Schantz, and became a cultivator. Their children born at Jaegerthal include:

1. Pierre Jordi was born July 26, 1815.

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9 This Jakob/Jacob was living in Windstein while his cousin Jacob was living at Jaegerthal. Jakob/Jacob Jordy and Katharina/Catherine Zehr had a son Chrétien born at Windstein Jan. 30, 1812. This Chrétien was first thought to have been 'Christian Yotty' who came to Woodford County. However, that is not the case — Chrétien was present at the marriage of his brother Pierre at Windstein Sept. 17, 1842, years after Christian Yotty arrived in America.

10 After purchasing the foundry Jean Dietrich obtained contracts to provide weapons for the French army, gaining favor with the Catholic king. This provided a modest start to the family's later fortune. They helped finance the War of Austrian Succession (1741-48) and the Seven Years War (1756-63). In 1761 the family became nobility, changing their surname to 'de Dietrich.' Much of the land around the Jaegerthal foundry was owned by a competing family, and eventually the de Dietrichs established foundries in other locations that could ensure plentiful supplies of wood. By 1789 they directly or indirectly supported 3,000 workers, and owned more land than any other family in Alsace. Philippe-Frédéric de Dietrich, a son of Jean, became the Royal Commissioner of Mines and the first mayor of Strasbourg before meeting the guillotine in 1793. Despite that reversal, family fortunes revived under Napoleon. They later expanded into railroad construction, automobiles, manufacturing, and chemicals as the conglomerate De Dietrich & Cie.
2. Jaquée Jordi was born June 28, 1818. She was also known as Phillipine/Pena/Jacobina Yordy. Her headstone calls her Phillipine Yordy, and says she was born at Munich June 24, 1819. Her name seems to have evolved into 'Pena' or the more fashionable 'Jacobina.' In the case of her daughter Jacobina, 'Bina' evolved into the even more fashionable American equivalent 'Phoebe.' With Johan George Yeackley [Jäckle], a Catholic, she sailed from Le Havre on the Governor Davis, arriving at New Orleans Jan. 5, 1842. The passenger list describes John Jeckle, 28, and Jacobina Jeckle, 24. This suggests that their travel documents were obtained as a married couple. Jacobina delivered her first child 12 days later. They were married (presumably for the second time) in a civil court in Woodford County April 26, 1842. The ceremony was performed by Justice of the Peace Thornton Parker. Marriage documents list them as 'Geo. Yeackley' and 'Jacobina Yerkey.' Their household can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer George 'Ackerly,' 35, Germany; Pena, 30, Germany; Catharine, 7, Illinois; Elizabeth, 5, Illinois; Joseph, 4, Illinois; and Pena, 3 months, Illinois. The Yeackley children were raised as Catholics. When George died Feb. 28, 1854, Jacobina's older brother Peter Yordy was appointed administrator of the estate and legal guardian of the children. The children of Phillipine Yordy and her first husband Johan George Yeackley include:
   a. Catherine 'Kate' Yeackley was born at New Orleans Jan. 17, 1842, and died Dec. 16, 1883. She married Adam Hoffman. He was born in 1836 and died in 1897.
   b. Henry Yeackley. Descendant Elaine Wampler has found a baptismal certificate for this hitherto unknown child.
   c. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Yeackley was born March 7, 1845, and died June 30, 1931. She married Louis Winkel. He was born in 1834, and died after 1900. They appear on the 1870 census of Second Ward, Pekin as butcher Louis Winkel, 36, Saxony; Elizabeth, 24, Illinois; and Frederick, 4, Illinois.
   d. Joseph Yeackley was born Feb. 15, 1848, and died at Milford, Nebraska Jan. 18, 1940. He can be found on the 1880 census of Pekin as farmer Joseph Yackley, 32. On Sept. 7, 1884 in Tazewell County he married Fannie Yordy. She was born April 5, 1863, and died at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 31, 1955, a daughter of John Birkey Yordy and Magdalena King. They can be found on the 1910 census of Precinct O, Seward County, Nebraska (now Milford, Grover/East Milford, West Mill, and Camden) as farmer Joseph Yeackley, 63, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; Fanny, 47, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Illinois; and six children.
   e. Emma Yeackley was born in 1850, and died in 1851.
   f. Jacobina 'Phoebe' Yeackley was born June 3, 1852, and died Dec. 14, 1933. She married Joseph C. Bishop. He was born in 1850, and died Sept. 20, 1896. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Joseph Bishop, 29, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria and Ohio; Phoebe, 27, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; Ella E., 6, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and William H., 1, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois. Jacobina and Joseph are buried in Craft Cemetery at Groveland.
   g. Peter Yeackley was born in 1853, and died in 1854. On July 12, 1854 in Tazewell County Phillipine remarried to Henry Raab.11 Henry bought the land that had been owned by George Yeackley for $8.50 per acre. When he died unexpectedly in early 1860, Phillipine was left with an unpaid mortgage. Peter Yordy purchased the property for the price of the mortgage ($620). He then sold the farm to August Knoll for $2,000, and purchased a home on the corner of Sixth and Ann Eliza Streets in Pekin from Knoll for $700.12 Phillipine and her children moved into this house. The child of Phillipine Yordy and her second husband Henry Raab:
   h. Henry Raab Jr. was born in 1855, died Dec. 10, 1933, and is buried in Craft Cemetery at Groveland as 'Henry Rapp, 1933.'

Phillipine married a third time to Christian Krug Aug. 14, 1862. He was born at Hanseldorf, Bavaria Aug. 1, 1825 (the location appears on his headstone), and died at Groveland Oct. 31, 1890. The 1870 census of Pekin describes their household as farmer Christian Krug, 44, Bavaria; Phillipine, 40, Bavaria; Joseph Jeckel, 22, Illinois; Jacobine, 15, Illinois; Henry Krug, 13, Illinois; and Louis, 3, Illinois. They also appear on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Chr. Krug, 55, Altbiren [Altbayern, the administrative district surrounding Munich]; Bena, 55, Altbiren; Louis, 12, Illinois; and stepson Henry 'Rabb,' 21, born in Illinois to Prussian parents. Jacobina died at Groveland Dec. 16, 1883, and was buried in Craft Cemetery as 'Phillipine.' Christian Krug died at Groveland Oct. 31, 1890, and is buried beside her. The child of Phillipine Yordy and her third husband Christian Krug:
   i. Louis Krug was born at Pekin Aug. 30, 1868, and died at Groveland Nov. 13, 1943. On Oct. 5, 1893 at Pekin he married Anna J. Hagney. She was born in October 1877, and died March 5, 1902. On Nov. 24, 1904 at Pekin Louis remarried to Anna Maria Dully. She was born at Groveland March 13, 1870, and died there April 18, 1948. She was the widow of Carl B. Wubben, who she had married at Pekin March

11 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Henry Raab and Paulina Geackley.
12 August Knoll was a passenger on the Minnesota in 1949, on a voyage from Liverpool to New York. His group included Valentine Zehr Sr., George Rittbaler, David Springer, Christian Eigsti and others. He was born in Bavaria circa 1819 (the passenger list says he was 30, and the 1870 census of Pekin says 1820), married Barbara Ehrlicher, and died at Tripp, South Dakota in 1908. His son August Louis Knoll was born June 9, 1853 in Tazewell County and died at Crete, Nebraska July 3, 1942.
3, 1890; he died Oct. 22, 1902. She was also a daughter of Michael Dully and Magdalena Wageman. Louis and his second wife are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

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

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

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

On Feb. 9, 1847 in Tazewell County Peter married Mary Birkey in the Dillon Creek meeting. She was born in Bavaria April 8, 1816, a daughter of Christian Birki and his wife Mary. She arrived at New York on the ship *Baltimore* June 14, 1844, with her son from a previous relationship, Johann Horn (later known as John Birkey Yordy). She died May 13, 1903, and is also buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

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

The family was is found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Peter Yatty, 45, Germany; Mary, 34, Germany; John, 12, Germany; Christian, 2, Illinois; and Mary, 1, Illinois. The proximity of neighbor Uriah Crosby suggests their first homestead was in the northern half of Morton.

Peter paid $1,400 for 154 acres of land Jan. 30, 1852. The land came in three parcels: two totaling 85 acres in south-central Groveland, and another 70 acres in north-central Elm Grove.14

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

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

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

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them as 'Peter Yordie,' a 65-year-old farmer born in France, of parents born in France; and Mary, 64, born in Bavaria, of parents born in France. Children living with them include Elisabeth, 25; Peter, 24; Joseph, 23; and Barbara, 19. Mary can be found as an 84-year-old widow on the 1900 census.

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

14 Peter sold 25 acres of the land in Groveland to John Ackerman for $300 April 17, 1854.
census of Roanoke, living with children Peter, 44, and Barbara, 39. On that form Mary (or someone in her stead) stated that she was born in Germany of French parents, and that she came to America in 1847.

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

The children of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey include:

1. Christian Yordy was born at Elm Grove July 29, 1848, and died at Roanoke July 10, 1922, and is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. On Oct. 4, 1874 in Livingston County he married Salome ‘Sally’ Slagel, who was born near Pekin Sept. 6, 1855, died at Roanoke Feb. 21, 1938, and is also buried at Roanoke; she was a daughter of Christian Slagel and Salomé Sommer. They can be found on the 1900 census of Roanoke living next door to his mother Mary. Gospel Herald, October 1922: “Christian Yordy, son of Peter and Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., July 29, 1848; died at his home near Roanoke, Ill., July 10, 1922; aged 73 y. 11 m. 11 d. Oct. 4, 1874, he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Salome Slagel of Livingston Co., Ill. Ten children were born to them, of whom 4 died in infancy. He leaves his sorrowing companion, 2 sons, and 4 daughters (Amos, Joel, Salome Woodward, Leah Armstrong, Laura Bryant, and Lizzie). All were present at his death except Salome. He also leaves 18 grandchildren, 2 brothers, 3 sisters and many nieces and nephews. At the age of 19 he united with the A. M. Church and remained faithful to the end. In his younger years he was active in church work. Funeral services were held at the home by Bro. Peter Garber and at the Roanoke Church by Bros. C. S. Shertz and A. A. Schrock. Interment in the cemetery nearby.” Gospel Herald, March 1938: “Yordy. Salome, daughter of Christian and Solome (Somm) Slagel, was born Sept. 6, 1855, near Pekin, Ill.; died at her home east of Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 21, 1938; aged 82 y. 5 m. 16 d. In her girlhood her parents moved to north of Chenoa, Ill. She united with the Mennonite Church in October, 1870, in which faith she remained until death. Oct. 4, 1874, she was married to Christian Yordy. To this union were born 10 children, 4 dying in infancy and Laura Bryant on June 1, 1929. Those living are Salome Burchey, Tiskilwa; Leah Armstrong, Secor; Joel of Heyworth; Amos of Roanoke; and Lizzie at home. There are 24 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 brother (D. W. Slagel, Flanagan, Ill.), 1 sister (Lydia Smith, Goshen, Ind.), many nephews and nieces and friends to mourn her death. Funeral services were held at the home and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, conducted by John L. Harnish and Ezra B. Yordy. Text, Job 14:14. Interment in the adjoining cemetery.”

2. Mary Yordy was born at Elm Grove Oct. 19, 1849, and died at Flanagan Feb. 8, 1923. She married Daniel Orendorff, who was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County Jan. 11, 1848, and died at Flanagan Jan. 14, 1916, a son of Katharina Albrecht and her second husband Daniel Orendorff. See ORENDORFF for more on this couple.

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

4. Jacob K. Yordy was born at Elm Grove March 8, 1853, and died at Flanagan Nov. 29, 1930. On Feb. 3, 1878 in Livingston County he married Catherine ‘Katie’ King. She was born Oct. 19, 1858, and died Feb. 2, 1918. They are found on the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Nebraska, Livingston County. Gospel Herald, December 1930: “Yordy – Jacob K., son of Peter and Mary Yordy, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., March 8, 1853; died at the home of his son Amsa near Flanagan, Ill., Nov. 29, 1930; aged 77 y. 8 m. 21 d. He spent his entire life in Tazewell, Woodford and Livingston counties. On Feb. 3, 1878, he was united in marriage to Kathryn King of Livingston Co., Ill. To this union were born 5 sons and 9 daughters. The surviving children are Edward, Noah, William, Raymond, Amsa, Mrs. S. A. Albrecht, Mrs. Simon Beller, Mrs. Albert Durre, Mrs. Elmer Augsburger, Mrs. Ray Slagell, Mrs. William Slater, and Mrs. Arthur Guth. The children are all residents of this community with the exception of Mrs. Beller of Wesloco, Tex., and Raymond, of Iowa City, Ia. He also leaves 58 grandchildren and one sister (Barbara Yordy). Those of the family who have preceded him in death are his companion (who died Feb. 2, 1918), also two daughters and four grandchildren. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior in his youth and remained faithful until death. Funeral services were held Dec. 1 at the Waldo Church, conducted by the home ministers, D. W. Slagel and J. D. Hartzler. Burial in Waldo Cemetery.” Gospel Herald, February 1918: “Yordy - Catherine King was born Oct. 19, 1858; died suddenly at her late home at Eareka, Ill., Feb. 2, 1918; aged 59y. 2m. 14 d. At the age of 17 she united with the A.M. Church and remained faithful to the end. She was united in marriage with Jacob Yordy Feb. 3, 1878. To this union were born 5 sons and 9 daughters. Two daughters and 2 grandsons preceded her to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her sudden departure a deeply bereaved husband, 7 daughters, 5 sons, 21 grandchildren, an aged mother, 7 brothers, 2 sisters and many relatives and friends. Funeral services at the house of her son-in-law, S.A. Albrecht, near Flanagan, Ill., by D.W. Slagel and at the Waldo A.M. Church by C.F. Derstine. Text, “Man goeth to his long home” (Eccl.12:5). Burial in Waldo Cemetery. Sister Yordy was one of the committee that looked

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15 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christopher Yorty and Sally Slagel. Salome ‘Sally’ Slagel was a granddaughter of Christian Schiegel (1792-circa 1863) of Belfort and Catharina Ernst (1794-before 1860). See SCHLEGEL and ERNST.

16 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Jacob Yordy and Kate King.
after the sewing circle ever since it has been in existence until they moved to Eureka about 4 months ago. May the bereaved ones look to Him who alone can comfort."

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

6. Peter Yordy (Jr.) was born at Elm Grove Feb. 29, 1856, and died in Woodford County June 4, 1909. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Peter Jr. and his younger sister Barbara had learning disabilities. In 1901 Peter Jr. became the ward of his brother-in-law Christian Bachman. Court documents described him as "distracted." Gospel Herald, June 1909: " Peter Yordy was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Feb. 29, 1856. He came to his death near his home in Woodford Co., Ill., by a stroke of lightning, June 4, 1909. He united with the A.M. Church in his youth. He was never married. He leaves three brothers and three sisters. Services were held at the house by Peter D. Schertz from Matt. 24:44, and at the church by Peter Zimmerman from Luke 12:40 in German, and John Switzer in English. Surely life is uncertain, and it behooves us to heed Christ's warning recorded in Matt. 24:44."

7. Joseph P. Yordy was born at Elm Grove Nov. 7, 1857, and died at Eureka Feb. 19, 1925. On Jan. 1, 1882 at Roanoke he married Elizabeth Roeschley. She was born at Spring Bay July 20, 1862, and died at Eureka Feb. 3, 1953, a daughter of John Roeschley and Elizabeth Salzman (see ROESCHLEY). They are buried at Roanoke. Gospel Herald, March 1925: "Yordy. Joseph, son of Peter and Mary Yordy, was born near Pekin, Ill., Nov. 7, 1857; died at his home in Eureka, Ill., Feb. 19, 1925; aged 67 y. 3 m. 12 d. In boyhood he moved with his parents to Roanoke, Ill. On Jan 1, 1882, he was married to Elizabeth Roeschley. To this union were born three daughters (Ella, Anna, and Mrs. Josephine Schrock), and six sons (Aaron, Ezra, Walter, Jonas, Alvin, and Lewis). After his marriage he lived one year near Roanoke, fifteen years near Flanagan, twelve years near Fisher, and the remaining years in Woodford county. In his early manhood he united with the Mennonite Church and had a ringing Christian testimony to the end. He served the Church as a faithful deacon since 1920. Singing always found a great place in his life, and he always took an active part in worshiping God in song. Although never very strong physically, yet he had a strong faith in the living God and lived a stable consistent Christian life. Since Christmas he suffered much. Often during the last few months he longed for eternal rest. He was conscious to the last, although unable to speak, and showed great calmness the last hours of his life on earth. His desire is fulfilled now, for he has gone where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." He leaves his wife, nine children, nine grandchildren, one brother (Jacob, of Flanagan), two sisters (Barbara, of Eureka, and Mrs. Chris. Bachman of Cazenaovia), many relatives and friends. Funeral services at the Roanoke Mennonite Church Feb 22, 1925, conducted by Brothers A.A. Schrock and H.R. Schertz. Text John 11:25. Interment in cemetery nearby." Gospel Herald, March 1953: "Yordy, -- Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Saltzman) Roeschley, was born near Spring Bay, Ill., July 20, 1862; passed away Feb. 3, 1953; aged 90 y. 6 m. 14 d. On Jan. 1, 1882, at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, she was united in marriage to Joseph Yordy, who preceded her in death in 1925. Surviving are 3 daughters (Ella, Anna, and Mrs. Josephine Schrock, Eureka, Ill.), 5 sons (Aaron, Peoria, Ill.; Ezra, Eureka, Ill.; Walter, Chicago, Ill.; Jonas, Eureka, Ill.; and Alvin, Denver, Colo.), 15 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren. One son (Lewis) also preceded her in death. In her youth she united with the Mennonite Church and for many years taught a German Sunday-school class. Funeral services were in charge of John L. Harnish and J. D. Hartzler, with burial in the church cemetery."

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

### Christian Yotty

**Chrétiern Jordi or Christian Yotty** was born circa 1811. He died at Olio, Woodford County Nov. 7, 1870. He sailed from Le Havre on the Granville in the autumn of 1839, but arrived at New Orleans on the Alexandre Toussin Dec. 26.

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

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

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

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

1. Johann/John Yotty (also known as John B. Yotty) was born in Bavaria May 2, 1834, and died at Eureka Aug. 26, 1916. On Nov. 28, 1871 in Tazewell County he married Josephine Philip. She was born in 1846, and died in 1894. Josephine was admitted to the Woodford County almshouse in 1889, according to the Woodford County Almshouse Registers.\(^{17}\) Peoria Journal, August 29, 1916: "The death of John Yotty, one of Eureka’s respected German residents, occurred at his home in this city Saturday evening, after a short illness with something like blood poison. He was born in Bavaria, Germany May 2, 1834, but since he was 4 years of age Woodford County has been his home. Mrs. Yotty died many years ago...One sister and brothers also are left – Mrs. Mary Klopfenstein and Joseph Yotty of Eureka and Jacob Yotty of Iowa. Funeral services will be held from the residence at 9 o’clock Tuesday morning and from the Mennonite church, near Roanoke, at 1 o’clock."

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

3. Henry Yotty was born at New Orleans Dec. 28, 1839, and died at Kearney, Nebraska Feb. 9, 1886. He enlisted in Company K (his name appears as Henry ‘Yotty’ with the Peoria and Tazewell County company) Aug. 28, 1862, then was transferred to Company E (a Woodford County company) of the 108th Illinois Infantry Regiment. He mustered out as a private Aug. 5, 1865. The regiment participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Fort Hindman. On March 18, 1869 in Champaign County he married Mary Alice Hoover. She was born in Fairfield, Indiana Sept. 17, 1848, and died at Kearney, Nebraska May 22, 1914, a daughter of Levi Hoover and Lydia Nicewander (she appears as Mary A. Hoover, 1, on the 1850 census of Fairfield). They appear on the 1870 census of Urbana, Champaign County as farmer Henry Yotty, 29, born in Louisiana; and Mary A., 22, born in Illinois [an error]. They also appear on the 1880 census of Somer, Champaign County as farmer Henry Yotty, 40, born in Indiana to parents from Indiana [an obvious error]; Mary Yotty, 30, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio [another error]; and five children all born in Illinois. Mary is found as a widow on the 1900 census of Kearney City, Nebraska. The detailed census shows that she was born in Indiana in September 1847, to parents from Ohio; she lived with daughters Emma, born in Illinois in September 1872 to a father from Louisiana and a mother from Indiana; and Bessie, born in Nebraska in June 1889 to a father from Louisiana and a mother from Indiana. However, Bessie’s birth date June 20, 1889 indicates that she was not a natural daughter of Henry Yotty.

They arrived on Black Partridge Creek (later Germantown Hills) west of Metamora in 1840, and became members of the Partridge Creek congregation. At the time the area was still considered part of Tazewell County.

\(^{17}\) The registers are presently located at the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.
'Christian Yotty' appears on the 1845 'livestock tax' census of Tazewell County. The household appears again on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Christian 'Yeatty,' 40, Germany; Catharine, 41, Germany; John, 16, Germany; Mary, 15, Germany; Henry, 10, 'Louisanna'; Joseph, 4, Illinois; Catharina, 1, Illinois; and [father-in-law] Henry Stalder [Heinrich Stalter], 74, Germany.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Jacob C. Yotty was born in Woodford County April 27, 1853 and died at Kalona, Iowa Aug. 23, 1920. On Jan. 26, 1882 at Cazenovia he married Anna 'Annie M.' Bachman. She was born at Cazenovia Dec. 3, 1858, and died at Kalona, Iowa Dec. 18, 1933, a daughter of Jacob Bachman and Jacobina 'Phoebe' Zook. They are buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Peoria Journal: ".... Funeral services were held at the residence at one o'clock Friday afternoon and the body was then taken to the Roanoke A.M. church where final services were held. Bishop Sam Garber was in charge of the services. There was a large attendance of former neighbors and friends at the services. The body was laid to rest in the cemetery near the church. Jacob Yotty was born in Woodford County, Ill., April 27, 1853, and died at his home west of Kalona, Iowa, Aug. 23, 1920 aged 67 years, 3 months and 26 days... Early in life he united with the Mennonite church, of which he was a member until death. On Jan. 26, 1882, he was united in marriage with Annie Bachman. To them were born four children; two sons, Chris H. and Bartholomew J.; and two daughters, Elizabeth A. wife of John Speas and Jacobina C. wife of Jake Speas. All are living and with their mother, were present at the bedside at the time of death. Beside these he is survived by one brother and one sister, both of Illinois, and five grandchildren, who with a host of friends mourn his departure. Father, and mother, two brothers and two sisters preceded him to the great beyond. Funeral services were held at the East Union Mennonite church north of Kalona, Iowa, conducted by Bishop S.C. Yoder, after which remains were taken to Iowa City, and shipped to the old home of deceased at Cazenovia, which he left six years ago last March to make a new home for himself and family in Iowa. His body was laid to rest beside the graves of his father and mother in the cemetery near Roanoke."

JACOB JORDI or Jordy (1810/1814-1874)

Jacob Jordy is presumed to be connected to Christian.

As Gary L. Yordy discovered, 'Jacob Jordy' and 'Magdalena Shants' were named as the parents of Barbara Yordy in Book 1 of the Woodford County Marriage Registry. Her 1888 marriage ceremony took place in the Roanoke, Woodford County home of Peter Yordy, who was thought to be Barbara's uncle. German genealogist Hermann Hage further identified this couple and provided much of what we know about them.

Jacob Jordy was born sometime between 1810 and 1815, and died on the Pentlhof estate at Zeitlarn, Bavaria sometime after Aug. 18, 1874 (on that day Jacob reported the birthdates of his children to inquiring municipal officials). In 1841 at Grossprüfening he married Magdalena Schantz.\[18\]

\[18\] Grossprüfening became part of Prüfening district. During World War II a Prüfening factory produced the Messerschmidt Bf-109 aircraft, and the entire area was heavily bombed from high altitude.
Magdalena Schantz was born at Rimling, Moselle Aug. 16, 1813, and died in 1856. She was a daughter of Christian Schantz, born at Nehwiller in 1762, and his second wife Anna Imhoff. She was also a half-sister to Grossprüfening leaseholder Caspar Josef Schantz (whose mother was Marie Bürki); and a granddaughter of Jean Georges/Johann George Schantz and Catherine/Katharina Bürki of Nehwiller (the location has also been found as nearby Niederbronn-lès-Bains).

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

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

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

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19 The *Ems* was launched Feb. 27, 1884. It was listed with the same company as his sister Barbara's immigration ship, Norddeutscher Lloyd.
Esch/Oesch: Variations of Ösch

In Canton Bern an Ösch is an ash tree, and the word occurs relatively frequently in place names. Surname variations include Oesch, Esch (found most often in France), Eash (found most often in Pennsylvania), Asche, and Ash. Two Ösch descendants became prominent in Tazewell and Woodford Counties. One came to America in 1837 and became a Mennonite bishop at Partridge, the area around Partridge Creek west of Metamora. The other immigrated with Bavarian Forty-Eighters and became a farmer at Elm Grove.

Christian Esch (Worth)

Christen Oesch was baptized in 1631.
His son Christian Oesch was baptized in 1657. His first wife died in 1695, and he remarried to Elsbeth Stuzman in 1697. According to Tom Esch in his excellent article The Origin of Daniel Oesch, Mennonite Family History, July 2011, a baptism record from Schwarzenegg, Canton Bern names Christian and Elsbeth as the parents of Daniel Ösch, who was born at adjacent Oberlangenegg in 1704, and died circa 1765.32

Daniel married Barbara Leyenberger. Daniel and his brother-in-law Andreas Leyenberger were leaseholders on the Kirschbacherhof estate in Zweibrücken in 1742. They later settled on the grounds of the castle estate Bonne Fontaine [Ger. Schlossgut Gutenbrunnen] at Altville (seven miles above Bistroff).

Their children and grandchildren saw their surname spelled ‘Esch’ in most French documentation. It is not clear whether this was their conscious decision; the result of their own illiteracy or the whim of municipal clerks; or an attempt by municipal clerks to help them assimilate by ‘Gallicizing’ their surname. Many generations later Napoleon's Decree of Bayonne would require every resident of the French Empire to accept one permanent family surname.

A son Josef Esch was born circa 1740, and died on the Wahlerhof estate at Mittelbach-Hengstbach near Zweibrücken June 30, 1813. He married Magdalena Schertz, a daughter of Nikolaus/Nicolas Schertz and Barbara Birki of the copper mill at Hambach, Moselle.

They lived at Lorentzen, then in 1779 relocated onto a farm property attached to Château Genterberg [Ger. Gendersbergerhof] at Hanviller, Moselle. Magdalena died there. After 1788 Josef lived on the Dorst farm [Ger. Dorsterhof] at Walschbronn. Walschbronn is a border station across from Vinningen, in the Rhineland Palatinate. In the early 1800s it was in the most remote, wooded corner of Moselle.33

The children of Josef Esch and Magdalena Schertz include:

1. Barbara Esch was born in 1761, and died on the Horterhof estate near Otterberg (above Kaiserslautern) in 1839 or 1849. She married Georg Unzicker of Wörth, Lower Alsace, who also died on the Horterhof in 1849, a son of Joseph Unzicker and Maria Stauffer. They lived on the Château Gentersberg property until 1804, when they purchased the Horterhof estate.
2. Josef Esch was born at Lorentzen circa 1771, and died on the Wahlerhof estate March 2, 1846. In 1797 he married Magdalena Nafziger. She was born circa 1774, and died on the Wahlerhof estate March 28, 1838, a daughter of Peter Nafziger and Barbara Leyenberger.
3. Nikolaus/Nicolas Esch was born at Lorentzen Sept. 28, 1779, and died at Walschbronn in September 1867. On Nov. 10, 1801 at Walschbronn he married Katharina Hauter. She was born on the Peltzmühle (later called the Blumenauermühle) at Brenschelbach, Zweibrücken July 22, 1786, and died at Walschbronn March 5, 1860, a daughter of Jakob Hauter and Magdalena Ulmann. They lived on the Dorst farm after 1788.
4. Magdalena/Madeleine Esch was born on the Château Gentersberg property at Hanviller Jan. 7, 1784. On April 19, 1802 at Walschbronn she married Josef Hauter. He was born April 7, 1782, and died at Walschbronn June 11, 1812, a son of Nicolas Hauter and Suzanne Oesch. On March 25, 1813 at Walschbronn she remarried to Johannes/Iean Nafziger. He was born at Niederbronn-les-Bains (now in Lower Alsace) circa 1783, and died at Hanviller Dec. 23, 1859, a son of Valentin Nafziger and Anna Esch of Genterberg.
5. Christian Esch was born on the Château Gentersberg property at Hanviller in 1788, and died on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn July 15, 1824.

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32 Earlier generations can be found in this excellent article, which is posted online.
33 Nearby Eschviller [Ger. Eschweiler], now a farm and museum at Volmunster, has no connection to the Esch family. A complex of buildings grew around a grain mill and saw mill where, presumably, ash wood boards were manufactured. Christian Roggy (see ROGGY) worked at the Eschviller sawmill for the Creutzer family 1821-30.
Christian Esch was born on the Château Gentersberg property at Hanviller in 1788, and died on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn July 15, 1824. On Sept. 13, 1813 at Waltembourg, Moselle he married Magdalena/Madeleine Nafziger. She was born at Waltembourg in 1792, and died at Walschbronn Sept. 19, 1824, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Katharina/Catherine Sommer. Thus their children were orphaned in 1824:

1. Magdalena Esch was born Feb. 3, 1814, and died April 21, 1900. On Jan. 28, 1835 at Rolbing (five miles northwest of Walschbronn) she became the second wife of Jakob Kinzinger. He was born on the Blumenaurehmühle at Brenschelbach, Zweibrücken Nov. 2, 1805, and died at Bebelsheim, Saarland in 1873, a son of Peter Kinzinger and Magdalena Hau. He first married in 1832 to Magdalena's cousin Barbara Oesch, a daughter of Joseph Oesch and Magdalena Naflziger of the Wahlerhof.
2. Katharina Esch was born Aug. 19, 1816, and died Aug. 27, 1861. She married Johannes Schmit.
3. Christian Esch was born on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn Aug. 26, 1819, and died at Worth, Woodford County May 25, 1888.
4. Joseph/Joseph Esch was born June 10, 1822, and died on the Wilensteinhof estate at Trippstadt Dec. 25, 1893. In October 1846 at Trippstadt he married Elisabeth Güngrich. She was born on the Wilensteinhof Oct. 1, 1818, and died there Oct. 15, 1892, a daughter of Johannes Güngrich and Elisabeth Imhof.

Son Christian Esch was born on the Dorst farm at Walschbronn Aug. 26, 1819. He died at Worth, Woodford County May 25, 1888, and is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery. He was orphaned as a 5-year-old; and may have been raised by Nafzigers or Guengerichs at Bourschaid, Moselle.

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

Family notes say that Christian's first step in Woodford County was the farm of elder Christian Engel. Before purchasing his own farm at Worth, he lived on the Metamora farm of Johannes Güngrich/Gingerich and Barbara Gerber.

On Aug. 20 or 30, 1846 in Woodford County he married Anne Gerber, also known as Anna Garber. The ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Baughman. Her name appears on the marriage license as Nancy Garber. She was born in the hamlet Gensbourg at Oberhaslach, Lower Alsace Aug. 10, 1827, and died at Worth May 17, 1898, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Gerber and Magdalena Gingerich. She was a granddaughter of Nicholas Gerber and Magdalena/Madéline Bechler, who had died of Yellow Fever on their way to Tazewell County in 1840 (see GERBER AND GARBER, THE GERBERS OF METAMORA AND WASHINGTON for more on her grandparents ). She is also buried at Hickory Point Cemetery.

For several winters Christian worked at a flour mill near Pekin, returning to his home on weekends; he cultivated his own crops in summer. His household appears on the 1850 census of Woodford County as farmer Christian Ash, 44, France; Ann, 43, France; Peter, 12, Illinois; and Benjamin, 22, born in Illinois.

Christian was ordained as a minister of the Partridge Mennonite congregation in 1852. The congregation had been established by elder Christian Engel, and was later called Metamora Mennonite Church. The 1860 census of Worth shows farmer Christian Esch, 41, France; Ann, 36, France; Peter, 12, Illinois; and Joseph, 8, Illinois. In 1867 Christian was ordained bishop of the Partridge congregation. His bound ledger of sermons from 1849-82 is now in the archives of Goshen College.

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

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

1. Peter Esch was born at Worth Dec. 29, 1847, and died at Washington Dec. 31, 1912. On Feb. 6, 1872 in Woodford County he married Catherine Schertz. She was born at Peoria Oct. 29, 1848, and died at MetamoraApril 7, 1924. They are found on the 1910 census of Worth as farmer Peter Esch, 62, born in Illinois; Katia, 61, born in Illinois; and Benjamin, 22, born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1913: "Peter, son of Christian and Anna Esch, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 29, 1847. Thirty-two years ago he moved with his family to the home from which he passed away, two miles north of Washington, Ill. On Dec. 12, 1912, he was taken down with and attack of la

34 The papers may have been drawn Aug. 20, a date given by the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.
grippe and rheumatism which ended in his death on the last day of the year. At the time of his death he was sixty-five years and two days of age. He leaves to mourn his departure his wife, 4 children - Mrs. Peter Springer, Mrs. Henry Schertz, Solomon Esch, and Benjamin Esch - 9 grandchildren, a brother, Joseph Esch, and a sister, Mrs. Peter Schertz. He was for many years a member of the Amish Mennonite Church at Metamora, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by the brethren, Geo. J. Lapp of India, and Valentine Strubhar of Washington. Text, Rev. 7:9-17. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BISTROFF for Catherine’s obituary.

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

3. Magdalena Esch was born at Worth Sept. 6, 1861, and died at Metamora July 16, 1946. On Jan. 20, 1881 in Woodford County she married Peter Schertz. He was born at Washington Jan. 16, 1857, and died April 3, 1932, a son of Christian Schertz and Katharina/Catherine Engel. Peter became a minister in 1888. Gospel Herald, August 1946: “Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Anna Esch, was born in Woodford County, Ill., Sept. 6, 1861; died at her home south of Metamora, Ill., July 16, 1946; aged 84 y. 10 m. 10 d. Early in life she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining true to the end. On Jan. 20, 1881, she was united in marriage to Peter Schertz, who preceded her in death on April 3, 1932. One daughter (Edna Lucile) also preceded her in death as an infant. Surviving are 7 children (Manuel D. and Mrs. Edwin R. Schertz, both of Washington, Ill.; Henry R., of Metamora; Mrs. Peter R. Schertz, Roanoke, Ill., William J. and Mrs. Walter Smith, Eureka, Ill.; and Mrs. Walter Yoder, Goshen, Ind.), 24 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends. She was a quiet, unassuming, gentle woman, interested in the welfare of her family and the church. Funeral services were conducted by A. C. Good, assisted by Ezra Yordy and Ben Esch.” They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery. See SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF BISTROFF for Peter’s obituary.

### Christian Oesch (Elm Grove)

**Abraham Oesch** was descended from the family at Oberlangenegg, though his connection has not been identified. He was born circa 1730, and died circa 1836. He married Anna Koch, who died before 1836, a daughter of Nicholas Koch. Abraham was a minister on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller (in the 'Crooked Alsace' part of Lower Alsace); his father-in-law Nicholas Koch was elder there.

Their children born on the Rauschenbourg estate at Ingwiller include:

1. **Christian Oesch** was born circa 1755.
2. Madeleine Oesch was born in 1756, and died at Bourscheid, Moselle Jan. 18, 1807. In 1779 she married Christian Bächler. He was born on the Rauschenbourg estate in 1753, and died at Bourscheid Sept. 14, 1809 (see GERBER AND GARBER, PETER GERBER’S WIFE BARBARA BECHLER for a list of their children).
3. Barbara Oesch died at Gilchenbach, Bavaria Sept. 7, 1821. She married Johannes/Jean Hauter. He was born at Lembach, Lower Alsace Oct. 25, 1771, and died on the Bruchhof estate (now a village) near Homburg in the Saarland March 20, 1846, a son of Nicolaus Hauter and Susanne Oesch [also found in a French variation as Nicolas Hauter and Suzanne Oesch]. They leased an estate at Asswiller and the prosperous horse-breeding farm Le Haras at Sarralbe, and bought the Königreichershof estate at St. Wendel in what is now the Saarland. Barbara had eight children and died in 1821; the following year Johannes/Jean remarried to Magdalena Stalter, a daughter of Johannes Stalter and Magdalena Hauter. They had eight more children. Johannes/Jean and his brother Christian (married to Catherine Oesch) were perhaps the wealthiest individuals mentioned in this text. Their story is told in Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*. 

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

5. Nicolas Oesch was born circa 1762, and died at Bourscheid Dec. 17, 1813. He married Madeleine Bächler. She was born on the Rauschenbourg estate in 1769, and died at Bourscheid April 12, 1805 (see GERBER/GARBER, PETER GERBER’S WIFE BARBARA BECHLER).

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

**Christian Oesch** was born circa 1755, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria March 29, 1834.

Christian married Catherine/Katharina Bürki. She was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in 'Crooked Alsace' in 1764. We could not identify her parents; it this were possible, it might help to identify the lineage of figures found in THE LITTLE RED BIRKYS. The couple and seven children relocated from Sarre-Union to Hanfeld near Lake Starnberg, Bavaria in 1803 (Söcking, where Andrew Burkey lived, is now part of Hanfeld). Catherine/Katharina died at Hanfeld March 6, 1829.

The property where they lived has been identified as the 'zum Streicher' estate (this sounds remarkably similar to the Streicherhof at Uffing, 30 miles to the south, associated with the Heiser family).

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

Their children include:

1. Jean/Johann Oesch was born on the Waderhof at Lorentzen in 1783. On May 7, 1809 he married Barbara Oesch. She was born at Erbes-Büdesheim in the Palatinate, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Jacobine Gungierich.

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Oesch was born at Sarre-Union in 1786, and died at Beigarten, Bavaria (six miles east of Hanfeld and Starnberg) Jan. 27, 1859. She married Christian Miller. He was born in 1774, and died in 1853.

3. Christian Oesch was born at Sarre-Union Oct. 15, 1789, and died on the Forsthof estate at Neuburg an der Donau, Bavaria June 23, 1844. In 1819 he married Katharina Sutter, and became a laborer and farm manager on the Forsthof estate (see SUTTER).

4. Andreas Oesch was born at Sarre-Union in 1791, and died at Hanfeld April 30, 1869.

5. Joseph Oesch was born in 1794, and died Nov. 30, 1866.

6. Barbara Oesch was born at Sarre-Union June 23, 1799, died at Morton Sept. 10, 1884, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery. On Oct. 31, 1819 at Hanfeld she married Johannes/Johann Sutter (see SUTTER).

7. Marie Oesch was born at Sarre-Union Feb. 5, 1802, and died Jan. 30, 1870. On Sept. 6, 1820 she married Christian Ingold. He was born on the Lindelbrunnerhof farm between Darstein and Münchweiler am Klingenbach in Nassau-Weißenburg April 22, 1794, and died at Klingenhof, Bavaria Oct. 10, 1870, a son of Joseph Ingold and Elizabeth Gungierich. After marriage they were tenants on the Oberhaunstadt castle estate (now a neighborhood of Ingolstadt).

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

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

Minister **Andreas Oesch** was born at Sarre-Union, Lower Alsace in 1791, and died at Hanfeld, Bavaria April 30, 1869.

He married Catherine/Katharina Augspurger. She was born on the Canurdière estate at Strasbourg Jan. 4, 1793, and died Oct. 15, 1850, a daughter of Noé Augspurger/Noah Augsburger and his first wife Anna Müller. See AUGSBURGER for more on her family.

Andreas became a ‘minister of the book’ in 1835 or 1836. He remained on the estate until his death.

Their children born at Hanfeld include:

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

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

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

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35 Their article The Oeschs of Hanfeld and Forsthof can be found in Mennonite Family History, July 1999.
4. **Christian Oesch** was born Dec. 4, 1819.
5. Andreas Oesch was born Dec. 26, 1821. In 1849 he emigrated from Europe on the *Minnesota* with Christian Eigsti, Valentine Birky, George Rithhäuser, Daniel Zehr, David Springer, and others (see EIGSTI).
7. Maria Oesch was born Sept. 20, 1828.
8. Josef Oesch was born Aug. 2, 1830.
9. Elisabeth Oesch was born June 17, 1832.
10. Jakob Oesch was born May 24, 1835.
11. Jakobine Oesch was born May 24, 1835 and died Feb. 24, 1846.
12. Johann Oesch was born May 2, 1840, and died on the Bartelstock farm near Ingolstadt May 27, 1886. In 1863 he married Babette Ringenberg. Johann was a minister of the Ingolstadt congregation.

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

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

On June 17, 1851 in Tazewell County Christian married Magdalena Zehr. She may have been the daughter of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker who was born at Berg am Laim, Bavaria March 12, 1816 (see ZEHR). Their children include:

1. Magdalena/Madelaine Oesch was born at Dillon Oct. 7, 1852, and died Dec. 31, 1939. On Oct. 5, 1873 she married Michael Maurer, who was born in Canton Argau Aug. 28, 1842, and died Jan. 12, 1928. They lived at Pekin. He had been a barber in St. Louis, and a farmer at Pekin. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Tremont.
2. Christian Oesch was born at Pekin May 30, 1854, and died at Dillon Jan. 15, 1890. He is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. On the 1880 census of Dillon he is found as a 26-year-old laborer living in the household of his brother-in-law Christian Oberlander. On Feb. 2, 1882 at Pekin he married Katharina 'Katie' Kinsinger. She was born at Elm Grove Dec. 27, 1862, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 7, 1903, a daughter of Johannes/John Kinzinger and Barbara Wagler. The *New York Times*, Oct. 5, 1886: "(Pekin, Ill.) — A disease resembling hog cholera has killed eight cattle out of a fine herd owned by Christian Oesch, in this county. When an animal is taken sick matter discharges from the nose, the head swells badly, and death ensues very quickly. The neighbors of Oesch will appeal to the Livestock Commission for aid." In 1901 Katharina remarried to Christian King (see the KING GENEDALOGY, KÖNIG OF NIMBURG).
3. John Oesch was born circa 1856, and is only found on the 1870 census.

Christian was naturalized at Pekin Oct. 17, 1857.

Magdalena Zehr died before 1860. On May 8, 1860 in Woodford County, Christian remarried to Marie Abersol/Mary Aversoll.39 She was born at Xouaxange, Moselle Oct. 11, 1839, and died at Elm Grove April 29, 1884, a daughter of Pierre Abersol and Catherine Pelsy (see ABERSOLL for her connection to relatives in the area). She is buried in Railroad Cemetery as 'Maria, wife of Christian.' The headstone says she died April 29, 1884 at 44 years, 6 months, 18 days of age.

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

The family purchased their Elm Grove farm before 1864; it appears clearly labeled on the plat map published that year. They are listed on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer Christian Oesch, 43, Bavaria; Mary, 30,

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

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

38 The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Christian Oesch and Madalina Zoer.

39 The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists her as Mary Aversoll.
France; Madelaine, 18; Christian, 16; John, 14; Catharine, 11; Joseph, 7; Barbara, 3; and Mary, 1 (all children born in Illinois).

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

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

Christian died Oct. 12, 1908, and is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Gospel Herald, November 1908: "Christian Oesch was born in Germany, Dec. 19, 1818; died Oct. 12, 1908; aged 89 y. 9 m. 24 d. He was married twice, first to Magdalena Zehr; to this union we

The children of Christian Oesch and his second wife Mary Aversoll:

4. Catharine 'Katie' Oesch was born March 15, 1861, and died March 26, 1886; she is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont. On Feb. 24, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Christian Ludwig Oberlander. He was born in 1850, and died June 15, 1905. They are found on the 1880 census of Dillon as farmer Chris Oberlander, 30, from Württemberg; Catharine, 19, born in Illinois to parents from Berne and France; Ephraim, 2, born in Illinois; and laborer Christian Oesch, 26, born in Illinois to a father from Berne and a mother from France. After Catharine's death Christian remarried. On the 1900 census of Morton: Christian Oberlander, 50, factory worker born February 1850, immigrated in 1860 from Germany; wife Emilie, 45, born June 1854, born in Switzerland; immigrated in 1884; Theophile, 19, born December 1880 in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois; David, 11, born May 1889 in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Switzerland. Emilie Oberlander is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery, June 9, 1854-Feb. 25, 1947, with her second husband Peter Habeger 1840-Sept. 4, 1917.

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

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

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

8. Maria/Mary Oesch was born at Tremont July 16, 1869, and died at Foosland, Champaign County Dec. 21, 1928. On May 3, 1887 in Tazewell County she married Julius K. Unzicker. He was born at Morton July 1, 1864, and died March 21, 1961, a son of Peter Unzicker and Katharina Kennel. Gospel Herald, January 1929: "Maria (Oesch) Unzicker, wife of Julius Unzicker and daughter of Christian and Mary Oesch, was born July 16, 1869, near Tremont, III.; died Dec. 22, 1928, at her home near Foosland, Ill.; aged 59 y. 5 m. 5 d. On May 21 [3]. 1887, she was united in marriage to Julius Unzicker of near Pekin, Ill. This union was blessed with 5 sons, all living at and near her home. At the age of 17 years she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and united with the East Washington Mennonite Church, and during her last sickness again renewed her covenant with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and united with the East Bend Mennonite Church near Fisher, Ill. She gave every evidence, and her own testimony that she was at peace with God and her fellowman, ready to depart to be with her Christ. She leaves a sorrowing husband, 5 sons, 9 grandchildren, 2 sisters besides many relatives and friends. Six brothers and 4 sisters have preceded her in death. Funeral services were held at the East Bend Church Dec. 24, with Bros. Joseph Heiser of Fisher, Ill., and Allen H. Miller of Pekin, Ill. in charge."

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

10. Bena Oesch was born July 16, 1873, and died April 19, 1901. On Sept. 19, 1893 in Tazewell County she married Henry Stamm. 40 They are found on the 1900 census of Hopedale as farmer Henry Stamm, born in Illinois in September 1871 to German parents; Bena, born in Illinois in June 1874 to German parents; and four children born in Illinois. She is buried as 'Bennia Oesch, wife of Henry' in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Tremont. 39-year-old Henry is found on the 1910 census of Hopedale with a new wife Lydia, 25, and seven children.

40 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as Bennie Oesch.
11. Aaron Oesch was born Feb. 16, 1876, and died June 7, 1894. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery.
Christian Ehresman

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

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

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

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

The Bärbelsteinerhof

_Der alte_ [the older] _Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann_ was likely born before 1676.

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

The foundations of Berwartstein Castle were carved into a sandstone hilltop in the 12th century. The rubble was then shaped into blocks to form the castle walls. Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa awarded it as a gift to the prince-bishop of Speyer in 1152. In the 1400s the castle and adjoining estate became the home of Hans von Trodt and his 'robber knights.' They feuded with the abbot of Wissembourg, about six miles away.41 Von Trodt was the model for Hans Trapp, a German folklore figure who roams through villages with the Christ Child on Christmas Day. Hans Trapp threatens children with a stick before they receive their presents. The castle was struck by lightning in 1591, causing damage that made it uninhabitable. This probably allowed it to avoid destruction during the Thirty Years War of 1618-48.

The Treaty of Westphalia that concluded the Thirty Years War held a number of provisions parceling out fiefs to noble families. In Article XXVII the Holy Roman Emperor assigned properties including Berwartstein Castle to the Baron Gerard of Waldenburg, also known as ‘Schenck-heeren.’ Amish Mennonite leaseholders negotiated with a local administrator representing the Schenk family.42

After 1712 Johannes 'Hans der Alte' Güngerich lived between Niedersteinbach and Lembach on the Alsace-Palatinate border, about eight miles from Berwartstein Castle (see GINGERICH). He leased grounds near _le Château de Froensburg_, a ruined sandstone castle that had been used for artillery practice by French troops in 1677. The land was exempted from Alsatian expulsion orders because it belonged to Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs. Thus there was a direct line of influence from Jacob and Ulrich Amman, to Hans der Alte, to those on the Bärbelsteinerhof.

In 1715 Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann and Ulrich Nafziger negotiated an early termination of their lease arrangement. However, even after leaving the Bärbelsteinerhof, both families continued to be associated with the location. Christian Feischert held the lease for the next three years until his death. Minister Christian Holli/Hollie of Kurzenburg, Bern picked it up in 1718.43 A list of the marriages he performed there was maintained with Catholic parish records at Niedershettenbach (two miles below Erlenbach bei Dahn, and two miles above the border with Lower Alsace). It includes a marriage in 1728: "Nicholas Cünzli [Künzti?], son of Ulrich Cünzli, Anabaptist, married Barbara Ehrismann, daughter of Joannis [Johannes] Ehrismann, Anabaptist." Christian Holli/Hollie also

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41 Coincidentally, there was a Catholic Ehrismann family at Seebach, about 6 miles below Wissembourg.
42 In this account the noble Schenk family can be easily confused with the Bernese Schenk families. Genealogist Julius Billetter published one detailed genealogy of the Schenk family of Langnau, Bern, and another on the Schenk family of Signau and Röthenbach, Bern. Ulrich Nafziger's daughter Barbara married Jacob Schenk (Sr.). They became co-lesors of the Dalberg estate at Essingen with Ulrich's oldest son Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger. Jacob Schenk (Jr.) married a daughter of Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger. Katharina Nafziger, who was also his cousin. He was later ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister. He lived on the Dalberg estate with his father-in-law Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger as late as 1788.
43 Christian actually spelled his surname 'Holli,' but Bernese records spell it 'Hohli.' It is probably derived from 'Höhlen,' or cave.
created an entry for the marriage of his daughter Barbara to Ulrich Nafziger’s son Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger in 1729. Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger acted as guarantor for Amish Mennonite leasers of the Bärbelsteinerhof as late as 1783. Further background information on the Bärbelsteinerhof will be given in HOCHSTETTLER.

On March 5, 1715, der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann and Ulrich Nafziger leased the Rodenhof at Rodenbach, 15 miles north of Erlenbach bei Dahn, a property of the Cistercian Eusserthal Abbey. It may seem odd for an Amish Mennonite to rent from a Catholic order, but church properties were actually administered from an 'administration of ecclesiastical estates' organized by the Elector of the Palatinate at Heidelberg. Nafziger negotiated with a local representative of this office. The agreement identified them both as Wiedertäufer [Anabaptists]. "Today...appears the aforementioned tenant Nicklas Jung to announce that he intends after agreement with the administrator to cede his lease, just renewed for nine years, against forfeit money to Ulrich Naffzier and Hans Jakob Erismann, both Anabaptists residing at B. This transfer has been agreed to by the administrator under the condition that if both of the Anabaptists should be expelled because of their religion before the expiration of the nine-year lease, the following tenants shall compensate the forfeit money as well as those things which they have ameliorated in buildings and/or cultivation. Signed at Eusserthal, the 5th of March, 1715." Nafziger left Rodenbach in 1728 to go to the Obergut at Essingen, another property of the Eusserthal Abbey.

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

The Mechtersheimerhof

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

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

SPEYER

In 1521 the princes of the Holy Roman Empire held an assembly called the Diet of Worms. They summoned Martin Luther and listened to a partial apology for his writings. After leaving the diet Luther had to be abducted by a friendly prince and hidden in a castle for his own protection from the wrath of the Holy Roman Emperor. However, in the next few years the German states began to feel threatened from both sides: the French on the west, and the Turks of the Ottoman Empire on the east. A more conciliatory diet met at Speyer in 1526. When many of the princes confessed more sympathy for Lutheranism than Catholicism, the Lutheran minority were labeled 'Protestants' (the origin of the term). The Catholic majority grudgingly conceded that they could be tolerant for the sake of political unity. However, many felt that they had endorsed heresy and harbored bitter feelings.

Catholic clergy expressed their frustration to Emperor Charles V. On Jan. 4, 1528 he published a mandate recommending a death sentence for the crime of Anabaptism, which was considered to be Protestantism carried to its extreme. The Elector of the Palatinate Louis V published his own mandate of condemnation March 5, 1528. At a third diet at Speyer in 1529, both Catholics and Lutherans fell in line behind their emperor. Together they passed an ecclesiastical mandate that said, "...Every Anabaptist and rebaptized person of either sex should be put to death by fire or..."

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

45 The Rodenhof at Rodenbach is now called the Rothenhof at Gräfenhausen. Gräfenhausen is midway between Eusserthal and Annweiler.

The red sandstone Eusserthal Abbey was established in 1130 A.D. as the home of a Cistercian order. In present day about 980 monks and nuns live in poverty and lead an extremely simple, self-sufficient life. The inside of the abbey has unadorned columns, few statues or paintings, and no stained glass windows. The inhabitants do not hold services for the surrounding community. Cistercian abbeys served a number of purposes during the Middle Ages. Because they were unadorned, they were less likely to be looted, and thus would serve as a haven for Catholic clergy during military conflicts. Their relative cleanliness also provided a healthier environment than the outside world.
sword, or some other way." This resulted in the execution of 350 local residents. As a result many citizens of Speyer grew more sympathetic to the victims and their families.

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

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

JOHANNES 'HANS' HÖFFLI (1738).

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

JAKOB KURTZ (1738). See KING.

JOHANNES 'HANS' NAHFZIGER (1738).

Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger was a son of Ulrich Nafziger and Maria Magdalena Güngerich. He was likely born on the Bärbelsteinerhof circa 1713. 46 In 1715 his family and the Ehrismanns relocated to the Rodenhof at Rodenbach. In 1728 his father Ulrich leased the Obergut at Essingen. He married Barbara Holly at Erlenbach bei Dahn in 1729 (the record was kept at Niederschlettenbach). Barbara was a daughter of leaseholder Christian Hohli/Holli. Nafziger was ordained as a minister in 1731. A civil record of Anabaptists mentions 'Joann Noffziger' on the Mechtersheimerhof in 1738, 1739, and 1740. They next lived at Rüppurr below Karlsruhe. In 1754 they lived briefly on the Katharinentaler Hof before leasing part of the Dalberg estate at Essingen from Baron Gottlob Amundus von Dalberg-Dalberg. Nafziger became the leading elder of the Essingen congregation, and the leading elder of his day. He helped to establish the Amish Mennonite rules of faith by organizing the ministers assemblies at Essingen in 1759 and 1779. In 1779 he and Christian Ehrismann were two of the four ministers representing the Essingen congregation. He traveled to Holland for nine weeks in 1765 and seven weeks in 1770 to mend disputes and ordain new ministers, and sponsored a reprinting of the Pennsylvania version of the Dutch text The Martyrs' Mirror in 1780. 47 On March 16, 1781 he wrote a letter to ministers in the Netherlands describing his understanding and practices of marriage, baptism, and ordination of ministers and deacons. The letter was widely copied and served as a ministers' manual. Barbara Holly died at Essingen Dec. 15, 1789. Johannes 'Hans' died there before 1792. As mentioned in a later footnote, his younger brother Peter likely married an Ehrismann. For more on Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger including the complete translated texts of two of his letters to Christian Schowalter/Schowalter in America, see Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany.

CHRISTIAN STAUFFER (1738).

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

46 In a letter to Christian Schowalter/Schowalter written circa 1788, Nafziger wrote, "Although I am old and thinking my days will be short, 75 years are past, yet I have reason to thank the Lord: I have not needed eye glasses."
47 The Pennsylvania version of Martyrs' Mirror was published by German Brethren who had originally settled in the Conestoga Creek area. It took 15 men three years to translate the Dutch text into German, construct presses, and print the 1,400-page book at Ephrata, Lancaster County. It was published in 1748.
CHRISTIAN BÜRKI (1743).

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

ABRAHAM KURTZ (1743).  See KING.

CHRISTIAN NAFZIGER (1743).

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

CHRISTIAN SCHOWALDER/SCHOWALTER (1743).

Christian Schowalter's surname was derived from Schonwalder or 'beautiful forest.' His great-grandfather Johan Schonwalder was baptized at Strengelbach near Zofingen in what is now Canton Aargau June 25, 1620. His grandfather Jakob was born at Strengelbach June 18, 1648, and died at Schaubsush near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace in April 1731. His father was either Jakob or Ulrich Schowalter. Christian was born at Hanachusheim in the Palatinate circa 1709.\(^48\) Hanachusheim is located about five miles east of Mannheim and the Rhine River, and about three miles of the university town Heidelberg, which was then the capital of the Palatinate. Christian married Katharina Anna Lehman circa 1735. Land records preserved at the state archives at Karlsruhe name the leaseholders on the Mechtisheimerhof farm below the city of Speyer. In 1738 they were Johannes 'Hans' Höffli, Jakob Kurtz, Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger, and Christian Stauffer. In 1743 Christian Bürki, Abraham Kurtz, Christian Nafziger, and Christian Schowalter/Schowalter were added as co-leaseholders. Schowalter sailed from Rotterdam on the Phoenix with his wife and children, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. A list from the Oath of Abjuration at the Philadelphia courthouse names him as 'Christian Showalter.' Other names on the list include Abraham Kurtz and Christian Stauffer. Schowalter and Kurtz have been called "the first Amish church leaders in Lancaster County."

Like so many similar claims, it is doubtful that this is true or would even be provable considering that at the time services were simple meetings in private homes. On Nov. 12, 1750 Christian purchased land on Conestoga Creek, Earl Township, Lancaster County. He remarried to Anna circa 1751. By 1771 they owned 274 acres at Earl Township. Christian kept up a Transatlantic correspondence with influential elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger that lasted from his arrival in 1749 until 1788. It is thought that they were the organizers providing information to would-be emigrants. Christian's will was written at Earl Township June 15, 1796, and proven March 16, 1799. His male children were noted as John and Jacob; Jacob was appointed executor of his estate. Some sources say he was buried in a family cemetery at Martindale, Earl Township; others that he was buried at Whitehall Township, Northampton County by his brother Jacob. His original home made from river stone is still standing in Earl Township. (See DELLENBACH for a footnote on his brother Jacob Mathias Schowalter).

JAKOB MÜLLER was a co-leaseholder with Johannes 'Hans' Höffli in 1759, but did not extend in 1768.\(^49\) He was born circa 1720. We had placed him as a son of Nikolaus Müller, who is found as a tenant at Mühlhofen as early as 1714. However, in Both Sides of the Ocean J. Virgil Miller places him as a son of Johannes Müller, a brother to Nikolaus. The Müller family at Mühlhofen came from Munsingen, Bern. In 1753 Jakob appeared on a Mennonite census of Mörzheim (three miles north of Mühlhofen) with a wife (Elisabeth Schenk) and three sons ages 7, 4, and 2. A note to the report said, "Jakob Müller moved here eighty years ago from the Palatine-Zweibrücken village of Mühlhofen onto Velten Petermann's orphans' estate. He will be leaving soon, because the Petermann children wish to farm." From Mörzheim Jakob traveled 16 miles northeast to Mechtisheim. In 1767 he became a co-leaseholder of the Münsterhof at Dreisen (40 miles northwest of Mechtisheim) with Hans Kennel (a stepson of Nikolaus Brenneman) and David Holly (a son of minister Christian Hohli/Holli of the Bärbelsteinherhof, he married Susannah Fischer, who was a daughter of Benedict Fischer and niece to Ulrich Fischer). At Dreisen Jakob remarried to Anna Brenneman and Anna Jordy. There were multiple marriage connections between families on the Münsterhof, Mechtisheimerhof, and Pfalzhof. (There is no known connection between this family and the Hochburg family in MILLER).

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

\(^48\) Sources that say Christian was born at Schaubsush near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace are simply guessing from the known location of some relatives. Hanachusheim is noted in his family Bible.

\(^49\) He is easy to confuse with another Jakob Müller who leased at nearby Hilsbach (also a property of the Eusserthal Abbey) in 1759 and is also found there in 1768.
The older of his two sons was der jüngere Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann. He may be found listed as 'Hans Christmann,' steward at 'Rodenbach,' on the 1743 census of the of the Eusserthal land trusteeship [Ger. Oberampt Germerstein Pflege Eusserthal]. While his father had moved over to the Lauberthal, he had assumed the Rodenhof lease and become head of household there. The census of 1753 again shows him on the Rodenhof at Rodenbach as 'Hans Christmann,' with an annotation that he had a wife and five children, and had been in residence there since before 1744 (indicating that he was in a second nine-year lease, which would have accorded him greater privileges). A list in 1759 shows him only as a tenant of Eusserthal trusteeship property, presumably still the Rodenhof (since Höffli and Müller are mentioned specifically as Mechtersheimerhof tenants).

In 1768 'Johannes Ehrismann' and 'Christian Bürc'ki' are found as co-leaseholders on the Mechtersheimerhof (see BIRKY/BIRKEY). In the same year they appear on a list of those who paid the six-guilder fee required from religious minorities for government protection.

On a census in 1773, the Mechtersheimerhof is described not as property of the Eusserthal Abbey but as Kellerei Speyer, a municipal property of the nearby city of Speyer. The household is described as subtenant and widower Johannes Ehrismann; two sons; one daughter; five barnmaids; and three maids.50

The nearby cathedral at Speyer was in a ruined state. French soldiers had burned out most of its furnishings in 1689. Restoration was begun in 1758 and mostly completed by 1778.51 Perhaps we can assume that the two sons of der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann were given generous lease terms by the municipality. It was in its interest to bring new farmers into the area to provide foodstuffs for the many workers who were drawn to Speyer.

The tolerant bishop-prince of Speyer once sided with the Amish Mennonites on the Mechtersheimerhof over the interests of a wealthy landowner.52 The case revolved around the issue of rebaptism.

DALBERG versus NAFZIGER

A Mennoniten father was expelled from his congregation for excessive drinking. On his deathbed he converted to Catholicism. In about 1772 authorities took his young son and two daughters from their mother and placed them in an orphanage at Mannheim, where they were supposed to be raised as Catholics.

The son died, and the two daughters were released. They soon returned to their mother. The three lived on the Mechtersheimerhof with the mother's brother, leaseholder and minister Jakob Ullmann.53 Eventually the clergy at Mannheim realized that the two daughters had been rebaptized. In 1780 they requested that Baron von Dalberg of Essingen arrest his tenant, elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger. It was alleged that he had rebaptized the two girls, which he did not deny. The clergy recommended that the girls be put to death, and that Nafziger be prosecuted.

Nafziger was held in the baron's castle until the case could be resolved. Adjudicators appointed by the baron decided that Nafziger should be fined 500 florins and exiled from the Palatinate. Their decision was taken to the bishop-prince of Speyer. He refused to act against the Ullmanns, who were his own tenants on the Mechtersheimerhof, or against Nafziger, a former tenant there. The bishop-prince may have feared that banishing Nafziger would result in the loss of all his Mennoniten tenants. The government fell in line behind the bishop-prince and reimprisoned the baron from Essingen.

Because of the poor reputation of Baron Gottlob Amandus von Dalberg-Dalberg (1739-1794), the bishop-prince would have risked his own good name by supporting the charges. In 1774 the 'libertine of Essingen' outspent or overgambled the tax revenue that was accorded to him under feudal law. He arranged a marriage for a dowry that might have reduced his debts. At the last minute someone informed the prospective bride that the prospective groom was in fact out of favor.

50 We can speculate that two of his daughters had married the same man. Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger's younger brother Peter Nafziger (circa 1720-1803) had a first wife who died young; he then remarried to Elisabeth Ehrismann (children in 1766 and 1769); and then to Barbara Ehrismann (a child in 1779). Nafziger farmed at Lachen-Speyerdorf, about 4 miles southeast of Neusäßtadt an der Weinstrasse in the Palatinate.

51 The Romanesque cathedral at Speyer was constructed 1030-1061 A.D. Eight emperors and kings and four queens were buried under its center aisle. French soldiers damaged it a second time in 1794, but in 1846 it was restored again.

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

53 Before coming to the Mechtersheimerhof Jakob Ullmann lived on the Pfalzhof estate at Dernbach (above Eusserthal, 12 miles west of Essingen). There he lived with the Christian Güngerich family. Christian Güngerich was a son of Johannes 'Hans der Alte' Güngerich, who in 1726 signed a lease for this property giving his son hereditary tenancy. Christian's oldest son Christian became elder at Steinseltz (near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace); daughter Magdalena married Stefan Nafziger, a son of Ulrich Nafziger; son Valentin married Anna Nafziger, a daughter of Ulrich Nafziger; and daughter Vreni or Freneli married Jakob Ullmann. She died, and Jakob remarried to her half-sister Anna Güngerich. He was one of four representatives of the Essingen congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779.
already married; moreover, he had promised marriage to a third woman as well. It was widely suspected that he coerced the priest who would have performed the ceremony.

When the true picture became known to civil authorities, the baron was imprisoned in the fortress of Königstein near Dresden. He managed to obtain a pardon by promising to mend his ways, but eventually spent all of his allowance from civil funds. In 1789 he was reincarcerated at Königstein. He spent the last five years of his life shuttling between prisons to escape the reach of anti-royalist French troops.

In 1780 documents pertaining to this legal case listed the two sons of der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob living on the Mechtersheimerhof. It was stated that they were members of Nafziger's congregation at Essingen (11 miles west of Mechtsersheim).\(^{54}\)

Circa 1788 Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger wrote a letter to Christian Schowalter in Pennsylvania saying [Guth's translation], "Further also to report a little about your old home Mettersheimer Hoff, there are now mostly Reformed people living on it. Jacob Ehresman, our cousin, lived there on Herr Sander's farm for a while, recently though, he died, and his widow is now still on it but we don't know for how long, as reports are that the owners of the land want to make a town out of it."

The younger brother of der junge Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann was Christian Ehrismann. He was one of four deacons or ministers who represented the host congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779 (with elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger, his brother Christian, and Jakob Ullmann). It was traditional for a deacon or minister to be a married man, but his wife has not been identified. In 1787 the Dutch Naamlijst shows minister Christian Ehresman serving the congregations of Weisenheim am Berg, 28 miles northwest of the Mechtersheimerhof; Eisenberg, 39 miles northwest; and ‘Minster,’ which may have been the Münsterhof at Dreisen, 43 miles northwest. He died before 1790.

It is easy to discern that parents and children from prosperous families tended to head up Amish Mennonite congregations. The position was only viable for those who could take time away from planting and harvesting. New ministers also tended to be the sons of ministers because they were literate – a rare commodity in their culture.\(^{55}\)

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

### Württemberg and North America

At this point there is uncertainty. The family that has been definitely linked to Central Illinois descendants was found in Württemberg. Thus they are most likely to be the generations that followed der jünge Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann (since his brother Christian seemed to be moving to the northwest).

The first confirmed link is Christian Ehrismann, who was likely born before 1754. He married Barbara Jotter. A reliable entry shows that they were the grandparents of Christian Ehresman (1799-1874) of Woodford County. Their children include:

1. **Johannes Ehrismann** was born July 12, 1774, and died on the Gutes Obermönshaim at Wimsheim, Württemberg Nov. 17, 1838. He was buried on the farm two days later.
2. Jakobina Ehrismann was born March 12, 1780. On Jan. 10, 1807 she married Heinrich Egli, who succeeded his father as leaseholder on the Lärchenhof farm at Wimsheim. He was born May 10, 1786, and died on the Lärchenhof Sept. 20, 1841, a son of Jakob Egli and Magdalena Eyer. According to the Wimsheim Familien Register, they had eight children on the Lärchenhof.

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\(^{54}\) The most famous native of Essingen was Johann Georg Nicolay, who became John George Nicolay in Illinois. He was born Feb. 26, 1832, and immigrated with his father in 1837 or 1838. He attended school at Cincinnati, then went to Pike County, Illinois. After editing a newspaper in Pittsfield he became assistant to the secretary of state of Illinois. In 1861 President Abraham Lincoln appointed him as his private secretary. He served throughout the Civil War, then took a post as ambassador to France. From 1872 to 1877 he was marshal of the Supreme Court. He published *The Outbreak of Rebellion* in 1881. From 1886 to 1900 he co-authored a series of biographical pieces on Lincoln; these were later published as ten volumes. He died Sept. 26, 1901.

\(^{55}\) Those who could read generally kept no more than *Bibles*, hymnals, almanacs, bookkeeping sheets, and journals for farm notes and home remedies.
On Aug. 10, 1796 Johannes Ehrismann married Veronika Egli. She was born on the Gutes Obermönchsheim at Wimsheim, Württemberg (50 miles southeast of the Mechtersheimerhof) in October 1776, and died there March 2, 1829, a daughter of Martin Egli and Elisabetha.

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

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

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

The children of Johannes Ehrismann and Veronika Egli born at Wimsheim include:

1. Barbara Ehrismann was born Aug. 27, 1797, and died in Tazewell County, Aug. 31, 1861. On July 20, 1820 she married Benjamin Rediger. He died Feb. 3, 1848 according to the Wimsheim Familien Register, a son of Jakob Rediger and Jakobine Güngerich of the Scheibenhardt estate at Karlsruhe (26 miles northwest of Wimsheim). The Familien Register notes that the family went to America in 1849. See REDIGER for the passenger list and a list of their children.

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

3. Elizabeth Ehrismann was born May 20, 1806, and died on the Johannesrathof estate at Kœnigsbach May 23, 1853. He married Katharina Eyer in Baden. Their son Rudolph Ehrismann and his wife Veronika/Veronica Rediger brought their family to Linn, Woodford County in 1869 (more on this later).

4. Johannes/John Ehrismann was born May 5, 1808.

5. He married Katharina Eyer in Baden. Their son Rudolph Ehrismann and his wife Veronika/Veronica Rediger brought their family to Linn, Woodford County in 1869 (more on this later).


7. Jakob Ehrismann was born May 20, 1806, and died on the Jehovahstalhof estate at Königsbach May 23, 1853. He married Katharina Eyer in Baden. Their son Rudolph Ehrismann and his wife Veronika/Veronica Rediger brought their family to Linn, Woodford County in 1869 (more on this later).

8. Johannes/John Ehrismann was born May 5, 1808.

9. Heinrich Ehrismann was born April 19, 1810, and died at Wimsheim March 4, 1816. The death entry identifies his father as a Wiedertäufer leaseholder at Obermönchsheim.

10. Peter Ehrismann was born Feb. 14, 1812. On Feb. 25, 1840 at Wimsheim he married Magdalena Müller. She was born in 1809, a daughter of Peter Müller and Barbara Krehbiel. Peter became leaseholder on the Gutes Obermönchsheim.

11. Elisabetha Ehrismann was born Oct. 10, 1814, and died at Wimsheim Jan. 20, 1835.

12. Daniel Ehrismann (later Ehresman) was born June 29, 1818, and died in Illinois before 1870. On July 26, 1840 on the Jehovahstalhof estate at Königsbach he married Catherine Wolber. She was born there Jan. 13, 1820, a daughter of Christian Wolber and Catherine/Katharina Eyer. The details of the marriage were also recorded at

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56 In present day Wimsheim lies in the district of Enz, in the region of Heckengäu, in the German state of Baden-Württemberg. It is on the southwest side of Mönsheim, and is easy to confuse with Wiernsheim, a village only 4 miles to the north that touches Mönsheim's north side.

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

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

59 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 relinquished claim to his estate in Pennsylvania.
Wimsheim. Daniel brought his family to America from Königsbach circa 1852-58. His household is shown on the 1860 census of Montgomery, on the census page before his older brother Christian; farmer Daniel Ayrsman, 42, Baden; Catherine [Wolber], 40, Baden; Elizabeth, 18, Baden; Christian, 15, Baden; Susan, 12, Baden; Magdalene, 12, Baden; Veronica, 10, Baden; Jacob H. [Jacobina], 8, Baden; and Barbara, 1, Illinois. We suspect that father Daniel died before 1870, when the same family appears on the census of Deer Creek: farmer Christian Ehrisman [the oldest son], 25, Baden; Fany, 20, Baden; Ploebay, 18, Baden; Barbaray, 12; Illinois; Daniel, 7; Illinois; and Catherine Ehrisman [the mother Catherine Wolber], 50, Baden, 'insane.' We speculate that Catherine Wolber was the same person as Catharina Ehrisman, a patient admitted from Tazewell County, who died at the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville July 25, 1870. She was likely buried without a headstone on former hospital grounds that now hold the Prarieilland Heritage Museum. In 1880 sons Christian and Daniel appear on the census of Danvers: Christian Ehrismann, 35, born in Baden to parents from Württemberg and Baden; Catharine, 31, born in Illinois to parents from France and Bavaria; John H., 8, Illinois; Albert J., 5, Illinois; Mary E., 3, Illinois; and William D., 7 months, Illinois; and Daniel, brother, 17, works on farm, born in Illinois to parents from Württemberg and Baden. The children of Daniel Ehresman and Catherine Wolber used the spelling 'Ehrisman' in adulthood. They include:

a. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Ehrismann was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Jan. 21, 1842, and died in McLean County June 13, 1903. On Nov. 9, 1862 she married Jonathan J. Lantz.61 He was born in Wayne County, Ohio Aug. 5, 1839, and died Dec. 23, 1918, a son of Jonathan Lantz and Anna Yoder. Jonathan became a farmer and lawyer at Smithfield, Nebraska. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

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

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

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 eldest son and moved to the Lauberthalhof before 1743 (the son moved to Mechtsersheim between 1753 and 1759). When Christian Wolber died on the Rodenhof at Rodenbach in June 1762, he left his five children in the guardianship of elder Johannes 'Hans' 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; his civil death entry stated that he was 62 years of age. Their son Christian Wolber was born at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace (eight miles east of Mattstall) Oct. 31, 1792 (per his marriage entry; some sources say Sept. 29, 1790), and died at Königsbach, Baden June 25, 1860.

Christian was married at Riedseltz Feb. 4, 1815. The civil marriage entry describes the groom as Chrétien Wolber, born at Steinfingen [Ger. Steinfingerhof], Riedseltz Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Joseph Wolber who had died at Steinfingen (actually, a civil death entry recorded his death at Mattstall) and Catherine Esch, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Eyer (she signed her name 'Catherine Eyër'), born at Mattstall, a daughter of Chrétien 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). The entry was witnessed by 26-year-old laborer Chrétien Schantz.

Although the marriage entry explicitly states that Christian was born and resided on the Steinfingen, the supporting documents gathered before his marriage stated that he was born and lived at Diefenbach in Riedseltz. This was 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 elder Johannes 'Hans' 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. They had a daughter Catherine Wolber born on the Johannistalerhof at Königsbach Jan. 13, 1820. On July 26, 1840 at Königsbach she married Daniel Ehresman, the younger brother of Christian Ehresman (1799-1874); all three later lived in Woodford County.

Catherine had a nephew Jacob who also came to Central Illinois. Catherine's brother Christian Wolber was born at Königsbach March 28, 1824, and died there Feb. 18, 1872. He married Susanna Hochstetter. She was born at Eisenberg in the Palatinate 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, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 17, 1931. He immigrated in 1868. On Oct. 28, 1875 in McLean County he married Magdalena Zehr. She was born Nov. 26, 1855, and died April 4, 1920; a daughter of bishop Jacob Zehr and Elizabeth Ehresman. They appear on the 1880 census of Deer Creek as farmer Jacob Wolber, 31, born in Baden to parents from Baden; Magdalene, 24, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria; Elizabeth, 3, Illinois; Susan, 1, Illinois; and Christian Zehr [Magdalena's brother], 20, born in Illinois to parents from Bavaria. On Jan. 1, 1891 Jacob remarried to Magdalena's younger sister Phoebe. She was born June 9, 1864, and died at Deer Creek Oct. 21, 1939. Each of the sisters had four children.

61 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Jonathan J. Yoder and Elizabeth Erisman.
d. Jakobina Ehrismann was born on the Johannistalerhof estate May 9, 1846, and died there March 6, 1848.
e. Susanna/Susan Ehrisman (twin) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Feb. 3, 1848. She is found living with her twin sister Magdalena on the 1880 census of Dry Grove.
f. Magdalena Ehrisman (twin) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Feb. 3, 1848, and died in McLean County April 13, 1916. On Nov. 29, 1869 in Woodford County she married Joseph E. Gerber. He was born Sept. 28, 1844, and died in McLean County Aug. 14, 1897, a son of Joseph Gerber and Magdalena Sommer. They are found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove as farmer Joseph Gerber, 35, born in Illinois to parents from France and Switzerland; Magdalene, 32, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia; four children born in Illinois; Susan Ayersman [Ehresman], 33, housekeeper born in Prussia to parents from Prussia [Magdalena’s sister]; and farmhand Fred Burkley, 21, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois. They are buried in North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.
g. Veronika/Veronica ‘Fanny’ Ehresman was born on the Johannistalerhof estate July 28, 1849, and died in McLean March 9, 1872. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.
h. Jakobina/Jacoline ‘Phoebe’ Ehresman was born on the Johannistalerhof estate July 13, 1851, and died in McLean County April 9, 1875. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.
i. Barbara Ehresman was born in Illinois circa 1858-59.
j. Daniel Ehresman was born in Illinois June 18, 1862, and died in McLean County March 10, 1942. On March 28, 1899 at Danvers he married Magdalena Augspurger. The ceremony was conducted by bishop Joseph Stuecky. She was born Oct. 3, 1864, and died Oct. 15, 1948, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Anna Mosiman. They are found on the 1930 census of Normal, McLean County as Daniel Ehrismann, 67, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Magdalena, 65, born in Illinois to a father born in the United States and a mother born in Ohio. They are buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers.

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

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

Christian married three times, each time to a sister from the same family. They were daughters of Johannes/John Barnett and Katharina Güngerich. The Barnetts came from the Rhein-Neckar ‘Kreis’ or county of the District of Karlsruhe, Baden via Butler County, Ohio.62

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

1. Jacob ‘Jake’ Ehresman was born July 30, 1825, and died at Drummer, Ford County March 12, 1899; he is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as ‘Jacob Ayresman.’
2. Johann/John Ehresman was born May 26, 1828, and died at Gridley Dec. 13, 1891. On Nov. 16, 1858 he married Catherine ‘Katie’ Sommer. She was born at Montgomery in 1838, and died Jan. 26, 1913, a daughter of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz. The Sommers were neighbors to the Ehresmans at Montgomery. They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo as farmer John Ehresman, Baden; Catherine, 31, Illinois; Peter, 10, Illinois; Barbara, 8, Illinois; and Joseph, 4, Illinois. They are listed on the same page as John’s cousins Joseph and John Rediger. Their household can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer John Ehresman, 52, born in Baden to a father from Württemberg and a mother from Baden; Katherine, 43, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace; and five children born in Illinois. In 1875 John and Katie donated land that was used for a meeting house. On July 23, 1898, Katie and her children provided the land that was used for the Salem Defenseless Christian Church (later the Salem Evangelical Mennonite Church) at Gridley.
3. Elisabeth ‘Lizzie’ Ehresman was born Sept. 11, 1830, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 27, 1902. On April 21, 1850 she married Jakob/Jacob Zehr, who became minister and bishop of the Mackinaw meeting. He was born at Mannried, Bavaria Sept. 17, 1825, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 22, 1898, a son of Daniel Zehr and Magdalena Unzicker. They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. (See ZEHR).

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

37
4. Christian Ehresman was born Oct. 18, 1832, and died Feb. 14, 1893.63 On Aug. 30, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Wagler.64 She was born in Alsace Jan. 13, 1831, and died at Pike, Livingston County Dec. 7, 1870, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli (found as Reschly and Roeschley). For her obituary see WAGLER. The 1880 census of Pike shows farm laborer Christian Ehresman, 47, in the household of August Bauman; he was born in Württemberg to parents from Württemberg. In about 1888 Christian remarried to Mary Oyer. She was born at Farmdale Feb. 27, 1859 (and thus was younger by 27 years), and died Feb. 22, 1890, a daughter of John Oyer and Anna Farney. This may be the marriage entry recorded in Livingston County Aug. 4, 1888 for 'Christian Ehresman' and 'Marg Oyer.' Her headstone in West Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska says, “Mary Ehresman, wife of Christian Ehresman, died Feb. 22, 1890 aged 31 years,” while the Herald of Truth, March 1890 issue published this obituary: “On the 24th of February, near Milford, Seward county, Nebraska, of consumption, wife of Christian Erisman, aged 31 years, 3 months and 9 days. She was a member of the Engl church. She was buried in John Stehley’s grave yard. Services by Chris. Yeckley and Joseph Rediger. Text 2 Tim. 1:7-10.”

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

Magdalena died shortly after giving birth to Jacobina. Her sister Anna Barnett may have married Christian within a few months. One of their first decisions of married life must have involved the question of emigration. The mid-1800s saw a rush of emigrants departing Germany to go to North America. This was part of an overall trend, as the entire lower-middle class of farmers were being squeezed out of the economy and social structure. Overpopulation was reaching a level where it was difficult for sons to find the generous lease terms on out-of-the-way estates that their parents and grandparents had found. It was also much less likely that they would find forest that could be cleared, swamps that could be irrigated, or spent land that could be reclaimed over a few years by fertilization.

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

Industrialization accelerated the waves of emigration. Once young men and women realized that others were leaving their family farms to go to the cities, it was easier to take the alternative step and emigrate. They often journeyed with extended families and formed new American congregations with others from their region. The ship Troy sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York City Nov. 10, 1836. The Ehresmans are found on the passenger list in a group of travelers from Baden: Christian Ehresman, 36; Anna, 22; Jacob, 10; Johann, 7; Elisabeth, 4; Christina [Christian], 3; Jacobina, 2; and Daniel, 1. According to the Troy passenger list, Daniel died at sea Oct. 26, 1836.

63 He is easy to confuse with another Christian Ehresman, a ‘German school’ teacher who had only one arm. His classroom was located on the farm of Peter Yordy, east of Roanoke. A ‘German school’ taught the language and traditions, but also taught English to young immigrants. Children typically attended for a few hours a day, supplementing public school. He was a member of the Hessian Amish congregation (later called the South Danvers Mennonite Church). Gospel Witness, December 1905: “Bro. Christian Erisman was born April 27, 1835. Died on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5, 1905, at the Mennonite Old People’s Home, Rittman, Ohio, aged 70 y., 7 m., 8 d. By profession Bro. Erisman had been a German school teacher, having formerly come from the old country. For some time he lived in Illinois and taught school. He made his temporary abode at the Home as early as Dec., 1902, but in June, 1904, he came here to stay the remainder of his life. He expressed a readiness and a desire to depart from this life. Funeral was held at the Home on Friday, Dec. 8, the brethren, D. C. Amstutz and C. Z. Yoder officiating. Text, Psalms 17:15: Burial in Crown Hill Cemetery.”
64 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christian Ayrsmann and Madeline Wagner.
The *Troy* passenger list also included Johann Bernett, 67, Christian's father-in-law; and Veronica [Veronica Barnett], 12, who would later become Christian's third wife. A portion of the list is given in KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG.

The Ehresman family settled in Ohio. It is thought that they lived in Butler County, but this has not been documented. No entry has been identified on the 1840 census, which lists only heads of households; perhaps the family did not own land, or the surname was misspelled.

Anna died in Ohio before March 1843. Her four remaining four children were all born there. Their children include:

6. Daniel Ehresman was born in Germany in 1836. According to the *Troy* passenger list he died at sea Oct. 26, 1836.
7. Peter Ehresman was born in Ohio March 5, 1837 (his headstone says 1836), and died at El Paso, Woodford County Dec. 2, 1893.\(^6^5\) On May 31, 1863 at Slabtown he married Barbara Sommer. She was born in Montgomery Township March 2, 1844, and died at Gridley Jan. 29, 1914, a daughter of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz. The *Illinois Public Domain Land Sales Database* shows Peter Ehresman as the purchaser of 39.64 acres at Gridley May 31, 1869, at $14 per acre. They are found on the 1880 census of Gridley as farmer Peter Ehresman, 42, born in Ohio to parents from Württemberg; Barbara, 33, born in Illinois to parents from France; and nine children born in Illinois. They had 12 children. The family worshipped at the Salem Defenseless Mennonite Church, where Peter became a deacon in 1883. While transporting lumber for a new barn, a train startled his horse team, and Peter was thrown from his buggy. Complications from the injuries caused him to develop pneumonia, and he died in the Clifton House at El Paso. They are buried under a joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

8. Fanny Ehresman was born in Ohio in 1838, and died in 1862 or 1863. On Feb. 7, 1860 in Woodford County she married Johannes König, also known as John R. King. He was born in Baden Sept. 16, 1825, and died April 25, 1895, a son of Johannes König and Jacobea Rediger (see the supplemental genealogy, KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG).

9. Maria/Mary Ehresman was born in Ohio Nov. 30, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894. On March 5, 1861 in Woodford County she married John Guth. He was born at Washington May 10, 1840, and died there Oct. 8, 1896, a son of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. They appear on the 1880 census of Washington as John Guth, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Mary, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; and nine children born in Illinois. *Gospel Herald*, June 1894: "On the 8th of May 1874 near Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., sister Maria Ehresman, wife of John Good. Buried on the 10th in the Washington cemetery. Sister Maria was married on the 5th of March 1816. The union was blessed with 10 children. There are also 14 grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and wife and a faithful follower of Christ in our denomination. Funeral services by the writer and Pre. Koenig of the Deer Creek Cong. and Emanuel Hartman from Isa. 18 and 38:12, 13. A large concourse of friends followed her remains to the grave. Michael Kinsinger." John Guth married Oct. 15, 1895 to Catherine Schlegel, widow of John Gascho (see SCHLEGEL), but John is buried in Glendale Cemtery with Maria/Mary.

10. Anna 'Nancy' Ehresman was born in Ohio Feb. 22, 1841, and died at Hopedale April 11, 1909. On March 8, 1864 in Tazewell County she married Peter Litwiller.\(^6^6\) He was born at Milford, Butler County Sept. 9, 1839, and died at Hopedale June 28, 1900, a son of Joseph Litwiller and Barbe/Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. *Gospel Herald*, May 1909: "Died near Hopedale, Ill., on April 11, 1909, Sister Anna Litwiller, maiden name Erisman, after an illness of about two months from dropsy; aged 68 y. She leaves to mourn her departure one son, two daughters and 12 grandchildren. Sister Litwiller was an exemplary Christian. She had many trials and sorrows in her life but remained patient and faithful to the end. We feel assured that all is well with her. Funeral April 14, conducted by Andrew Schrock and Sam Garber."

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

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

\(^6^5\) According to Zurlindien and other sources, Peter Ehresman was born in Ohio March 5, 1836. However, this conflicts with the *Troy* passenger list, which was not known to her. It is probable that he was born the following spring.

\(^6^6\) The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Peter Letweiler and Anna Ehreman.
According to the obituary of son Joseph, his childhood recollections included seeing lawyer Abraham Lincoln stopping at their home to water his horse. Lincoln was traveling between the 8th Circuit courts on his way from Bloomington to Metamora.

They can be found on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County living next door to Christian Oyer: Christian Ayresman, 60, farmer, Stuttgart; Frana, 35, Baden; Peter, 23, farm laborer, Ohio; Mary, 20, Ohio; Nancy, 17, Illinois (all remaining children born in Illinois); Magdalena, 16; Barbara, 13; Catherine, 11; Susan, 7; Joseph, 9; Lydia, 3; and Samuel, 4 months. The Ehresman family also appears on a federal list of excise tax collected in Division 6, District 8 in 1865. On Feb. 16 Christian Ehresman of Farnisville (Farnisville was at the center of Montgomery Township) paid 5% tax on $303.50 amounting to $15.15.

The family is not found on the 1870 census of Montgomery. We can speculate that this was inadvertent; they lived only yards from the county line. The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows the 200-acre property of ‘C. Ehrismann.’

Christian died at Montgomery Aug. 11, 1874. *Gospel Herald*, September 1874: "Aug. 11th, in Woodford Co., Ill., of dropsy of the heart, Christian Erisman, aged 74 years, 4 months and 25 days. He leaves a bereaved wife and 15 children, who were all present before his death. Remarks suitable to the occasion were made by Joseph Stuckey, from 1 Peter 1:24. - Peace to his ashes." He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery.

Widow Veronica’s household appears on the 1880 census of Montgomery as Fannie Ehresman, 53, born in July in Germany to German parents; Katie, 29, born in April in Illinois to parents from Germany; Samuel, 20, born in December in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Jacob, 18, born in Illinois in August to parents from Germany.

Veronica died at Goodfield Nov. 24, 1895, and was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deer Creek. Her headstone says she was the wife of C. Ehresmann.’ *Herald of Truth*, December 1895: “Veronica Ehresman was born on the 20th of July, 1824, in Baden, Germany. She came with her father to America in 1837 [1836], and was married to Christian Ehresman in 1843. This union was blessed with 9 children. Eight children and 4 grandchildren survive. Sister Ehresman died of heart disease on the 24th of November, 1895, at her home near Goodfield, Woodford Co., Ill. Although suffering of heart disease for some time her sudden death was unexpected by the family. Her remains were laid to rest on the 27th in Mt. Zion graveyard. Funeral services by Michael Kinsinger from 2 Cor. 5, Peter Shantz and others from 2 Kings 20:1 and 1 Cor. 15. Sister Ehresman was a faithful member in the Amish Mennonite church. Michael Kinsinger.”

Veronica’s children were all born in Illinois.

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

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

13. Barbara Ehresman was born in 1846, and died in McLean County Nov. 2, 1939. On Oct. 12, 1875 at Danvers she became the second wife of Christian Imhof Jr. Bishop Joseph Stuckey conducted the ceremony. Christian was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 31, 1838; and died at Danvers May 31, 1881, a son of Christian Imhof and Barbe/Barbara Schertz (see STAKER). Imhof had married his first wife Mary Strubhar on March 26, 1861. She was born Oct. 11, 1842, and died Feb. 17, 1875, a daughter of John Strubhar and Anna Schertz. They were members of the Rock Creek Amish Church. In 1865 Christian and Mary took in orphaned 12-year-old Peter Schantz, who became a bishop and leader in the Central Conference Mennonite Church (see SCHANTZ). In 1868 bishop Joseph Stuckey ordained Imhof as a deacon. After 1872 he also served as treasurer of North Danvers Mennonite Church.

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

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

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

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

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

19. Jacob Ehresman was born Oct. 12, 1862 (though the 1880 census of Montgomery gives his birth month as August), and died at Piper City, Ford County Dec. 14, 1947. On Dec. 20, 1885 at Danvers he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Strubhar. She was born at Danvers May 6, 1866, and died at Piper City Dec. 21, 1946, a daughter of Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich. Their household is found on the 1900 census of Brenton, Ford County as farmer Jacob Ehresman, born in Illinois in October of 1862 to parents from Germany and Switzerland; Elizabeth A., born in Illinois in May 1867 to parents from France; and six children born in Illinois. Jacob appears in the 1917 Ford County Business Directory as a commissioner of highways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Emma E. Ayersman was born circa 1856.

3. Stephen A. D. Ayersman. Although he was known as ‘Steve,’ the full name appears on his headstone. It is likely he was named after Illinois presidential aspirant Stephen A. Douglas. He was born in 1859, died at Drummer April 1, 1935, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery. The 1880 census of Drummer shows him as a 21-year-old farm laborer, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Indiana. He lived in the household of Wesley Hammem. On Dec. 29, 1886 in McLean County he married Emma Fawver.68 She was born in Ohio in 1858, and died at Drummer Oct. 10, 1935, a daughter of Solomon Fawver and Sarah Smith. She is also buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as ‘Emma F. Ayersman.’ On the 1910 census of Drummer they have two children at home; in 1930 they appear as Steve Ayresman, 70, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Emma, 71, born in Ohio to parents from Virginia.

4. Albert P. Ayersman was born in April 1861, died at Coal City, Grundy County Sept. 9 or 13, 1937, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery as ‘Albert Ayresman.’ On Dec. 12, 1886 at Gibson City, Ford County he married Kathryn P. ‘Katie’ Simon.69 She was born in Ohio in July 1862, and died at Coal City Feb. 13, 1935. They appear on the 1900 census of Braceville, Coald County, Gundy County as railroad switchman A.P. Ayrsman, born in Illinois in April 1861 to German parents; his unnamed wife, born in Ohio in July 1862 to Irish parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are shown on the 1920 census of Coal City as Albert Ayersman, 58, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Indiana; Katherine, 57, born in Ohio to a father from Indiana and a mother from Ireland; and four children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1930 census of Braceville.

5. Alason C. Ayrsman (the spelling on his headstone) was born in 1864, died in 1909, and is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery. On Dec. 29, 1886 in McLean County he married Rossaline ‘Rossy’ Garrett.70 She was born circa 1856 at Kiddville, Kentucky, and died at Gibson City Oct. 10, 1935, a daughter of Lewis L. Garrett and Nancy M. Elkin.

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

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

Nephew Rudolph Ehrisman

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

Fortunately, the village church maintained a special book for the marriage, birth, and death entries called Familien Register der Wiedertäufler auf dem Johannisthalerhof. It has been preserved by the Church of Latter Day

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68 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as Stephen A. D. Ayresman.
69 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as A. P. Ayrsman and Katie Sinen.
70 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as Larson Ayresman.
Saints on FHL microfilm. The book indicates that Christian Ehresman's two younger brothers Jakob (married to Katharina Eyer) and Daniel (married to Catherine Wolber) farmed the Johannistalerhof estate.  

The entries also answer a longstanding Woodford County genealogy question: how was Linn farmer Rudolph Ehrisman related to the Ehremans? We now know that Rudolph was born Nov. 21, 1842, a son of Christian Ehresman's younger brother Jakob Ehrismann and Katharina Eyer. Rudolph's wife Veronika/Veronica Rediger was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden Jan. 10, 1842 (the date given on her marriage entry; her obituary says Feb. 7). She was a daughter of Jakob Rediger and Magadlena Schanz; Jakob was living on the Johannistalerhof at the time of her marriage. Rudolph and Veronika/Veronica were married at Königsbach by minister Christian Egly of Mönsheim Nov. 12, 1865.

Two more entries found at Königsbach document the death of a son and the birth of a daughter. Emil Ehresmann (born at another community) died Sept. 23, 1867. Eliza (later found as Elise) was born on the Johannistalerhof estate Oct. 7, 1867; she married William Ropp in Tazewell County.  

According to the Baden Emigration Index, Rudolph Ehrisman of Königsbach applied to emigrate in 1869 with his wife and daughter. They farmed at Linn, Woodford County, where Rudolph died Nov. 19, 1895. Veronika/Veronica died at Hopedale Dec. 4, 1922, and is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Gospel Herald, December 1922: "Veronica (Rediger) Ehrisman was born in Baden, Germany, Feb. 7, 1842, and died Dec. 4, 1922, at the home of her daughter Mrs. Simon Litwiller near Hopedale, Ill., where she had made her home. She with her husband Rudolph Ehrisman, who preceded her in death Nov. 19, 1895, came to America 54 [26] years ago, locating in Woodford Co., Ill. To this union were born 9 children - 5 sons and 4 daughters. Five sons and 1 daughter preceded her in death. She leaves 3 daughters, 19 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 4 brothers, and 2 sisters. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained in that faith. Funeral services were held Dec. 6 near Hopedale, Ill., conducted by Samuel Gerber assisted by home ministers. Text, Heb. 4:9."

There is one more note of significance to the Ehresman connection with the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach. By the time the Ehresman brothers arrived there, the estate was populated by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Benedikt 'Benz' Eyer (see OYER). The sixth child of Benedikt was Hans Jakob Eyer, also known as 'Hans Oyer der Alte,' or as we put it Johannes 'Hans' Oyer. There were to be many marriage connections between Ehresmans and Oyers in Central Illinois.

### The Ehremans of Neuhausen

At first it seemed odd to find Ohio and Indiana families that also chose to spell their Ehrismann surname as 'Ehresman.' On closer look we found definite connections with the Ehresman family of Central Illinois. Circa 1800-05 Jakob Johannes Ehresman married Barbara Fischer, a daughter of Jakob Fischer and Anna Maria Oesch of Hochheim. When one of their sons married, his supporting documentation said he was from Neuhausen, the village next to Hochheim. Both communities are suburbs of the city of Worms, 30 miles north of Mechtersheim. These communities are all within Rheinhessen, a region made up of grade fields and vineyards that grow grapes to make white wines such as Riesling and Liebfraumilch.

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

71 The Johannistalerhof has kept its name, but is now a golf course.

72 Eliza (later found as Elise) Ehrisman married William Ropp in Tazewell County Feb. 13, 1890. He was born Dec. 30, 1866, and died at Tremont April 18, 1935, a son of Joseph W. Ropp and Catherine 'Kate' Ropp Gerber (see ROPP). Elise died at Tremont March 8, 1939. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Gospel Herald, March 1939: " Ropp. - Elise, daughter of Rudolph and Veronica Rediger Ehrisman, was born Oct. 7, 1867, in Baden, Germany; died at her home near Tremont, Ill., March 8, 1939; aged 71 y. 5 m. 1 d. On Feb. 13, 1890, she was united in marriage with William Ropp, who preceded her in death almost four years ago. One daughter (Mrs. Etta Roth, Morton, Ill.) and 1 son (William, Jr., Tremont), survive her, together with 3 grandchildren and 2 sisters (Mrs. Joseph Zimmerman, San Diego, Calif., and Mrs. Simon Litwiller, Minier, Ill.), and a host of relatives and friends. She accepted Christ in her youth uniting with the Mennonite Church of which she remained a faithful member until her end. She was always a kind mother, exercising a Christian spirit to all. Services were held from the home in charge of Bro. Jonas Litwiller, and from the Pleasant Grove Mennonite church in charge of the brethren, H. R. Schertz and Leland A. Bachman. Burial in church cemetery."

73 The Grand Duchy of Hesse lasted from 1806 to 1918.
The three children we have identified all came to America:

1. JOHANN JAKOB EHRESMAN

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

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

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

   They appear on the 1850 census of Ross as farmer Jacob Ayreson, 45, Germany; Catherine, 42, Germany; Christopher, 18, Germany; Catherine, 16, Germany; Mary, 10, Ohio; and Fanny, 5, Ohio. They are found on the 1860 census of Ross as farmer Jacob Ehresman, 43, Germany; Catherine, 52, Germany; Mary, 19; Fanny, 15; and Nicholas [Corwin], 6 (Susan Clawson suggests that Corwin may have come off one of the orphan trains that occasionally passed through). The 1870 census shows them as farmer J. Ayersman, 64, Darmstadt; Fannie, 24, Ohio; and farmhand Nick Corwin, 15, New York. At some point Jacob joined the Defenseless Mennonite Church (Egly Amish). The 1880 census of Ross shows widower and retired farmer Jacob Ehresman, 74, born in Germany to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; and daughter Fanny Ehresman, 35, born in Ohio to parents from Hesse. Jacob and Katharina are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills.

   The children of Johann Jakob/Jacob Ehresman and Katharina Ehresmann include:

   a. Jacobina Ehresman was born Sept. 19, 1830, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 12, 1900. On June 10, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Pierre/Peter Oyer. He was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Oct. 15, 1818, and died June 14, 1890, a son of Joseph Oyer and Catherine Sehrag (Catherine died when Peter was 5 years old, and Joseph remarried to Magdalena Litwiller; they immigrated in 1830 and resettled at Farndale, Tazewell County in 1838; see OYER). Peter and Jacobina appear on the 1860 census of Ross with four children; then on the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Pike, Livingston County.

   b. Christian Ehresman (also found as Christopher) was born Oct. 15, 1832, and died in Tippecanoe County, Indiana Feb. 1, 1908. On Dec. 10, 1857 at Perry, Tippecanoe County he married Marie/Mary Salzman. She was born in Butler County, Ohio Oct. 15, 1840, and died at Woodburn, Indiana Oct. 10, 1923, a daughter of Christian Salzman and Marie Imhof. They are found on the 1880 census of Perry as farmer Christian Ehresman, 47, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary, 40, born in Ohio to a father from France and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; and eight children born in Indiana. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills.

   c. Catherine ‘Katie’ Ehresman was born at Neuhausen Nov. 16, 1834 (according to her family Bible), and died in Carroll County, Indiana May 21, 1903. On Feb. 10, 1858 at Trenton, Butler County she married her third cousin Johannes Güngerich, who was known in America as ‘John Gingrich.’ They obtained a marriage license in Clinton County Dec. 22, 1857; the ceremony was performed in Butler County, Ohio by minister Nicholas Augspurger. John was born at Sippersfeld (12 miles southeast of Dörmmoschel). We originally found March 1, 1824 as a birthdate for John; a family Bible says he was born near Easter 1824. There is no entry at Sippersfeld in either March of April that pertains. John may have been born to unmarried Katharina Ehresmann at Sippersfeld April 10, 1823. He died in Carroll County Feb. 28, 1898. It is likely that he was illiterate, contributing to confusion over his name and difficulty identifying the passenger list. He worked in Cincinnati for several years before settling in Butler County. His Declaration of Intent to become a citizen was submitted in Butler County Jan. 12, 1882. His naturalization March 12, 1856 was signed ‘John Ginehir.’ Following their marriage the couple lived at Monior, a small town in Perry Township, Tippecanoe County for eight years. They appear on the 1860 census of Perry as farmer John Ginity, 36, Germany; Catherine, 25, Hesse; and Jacob, 1, Indiana. They resettled at Rosseville in Ross Township, then Prince William, Carroll County (the deed there was signed in 1873 by ‘John Ginery’). They moved to Petit in Tippecanoe County, then relocated one last time less than a mile over the line into Carroll County. They are buried in Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery. John’s obituary was found in a family Bible: “During all these pleasant surprises, the busy and

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74 His headstone in Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills says, “Jacob Ehresman died Aug. 7, 1894, aged 88 ys. & 4 ms.”

Many of the references to Ross Township are given here as they were found. Ross Township was established in the northwest corner of Clinton County, Indiana in 1830; Rosseville was incorporated as a town within that township in 1870. For practical purposes the two are identical.

75 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Peter Oyer and Jacobina Ayresman.

76 Augspurger's list of ceremonies in Grubb's History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio mentions 'John Gingrich and Katie Ehresman.'
unpleasant exchanging of houses, the inclemency of the weather and the impassable roads, that grim monster, death, was wielding his destructive scythe, this time taking from our midst an old and respected citizen, who has contended with the storms for nearly 73 years and eleven months. John Gingrich was born in Germany in 1824, and came to this country with his mother when seventeen years of age, and settled in Ohio with his half brother, who had preceded him a few years. He came to Indiana forty-one years ago and was married the next year to Miss Katie Ehresman. A widow and nine children survive: Mrs. Lydia Irich [sic], Mrs. Josephine Wentz [sic], John, Gus, Otto and Theodore Gingrich, all live around here. Henry and Christian Gingrich living at Flanagan, Ill. This funeral will take place from the house tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock, arriving at the church at 10 o'clock. Mr. Gingrich belonged to the Amish church and was a lifelong Christian."

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

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

2. MARIA MAGDALENA EHRESMAN

Maria Magdalena Ehresman is thought to have been born at Pfiffligheim (adjacent to Neuhausen) circa 1809. In July 1834 she married Heinrich Stahli. He was born at Enkenbach near Kaiserslautern (28 miles west of Neuhausen) in February 1810, a son of Heinrich Stähli.

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

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

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

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

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

77 Christian Egli was born at Dörrmoschel March 24, 1803 according to some sources, but no birth entry is found there. He died at Marion, Indiana July 3, 1879. Gospel Herald, August 1789: “July 3rd, at the residence of Jonas Stineman in Miami Co., Ind., of injuries received from a fall from the cars, at Marion, Ind., on the 26th of June, Christian Egly, aged 76 years, 3 months and 9 days. He was buried in the burying ground on the farm of Benjamin Hersberger, on the 4th of July. Services by Daniel C. Miller. He was a member of the Amish Church, and was on his way to visit his grand-daughter. Peace to his ashes.” Catherine Stahli/Stahly was born at Enkenbach Nov. 10, 1808, and died at Clinton Township July 5, 1893. Herald of Truth, August 1893: On the 5th of July, 1893, in Clinton Twp., Elkhart Co., Ind., of the infirmities of old age. Catharine Egli, aged 84 years, 7 months and 25 days. She united with the Amish Mennonite denomination in her youth and remained faithful to the end. Services in German by P.Y. Lehman, from Rev. 14:13; and in English by D.J. Johns, from Rev. 20:12-15.” Their family can be found on the 1850 and 1870 censuses of Clinton Township, Elkhart County (under 'Christian Eagle' and 'Christian Egeley').
In Ohio Heinrich became 'Henry Stahly.' Maria's first son ('John' on the passenger list) took the name 'John Johnson.'

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

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

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

Maria Magdalena Ehresman Stahly died at Nappanee Dec. 1, 1879. Herald of Truth, January 1880: "Dec. 1st, near Nappanee, Elkhart Co., Ind., Sister Magdalena Stahly, wife of Henry Stahly, at the age of 70 years. She was a faithful sister in the Lord. A husband and six children are left to mourn her death. She was sick only two days. Funeral services by Jonathan Smucker."

In 1880 Henry was living with his youngest son at Locke. He died at Nappanee Dec. 14, 1894. His will left a half-share to his stepson John Johnson, calling him "my wife's son."

Herald of Truth, January 1895: "Near Nappanee, Ind., of dropsy, Henry Stahly, died Dec. 14, 1894, aged 84 years, 10 months. He was united in marriage to Magdalena Ehrisman in 1834, lived in matrimony 45 years. His wife preceded him to the spirit world 15 years ago, the first of this month. He was born in Kaisers Lautern, Germany, Feb. 1810. Emigrated to America in 1835 and settled in Wayne Co., Ohio; came to Elkhart Co., Ind. in 1846. He has resided here 48 years, has seen his children and grandchildren grow to manhood and womanhood, and the dense forest that once covered this beautiful country fall before the pioneer's axe. He was a consistent brother in the Amish Mennonite denomination, and while we pay the last tribute to him we realize that his seat will be vacant in the forest that once covered this beautiful country f..."

The children of Henry Stahly and Maria Magdalena Ehresman include:

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

2. Mary 'Polly' Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County Feb. 1, 1838, and died at Nappanee June 8, 1925. On May 24, 1857 in Elkhart County she married Tobias Yoder. He was born in Holmes County, Ohio June 29, 1832, and died in Elkhart County Jan. 20, 1892, a son of Elias Yoder and Rachel Troyer. They can be found on the 1880 census of Jefferson, Kosciusko County (just below Elkhart County) as farmer Tobias Yoder, 48, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada; Mary, 43, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; and five nieces and nephews born in Indiana. She remarried to Christian Lantz. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio Oct. 1, 1834, and died in Howard County, Indiana Nov. 6, 1919, a son of Stephen Lantz and Anna Kauffman. He was buried in the Schrock Cemetery at Plevna, Indiana. His first two wives were Barbara Eash and Anna Schrock. Gospel Herald, June 1925: "Polly Lantz, daughter of Henry and Magdalena Stahly, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 1, 1838; died at her home near Nappanee, Ind., June 8, 1925; aged 87 y 4 m. 7 d. In April, 1857, she was married to Tobias Yoder, with whom she lived until 1892, when this union was severed by the death of her husband. In November, 1897 [his obituary says...

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79 The household of John Johnson can be found on the 1880 census of Dry Point, Shelby County, Illinois: farmer John Johnson, 45, Ohio; Matilda, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Virginia; and six children born in Illinois.
October 1891], she was united in marriage to Christian Lantz of Howard Co., Ind., and this union was again severed by the death of her husband on Nov. 4, 1919. During her second marriage she lived with her husband in Howard Co., but after his death she returned to her home near Nappanee, Ind., where she remained until her death. Sister Lantz had no children of her own, but she was foster mother of six, all of whom she took to raise. They were May Ellen Reed, Mrs. Ed Pinninger, Henry Ringenberg, Mrs. Levi Schrock, Ezra Bleile, and Mrs. S. G. Moyer. She also leaves two brothers (Simon Stahly and Daniel Stahly). She united with the Mennonite Church when a young woman and remained faithful until death. Funeral was held June 10 at the North Mennonite Church in Nappanee, conducted by Ezra Mullet and Silas Yoder. Burial at the Union Cemetery near Nappanee.

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

4. Magdalena 'Martha' Stahly was born at Milton, Wayne County Aug. 28, 1843, and died at Nappanee Aug. 5, 1876. On June 20, 18689 in Elkhart County she married Andrew Biele. He was born in December 1846. After her death her child was raised by her sisters. Biele later remarried and lived at Jefferson, Iowa.

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

6. Peter H. Stahly was born at Union Nov. 24, 1847, and died at Nappanee (the same location renamed) Nov. 26, 1915. On Nov. 12, 1872 he married Catherine Yoder. She was born at Smithville, Wayne County Aug. 29, 1846, and died in Elkhart County June 16, 1877, a daughter of Joseph Yoder and Mariah Farmvald [Vordemwald]. On Nov. 3, 1878 he remarried to Veronica 'Fannie' Yoder, a sister to his first wife. She was born Feb. 5, 1849, and died at Nappanee. They are buried in Union Center Cemetery. Gospel Herald, December 1915: "Peter H. Stahly was born Nov. 24, 1847; died Nov. 26, 1915; aged 68 y. 2 d. Born and reared on his father's farm on what is now the Northeast quarter of Nappanee, Ind. ... He united with the A. M. Church while a young man and continued as an active and consistent member until death. He will be remembered by many as an efficient visiting brother for a number of years... Nov. 12, 1872, he married Kathryn Yoder of Wayne Co., Ohio. To this union were born 2 children, Franklin and Ida May, wife of Geo. Hartman. This wife and both children preceded him to the spirit world. Nov. 3, 1878, he married Fannie Yoder, sister to his first wife. To this union were born 4 children...He located on his farm 1 mile north of town in the year 1876 and lived there until 6 years ago when he retired from active farm work and moved to his present home. Funeral was held Nov. 29 at the Nappanee West Church where Bro. J. E. Hartzler preached from Job 14:14 to a large and attentive audience."

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

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

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

  ‘John Aresman’ signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840. It described him as a 28-year-old native of Darmstadt.

  They appear on the 1850 census of Ross as farmer John Ayresman, 38, Germany; Fanny, 29, Germany; Christopher, 10, Ohio; John, 8, Ohio; Jacob, 6, Ohio; and Augustus, 3, Ohio. They are found on the 1860 census of Ross as farmer John Ehresman, 49, Germany; Fanny, 39, Germany; Christian, 18, Ohio; Jacob, 16, Ohio; Augustus, 13, Ohio; Catharine, 7, Indiana; and Henry, one month, Indiana. In 1870: farmer Jno. Ayersman, 58, Darmstadt; Fannie, 48; Catherine, 17; and Henry, 9. In 1880 widower John Ehresman is at Ross in the house next to his brother as an 86-year-old father-in-law [he was 68] in the household of farmer Christian Garver [Gerber], 31, born in Ohio to parents from Germany; Catherine, 27, born in Indiana to parents from Hesse, and Jesse, 1, born in Indiana.

  Johannes/John Ehresman and Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresmann are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Edna Mills. They had eight children; three died before 1913.

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

  b. John Ehresman was born in Ohio circa 1842.

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

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

  e. Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman was born at Ross Aug. 4, 1853, and died Jan. 26, 1892. On Feb. 18, 1873 in Clinton County she married minister-farmer Christian Gerber. He was born in Butler County, Ohio April 21, 1847, and died at Edna Mills March 10, 1931, a son of Christian Gerber and Ann Roth (see GERBER AND GARBER). Christian grew up at Elm Grove. He became a minister in the Defenseless Mennonite Church, and was likely the Defenseless Mennonite 'Christian Gerber of Illinois' mentioned by Delbert Gratz in The Bernese Anabaptists as a minister in the Rossville-Buck Creek area of Indiana, where services were “altogether in German.” On July 23, 1893 in Tippecanoe

79 Fanny's headstone at Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery identifies her as the “frau von Johannes Ehresman” who died “9 Apr 1880 58y 6m 25d.”

80 Other near-neighbors at Lemon included minister Peter Schrock, 70, and his second wife Magdalena Zimmerman, 50; and Christian A. Augspurger, 43, his wife Catherine Schertz, 40, and his mother-in-law Catherine Schertz, 76.
County he remarried to Josephine Zimmerman. She was born in Germany in September 1853, and died at Edna Mills March 9, 1931, a daughter of John Zimmerman and May Siegel. The 1900 census of Ross shows Christian Gerber, born in Ohio in April 1847; Josephine, born in Germany in September 1853; and two children born in Indiana. Susan Yost Clawson found the circumstances of their coincidental deaths: their obituaries say that within 13 hours she died of "an attack of heart trouble," and he died of pneumonia. They are buried in Edna Mills Mennonite Cemetery.

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

The Ehresmanns of Dörmoshel

Dörmoshel is a tiny village about 40 miles northwest of the Mechtsersheimerhof. Before the French Revolution Dörmoshel and its adjacent sister village Teschenmoschel were properties of the von Hunolstein family. It was once considered part of Hesse-Darmstadt, but is now in the Rhineland Palatinate.

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

The period of French occupation was also a period of relative prosperity. The area provided soldiers for the French army, and the local economy was boosted by employment on the construction of the Kaiserstrasse, a wide paved highway from Kaiserlautern to Frankfurt.81

Christian Ehresmann was born in 1780, and died at Dörmoshel Feb. 16, 1837. He married Elisabeth Egle [Egli], who died at Dörmoshel March 8, 1824.82 They were the parents of the two daughters who married Ehresman brothers from Neuhausen.

Ehresmann entries are found in the Reformed church register at Dörmoshel as early as 1797.83 The children of Christian Ehresmann and Elisabeth Egle include:

1. KATHARINA EHRESMANN was born Aug. 8, 1807. She married Johann Jakob/Jacob Ehresman of Neuhausen.

2. MAGDALENAEHRESMANN was born Dec. 2, 1812. When she married, the Dörmoshel civil administration provided a document certifying her birth there as 'Madelaine Ehrensmann.'

In 1832 at Dörmoshel she married Jakob Nafziger. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg Sept. 10, 1802, and after 1818 lived on the Obergladbacherhof at Runkel (68 miles north of Neuhausen).

Jakob Nafziger was the youngest son of Peter Nafziger and his first wife Katharina Nafziger (they married at Hochheim in 1771). Katharina Nafziger was a younger sister to Valentine Nafziger. Valentine Nafziger and Magdalena Spring were the parents the family in NAHFZIGER. Magdalena Spring's mother's second husband was Jacob Stähli of Enkenbach. This chain of relationships suggests that the Nafziger/Nafziger of Hochheim and Fränkisch Crumbach, Ehresmann of Dörmoshel, Ehresman of Neuhausen, and Stähli of Enkenbach families were all represented in the Amish Mennonite congregation at Hochheim.

At Dörmoshel on Feb. 21, 1860 widow 'Magdalena Ehresmann Nafziger' obtained a document to emigrate to Rogersville, Ohio (now called Ragersville, Tuscarawas County, it is located just below the large Mennonite community at Sugar Creek). She later visited or relocated to Butler County.

3. JACOBINA EHRESMANN was born at Dörmoshel March 5, 1819; the civil birth entry called her 'Jacoline Ehresmann.' In 1854 at Dörmoshel she married Christian Amman, 31, a son of Christian Amman

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81 Elector Maximilian IV Joseph became Maximilian I of Bavaria Dec. 26, 1805. His troops fought as allies of France until 1813. See BIRKY/BIRKEY.
82 It is likely that her father was Christian Egle who died at Dörmoshel July 4, 1822 at age 73.
83 We found a death entry for Johannes Ehresmann, son of Jakob Ehresmann, dated March 20, 1797; and a birth entry for Jakobina Ehresmann, daughter of Jakob Ehresmann, dated Jan. 19, 1819. Jakob may have been a brother to the Christian who married Elisabeth Egle.
and Charlotte Fink of Schulhofen. The entry described her as a 34-year-old daughter of Christian Ehresmann and Elisabeth Egle and a resident of Dörrmoschel.

4. VERONIKA/VERONICA 'FANNY' EHRESMANN was born Sept. 14, 1821, and died at Edna Mills April 9, 1880. She married Johannes/John Ehresman of Neuhausen.

5. CHRISTIAN EHRESMANN was a twin to Veronika/Veronica 'Fanny' Ehresmann, born Sept. 14, 1821.

It is possible that Christian sailed from Le Havre on the newly-christened ship Ville de Lyon, arriving at New York Sept. 16, 1837.84

He settled at Trenton in Butler County. Trenton is a village bordered on north, east, and south by Madison, and on the west by St. Clair and Wayne; it was often counted in the Madison census.

On June 14, 1852 he married Maria Iutzi. She was born at Felsberg, Hesse circa 1827, and died in Butler County in 1906, a daughter of Christian Iutzi and Maria Sommer. Christian Iutzi will be recalled from STAKER as the wealthiest passenger on the 1832 voyage of the '100 Hessian Mennonites' (daughter Maria appears as a 5-year-old on the passenger list). He scouted land in Illinois, but returned to Butler County to purchase 195 improved acres of Madison for $25 per acre. He then built a substantial home, calling it the 'Mittelhof' after the European home he had left behind.

After the marriage Christian and Maria Iutzi continued to live at Trenton. As their family grew, they decided to build a bigger house in 1867. Christian died during construction of the new house. The first house was torn down in the 1980s; the second house is still standing.

Gospel Herald, November 1867: "On the 27th of September, near Trenton, Butler Co., Ohio, Christian Ehrisman, aged 46 years and 14 days. Funeral sermon was preached by Jos. Augspurger from 1 Thess. 4:13-14, in the German language and by West from Acts 8:2 in English. J. A. S."

The household is found on the 1870 census of Madison as Maria Eheresman, 48, Hesse-Darmstadt; Otto, 16, Ohio; Jacobina, 14, Ohio; Bertha, 12, Ohio; Maria, 10, Ohio; Louisa, 4, Ohio; Maria's sister Elisabeth Iutzi, 44, Hesse-Darmstadt; and farm laborer Christian Iutzi, 63, Hesse-Darmstadt. In 1880 they appear at the same location as Mary Ehresman, 52, Hesse; Otto, 26, Ohio; Bertha, 22, Ohio; Maria, 20, Ohio; Louisa, 14, Ohio; Elizabeth Iutzi, 54, Hesse; and Jos. Saltzman, 18, Ohio.

The children of Christian Ehresmann and Maria Iutzi born at Madison include:

a. Otto Iutzi Ehresman was born on the Iutzi farm Feb. 4, 1854, and died in 1933. He was only 13 at the time of his father's death, but farmed the acreage behind the Trenton house with the help of his Mennonite neighbors.

b. Jacobina 'Bina' Ehresman was born Aug. 16, 1855, and died in 1941; she is buried in Mound Cemetery at Monroe as 'Bina Ehresman.' On May 30, 1878 at Monroe she married William Bender Jotter. He was born in Butler County Aug. 8, 1847, and died in 1924, a son of Peter Jotter and Marie Bender. He and his parents are

84 The passenger list of the hapless Old Line sailing packet ship Ville de Lyon contains entries for Christ Ehresmann, 16, and Noh Erasmann, 24 [possibly meant to be Joh. or Johannes]. She was christened at New York in 1837. On her maiden voyage she was struck twice by lightning. Two years later, she lost her masts in mid-Atlantic and put into Bermuda for three months before delivering Le Havre immigrants to New York. She was struck by lightning again in 1841. In 1845 she ran aground on rocks one day out of Le Havre and never sailed again.

It is also possible that Christian was a passenger on the brig Venus. That ship sailed from Bremen and arrived at New York Oct. 31, 1838. The passenger list has entries for Christian Ehresmann, 18, and Joh. Ehresmann, 45. Their destination was stated to be Hamilton (the county seat of Butler County, Ohio).85

85 The surnames Deuscher and Teuscher are both found in Bern. Henry P. Deuscher was born in 1829, and died in 1903. He was a native of Wessingen, Baden. His parents Michael Deuscher and Christiana Scheurer brought their four children to New York in 1832. Memoirs of the Miami Valley says they spent a year there, and another in Lancaster County, before resettling in Butler County in 1834, while A History and Biographical Cyclopedia of Butler County says they spent four years in Lancaster County, and arrived in Butler County in 1836. Henry recruited Company G, 83rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served as a captain for eight months during the Civil War. He went from being a butcher to owning a malthouse and two distilleries, then purchased a foundry to produce farm equipment. It was destroyed by fire in 1910, but was rebuilt and remained active until 1990.

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also buried in Mound Cemetery. Bina and William can be found on the 1880 census of Monroe as wagon maker William B. Jotter, 32, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from Hesse; Jacobina, 24, born in Ohio to a father from Württemberg and a mother from Hesse; and Ernst, 1, born in Ohio. Their farmstead in the northeast corner of Section 17, Monroe still exists.

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

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

5. Emelia/Amelia Ehresman was born in 1863, and died in 1937.

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

In addition, one relative is known to have lived his entire life at Dörrmoschel. He does not appear on a birth entry, his age is unknown, and he cannot be linked to Christian Ehresman and Elizabeth Egli by documentation. He may have been a brother or son to Christian.

JAKOB EHRESMANN

Jakob Ehresmann married Jakobina Eyer. We found death entries for their young children at Dörrmoschel from 1842 (4-year-old Daniel), 1845 (8-year-old Barbara), and possibly 1865 (6-year-old Otto).

In the 1840s Jakob Ehresmann of Dörrmoschel and Daniel Schönbeck of the nearby Ingweilerhof estate at Reipoltskirchen were ministers serving a wide area. They rented a hall at Eselsfurt (a suburb on the northeast corner of Kaiserslautern) where services were held every three weeks. When elder Johannes Maurer of Mehlingen became infirm in 1849, Jakob assumed his duties, serving all the scattered farms north of Kaiserslautern until 1859. By then his entire congregation was reduced to approximately 50 heads of family.

Catherine Ehresmann

Catherine Ehresmann was born circa 1788, and died in Butler County, Ohio Sept. 4, 1870. It is likely that she was a sister to Christian Ehresmann who married Elisabeth Egle.

On Nov. 24, 1811 at Dörrmoschel Catherine married widower Josef Imhof. He was born on the Aschbacherhof farm (20 miles south of Dörrmoschel, and four miles south of Kaiserslautern) circa 1768, a son of Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Rocke/Roggy.

At the time of their marriage Josef was living on the Espersteigerhof farm adjacent to the Aschbacherhof. His first wife and a newborn son had recently died, leaving him with two young daughters and a son.

Catherine Ehresmann and Josef Imhof had three known children:

1. Joseph Imhof was born on the Espersteigerhof Dec. 23, 1812.
2. Jacob Imhof was born on the Espersteigerhof Jan. 16, 1814.
3. Peter Imhof was born at Dörrmoschel Sept. 16, 1819, according to his obituary, though no entry is found there. He is often found as 'Peter Imhoff,' reflecting Hessian spelling rules — by doubling the consonant, the vowel sound is shortened.

86 Elder Johannes Maurer's nephew Jacob Maurer immigrated in 1855. See MAUER.
87 Joseph Imhof’s first wife Magdalena Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg after 1770, a daughter of Johannes Kinsinger and Maria Magdalena Schwarzentruben. They had four known children: 1) Johannes Imhoff is only known as a beneficiary on the will of his grandparents probated at Weisenheim am Berg in 1818. 2) Katharina Imhof was born circa 1800, and died on the Wilensteinerhof in 1824; her cousin Jost Engel signed the death entry. 3) Susannah Imhof was born circa 1803. In 1825 she was living on the Wilensteinerhof where she married Christian Rocke/Roggy, 29, born at Hofstätten, living on the Antonihof farm at Trippstadt, a son of Kaspar Rocke/Roggy, 55, and Veronika Habecker. 4) Joseph Imhof was born on the Espersteigerhof farm Oct. 28 or 29, 1810, and died before 1818.
88 The Espersteigerhof farm is now the village of Espersteig. The birth entries were created at Hoheneck, the village adjacent to the Espersteigerhof. Because both locations were within the administrative district of Kaiserslautern, copies of the entries can be found on FHIL microfilms for that city.

The Aschbacherhof is still a working farm. It was leased in 1765, after the Imhofs were already living on the nearby Wilensteinerhof at Trippstadt. The Wilensteinerhof was made up from 17 acres of the grounds of a ruined castle that has now been partially restored. It had been continuously occupied by Anabaptists since 1688, and is now a horse farm. The smaller Trippstadt farms Antonihof and Langensohl were also tenanted by Imhofs and are also still active.
Johann Friedrich Imhof died, and Catherine remarried to widower Johannes Güngrich. He was born circa 1789. He had a daughter Barbara Güngerich born circa 1810 who became Catherine’s step daughter. Catherine Ehresmann and her second husband Johannes Güngrich had one child:

4. Johannes Güngrich (later known as John Gingrich) was born at Sippersfeld (near Breunigweiler) March 1, 1824. He married his fourth cousin Catherine 'Katie' Ehresman (1834-1903), as noted earlier.

Sons Jacob and Peter sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship Rhone and arrived at New York June 17, 1839. The passenger list shows Jacob Imhof, 24, and Peter Imhof, 23. The passenger list also shows Christ Zear [Zehr], 26, Bavaria (see ZEHR); and Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller with their family (see ZIMMERMAN).

Johannes the father presumably died before 1841. In that year Catherine, her stepdaughter Barbara, and son Johannes (later ‘John Gingrich’) followed the two sons to America.

Peter Imhof arrived in Butler County with a number of family connections that his half-brother John Gingrich did not share. His father Josef Imhof’s first wife had been Magdalena Kinsinger of Weisenheim am Berg. The older sister of Josef – Veronika Imhof – and the older brother of Magdalena Kinsinger – Johannes Kinsinger – were also married. Their children, who were Peter’s cousins, made a number of marriages with the Augspurger family in Butler County. Jacob Kinsinger (born in 1792) married a sister of Christian Augspurger. Samuel Kinsinger (born in 1799) and Joseph Kinsinger (born in 1801) married his daughters.

Peter became a member of the conservative Augspurger congregation. On July 12, 1842 he married Catherine Augspurger (1821-1901). She was a daughter of elder Jacob Augspurger and his second wife Maria Schlabach. They lived next door to Catherine’s older brother, minister Nicholas Augspurger.89

Their household is found on the 1850 census of Madison as laborer Peter Emhoff, 31, Germany; Catharine, 29, Ohio; Jacob, 6, Ohio; Mary, 5, Ohio; Peter, 2, Ohio; Barbara Emhoff [Peter’s step sister], 33, Germany; and Catharine Emhoff, 53, Germany [note that her age is off by a decade]. Next door in the household of Nicholas Augspurger was ‘John Kingery.’ 26, Germany, who may have been Johannes Güngrich/John Gingrich. In 1860 the Madison census shows them as farmer Peter Imhof, 42, Germany; Catharina [Augspurger], 40, Ohio; six children born in Ohio; Barbara Gingrich [Peter’s step sister], 50, Germany; and Catherine Imhof, 72, Germany.

Peter was ordained as a minister in 1861, then chosen as elder/bishop in 1870. According to W. H. Grubb, "He was a strong preacher, and a man with liberal views. It was one of his fond hopes that the two congregations [Hessian/liberal and Augspurger/conservative divided since 1835] be united as one, which occurred in less than a year after his death."90

On the 1870 census of Madison, Peter Imhof still lived next door to minister Nicholas Augspurger: farmer Peter Imhof, 50, Prussia; Catharin, 48, Ohio; eight children born in Ohio; and Catharine, 82, France. In 1880 Peter’s birthplace is given as Bavaria, and his next door neighbor is Maria [Iutz] Ehresman, the widow of Christian Ehresman (1821-1867).

Peter and Catherine are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton. Herald of Truth, April 1897: "Pre. Peter Imhoff was born on the 16th of September 1819 in Darmusche, Palatine, Germany. In 1840[1839] he came to America, settling in Butler Co., Ohio, where he has since resided a period of 57 years. On the 12th of July 1842 he was united in wedlock to Sister Catharine Augspurger. Of their nine children all but one survive and these were buried at their father’s bedside, to receive his last words of advice and blessing. As he felt the end drawing near he asked for his Bible that he might once more read with his beloved ones the 8th chapter of Romans. But his eyes were already becoming fixed in death, so that he could no longer see to read, so, giving the book to one of his sons, he said, "Read to us this beautiful chapter.” Bro. Imhoff was ordained to the ministry in 1861, and ten years later to the office of an elder or bishop. He was a faithful, conscientious worker, and served his fellow-men as God gave him grace and strength. He preached his last sermon on Feb. 28th, when he was already failing in health. During his pastorate he united 14 couples in wedlock, and received 53 persons into church membership by baptism. His last illness was of short duration, and he calmly fell asleep in Jesus at the age of 77 years and 6 months. The funeral occurred on the 18th, and was very largely attended. Pre. Helle of the Lutheran church, M. Kinsinger of Washington, Ill., who was an intimate friend of the family, J. Mehl of Goshen, Ind., and H.J. Krebbiel of Trenton, Ohio conducted the services. Text 1 John 2:25–28, the parting words of the deceased to his family and

89 Nicholas Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 11, 1811, and died April 8, 1872. He was the son of elder Jacob Augspurger (1786-1846) and his second wife Maria Schlabach (1800-1856). Jacob was a second cousin to Christian Augspurger. Nicholas came to America with Christian Augspurger’s extended group in 1819. On March 6, 1835 he married Magdalena ‘Lena’ Gauitsche, who was born March 6, 1817, came to America in 1817, and died Oct. 19, 1884. Nicholas was ordained to the ministry in 1847. They are buried in the Augspurger Cemetery in Trenton.

90 The story of the ‘button’ and ‘hook-and-eye’ division of 1835 is told in STAKER.
congregation. An infidel who knew the deceased for many years gave this testimony of him, 'He is a good Christian. He will live long in the memory.'

**A Speculative Family Tree**

The father of the Neuhausen family was Jakob Johannes Ehresman. He married Barbara Fischer, a daughter of Jakob Fischer and Anna Maria Oesch of Hochheim. In *Both Sides of the Ocean*, J. Virgil Miller further identifies his parents as Jakob Ehresman, born on the Mechtsheimerhof circa 1760, and Barbara Höffli. We can speculate that Jakob (husband of Barbara Höffli) was a son of minister Christian Ehrißmann of the Mechtsheimerhof, the brother who was moving to the northwest to serve numerous congregations.

Because we know that the children at Neuhausen and the children at Dörrmoschel were second cousins, we can also assume that the grandfather of Christian Ehresman at Dörrmoschel was the minister Christian Ehrißmann.

**BÄRBELSTEINERHOF AT ERLENBACH BEI DAHN**

*Der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann, born before 1676*  

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<th>MECHTERSHEIMERHOF</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Der jünge Johannes 'Hans' Jakob</em> (b. before 1722)<em>91</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian (b. before 1754)<em>93</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Jotter</td>
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<td>WIMSHEIM</td>
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<td>Christian</td>
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<th>NEUHAUSEN</th>
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<td>Jakob Johannes (b. circa 1785)</td>
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<th>DÖRRMOSCHEL</th>
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<td>Christian</td>
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<td>Elisabeth Egle [Egli]</td>
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<th>INDIANA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Johann Jakob (b. 1806) — Katharina (b. 1807)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannes/John (b. 1812) — Veronica 'Fanny' (b. 1821)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHIO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian (b. 1821)</td>
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The locations are not necessarily places of birth, but places associated with the individuals.

Christian Ehresman of Montgomery, Woodford County had a different great-grandfather than his contemporaries in the Ohio and Indiana families (minister Christian's brother *der Jünge Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrißmann*), but shared the same great-great-grandfather, *der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrißmann*. He was a third cousin to the contemporary children of the Neuhausen and Dörrmoschel families.

However, the Illinois and Indiana families crossed again in later generations. The families have even connected as in-laws. Christian Salzman was born in 1811, and Marie Imhof in 1806. They married in Butler County, Ohio in 1837, and settled on a farm in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

- Son John H. Salzman married Magdalena Strubhar, a daughter of Valentine Strubhar and Barbara Guingrich of Montgomery, becoming an in-law to the Illinois Ehresmans (youngest son Jacob Ehresman was married to Magdalena’s sister Elizabeth Strubhar).
- Daughter Mary Salzman married Christian Ehresman of the Indiana family.

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91 The estimated birth date assumes that he would have assumed a lease at age 21 or older, and the standard length was 9 years.

92 He is found as a leaseholder in 1743. He would have been at least 21 at the time.

93 Assuming he was 21 years or older at the birth of his son.
Erismann in Bureau County

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

In some instances we found their information entangled with two nearby families that had Amish Mennonite backgrounds.

Our research on these families was limited. Mennonite records for Hesse and Waldeck are rare. We could not identify a connection with our speculative family tree leading back to the Bärbelsteinerhof, though one may exist. There is an obvious connection (via the Stähl family) between the family in Bureau County and that family at Neuhausen. It is also likely that the Bureau County Erismans and McLean County Erisms came from the same location and possibly the same family.

The hamlet of Gershäusern was located below Braunau in Waldeck, Germany; it is now part of that community. They are situated in the Edertal, a valley surrounding the Edersee reservoir. According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, Johannes Ehrismann died at the hamlet Gershäusern Jan. 5, 1810. He had been the leaseholder on the Gershäuser Hof. His widow died there in 1814. Other families at Gershäusern included Schwarzentubers, Jüngerichs [Güngerich], Schlabachs, and Kempfs.

Johannes and his widow were the probable parents of Johannes Ehrismann, born at the Gershäuser Hof Jan. 21, 1804, and moved with his parents to Schrecksbach. Peter Ehrismann was born at the Gershäuser Mühle Jan. 21, 1804, and moved with his parents to Schrecksbach.

Peter married Magdalena Stähly. She was born on the Obertrais estate at Frankisch Crumbach, Hesse Sept. 5, 1806. She was a daughter of Jakob Stähly (born at Enkenbach, the same person who was involved with the Nafziger family of Hochheim) and his second wife Elisabeth Brenneman. She was also a cousin to Heinrich Stähly/Henry Stahly, who married Maria Magdalena Ehresman of the Neuhausen family.

STÄHLI/STÄHLY/STAHLY

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

Magdalena's father Jakob Stähly [Stähli] was born at Enkenbach in the Palatinate July 25, 1752, and died on the Obertrais estate in Fränkisch-Crumbach July 26, 1822. He first married Elisabeth, the widow of Johannes Spring. This made him step-grandfather to the children described in NAFZIGER. He later remarried to the much younger Elisabeth Brenneman, who was born Dec. 9, 1776, and died on the Albacherhof May 3, 1851, a daughter of Nikolaus Brenneman and his second wife Magdalena Unzicker (see BRENNEKMAN). They may have assumed the lease at Obertrais, where they had five children 1805-1815.

Magdalena's older sister Barbara was born in 1805, and died in 1898. She married Johann Christian Nafziger. He was born at Uberau, Hesse in 1803, and died at Danvers March 8, 1893, a son of Peter Nafziger and Jakobina Fischer (a

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94 A dam constructed 1908-14 blocks the Eder River. The Edersee reservoir raised the water level over several villages where Amish Mennonites once leased farms, such as Berich. The dam was bombed May 17, 1943, releasing a 20-foot wave through the Edertal (inspiration for the movie *The Dam Busters*). It was rebuilt within months.

95 The Gershäuser Hof below Braunau, and the one-time hamlet of Gershäusern, are easy to confuse with Gershausen below Kirchheim, which is about 35 miles to the southeast.

According to Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, there are entries for the Gershäuser Hof kept in parish records at Braunau. The parish records are not found in the FHL microfilm system, so we could not verify them. It is possible that additional information would be found in the *Ortsippenbuch* (family lineage book) of Braunau, held by the Family History Library at Salt Lake City (943 B4do ser. Av. 219).

96 Guth identifies another son of this couple as Jakob Ehrismann, born at the mill at Gershäusern Sept. 14, 1811, who later went to Schrecksbach and is thought to have gone to America.
daughter of Christian Fischer of the Liebenauhof at Hochheim). They sailed from Le Havre on the Empire and arrived at New York Nov. 19, 1853. The passenger list shows them as Christian Nafziger, 50, Barbara, 48, and eight children traveling from Hesse to New York. The 1880 census has them as Christian Nafziger, 76, Hesse-Darmstadt; and Barbara, 74, Hesse-Darmstadt. Herald of Truth, April 1893: "On the 8th of March, 1893, near Danvers, Ill., Christian Nafziger, aged 90 years, 1 month and 19 days. He was born in Hesse Darmstadt, where he grew up and was married to Barbara Staehly. They settled in America in 1853. He was a minister in the Mennonite church and labored as long as his bodily strength permitted. Of his 12 children seven - and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren - survive him. Appropriate remarks were made at the funeral by John Kinsinger, Chr. Gingerich and John Gingerich from Psa. 90 and 1 Cor. 15:45-55." Magdalena's younger brother Peter was born circa 1812. He married Catherine Gingerich. She was born Feb. 12, 1813, and died in December 1892, a daughter of John P. Gingerich (as he was known in Iowa) and Fredricka Schlabach.

Peter and Magdalena sailed from Bremen on the Janet Ridston and arrived at New York June 24, 1852.97 The passenger lists describes them as Peter Erizman, 48; Magdalena, 46; Catrin [Katharina], 17; Jacob, 16; Elisabeth, 14; Anna, 14 [we cannot account for her after this voyage]; Frederick [Fredricka], 12 [mistakenly indicated to be a male]; Elen [Helen], 9; Christiana, 7 [mistakenly indicated to be a female]; Wm. Erisman, 5; and Maria, 3.

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

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

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

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

Peter Erismann died before 1880. As a widow, Magdalena is found on the 1880 census of Bureau: Magdalena Erismann, 73, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to German parents; Kate, 45, born in Germany to German parents; William, 33, born in Kurhessen to a father from Kurhessen and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary, 31, born in Kurhessen to a father from Kurhessen and a mother from Hesse-Darmstadt; and farm laborer Thomas Grubb, 20, born in Pennsylvania to parents form Pennsylvania. Their next door neighbors included John Schwarzentraub, 59, born in Hesse-Darmstadt and his family; J.E. Schwarzentraub, 26, and his wife Emma; John Naffziger, 54, and his family; Nicholas P. Roggy, 30, and his family; and Joseph Engle [Engel], 75, and his wife Kate.98

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

- 'Jacob Erissman' appears on the Janet Ridston passenger list. However, his family appears apart from Peter's. His age, 29, was obviously altered with a superimposed number to become 24. He traveled with Barbara, 29, and Wm., 9.
- Katharina 'Kate' appears on the Janet Ridston passenger list and the 1880 census of Bureau as someone born circa 1835. She was living at Princeton in 1911, when she was mentioned in Fredricka's will as a sister.

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97 The same voyage brought Daniel Schwarzentraub who later lived at Morton (see SCHWARZENTRAUB). Another name on the list is Daniel Gingerich, age 20. This may be the individual who appears on the 1880 census of El Paso, Woodford County as saloon keeper Dan Gingrich, 48, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt.

98 This was the Johannes/John Schwarzentraub born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1820, who lived at Turtle Creek, Ohio for many years. He is mentioned in SCHWARZENTRAUB. Joseph Engel and his wife Catherine 'Kate' Roggy can be found in ENGEL.

Nicholas P. Roggy was Catherine's nephew. John Naffziger, 54, was Johannes Nafziger, who was born on the Illbacherhof estate at Reinheim March 25, 1826, and died in 1899, a son of Valentin Nafziger and Elisabeth Imnof. He immigrated in 1849. John's wife Eliza, 53, was Elise Bender. She was born on the Schmitthof in Hesse-Darmstadt Sept. 26, 1826, came to America with the '100 Hessian Mennonite' voyage of 1832, and died Nov. 9, 1908, a daughter of Johannes Bender and Marie Brenneman (see BRENNEMAN).
2. Jacob Erismann was born March 31, 1836. On June 23, 1869 in Tazewell County he married Anna Elizabeth Jantzi. She was born June 25, 1844, and died at Hickman, Nebraska Dec. 28, 1928, a daughter of Michael Jantzi and his second wife Catherine Nafziger. In 1867 Jacob was listed as a qualified voter in Brownsville District, Nemaha County, Nebraska. In 1900 and 1911 he was living at Hickman.

3. Elisabeth/Elise/Eliza Erismann was born at Schreckensbach January or June 23, 1838, and died before 1911. On June 5, 1858 in McLean County she married Joseph Brenneman. He was born at Turtle Creek, Ohio May 7, 1833, and died July 9, 1914, a son of Daniel Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi (see BRENNEMAN). They can be found on the 1860 census of Boynton living next door to his parents: Jos. Brenneman, 26; Ohio; Eliza, 22, Germany; and Adelia, 1, Illinois. They sold their farm in Tazewell County in 1883, and then farmed at Lincoln, Nebraska; Hubbell, Nebraska; and finally Republic County, Kansas.

4. Anna Erismann appears as a 14-year-old (like her sister Elisabeth) on the Janet Ridston passenger list.

5. Fredricka/Fredericka Erismann was born circa 1840, and died at Princeton, Bureau County in March 1911. On Feb. 7, 1864 in McLean County she married Christian Naffziger. Her household is found on the 1880 census of Princeton as Fredricka Naffziger, 40, born in Prussia to Prussian parents; and daughter Minnie, 15, born in Illinois to Prussian parents. Her will said that all three of her children had died before 1911. At the time of her death she owned land in Livingston and McLean Counties as well as her home at Princeton.

6. Helen Erismann was born circa 1843. She married August Naffziger, who was born circa 1838. The 1880 census of Mackinaw shows their household as August Naffziger, 42; Prussia; Helen, 37, Hesse-Cassel; Alvin, 7, Illinois; Herbert, 5, Illinois; Augusta, 19, Illinois, and father Jacob Naffziger, 83, born in Prussia to parents from Prussia and Hesse-Cassel. They appear on the 1910 census of Albion, Republic County, Kansas as August Naffziger, 73, Germany; Helen, 67, Germany; and three grown children born in Illinois. August reported that he had come to America in 1853, and Helen in 1852. Fredricka's 1911 will said that her sister Helen was living at Narka, Republic County, Kansas.

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

8. Marie/Mary Erismann was born circa 1849.

### Ehrisman in McLean County

**Christian Erisman** was born at Edertal (the valley that now surrounds eastern end of the Edersee reservoir), Waldeck Nov. 14, 1819, and died at Allin, McLean County March 14, 1870. He may have been a younger brother to Peter of Bureau County.

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

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

On Aug. 30, 1872 at Stanford Barbara remarried to Jacob Erisman. He was born at Wetzlar, Hesse (10 miles west of Giessen, 50 miles below Edertal) May 26, 1828, and died Sept. 14, 1898.

Their household appears on the 1880 census of Allin as farmer Jacob Erisman, 52, born in Germany to German parents; Barbry, 43, born in Ohio to German parents; stepson Henry, 19, Illinois; stepdaughter Elisabeth, 16, Illinois; stepdaughter Catharine, 14, Illinois; and stepson Christian, 12, Illinois. Barbara is found as a 67-year-old landlord living with her son Henry on the 1900 census of Allin.

Barbara Donner, her first husband Christian Erisman, and her second husband Jacob Erisman are all buried in Brooks Grove Cemetery at Stanford.

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99 She is listed as Anna Jensen in the *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*.
100 The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists him as Christian Erissman.
101 The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Jacob Earsman and Barbara Earsman.
The children of Christian Erisman and Barbara Donner born at Stanford include:

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


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

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


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

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

102 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as John Errismann and Eliza Christiane Bauer.
Hochstettler of Winterkraut

Hösttler, Hostettler, Hochstetler, Hochstätter. There are two viable explanations of the origins of this name. The first is that Hostettler is the original Swiss form, though it is now more commonly found there as ‘Hostetter.’ Those who favor this explanation also infer that the spelling ‘Hochstettler’ was associated with descendants who lived in Germany. The second explanation, offered by genealogist Delbert Gratz, is that ‘Hochstettler’ describes a ‘high town’ in the Bernese dialect, and was associated with the village of Hochstetten. A number of variations appear in 18th and 19th century records.

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

Peter’s great-great-great grandfather, Anabaptist minister Jakob/Jacob Hochstetler, was born at Winterkraut near Guggisberg, Bern (21 miles west of Steffisburg) about 1666. He fled from prison in 1698. In 1709 he was living in Echery. In 1711 he purchased a farm next to Jacob Amman at La Petite Lièpvre (according to a census found by Erwin Hochstättler).

A Thun court document from 1720 describes how ‘Jacob Hostettler’ of Winterkraut had secretly returned from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to assist the emigration of several women who had been left behind. He was arrested and exiled again.

Jakob's wife could not be identified. Their children include: 103

1. Elisabeth Hostetler was born near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1706. She married Michael/Michel Blank, who was baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687, and died near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 24, 1755, a son of Niclaus Blank and Barbara Im Hoof. He came to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines before 1697. (See PLANK).

2. Jacob Hochstetter was born near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1712 (the date indicated by his immigration passenger list), and died at Bernville, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in February 1776.

3. Johannes Hostetler, Hochstädtler or Hochstetler was born in 1710 or 1714, presumably at La Petite Lièpvre, and died before 1769.

4. Verena Hostetler was born circa 1716, and died single at the age of 25 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 20, 1741, after an illness of 14 weeks. Her death entry identifies her as ‘Vrena Hochstettlerin,’ and mentions that she had been living with brother-in-law Michel Blank. She was buried at Fertrupt [Ger. Forbach] near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

JACOB HOSTETLER

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

Jacob Hochstette was born near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1712 (the date indicated by his immigration passenger list), and died at Bernville, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in February 1776.

He married an Anna. A number of genealogists looking at land entries and other indirect evidence have concluded that she was a Bürki/Berkey.

They emigrated from Europe on the Charming Nancy, traveling from Rotterdam to Cowes to Philadelphia and arriving there Nov. 9, 1738. 104 In 1739 they obtained a warrant for 58 acres in Upper Bern, Berks County (now about two miles northwest of Shartlesville near Reading). At that time it was still an unsettled part of the frontier.

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

103 Peter/Pierre Hostetler migrated from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to Breisach am Rhein, Baden in 1730. A list of the possessions he took with him was included in a tax report. He may belong in this family.

104 This Jacob is often confused with another who arrived two years earlier. When The Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler, the immigrant of 1736 was published by descendant Harvey Hochstetler in 1912, he believed that the Amish Mennonite Jacob had arrived at Philadelphia on the Harle Sept. 1, 1736. A number of false assumptions sprang from this. Genealogists looked at the Harle passenger list, and concluded that he was married to a Miss Lorenz. There was also confusion over land warrants and ages. The Jacob Hochstettler/Hochstadtler/Hofstedler who arrived on the Harle was not Amish Mennonite. He was born July 25, 1701, and died in Lancaster County circa 1750. He married Maria Eva Trautmann. They belonged to the Muddy Creek Church, a Lutheran and Reformed congregation at Cocalico Township.
They waited out the attack overnight in the root cellar, though guns and ammunition were on hand. But in the early morning the cabin was set afire. Son John, who lived nearby, witnessed events from a distance. Anna and two of her children were killed and scalped (possibly as retribution; apparently Anna had denied them food earlier). Father Jacob and two of his sons were taken prisoner.

Jacob escaped in the spring. A military report of his return is dated May 29, 1758. He petitioned the governor to request the release of his sons Aug. 13, 1762. Joseph came home on his own in 1763 or 1764. Christian returned in the summer of 1765.

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

Jacob and Anna's children include:

a. John Hochstetler was born in 1730, and died April 11, 1805. He married Catherine Hertzler. She was born in 1731, and died in 1800, a daughter of elder Jacob Hertzler and his second wife Catherine Roggy. They moved to Summit Mills, Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1784. After her death John remarried to Anna Christner, the widow of Ulrich 'Uli' Schrock, who was born in Canton Bern circa 1740 and died in Somerset County in 1795. She was born in Canton Bern in 1745, and died April 7, 1824, a daughter of Christian Christner and Barbara Büchhardt. John, Catherine, and Anna are buried in the Old Joel Hershberger Farm Cemetery at Elk Lick, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

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

c. Jacob Hochstetler was born in 1734, and died in the 'Hochstetler Massacre' of 1757.

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

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

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

**JOHANNES HOSTETLER, HOCHSTÄTTLER OR HOCHSTETTLER**

*Johannes Hostetler, Hochstättler or Hochstettler* was born in 1710 or 1714, presumably at La Petite Lièpvre, and died before 1769.


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

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

The children of Johannes Hochstetler and Anna Wagler include:

1. Johann/Johannes/Jean Hochstettler married Christina Wittmer. He served as a minister and worked in Katzenwangen Mill (Ger. *Katzenwangenbrückenmühle*) at Bennwir, then relocated to Ostim, Upper Alsace (Bennwir and Ostheim are only three miles below Muesbach, the birth place of Anna Wagler). It is possible that his mentor was minister Jean/ Johannes Roggy. Roggy represented the Strasbourg congregation at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759. His sons Christian and Johannes (who married a daughter of Johannes/Jean and Christina) were operators of Katzenwangen Mill. The children of Johannes/Jean Hochstettler and Christina Wittmer include:
a. Johannes/Jean Hochstettler was born in 1760, and died at Ostheim March 19, 1789. His death entry called him ‘Joannes Hochstettler annabaptista’; witnesses were Melchior Reiss and Johannes Reiss. He married Elisabeth Ldviller. She was born at Schupholz, Baden circa 1762, and died at Ostheim Dec. 18, 1818, a daughter of Christian Leutweiler and Elisabeth Wagner (see LITWILLER). On April 10, 1793 at Ostheim she remarried to Conrad Schweitzer. He was born at Bad Bergzabern (near Mülhofen) in the Palatinate Aug. 2, 1767, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace May 24, 1827, a son of Conrad Schweitzer and Madeleine Eyer.

b. Barbara Hochstettler was born circa 1761, and died at Katzenwangen Mill April 18, 1794.

c. Christian Hochstettler was born at Katzenwangen Mill in 1763, and died at Pfaffenheim Mill at Ostheim Oct. 11, 1841. He married Barbe Rogi/Roggy. She was born at Pfaffenheim, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Rogi/Roggy and Sara Dettweiler. Christian and Barbe were farming near Katzenwangen Mill in 1788. Christian lived with a son at Eckbolsheim in 1809. They were known to have 10 children, six dying at an early age, and three married. Their children include:
1) Jean Hochstettler was born at Bennisr July 3, 1788 (the entry was signed by his father).
2) Christian Hochstettler's birth was recorded at Bennwihr July 29, 1790.
3) Barbe Hochstettler was born at Ostheim Jan. 24, 1796. On Jan. 18, 1820 at Ostheim she married Jean Roggy. He was born on the Waderhof between Lorentzen and Diemeringen, Moselle April 7, 1797 and died at Pfaffenheim Mill April 3, 1861, a son of Valentin Roggy and Barbara Schertz (see ROGGY).

c. Anna Maria Hochstettler was born circa 1766, and died at Katzenwangen Mill April 18, 1794. She married operator Johannes Rogi/Roggy of Katzenwangen Mill. He was born circa 1759.

2. Chrétien/Christian Hochstettler was born circa 1738, and died on the Ingelshof (also called the Engelschhof or Höllenhof) at Gumbrechtshoffen, Lower Alsace Feb. 4, 1811. His civil death entry created at Gumbrechtshoffen described him as Chrétien Hoffstetter, a 73-year-old cultivator who was born at "Markirch thal dis Wingart." It was witnessed by his son-in-law Chrétien Nafziger. 44. This may have described a Wingart farm at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, or simply be a garbled interpretation of Weinberg, the German name for Ste. Clément peak. He married Barbara/Barbe Nafziger in 1766. Very little is known about her, but it is possible that she was the sister of his second wife. When she died on the Lauterbachterhof, Christian remarried to Magdalena/Madeleine Nafigzer, who was born in 1738. She was a daughter of Christian Nafigzer, the leaseholder of the nearby Steinbachterhof farm held at Durstel. This made Christian Hochstettler the brother-in-law of elder Christian Engel (Christian Engel's first wife had been Katharina/Catherine Nafigzer, a sister to Magdalena/Madeleine; see ENGEL). Christian Hochstettler held leases on the Ingelshof and the Lauterbachterhof at various times. His children include:

a. Christian Hochstettler was born on the Ingelshof Dec. 15, 1773 to Barbe Nafigzer. He first married Katharina Habecker, who died on the Herfingerhof near Dreisen Feb. 12, 1812. On May 17, 1814 at Nehwillerhe remarried to Barbara Unzicker. Witnesses on their civil marriage entry include Christian's brother-in-law farmer Chrétien Nafigzer, 48, of Gumbrechtshoffen; farmer Chrétien Habecker, 25, of the Katzentalerhof estate at Lembach; and laborer George Holli, 49, of Nehwiller. Barbara was born at Nehwiller June 17, 1787, a daughter of Nehwiller mayor Joseph Unzicker and Barbara Holly (the entry calls him ‘Chrétien Hochstaedter’). After marriage they resettled to Stepperg, Bavaria.

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

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

d. Magdalena Hochstettler was born in 1778. She married Johannes/Jean Ringenberg at Reichshoffen Feb. 14, 1796. He was the son of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel of LaForge Mill below Imling, Moselle. Elder Christian Engel attended this wedding as a cousin of the groom and uncle of the bride (see ENGEL). The couple later lived at Bébing, Moselle.

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

4. Anna Hochstettler was born at Le Climont circa 1744. She may have lived with her brother Isaac while he leased the Bärbelsteinterhof near Niederschlettenbach (six miles north of the border between the Palatinate and Lower Alsace). In 1769 she applied to the Catholic clergy at nearby Gossersweiler for permission to marry Joseph Stettleman. Stettelman had been a laborer on the Bärbelsteinterhof. A marriage entry at Niederschlettenbach says that she was born at Weinberg, a daughter of Johannis Hochstätler and Anna Wagler; and that she was baptized as a 13-year-old at Asswiller in 1757.

5. Elisabeth Hochstettler was born at Le Climont circa 1745, and died at Neuenkirch-lès-Sarreguemines, Moselle March 6, 1800. According to J. Virgil Miller in Both Sides of the Ocean, the parish book of Königsbach, Baden-Durlach holds an entry for the birth of a child Johannes to Christian Kempf, Anabaptist, and Elisabeth Hochstadlerin
dated Jan. 16, 1766. The entry stated that the father was farming at Johannisthal, and the child had been born on the Neumatt estate at Diemeringen. A census of the Offerdeng estate at Gros-Réderching, Moselle taken in 1780 shows Christian Kempf, 52; Elisabeth Hochstetter, 44; Christian Kempf, 24; and other children. Christian Kempf died at Willerwald, Moselle (near Sarrel) Jan. 28, 1811.

6. Maria Anna Hochstetter was born at Le Climont in 1746, and died as a six-month-old. An entry created for Catholic burial records at Villé Jan. 15, 1747 stated that an Anabaptist child had died at Weinberg (Le Climont): "...Mortua est Maria anna Joannis Hochstetter et Anna Wagiere Annabaptistarum in Weinberg filia et infantia." It was witnessed by "...Christiani Eber [Ebele?] anabaptists in Weinburg et JacoboLorsch [Jacob Lörtscher] Anabaptista ibidem..."

Barbara/Barbe Hochstetter born circa 1748 may belong here. She was the wife of minister Hans Rupp, also known as 'Jean Ropp.' They were the parents of Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Illinois family (see ROPP). We could not follow Barbe after the birth of a child at Falkwiller (now in Upper Alsace) circa 1785. Hans was living in the flour mill Mattenmühle at Sigolsheim about 15 miles southeast of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines when he died Nov. 26, 1788; Barbe is not mentioned on his death entry. Johannes/Jean, who would have been Barbara/Barbe's oldest brother, performed Jean Ropp's burial service at Bennewir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more on the de Dietrich family, see JORDI.

106 A marriage entry created at Folschvillier, Moselle Dec. 18, 1797 lists 'Tobic Kieffer' and Suzanne Hirchy [Hirschi] as parents of the groom. Suzanne Hirchy was born circa 1723, and died at Faulquemont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1810. The groom was son Jean Joseph Kieffer, born circa 1772 (who was likely a son of an earlier wife). He married Madeleine Hirchy/Hirsch, who was born at Faulquemont and died at Amelecourt, Moselle March 23, 1825. Their son Jean Kieffer was born at Folschviller Sept. 39, 1798. He was the land agent recruiter that brought Amish Mennonite families from Moselle to Lewis County, New York in the early 1830s.

107 As noted, in the 1750s the Steinhacherhof estate at Durstel, adjacent to Asswiller, was leased by Tobias Kiefer, his brother Jacob Kiefer, and Christian Nafziger. Tobias would become co-leaseholder of the Bärbelsteinerhof with Anna Rupp, the widow of the prior leaseholder, who remarried to Isaak Hochstetter in 1766. In this time frame the couple Peter Hochstetter and Maria Minna lived on the Steinhacherhof estate. Protestant records at Durstel show entries for their children: Maria Elisabeth (born July 7, 1749, died May 6, 1750); Anna Ottilia (born Feb. 28, 1751); Maria Margaretha (born March 7, 1754); and Johann Peter (born July 21, 1756). Was this a 'soulandlike' coincidence? Did Protestant working for Anabaptists invite their Anabaptist relatives to join them? Or did Johannes Hochstetter find work near his home for Protestant relatives?
In 1770 Isaac was ordained as a minister serving the Wissembourg-Froensbourg congregation with members on both sides of the poorly defined Alsace-Palatinate border. In 1772 he signed a full 12-year lease on the Bärbelsteinerhof, with elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger of Essingen as guarantor.

Working the stone and root-strewn farmland of the Bärbelsteinerhof must have been discouraging, because Isaac made at least one request to shorten the term of his lease. During this time he continued to travel to and from the Lauterbacherhof to visit relatives.

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

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

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

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

"The first wife of Isaac Hochstettler, maiden name Rupp, was from Canton Bern, and at one time had notice of an inheritance there, but Isaac would not claim it, as at that time he thought he had money enough. He was able to have bought the land on which he lived, but as the family in Switzerland had been driven from their lands, he thought it safer to have his possessions in money. Later the government took his money, giving him paper in exchange which afterwards proved worthless. In his poverty he wished to secure the money from Switzerland which was offered through his first wife, but that [sum] had [already] been given to her heirs. He gave his older children good sums of money to start in life, but the younger ones had to share his poverty...This note and practically all that is given of the family is furnished by Peter Hochstettler, Groveland or Pekin, Ill." ¹⁰⁹

Katharina/Catherine Schantz died at Reichshoffen Jan. 29, 1799, seven months after giving birth to her last child. ¹¹⁰

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

The marriage would have been mutually beneficial. Isaac gained a mother for his children. Anna may have gained legal rights not accorded to single women in 1799, allowing her to retain the lease or title on her home. (For an Anabaptist, the état civil entry was a legal requirement tied to inheritance and citizenship issues; they were occasionally arranged months or even years after couples were married within the church). ¹¹¹

On June 19, 1808 Isaac was one of 22 ministers from nine congregations meeting on the Bildhäuserhof at Rosheim, Lower Alsace to discuss a plea for exemption from military service. The delegates sent representatives Christian Engel and Christian Güngerich to Paris to request Amish Mennonite service in the transportation corps (see ENGEL). ¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ A letter survives where elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger mentions the Wissembourg congregation. Most authors have chosen to call it the Froensbourg congregation.

¹⁰⁹ In 1789 the revolutionary government issued promissory notes called assignats. They were supposed to be backed by the value of properties seized from the clergy and royalty. The new notes lost the confidence of the public, and within a year the government offered to convert them into livres. In 1796 the assignat was withdrawn from circulation, and by the following year they were worth only 1/17th of original face value.

¹¹⁰ The entry describes the deceased as 'Catrina Santzin,' and gives her age as 33. Her husband was described as burger Issac Hochstetter, age 56.

¹¹¹ Unfortunately the online records provided by the department of Lower Alsace omit 1799 marriage record images that might show their civil marriage entry from Steinseltz July 18, 1799. Those who have seen the entry say it names the bride as 'Anna Hollin,' 47, and the groom as Jean Hochstetter' of Reichshoffen, 56. Isaac would have been 59. There is no signature or 's' for Johannes, but instead Isaac's full signature. The municipal clerk and his assistant both signed as witnesses, along with Chrétien Roggy, 37, of Riedselz, described as a friend of the groom.

¹¹² The details of Christian Engel's efforts can be found in Love God and Your Neighbor, The Life and Ministry of Christian Engel by Steven Estes.
In 1809 Isaac relocated to live with his son Peter on the Neuhof estate at Niederlauterbach. This location is nine miles southeast of Wissembourg, in the northwest corner of Alsace near the borders with the Palatinate and Württemberg, four miles west of the Rhine River. The 250-acre farm had belonged to the noble Riessenbach family until it was confiscated by French troops in the French Revolution of 1789.

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

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

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

Isaac's children include:

1. Jakob Hochstettler may have been born on the Lauterbacherhof circa 1765 to Maria Siegel. In 1792 he married Barbara Holly on the Münsterhof at Dreisen in the Palatinate, and took up permanent residence there. Barbara was born at Mühlhofen in 1776, and died April 4, 1841, a daughter of David Holly and Susanne Fischer (David Holly was one of the three – with Hans Kennel and Christian Gingerich – who first leased the Münsterhof at Dreisen in 1767; Susanna Fischer was a daughter of minister Benedict Fischer, and a niece of Ulrich Fischer, mentioned as a tenant on the Mechtersheimerhof in ERESMAN). Jakob served as a minister at Dreisen 1798-1815, then as elder until his death. He died Dec. 12, 1857. Their children born on the Münsterhof include:

   a. Daniel Hochstettler was born in 1793, and died on the Münsterhof in 1866. On March 2, 1824 he married Elizabeth Hirschberger, a daughter of Johannes Hirschberger and Magdalena Nafziger.
   
   b. Jakob Hochstettler was born in 1796, and died on the Münsterhof in 1885. He married Barbara Spring of the Neuhof near Hattenheim, a daughter of Peter Spring and Katharina Nafziger of the Rosenthalhof at Kerzenheim in the Lower Palatinate.
   
   c. Peter Hochstettler was born in 1798. In 1821 at Weisenheim am Berg he married Veronika Kinsinger, a daughter of Jakob Kinsinger and Elisabeth Roggy.
   
   d. Johannes Hochstettler was born in 1799, and died on the Münsterhof in 1846.
   
   e. Elisabeth Hochstettler was born in 1801. She married Johannes Spring, a son of Peter Spring and Katharina Nafziger of the Rosenthalhof estate.
   
   f. Christian Hochstettler was born in 1803, and died on the Münsterhof in 1813.
   
   g. Susanne Hochstettler was born in 1806. She married Andreas Kinsinger, son of Peter Kinsinger of the Blumenaermühle. They lived at Eisenberg.

2. Anna Hochstettler was born circa 1767 to Anna Rupp. In 1787 at Niederflörsheim in the Palatinate (eight miles west of Worms) she married Christian Holly. He was born circa 1760, and died at Niederflörsheim March 8, 1814, a son of David Holly and Susanne Fischer of the Münsterhof at Dreisen. Christian Holly and Anna Hochstettler had a son Peter Holly who was among the '100 Hessian Mennonites' traveling to Butler County in 1832.

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

4. Elisabeth Hochstettler was born circa 1785 to Catherine Schantz. On Jan. 27, 1809 at Reichshofen she married Nicolas Augspurger. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Nicolas Augsburger, 34, widower of Madeleine Goldschmidt, who had died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 25, 1806. The bride was described as Elisabetha Hochstettler, 24, a daughter of Isaac Hochstettler, who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Schantz. Elisabeth signed her name 'Elisabetha Hochstätter,' while her father signed 'Isaac Hochstettler.' Nicolas Augspurger was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 6 or 10, 1768, and died there Oct. 8, 1809, a son of Nicolas Augspurger and Barbe Fongond. His civil death entry described him as Nicolas Augsbourger, 38, and mentioned his widow Elisabeth Hochstettler; it was witnessed by former brother-in-law Christian Goldschmidt/Goldschmitt, 37. Elisabeth gave birth to a son Isaak at Niederlauterbach less than three months after the

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113 The Hollys who married into the Hochstettler family are outlined in Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, pp. 187-189, and mentioned in ERESMAN. The family stems from minister Christian Holl/Holly, who came from Kurzenburg, Canton Bern to the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1718 and held the lease until his death in 1748. He had four children: Jacob, David, Georg, and Barbara. Jacob was the father of Anna, who married Christian Gingerich and Isaac Hochstettler; David was the father of both Barbara, who married Jacob Hochstettler, and Christian, who married Anna Hochstettler; and George was the father of Barbara, who married Joseph Unzicker, the mayor of Nehweiler. The fourth child, Barbara, married future elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger on the Bärbelsteinerhof in 1729. Holly descendants accounted for many of the immigrants known as the '100 Hessian Mennonites' who arrived in Butler County in 1832.
death of her husband. The civil birth entry dated Jan. 1, 1810 said that, "...the infant was born to Elisabeth Hochstettler, widow of the deceased Nicolas Augsburger, who in life was a farmer at Kleinhoe near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines." It was witnessed by grandfather Isaac Hochstettler. Isaac married Marie Gingerich, a daughter of Jakob Gingerich and Magdalena König (see KING). They lived as “Augsburger” at Wellenburg near Augsburg, Bavaria. Isaac died at Triftlfing (now Aufhausen, 15 miles southeast of Regensburg) June 7, 1871.

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

6. Barbara Hochstettler was born circa 1791 to Catherine Schantz. On Sept. 20, 1809 at Niederlauterbach she married Christian Habecker. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Katzentalerhof (Lembach) cultivator Chrétien Habecker, 20, a son of Jean Habecker and Catherine Schanz. The bride was described as Barbe Hochstettler, 18, a daughter of Isaac Hochstettler living on the Neuhof estate and the deceased Catherine Schantz. It was signed Christian Habecker, Barbara Hochstetter, Isaac Hochstettler, and Johannes Habecker. They leased the Katzentalerhof.

7. Johannes Hochstettler was born Sept. 21, 1793 to Catherine Schantz. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetter says he later "died in old age at Augsburg, Bavaria leaving a son and four daughters."

8. Magdalena Hochstettler was born Feb. 9, 1796 to Catherine Schantz. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Isaac Hochstetter, 52, plowman; and Catarina Shantzlin, 30. Witnesses included Christian Hochstetter (Isaac’s older brother signed his name ‘Cristian Hostettler’), 58; and Christian Nafziger, 30. On July 15, 1813 at Niederlauterbach Magdalena married Jean Fritz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Jean Fritz, born at Guttenhausen, Rosheim, Lower Alsace June 24, 1793, a son of cultivator Joseph Fritz and Anne Schanz, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Madeleine Hochstetter, born at Reichshoffen Feb. 9, 1796, a daughter of cultivator Isaac Hochstettler who was present and consenting, and the deceased Catherine Schantz. The entry was witnessed by Pierre Hochstettler, 45, uncle of the bride. Descendants of Jacob Hochstetter says that Johan Fritz was born at Hüttenthal near Ingolstadt.

9. Georg Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen June 30, 1798 to Catherine Schantz. His civil birth entry described his parents as Isaac Hochstettler, 50 [he was closer to 58]; and Catharina Schantz, 32. Georg died single in Bavaria.

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

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

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

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

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

Father Isaac died in 1817. Later that year Peter and Magdalena moved 166 miles to the north, leaving behind the stagnating economy of Lower Alsace. They resettled at Meringerau, Bavaria, an open area below the city of Augsburg. 'Meringer Au' was a meadow surrounding the village of Meringer. The village was later torn down to protect the water supply of the nearby city. In 1910 the entire area was incorporated into the city of Augsburg and

114 'Kleinhoe' may also have been Kleinleberau, the German name for La Petite Lièpvre (now Lièpvre) on the southwest corner of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. This may also account for sources that say Nicolas farmed at Wisembach, Vosges, a village adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines on its west side.

115 Neuhofer's homes and farm buildings were torn down in 1932.
divided into two parts: Haunstetten, a populated strip, and Siebenbrunn, a strip of open fields (also called 'Siebenbrunnenfeld,' or 'seven spring field'). It is now the city district of Haunstetten-Siebenbrunn.

Peter died at Meringerau Dec. 12, 1822.

The children of Peter Hochstettler and Magdalena Unzicker include:

1. Catharina Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Dec. 24, 1796. Her civil birth entry described her parents as Peter Hochstettler and Magdalena Untziger, 20, auf dem Lauterbacher Hof. Catharina died as an infant.

2. Joseph Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Feb. 5, 1798. Joseph died at Pekin April 29, 1854, and is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

3. Barbara Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen March 4, 1800. Her civil birth entry identified her parents as Peter Hochstettler, 22; and Magdeleine Unzicker, 20; it was signed by father Peter Hochstettler and maternal grandfather Joseph Unzicker. Barbara married Joseph Schantz, and died at Regensburg, Bavaria.

4. Elizabetha/Elise Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Jan. 12, 1802. The entry was witnessed by father Peter Hochstettler; paternal grandfather Isaac Hochstettler, 57; and maternal grandfather Joseph Unzicker, 43. She died on the Stillerhof estate at Wessobrunn, Bavaria in 1854. In 1822 she married Andreas/André Schantz. He was born at Rimling, Moselle in 1800, and died at Triftlfing in 1857, a son of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki.

5. Catharina Hochstettler was born at Reichshoffen Dec. 14, 1803, and died at Dechbetten (now part of Regensburg) in 1826. Her civil birth entry identified her parents as Peter Hochstettler and Magdaline Imsinger [Unzicker] auf dem Lauterbacher Hof. It was witnessed by father Peter Hochstettler and paternal grandfather Isaac Hochstettler, 60. She married Caspar Joseph Schantz. He was born at Rimling, Moselle March 9, 1798, and died in 1872, a son of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki. They lived on the Hölzhof at Regenstauf (above Regensburg, Bavaria) and at Grossprüfening (now a neighborhood on the west side of Regensburg) until her death at Dechbetten (north of Regensburg) in 1826. Schantz later remarried to Marie Unzicker and Magdalena Unzicker.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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116 Descendants of Jacob Hochstettler was likely the original source of the errant birth date Dec. 3, 1798.
They sailed from Le Havre on the Peter Marcy, and arrived at New York Aug. 11, 1849. The passenger list shows a 'Hochstetler' family: Joseph, 51; Jacobin, 45; Jacob, 19; Magdalene, 17; Peter, 15; Joseph, 13; Jacobine, 9; and Christian, 7.117

According to Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929, they settled at Dillon Creek before the year ended. The 1850 census of Pekin shows Joseph Hochstatter, 53, Germany; Jacobine, 46; Magdaline, 18; Barbara [Jacobine], 11; Jacob, 20; Peter, 16; Joseph, 14; and Christian, 9. They are found on the same page as the households of brothers Andrew, Peter, and Jacob Ropp, indicating that they were living along Allentown Road in what had only recently become Elm Grove (although it was technically established in December 1849, it took a while for the new name to come into common use; and at the time Allentown Road was still known as the Old State Road or Old Stage Road).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their children include:

1. Jacob Hochstetler was born at Meringerau Jan. 3, 1825, and died at Elm Grove March 8, 1884. In 1854 at Pekin he married Elizabeth Ropp (1837-1881), a daughter of Andrew Ropp and Jacobina Vercler. The 1860 census of Elm Grove describes him as 'Jacob Hostetler,' a 30-year-old Bavarian farmer. His household included Elizabeth, 22; Jacobine, 2; and Daniel, seven months. They are buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove.

2. Magdalena 'Mary Hochstetler' (twin) was born at Meringerau Feb. 7, 1829, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 28, 1888. On December 10, 1850 at Pekin she married Jacob Birkey.118 He was born May 4, 1826, and died at Garden City July 4, 1883, a son of Christian Birky (the 'Big Birkeys').

3. Jacobina Hochstetler was born at Meringerau Feb. 7, 1829, and died there in 1830.

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

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

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

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

8. Christian Hochstetler was born at Meringerau March 8 or June 16 (passport application), 1840, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Jan. 2, 1896. He can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 19-year-old 'Christian Hostetler,' a Bavarian laborer in the Household of 50-year-old farmer 'Andrew Birgy.' He applied for a passport at Pekin April 24, 1865. The documentation stated that he was a naturalized citizen who had lived in Tazewell County for 16 years.

117 Farther down the page were Jacobine Gingerich, 21, and Elisabeth Jordi, 45.
118 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index calls them Jacob Burkey and Mary Hochstetler.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

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

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

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

Their household can be found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Pete Hastettler, 36, Bavaria; Barbara, 30, Bavaria; Elizabeth, 11, Illinois; Lydia, 9, Illinois; Catharin, 7, Illinois; and farm laborer Frederick Delabaugh, 19, Switzerland. The 1880 census of Morton shows them as Peter Hochstettler, 46; Barbara, 40; and seven children born in Illinois.

In 1883 Peter attended the first annual conference of what became the Defenseless Mennonite (later Evangelical Mennonite) Church with Joseph Rediger. The conference was organized and led by bishop Henry Egly.

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

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

Their children born at Morton include:

1. Elizabeth Hochstettler was born Feb. 17, 1859, and died July 4, 1931. On Aug. 2, 1896 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Stucky. He was born Aug. 20, 1865, and died March 7, 1958, a son of Christian Stucky and Magdalena Zehr. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

2. Lydia Hochstettler was born Jan. 11, 1861, and died March 6, 1948. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

3. Katharine 'Katie' Hochstettler was born March 28, 1863, and died March 4, 1942. On March 18, 1894 in Tazewell County she married Samuel P. Wagler. He was born March 15, 1871, and died March 19, 1951. They are found on the 1900 census of Groveland as Samuel P. Wagler, 29, born in Illinois in March 1871 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; and Kate, 37, born in Illinois in March 1863 to German parents. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

4. John William Hochstettler was born Oct. 27, 1866, and died May 9, 1869.

5. Joseph B. Hochstettler was born March 31, 1871, and died April 25, 1955. In 1902 he married Emma Springer. She was born March 20, 1876, and died May 27, 1910. They are buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

6. Susan/Susanna Hochstettler was born April 22, 1873, and died April 30, 1962. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

7. Edward F. Hochstettler was born June 7, 1876, and died March 6, 1900. He is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

8. Amos Hochstettler was born Dec. 28, 1878, and died June 25, 1962. He is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

9. Mary Ann Hochstettler was born June 20, 1881, and died Dec. 22, 1949. She is buried in Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
Schwarzentraub: Schwarzentruber of Königsberg

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

While the Brennemans were living at Turtle Creek in Warren County, Ohio, the surname Schwarzentraub could also be found there (see BRENNEMAN for Turtle Creek's connection to the Shaker movement). A Schwarzentraub family had emigrated from Hesse-Darmstadt in 1836, and farmed at Turtle Creek before moving on to Tazewell and Bureau Counties in 1852.

Christian Schwarzentruber appears on a census of Mennonites at Schmahlenberg (below Kaiserslautern in the Palatinate) in 1738. His name appears with others who had paid a religious protection fee [Ger. Schutzgeld].

Christian and Vinzenz Schwarzentraub migrated from the Palatinate to the Principality of Waldeck in 1741.

VINZENZ SCHWARZENTRUBER - Father or uncle to Christian?

Christian would have been at least 21 years of age when he appeared on the 1738 census of Schmahlenberg. Vinzenz was married in 1719. For this reason, it is difficult to say that Vinzenz was the father of Christian, though it cannot be ruled out; Vinzenz' bride in 1719 may have been a second wife.

Vinzenz married Anna Zimmerman, presumably on the grounds of the Bärbelsteinerhof, the grounds of Berwarstein Castle at Erlenbach be Dahn (see EHRESMAN). The event was registered at nearby Niederschlettenbach by minister Christian Hohlfollli. Vinzenz and Anna had at least one child in the Grafschaft Falkenstein (see STAKER for location background) before coming to Waldeck.

In 1745 Vinzenz leased an estate at Schaaken, at the west end of the Edersee valley in Waldeck.

Johannes 'Hans' Schwarzentruber - Brother to Christian?

Hans lived at Weisenheim am Berg (southeast of Kaiserslautern in the Palatinate) as early as 1734, then at nearby Hersheim. He attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen with a son in 1759. EHRESMAN notes that many of the ministers who met at Essingen had received earlier training on the Bärbelsteinhof. Thus it seems likely that there was a family connection between Hans in the Palatinate and Christian and Vinzenz in Waldeck. Some genealogists assume that Hans and Christian were brothers.

The descendants of Hans can be found in Chapter 30 of Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany.

A royal marriage on Aug. 19, 1741 had opened the way for Amish Mennonites to resettle in Waldeck. Christiane Henriette, Palatine Countess of Birkenfeld-Bischweiler-Pfalz-Zweibrücken, married Prince Karl August of Waldeck and Pyrmont. She was born at Ribeauvillé in Alsace Nov. 16, 1725. Her grandfather, Christian II, was the Wittlesbach count who had helped Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to find new homes in 1712-13.

The House of Waldeck was connected through multiple marriages to the Dutch House of Orange. Prince Karl August served as commander of all Dutch forces in the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48). One of the odd consequences of this relationship was that many newborn daughters of Amish Mennonite tenants in Waldeck were given Christian names that had originated in the House of Orange, e.g. Frederica, Augusta, Helena, Wilhelmina, Henriette, and Caroline.

Much of the prince's income came from the troops he provided to fight Dutch battles. This arrangement drained the labor force needed to work the land. The farsighted new princess invited Amish Mennonite families to follow her and settle on estates near Arolsen on generous terms. Her patronship continued until her death Feb. 11, 1816. 119

In 1741 Christian Schwarzentruber and Johannes Schönbeck were co-leaseholders of the Selbach estate at Netze in Waldeck. (Netze is next to the community of Waldeck, above the Edersee reservoir; Selbach is now a village between Netze and Freienhagen). According to Guth, their lease described them as "two Swiss people from Kaiserlautern." Christian died there Jan. 5, 1764.

From 1775 to 1787 Christian's son Peter Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartztraub relocated to the Freienfelserhof, a portion of the grounds of ruined Castle Freienfels (between Weinbach and Weilburg in Nassau-Weilburg). At this point it is helpful to recall some text from UNZICKER: "Nassau-Weilburg (south of

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119 1816 must have been a year of high anxiety for the Amish Mennonites in the Principality of Waldeck. The death of their initial patron coincided with the return of two companies of troops from the Napoleonic Wars, as well as the onset of the 'Little Ice Age' cold weather phenomenon across Europe.
Waldeck) was a princely domain... In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited the Amish Mennonite-leased Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Palatinate (he had a home at Kirchheimbolanden, and actually died on the Münsterhof in 1778). He was so impressed by the progressive methods used there that he commissioned farm manager David Holly to find families willing to come to Nassau-Weilburg. His proposal offered generous 12-year leases on princely estates, on the condition that the lesars cultivate underdeveloped acreage and share their knowledge with neighboring landowners. Four family heads accepted the arrangement: Peter Unzicker of Wört, Johannes Nafiger of Alsace, Peter Schantz of Alsace, and 'Peter Schwartztraub.' Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Hermann Guth, Holly received a 200 gulden reward from the chancellor.

The Hesse State Archives holds a document that mentions the arrangement in Nassau-Weilburg. The leaseholder on the Freienfelserhof is 'Peter Schwartztraub.'

When Peter left the lease arrangement, he gave his next address as the Sonnenberg estate at Wiesbaden. He never resided there, and could be found on a farm at Freienhagen (just above the communities of Waldeck and Netze, and the Edersee reservoir) after 1787. He married Barbara Schönbeck. In his old age Peter lived on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg, where he died.

Peter and Barbara had at least two sons. Older son Peter married Wilhelmine Ösch and remained at Freienhagen. Younger son Johannes Schwarzentraub became the father of the family that lived in Turtle Creek and Tazewell County.

Shetlter family notes say that 'John Schwarzentrau' was born June 6, 1774. If so, the location was likely the Selbach estate at Netze in Waldeck. He later lived on the Bubenrod estate, where his cousin Christian Schwarzentraub was leaseholder. He died Feb. 2, 1832.

Christian married Magdalena Schwarzentrauber. Family notes say that she was born Aug. 27, 1796, and died in Illinois Jan. 28, 1854. She came from Buchenberg at the west end of the Edersee valley. Presumably she was a granddaughter of Vinzenz Schwarzentrauber.

An emigration file in the Hesse State Archives labeled 'Johannes Schwarzentrauber' states that in April 1836 his widow and six children applied for permission to go to America. Their home is noted as 'Hof Strubbach bei Königsberg' – Strupbach farm at Königberg.

Widow Magdalena and her children boarded the Isabella at Bremen, and arrived at New York Sept. 7, 1836. The Isabella's passenger list names them: Mag. Schwarzentrauba, 40, Hessia; Christ, 19, laborer; Jacob, 17; Johannes, 15; Marie, 13; Magdalena, 9; Joseph, 6; and Jacobine, 11.

In 1850 son Christian's household at Turtle Creek appears as farmer Christian Swarcentroup, 32; Magdelin, 53 [mother]; laborer Conrad Supt, 30; Meary Kinrish, 45; and farmer [and younger brother] Joseph Swascentroup, 20. Son Jacob's household appears as farmer Jacob Swartzentroup, 31; John, 29; Helen, 23 [Jacob's wife]; laborer John Banten, 42; and laborer Charles Wolb, 25.

Johannes and Magdalena's children were all born in Hesse-Darmstadt according to their own census reports. Some are found at Königberg. The records there are deceptive. Often the same person can be found as a Schwartztraub, Schwarzentrauber, Schwarzentraub, or what appears to be Schwarzentrauber (when the 't' is not crossed). A closer look reveals that many signatures match the handwriting of the text above, indicating that they were written by the clerk for someone who was probably illiterate.

They include:

1. Christian Schwarzentraub was born Nov. 27, 1817, and died Nov. 25, 1888. On the 1870 census of Morton he appears as a 53-year-old farmer in the household of his brother Jacob. On Nov. 10, 1878 at the age of 61 Christian married widow Helene Gingerich. She was born circa April 22, 1833, and died Feb. 5, 1891; her headstone does not give a birth date, but the age 57 years, 9 months, 15 days. In 1880 they were living at Washington, where they appeared on the federal census as farmer Christ Swartzentraub, 62, born in Hesse-Darmstadt to a father from Prussia and a mother from Hesse; Helen, 46, born in Hesse to Hessian parents; and stepson Christian Unsicker, 22, born in Hesse to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Hesse. 120 Helene's 'Christlicher Bundesbote' obituary, Feb. 26, 1891: "On February 5 at Washington, Tazewell County, Helena Schwartzentraub, born Gingrich, at the age of 57 years, 9 months, and 13 days. Her funeral took place on the 8th in Hirstein's cemetery. Remarks were delivered by bishop M. Kiesinger [Kinsinger], David Augspurger, Peter Schantz, and S. Schmitt. The deceased sister was born in Alterau Province in Hesse. In the year 1855 she married Daniel Unsicker of Rhinhesse. But in the first

120 Christian Unsicker was born Sept. 6, 1857, and died April 18, 1914. He married Marie Lammle, who was born June 3, 1876, and died Oct. 17, 1944, a daughter of Adam Lammle. They appear on the 1910 census of Deer Creek as Christ Unsicker, 52, Germany (year of immigration 1877); Mary, 49; and 7 children born in Illinois. Christian and Marie are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.
year of the marriage he died. In the year 1878 Helena followed her son Christian to America, and she remarried to Christian Schwarzentraub of Tazewell County on November 10, 1878. This marriage was only of a brief duration, since its husband went into eternity first on Nov. 25, 1888. They leave one son and two grandchildren. Their most ardent desire was expressed in Philippians 1:23: “I have desire to separate and be with Christ.” They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

2. Jakob/Jacob Schwarzentraub was born in 1819, died in 1887, and is also buried in Hirstein Cemetery. His first wife was Catharine Naflziger, who was born Nov. 6, 1824, and died Jan. 22, 1861. He remarried to Caroline Schertz. She was born in France Feb. 16, 1839, and died at Morton June 18, 1922. According to her death certificate she was a daughter of Joseph Schertz. Both wives are buried near Jakob/Jacob in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton. On the 1870 census of Morton his household appears as farmer Jacob Shuencentraub, 51, Hesse-Darmstadt; Carolin, 31, France; John, 11, Illinois; Theodore, 5, Illinois; farm laborer John Melfers, 25, Hanover; farm laborer Daniel Ausburger, 28, France; and farmer Christian Schuenemtraub, 53, Hesse-Darmstadt. On the 1880 census of Morton they appear next door to Jacob Kennel: farmer Jacob Schwarzentraub, 61, Hesse-Cassel; Caroline, 41, Lorraine; John, 21; Theodore, 14; and Emil, 8; all children born in Illinois.

3. Johannes/John Schwarzentraub, who lived with older brother Jacob at Turtle Creek, was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg Dec. 27, 1820. He married Barbara Kiefer. She was born in France in November 1826. A biography of one of their sons says John relocated from Ohio to Illinois at the age of 31 (1852). Their household appears on the 1860 census of Concord, Bureau County as farmer John Schwartzentaub, 39, Germany; Barbara, 33, France; John E., 6, Illinois; Julius A., 3, Illinois; and Mary C., 2, Illinois. In 1870 they appear at Bureau, Bureau County as farmer John Schwartzentaub, 47, Germany; Barbara, 43, France; John E., 16; Julius A., 14; Mary C., 11; Joseph, 9; Phebe, 7; all children born in Illinois. They also appear on the 1880 census of Bureau. Barbara Kiefer appears on the 1900 census of Bureau as the 73-year-old mother in the household of son Joseph Schwarzentraub, who was born in 1861. The census gives her birth date as November 1826 and says she immigrated in 1828.

4. Maria/Mary Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsebgerg Feb. 8, 1823, and died at Buda, Bureau County Jan. 10, 1879. On May 7, 1843 in Butler County she married Friederich/Frederick Schöttler/Schoettler. He was born at Sichelbach (west of Kassel) Aug. 22, 1814, and died at Buda July 30, 1879, a son of Christian Schöttler and his second wife Elisabeth Sommer. Voters and Taxpayer of Bureau County, 1877, describes Frederick as someone who had immigrated in 1835, came to Bureau County in 1844, now owned 307 acres, and served as school director.

5. Magdalena 'Helena' Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsebgerg May 21, 1827 (birth entry, though her headstone says May 31), and died Jan. 26, 1899. She became the wife of second cousin Daniel Schwarzentraub (more on him follows). They are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

6. Jacobie Schwarzentraub was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsebgerg April 28, 1825. She may have been the person who appeared on the Isabella passenger list as 19-year-old Jacobine, though she would have been only 11 in 1836.

7. Joseph Schwarzentraub, who lived with older brother Christian at Turtle Creek, was born circa 1830, and died in Woodford County May 26, 1876 (his headstone says he was 46 years old). On Dec. 29, 1856 in Woodford County he married Barbara Vercler (her family spelled the name 'Verkler'). She was born Jan. 17, 1834; the exact location cannot be indentified, but in 1854 her parents Joseph Vercler and Jacobina Engel lived on Kickapoo Creek west of Peoria and then nearer to Metamora. She died Aug. 5, 1910. Their household is found on the 1860 census of Metamora as farm renter Joseph Swarzentraub, 30, Bavaria; Barbara, 27, Illinois; and Louis, 2, Illinois. They are found on the 1870 census of Pleasant Ridge, Livingston County as 'Joseph Schwarzentraut' and Barbara. They are buried in the North Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Forrest, Livingston County.

### Daniel Schwarzentraub

We looked through church records on FHL microfilm to sort out the Schwarzentruber/Schwarzentraub tangle at Königsebgerg. We found four heads of family there:

- Christian was leaseholder. He married Katharina Esch and Anna Bachmann. His father was Jakob, a brother of Peter of Freihagen.

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121 The marriage record held at Eureka lists them as ‘Barbara Verkler’ and ‘Joseph Swartzentaub.’

122 Christian was born at Selbach Dec. 25, 1770. Before 1793 he married Katharina Esch of Bad Wildungen (now adjacent to the Edersee reservoir). They leased the Bubenrod estate in 1793. Katharina died there May 28, 1808. On Jan. 7, 1810 at Königsebgerg Christian remarried to Anna Bachmann. In 1819 Christian and Anna made the final payment to assume possession of the estate. It remains in the family. Christian died at Königsebgerg Jan. 23, 1855. In his book Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth reprinted part of a eulogy delivered by the Protestant minister at Königsebgerg. It mentioned that Christian's two wives had delivered 19 children. Only a handful of the children have been identified. Some died young, others apparently went off to live with relatives at locations such as the Albacherhof estate.
Joseph was a son of Christian and his first wife Katharina Esch. He married Magdalena Schlabach.

Daniel Schwarztraub was a brother to Christian. He married Katharina Bachmann.

Johannes was a cousin to Christian and Daniel. He was the father whose family emigrated after his death.

**Daniel Schwarztraub,** the brother of Christian and cousin to Johannes, married Katharina Bachmann at Königsberg Sept. or Dec. 25, 1811. The entry states that Daniel was a Mennonite on Bubenrod estate. Katharina came from the Rinkweilerhof estate at Hornbach, six miles south of Zweibrücken.

Their son **Daniel Schwarztraub** was born at Leihgestern, Hesse July 29, 1820. Leihgestern is located four miles below Giessen, and 18 miles southeast of Königsberg.\(^{124}\)

At age 31 Daniel sailed from Bremen on the *Janet Ridson*, arriving at New York June 24, 1852. This was the same voyage that brought Peter Erismann and his wife Magdalena Stähly (they settled in Bureau County; see EHRESMAN, ERISMANNS OF BUREAU COUNTY), as well as Magdalena's younger brother Peter Stähly. (Peter Erismann and Magdalena Stähly were later next door neighbors to Johannes/John Schwarztraub from the Turtle Creek family and his wife Barbara Kiefer).

Shortly after arrival Daniel married his second cousin Magdalena 'Helena' Schwarztraub.


Magdalena 'Helena' died Jan. 26, 1899. She is buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

In 1900 Daniel was living at Morton with his oldest son. That household appears as farmer Joe Schwarztraub, 45, born in Illinois in February 1855 to German parents; Johanna, wife, 29, born February 1871 in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; Albert, 1, born in April 1899 to parents from Illinois; boarder Daniel Schwarztraub, 79, born in Germany in July 1820 to German parents (married 45 years); and Lizzie Kennel, housekeeper, 26, born in Illinois in June 1873 to parents from Germany and Ohio.

Daniel died at Morton April 12, 1906. He was buried in Buckeye Cemetery.

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\(^{123}\) Jakob was leaseholder of a dairy at Berich, Waldeck in 1774. Berich was one of the communities that was flooded when the Edersee dam was completed in 1914 (see EHRESMAN, ERISMANNS OF BUREAU COUNTY). He is found as a leaseholder at Höringhausen, Waldeck in 1795.

\(^{124}\) Giessen was the location of the Schauferts estate leased by Daniel Brenneman (1814-1870). He was a son of Jakob Unzicker and Elisabeth Jordy, and a brother to Peter Unzicker (the Morton resident described in UNZICKER) and Elise Unzicker (she married Joseph Brenneman of Wohra and lived at Granville, Putnam County). Brennemans also farmed on the Albacherhof estate between Albach and Lich, 7 miles southeast of the city.
Smith: Schmitt of Linstroff

Two Christian Smiths figure in the history of the part of Tazewell County that became Woodford County. Christian Smith of Worth (1802-1876) was the father of minister John Smith and the grandfather of historian C. Henry Smith. Christian Smith (1810-1855) was a highly respected farmer in the location that was known as Slabtown, and is now Congerville in Montgomery Township. He died in a cholera epidemic that also took his wife, two children, his brother-in-law, and their minister.

The two Christians grew up as Schmitts in Moselle. They were cousins, sharing a paternal grandfather,

Johann/Jean Schmitt.

Johann/Jean Schmitt was born circa 1733. He became a miller on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now part of Grostenquin), and died there Sept. 27, 1793.

Johann/Jean's death entry names his widow as 'Barbe Hirschy' (she as 58 years old, thus born circa 1735). However, the 1801 death entry of son Christian (found as Christianne) identifies his mother as 'Marie Hirschme.' And the 1803 marriage entry of son Joseph named his mother as 'Anne Hircy.' We assume this was one person named Anne Marie Hirschi, but it is also possible that Johann/Jean married twice, to Hirschis named Anne Marie and Barbe. The Hirschi family's association with the area of Grostenquin is explained in STAKER.

Though they may have had a large family, only four of the offspring of Johann/Jean and Anne Marie could be identified:

1. Christian Schmitt was born at Linstroff circa 1766-69. He appeared as a witness on his father's death entry. It described him as Christian Schmitt, a 24-year-old miller's assistant on Hingsange farm. Another witness was cultivator Joseph Hirschi, 38, described as a brother-in-law of Johann/Jean. Christian's death entry created at Zimming, Moselle June 20, 1801 called him 'Christianne Schmitte,' and described him as a 33-year-old Anabaptist day laborer born from 'Hingzange.' He married Barbe Guingerich. See THE SMITHS OF ZIMMING AND WORTH for the story of their son Christian.

2. Johannes/Hans/Jean Schmitt was born at Linstroff in 1774 (1850 census), 1772 (1860 census), or May 16, 1770 (headstone date). He died in Campbell County, Kentucky Nov. 17, 1866. In 1794 he was drafted to perform alternative military service, and worked on fortifications near Metz. On Nov. 10, 1811 at Bertambois, Meurthe-et-Moselle he married Anne Sommer. She was born in 1786, and died in Campbell County Jan. 4, 1871, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Elisabeth Barbe Gerber (see SCHLEGEL). They lived at Gelucourt and Niderhoff. They appear on the 1850 census of 2nd District, Campbell County, Kentucky as John Smith, 76, France; Anna, 60, France; Mary, 26, France; and Peter, 20, France. In 1860 their household is shown as John Smith, 88, France; Ann, 73, France; Ann, 44, France; Mary, 39, France; John, 17, Illinois; and Alice, 13, Illinois. They are buried in the Schertz Family Cemetery at Campbell County as 'John Smith' and 'Anna Smith.' Gospel Herald, February 1871: "On the 4th of January in Campbell county, Kentucky, of infirmities of old age, Anna Smidt (maiden name summers), in her 84th year. She was buried on the 6th in the family grave-yard, by the side of her husband. Funeral remarks by Pre. Joseph Augspurger of Butler County, Ohio, from 2 Cor. 5:1,2. John Matt."

3 Joseph Schmitt was born at Wittring (22 miles east of Linstroff) April 26, 1777, according to his marriage entry. See THE SMITHS OF BISPING AND CONGERVILLE for the story of their son Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith.

4. Marie Schmitt was born at Linstroff in 1782. On Nov. 27, 1811 at Gelucourt, Moselle she married Pierre Schertz, becoming his third wife (see SCHERTZ).

The Smiths of Zimming
(Worth)

Christian Schmitt/Smith of Worth was born Jan. 21, 1802 at Zimming, a tiny village about seven miles west of St. Avold, Moselle. He was a son of Christian Schmitt and Barbe Guingerich. Because he was born after the death of his father (June 20, 1801), who had worked as a miller at Zimming, his birth entry identified him as 'Christian Schmitt, posthum.' It was witnessed by farm hand Joseph Schmitt (presumably his uncle who was married to Freni/Véronique Gerber) and miller André Moser.

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125 Christian Schmitt/Smith of Worth may have had a sister, though a birth entry could not be found in records created at Zimming or Bispeng. Marie Schmitt (later Mary Smith) was born circa 1800, and died at Worth in May of 1871 according to Past and Present of Woodford County. She married Jean/John Kennel. His headstone says he was born in September 1803, and died in November or December 1888. See KENNEL.
He was considered one of the early settlers of the Black Partridge Creek area of what was then Tazewell County; it is now in Woodford County. *The Past and Present of Woodford County* (1878): "Christian Smith came to the United States in 1829, and, after spending four years in Pennsylvania, came to Worth, where he settled permanently in 1833, and was one of the prosperous farmers of the times."

Christian married Catherine Bechler [Bächler] in Tazewell County May 26, 1838. The ceremony was performed by elder Christian Engel. Catherine was born at St. Jean Kourtzerode, Moselle April 8, 1805, and died at Eureka, Woodford County in 1860, a daughter of Jacob Bechler and Anna Gerber.


Their household appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Christian Smith, 50, Germany; Catharine, 43, Illinois; Madaline, 11, Illinois; Catharine, 10, Illinois; Anne, 7, Illinois; John, 6, Illinois; Maria, 5, Illinois; Bena, 1, Illinois; and Madaline Beshler, 40, Illinois.

The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows farmer Christian Smith, 60, Bavaria; Catharine, 60, iit is now in France; Anne, 18, Illinois; John, 16 Illinois; Maria, 13, Illinois; and Bena, 11, Illinois.

Christian died at Metamora in 1876, and is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. His headstone reads, "Christian Smith, born 1800, died 1876, aged 76 years."

Their children born at Metamora include:

1. Magdalena Smith was born at Partridge May 21 (*Past and Present*) or 24 (obituary), 1839, and died March 22, 1902. On Feb. 19, 1860 at Metamora she married Christian Camp. He was born at Spring Bay Oct. 29, 1836, and died Jan. 13, 1914, a son of Joseph Camp [Kempf] and Magdalena/Magdelaine Engel. For more on this couple see CAMP, *Herald of Truth*, May 1902: "On the 22 of March, 1902, at Metamora, Ill., of heart failure. Magdalena Camp, aged 62 Y., 9 M., 28 D. She was born May 24, 1839, united in marriage with Christian Camp, Feb. 1860. She leaves her husband, five sons and three daughters, ten grandchildren, two sisters and one brother to mourn her departure. She united with the Amish Mennonite church in her youth, in which she remained faithful to the end. Funeral services at the Metamora M. H. in German by Andrew Schrock from 2 Tim. 4:4-8; in English by Samuel Garber from Rom. 6:23. Burial in the Roanoke cemetery."

2. Catherine Smith was born June 13, 1840, and died May 10, 1885. On Feb. 2, 1859 in Woodford County she married Joseph Leman. He was born at Rhodes, Moselle June 3, 1835, and died July 21, 1926, a son of Joseph Leman and Catherine Pelsy. He arrived in America with his mother April 16, 1854. Joseph and Catherine are found on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Leman, 45, born in France to French parents; Katharina, 40, born in Illinois to parents from Baden; and 10 children born in Illinois. On Sept. 26, 1886 in Woodford County Joseph remarried to the widow Elizabeth Heer Rehg. She was born at Doylestown, Pennsylvania Aug. 10, 1852, and died Oct. 9, 1927, a daughter of Matthew Heer and Anna Geil. She married her first husband Frederick Rehg in 1872; he died in 1875. Joseph, Catherine, and Elizabeth are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.

3. Anna Smith was born Dec. 4, 1841, and died July 25, 1900. On June 24, 1863 (June 22, 1862 county records) in Woodford County she married John Sommer. He was born Aug. 6, 1835, and died at Normal, McLean County Aug. 2, 1912, a son of George Sommer and Anna Gasser. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. *Gospel Herald*, August 1912: "Lingering in an unconscious state for five days following a stroke of apoplexy, John Sommer died at the home of his daughter, Lizzie Sommer, in Metamora, Ill., Aug. 2, 1912; aged. 76 y. 11 m. 27 d. He has been in failing health since three years ago, when he suffered a paralytic stroke at the home of his son John, in Oklahoma. He was brought back to Illinois a few months afterwards, and has since then made his home with his daughter Lizzie. He was born in France Aug. 6, 1835, and two years later came with his father's family to Partridge Twp., where he grew to manhood and was married to Anna Smith, June 24, 1863. Thirteen children were born to this union, 9 living, of whom all but one were at the father's bedside during his last days of illness. His wife preceded him in death, July 25, 1900. He united with the Dunkard Church at Stuttgart, Ark., 14 years ago and remained a faithful member to the end. The surviving children are George L, Joseph D., Bena, Lizzie, Lena, wife of John Wagner, John J., Chris W., Anna., wife of Sam Studer, and Peter B. Five brothers and 1 sister also survive; also 23 grandchildren. Funeral services Aug. 4 at the Union Church, Metamora, Ill., conducted by E. Eschliman and Andrew Schrock. The services were attended by a large throng of relatives and friends of the family. After the services the remains were taken to the Hickory Point Cemetery west of Metamora for burial."

4. **John Smith** was born Nov. 27, 1843, and died at Metamora July 6, 1906.

5. Mary Smith was born March 30, 1845, and died at Eureka May 25, 1927. On Feb. 20, 1867 (Jan. 20, 1867 Woodford County records) she married John Imhoff. He was born in Butler County, Ohio Aug. 10, 1837, and died at Low Point, Woodford County Jan. 9, 1907; a son of Johann Imhoff and Maria Katharina Wagner. John appears on the 1860 census of Cazenovia, Woodford County as a 23-year-old born in Ohio; with his mother Mary Imhoff, 50, Württemberg, and seven younger siblings all born in Ohio. The 1900 census of Cazenovia shows John Imhoff, 61.

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126 Catherine's sister Madeleine Bechler was born at St. Jean Kourtzerode July 17, 1809. An application for the marriage of Magdalena Bechler and 'Christian Naffsinger' was filed in Woodford County Feb. 16, 1851.
6. Jacobina 'Bena' Smith was born July 22, 1849, and died at Washington Sept. 9, 1925. On Jan. 16, 1870 in Woodford County she married Peter Sommer. He was born at Metamora April 11, 1843, and died at Washington June 5, 1922, a son of George Sommer and Anna Gasser. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington as 'Rev. Peter Summer' and 'Bena Summer.' Gospel Herald, June 1922: 'Peter Summer was born near Metamora, Ill., April 11, 1843, where he grew up to young manhood. His father emigrated from Strasberg, France, in a sail-boat, requiring three months to cross the ocean, and located west of Metamora, where the whole family was reared. He was one of nine children; two brothers and two sisters preceding him. Three brothers (Joseph, Jacob, George) and one sister (Anna) survive him. His father also found time to minister to the spiritual wants in the community in which he lived, being one of the first settlers to locate in that district. There were no school privileges then as we have them now, so he received only a limited amount of training in the public schools. On Jan. 16, 1870 he was married to Bena Smith, to which union were born nine children; namely, George, John, Chris, Joseph, Peter, Jacob, Anna, Benjamin, and Emanuel, all of whom survive. The death of the father causes the first break in the family circle. He also leaves thirty-two grandchildren, four having preceded him in death. While yet a young man he united with the Mennonite Church, and in 1888 was ordained to the ministry, in which capacity he served as long as his health permitted. He retired from the farm five years ago, moving to Washington, Ill., where he lived until his death. Until four years ago he knew not what sickness was, but since then he has been gradually failing, and passed quietly away June 5, aged 79 y. 1 m. 24 d. Funeral services were conducted by Andrew Schrock and Ezra B. Yordy.'

John Smith was born at what became Metamora Nov. 27, 1843. He was ordained as a minister at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Christian Ropp in 1887, and later as a bishop. He served the Western Conference six times as secretary and three times as moderator.

On Feb. 12, 1865 in Woodford County he married Madeleine/Magdalena Schertz. She was born in Peoria County Dec. 1, 1843, and died Jan. 24, 1898, a daughter of Daniel 'David' Schertz and Catherine Bachman. She is buried in Roanoke Mennonite cemetery at 'Lena wife of John Smith.' They can be found on the 1880 census of Worth, Woodford County.

Herald of Truth, March 1898: 'On Tuesday morning, Jan. 25th, 1898, the spirit of Magdalena Smith, wife of Bish. John Smith, passed quietly away. Magdalena Schertz was born Dec. 1, 1843, and died at the age of 54 years, 1 month and 24 days. She had been a long and patient sufferer with consumption until death finally released her. She leaves her husband and eight children, four boys and four girls, to mourn their loss, but what is their loss can be reckoned as her gain, as for her it was only a stepping out from a world of pain and sorrow, to one of everlasting bliss. The end came peacefully, conscious that a bright home was prepared for her in the new Jerusalem. Short
funeral services were held at the house and at the Roanoke church, Jan. 27th, where a large concourse of friends and relatives assembled to pay their last respects to the dear departed. Services were conducted by Samuel Gerber and Peter Summer."

John remarried to widow Lydia Schlegel Nov. 16, 1899. She was born at Tremont Sept. 25, 1860, a daughter of Christian Schlegel and Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer. On Jan. 13, 1887 she had married her first husband, August Albrecht. He was born at Waldo June 16, 1861, and died Feb. 16, 1892, a son of John Albrecht and Anna Gascho.

John died at Metamora July 6, 1906. He is buried in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery. Lydia died at Goshen, Indiana Oct. 20, 1941, and was buried with August Albrecht in Waldo Cemetery as 'Lydia Slagell Smith' (see her obituary in SCHLEGEL).

_Gospel Witness_, July 1906: "Bish. John Smith, of Metamora, Ills., was born Nov. 27, 1843; died July 6, 1906; aged 62 y., 7 m., 9 d. In the spring of 1865 he was married to sister Magdalena Schertz. To this union were born 10 children, of which three, with their mother, preceded Bro. Smith into eternity. On Nov. 16, 1899, he was married to Sister Lydia [Schlegel] Albrecht, who, with her daughter, Agnes Albrecht, and seven of his children, remain to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and father. Bro. Smith was ordained to the ministry in the year 1887 and a few years later was called as bishop, which office he faithfully filled to the time of his death. He was also appointed to care for the churches of the state that were without a bishop by the Western A. M. Conference. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Bro. A. H. Leaman, of the Chicago Mission, from _James 4:14_, and at the church by Bro. S. Gérig, of Wayland, Iowa, in German, and Bro. Samuel Garber, of Groveland, Ill., in English, both taking for their text _II Tim.4:7,8_. Bro. Smith was in good health as ever, apparently. On Friday, July 6th, he drove to Roanoke, and while there had a severe pain on his chest, and when he got home he made mention of it to his family and seemed to pay no more attention to it. He ate his supper as usual, and during the evening he made several appointments with different brethren, to be filled on the following day, and was in the best of spirits during the evening. At about 9 o'clock he retired for the night and at 9:40 that grim reaper, Death, called and took him and we have the assurance that he has entered a nobler work than he could ever have attained to in this life. Just a moment before he passed away he told his wife that he believed that pain was coming back again, and with that he passed away..."

John's son Joseph D. Smith became superintendent of the Home for the Aged at Eureka, and his son C. Henry Smith became an outstanding historian of American Mennonites.

### The Schmitts of Bisping
_(Congerville)_

**Joseph Schmitt** was born at Wittring April 26, 1777, according to his marriage entry. On May 5, 1803 at Linstroff he married Freni/Véronique Gerber. She was born in the hamlet Kreutzwald at Saverne, Lower Alsace Feb. 28, 1781, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich (see GERBER AND GARBER). Her parents were farming on the Roderhof at Insviller, Moselle (12 miles southeast of Grostenquin).

Joseph and Véronique lived at Bisping (six miles south of Insviller) and Vannecourt (13 miles west of Bisping), both in Moselle. Joseph was a cabinet maker.

The Schmitts had a connection with the Farny family of Bisping: Barbe Farny was the second wife of Freni/Véronique Gerber's older brother Peter/Pierre Gerber. Barbe Farny was an older half-sister to Christian and Peter/Pierre Farny, 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln.' (Freni/Véronique Gerber also had an older sister Elisabeth 'Lisbeth' Gerber who married Pierre Farny of the Bistroff family).

Background on the village of Bisping can be found in FARNY. An excerpt from that history:

The most significant event in the early lives of Peter/Pierre and Christian Farny may have been the occupation of their village by Russian troops in 1814. After the defeat of the French army, every citizen in the Lorraine Region feared the arrival of Cossack cavalrymen. The mayor of Bisping assured his constituency that they should not yield to panic or leave the village, since it was unlikely the Russians would pass through their tiny community. Nevertheless the Russian army set up camp along the route between Bisping and Angviller. Bisping residents were tasked to provide sheep, pigs, hay, oats, 

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127 Some older sources erroneously state that the father Christian Smith was actually Christian Peter Schmidt, a son of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber. However, the information we gathered shows distinct Smith and Peter Schmidt families that were connected by later marriages. (The first Peter Schmidt to come to Central Illinois was widow Anna, who came from Butler County, Ohio to marry her second husband Joseph Oyer at Farndale, now part of East Peoria, in 1851).

straw, and firewood. Pots and pans were lent out to the encampments, then abandoned on the spot when the soldiers departed. Later the mayor shrugged off the embarrassment, asserting that the losses and damages would have been the same if they had been French troops.

We identified five of the children of Joseph Schmitt and Freni/Véronique Gerber. It is possible that there were other births at other locations:

1. **Joseph Schmitt** was born at Vannecourt Oct. 30, 1806. His household is found on the 1850 census of Madison, Butler County, Ohio: Joseph Smith, 38, Germany; Jacobina, 35, Germany; Ann, 10; Catharine, 8; Joseph, 7; Magdalena, 5; Nicholas, 2; and Mary, 8 months; all children born in Ohio. Thus Joseph was in Ohio by 1840. Circa 1856 they resettled in Fulton County, Ohio. On the 1860 census of German, Fulton County: Jos. Smith, 56, Germany; Jacobine, 45, Germany; Ann, 19; Catherine, 18; Joseph, 16, Magdalena, 15; Nicholas, 12; Christian, 6; Emaline, 3; all children born in Ohio. On the 1870 census of German, Fulton County: Joseph Smith, 60, France; Phoebe, 55, France; Joseph, 26; Nicholas, 22; Christian, 16; Emma, 13; Magdalena, 19; all children born in Ohio. They lived next door to pioneer Christian Rupp, 79, and a few houses from Christian Lauber, 40, and his wife Catherine, 38. Joseph Smith is mentioned once in a *Standard History of Fulton County, Ohio*. On May 12, 1875 he sold land south of Archbold to the town for use as a cemetery. The price was $37.60. *Gospel Herald*, November 1877: "Aug. 14th, in Fulton Co., Ohio, of a lingering disease, Joseph Smith, aged 68 years and 8 months. Buried the 16th. He was a brother in the Amish Mennonite church. Words of comfort were delivered by C.P. Stuckey and C. Freyinberger." Fulton County's *Death Records Book #1* lists Joseph Smith who lived at German (adjacent to Archbold on its north side), whose death certificate was filed Aug. 17, 1877. It noted that he was born in or came to Fulton County from Butler County, Ohio. Eckley Amish Cemetery is only a mile northeast of Archbold. Joseph’s headstone reads, "Joseph Smith, gest. Aug. 14, 1877 den age 67 years 8 months," yielding a birth date Dec. 14, 1809. The *Gospel Herald* obituary differs by a year, yielding Dec. 14, 1808. Joseph's widow Jacobina is found on the 1880 census of German, living with daughter Emma. Her headstone in Eckley Cemetery gives the age 65, but her obituary yields the approximate birth year 1815. *Herald of Truth*, May 1881: "Schmitt. On the 18th of March, in Fulton Co., O., of asthma and dropsy; Jacobina, widow of Joseph Schmitt, deceased, aged 65 years, 6 months and 20 days. She was a sister in the Amish Mennonite church. About 25 years ago they came from Butler Co., O., to this place. Her husband preceded her to the grave over three years. She was buried on the 19th, on which occasion comforting words were spoken by J. Weisz and C. Freienberger from Heb. 4. She leaves five children to mourn their loss, but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. She suffered much but bore it all patiently. She often wished for the time of her departure that she might be with Christ."

2. **Anne Schmitt/Anna Schmidt** was born at Bisping Aug. 10, 1808, and died at Partridge, Woodford County Aug. 30, 1876. On July 13, 1834 in Butler County she married Joseph Rediger. He was born at Ichenheim, Baden Jan. 31, 1796, and died in Woodford County Feb. 9, 1852, a son of Johannes Rediger. They purchased land at Partridge before 1839. (See REdiger).

3. **Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith** was born at Bisping May 31, 1810.

4. **Marie Schmitt** was born at Bisping Sept. 23, 1812, and died there Sept. 9, 1818. Her death entry was witnessed by Joseph Pilmann [Bielmann, 31, the Anabaptist voittiner who also appeared as a witness on Farny family entries. He was married to Marie Engel, a daughter of Michel Engel and Marguerite Würgler/Verciler.

5. **Catherine Schmitt** was born at Bisping Sept. 12, 1814, and died there Sept. 27, 1818. Joseph Pilmann also appears as a witness on her death entry.

- Family passdown says that "Christian had a brother Joseph Smith living in Fulton County, Ohio; a sister Katharine who may have married a Farny; and a sister Barbara married to John Garber." The original source of this information could not be identified. We could not identify Bisping birth entries for a sister named Barbara or one named Katharina/Catherine. However, Christian's next door neighbor in Woodford County may have been a sister. This Barbara was born in France circa 1819, and died Aug. 26, 1893. Her husband John Garber/Gerber was also born circa 1819, and died between 1850 and 1860. They are thought to have come from Lorraine via Le Havre to New York in 1846, though we could not identify a passenger list. The Woodford County census of 1850 shows them as John Garber, 31, France: Barbaray, 31, France; Elizabeth, 6, France; and Barbary, 1, Illinois. The 1860 census shows farmer John Garber, 44, Bavaria; Barbara, 44, France; Elizabeth, 16, France; Barbara, 11, Illinois; John, 3, Illinois; and Joseph, 2, Illinois. They are also shown in 1870 as Barbara Garber [now a widow], 47, France; John, 11, Illinois; and Joseph, 12, Illinois. Barbara's household appears on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as Barbara Gerber, 64, France; and son Joseph Gerber, 22, born in Illinois to French parents. Their next door neighbors

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129 Archbold and Clinton are within German Township, which is within Fulton County in the northwest corner of the state.

130 Christian P. Stuckey (1857-1929) was a minister who lived at Archbold, Fulton County. Christ Freyenberger (1841-1910) lived nearby at Pettisville.

131 A biographical sketch of John Detweiler in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County* (1889) describes his first wife Elizabeth Gerber as "a native of Lorrraine." It also described her father John Garber/Gerber as having "...died in this township some years ago."
were John and Leah Sharp, the parents of Barbara's son-in-law Peter Sharp. Barbara is buried in Imhoff Cemetery, where her headstone says, "Barbara, wife of John Gerber, 1814-Aug 26, 1893." Their children include:

a. Elizabeth Garber/Gerber was born in Lorraine approximately Aug. 20, 1844, and died at Montgomery, Woodford County March 27, 1883. Her headstone in Imhoff Cemetery simply says 'Elisabeth' with the date of her death. On Oct. 20, 1864, in Woodford County she married John Detweiler; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stucky. Detweiler was born in France Aug. 13, 1839, and died Oct. 23, 1914, a son of Johannes Detweiler and Catherine Moser. He accompanied his uncle Jacob Miller to America in 1850. John and Elizabeth are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer John Detweiler, 41, born in France to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Elizabeth, 35, born in France to French parents; Joseph, 13, born in John, 11, born in Illinois to French parents; and Elizabeth, 6, born in Illinois to French parents. The 1873 plat map of Montgomery Township shows the 120-acres property of 'J. Daetweiler' in Section 21. *Herald of Truth*, May 1883: "On the 27th of March, near Danvers, Ill., of consumption, Elizabeth Detweiler, aged 38 years, 7 months and 7 days. Her maiden name was Garber, and her parents emigrated to America in 1846. She was married to John Detweiler in 1864; was a faithful sister in the Mennonite Church, and leaves a husband and three children to mourn her departure. They need not mourn as those who have no hope, for she took her leave of this world with a perfect trust in God. Buried on the 29th in the presence of many friends and relatives. Services by Joseph Stucky from *John 11:26." On Dec. 18, 1883 John remarried to Elizabeth Miller. Their joint headstone in Imhoff Cemetery says she was born Aug. 18, 1852, and died March 1, 1938. She was a daughter of Peter Miller and Elizabeth Wolber; they brought her to America in 1868. John and Elizabeth had one child, Ida Amelia.

b. Barbara Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville May 4, 1850, and died Nov. 5, 1916. Circa 1869 she married Peter Sharp. He was born at Brown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania May 6, 1846, and died Dec. 29, 1923, a son of John Sharp and Leah Yoder. They can be found on the 1880 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Peter Sharp, 33, born in Pennsylvania; Barbara, 28, born in Illinois to German parents; Eli, 10, born in Illinois; and Benjamin, 6, born in Illinois. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery.

c. Joseph Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville circa 1858. He is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery living on the family farm with his widowed mother. *Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County* described him as 'living at home' in 1889. He is found on the 1900 census of Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois, listed among the residents of the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane.132

d. John Garber/Gerber was born at what is now Congerville circa 1859. He could not be identified after the 1870 census, though the *Portrait and Autobiographical Album of Woodford County* described him as 'living at home' in 1889.

- We could not identify a Katharina/Catherine (thought to have married a Farny) in Bisping birth entries.

**Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith** was born at Bisping May 31, 1810. Circa 1833 at Wayne, Butler County, Ohio he married Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. She was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle April 10, 1811, and died at what is now Congerville Aug. 4, 1855, a daughter of Joseph Schrag and his second wife Marie Neuhauser (see SCHROCK).

They moved from Butler County to what is now Congerville, Woodford County in 1838. The 1850 census of Woodford County shows the household of farmer Christian Smith, 40, France; Malind, 38, France; Mary, 17, Ohio; Barbaray, 15, Ohio; Peter, 13, Ohio; Nancy, 10, Illinois; Malinda, 9, Illinois; Joseph, 7, Illinois; Christian, 5, Illinois; and John, 2, Illinois. They are listed on the same page as brothers Christian and Jacob Zehr, on the page after brothers Christian and Peter Farny (the 'Amishmen who hired Lincoln').

From the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, April 1930: "...Then came next the worst and most extensive of all the local cholera outbreaks, that of July and August, 1855. The total number of deaths of this period will never be known, and can only be approximated. So far, I have the names of seventy-two persons who died of cholera here in Bloomington, at Waynesville, at Clarksville, at Stout's Grove, at Congerville, at Twin Grove, at Diamond Grove, and in the vicinity of Shirley, all during this outbreak."

Father Christian died Aug. 2, and mother Magdalena followed Aug. 4. Magdalena's brother Andrew Schrock died the following day.

Elder Daniel Zehr was called to attend to the family. Zehr delivered the graveside eulogy at a funeral Aug. 10, spent the evening at home, and died the following morning. Daughter Barbara Smith died Aug. 14 or 17, and son John Smith died Aug. 19. The victims were hastily buried in Slabtown Cemetery.133

132 The former site of the hospital is now the Prairie Land Heritage Museum.

133 Repeating a note from SOMMER: Many of the dead in Slabtown Cemetery were buried under wooden markers that no longer survive. Cattle were allowed to graze on the grounds. Only 16 or so headstones can still be read. These include the
The *Weekly Pantagraph*'s list of the dead from 'Asiatic Cholera' noted "Christian Schmidt, near Congerville," then "Mrs. Christian Schmidt, near Congerville," then "A young daughter and a young son of Christian Schmidt, near Congerville." (An explanation of the nature of cholera and its effect on immigration and the frontier is given in STAKER).

The surviving children were raised by relatives and neighbors. The children of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock include:

a. Mary Smith was born in Butler County circa 1833 (her headstone says 1835), and died at Harper, Kansas in 1896. On Dec. 7, 1858 in Peoria County she married Frederick Fellrath. He was born circa 1836, and died at Harper Nov. 21, 1894. They are found on the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as harness maker F. Felroth, 43, born in Alsace; Mary, 44, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace; Lewis H., 16, born in Illinois; and Ida, 9, born in Illinois. Mary and Frederick are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper.

b. Barbara Smith was born in Butler County circa 1835, and died at what is now Congerville of cholera Aug. 14 or 17, 1855.

c. Peter Smith was born in Butler County June 20, 1837, and died in Livingston County Nov. 17, 1875. On Feb. 3, 1861 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Neuhauser. She was born in Butler County Feb. 21, 1840, and died in Livingston County March 24, 1881, a daughter of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt. The 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows Barbara Smith, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Baden and a mother from France. Her brother John W. and his family lived with them. Their family Bible is in the collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana. Peter and Barbara are buried at Flanagan. *Gospel Herald*, April 1876: "Nov. 17th, 1875, in Livingston Co., Ill., Bro. Peter Schmitt, aged 38 years, 4 months and 27 days. He was sick eleven weeks, and he bore his suffering with Christian patience, manifesting to those visiting him a good example. He gave his family and friends a good admonition before his departure. Services by Joseph Gasho, Chr. Schlagel, and Jn. P. Schmitt."

d. Anna 'Nancy' Smith was born at what is now Congerville circa 1840, and died in 1861. On May 2, 1858 in Tazewell County she married John Garber of Elm Grove. He was born in Ohio in 1836, a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Faith (see GERBER AND GARBER). Despite their short marriage they had four children named Peter, David, Anna, and Eva. The 1880 census of Boynton shows farm laborer Peter J. Garber, 21, born in Illinois, parents from Ohio, living in the household of Benjamin F. Miller, 37. The 1880 census of Little Mackinaw shows David Garber, 19, born in Illinois, parents from Pennsylvania, working on the farm of Christian Birky, 70. The 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County shows servant Eva Garber, 18, born in Illinois; parents from Baden, living in the household of merchant Jacob Engel, 32.

e. Magdalena 'Malinda' Smith was born at what is now Congerville May 11, 1841, and died at Harper, Kansas April 14, 1916. On Oct. 21, 1860 in Tazewell County she married Peter Neuhauser (Jr.). He was born in Butler County July 8, 1838, and died Aug. 26, 1864, a son of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt. On Oct. 11, 1866 at Bloomington, McLean County she remarried to Valentine Maninger. He was born at Dittwar, Baden Sept. 26, 1835, and died at Harper July 4, 1913. They are shown on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Valentine Maninger, 45, born in Baden to parents form Baden; Magdalena, 39, born in Illinois to French parents; six children born in Illinois; and Jacob Smith, 21, a Swiss farm laborer. Their next door neighbor was Barbara Smith, 40, born in Ohio to parents from Baden and France, with five children born in Illinois; she was presumably Peter's younger sister, the widowed Barbara Neuhauser. The third consecutive household was that of their younger brother John A. Neuhauser. Magdalena and Valentine are buried in the Apostolic Cemetery at Harper. *The Harper Sentinel*, April 20, 1916: "Mrs. Maninger Passes Away. – Mrs. Magdalena Maninger passed away Friday, April 14th at her home in Harper after a long illness. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock form the Apostolic German church, after short services had been held from the residence. Rev. Kurtz of Burlington, Ok., officiated. The remains were laid to rest in the Apostolic cemetery by the side of her husband who died two years ago. Magdalene Smith was born in Carlcock, Ill., May 11th, 1841. Her parents came from France in 1831. She was married to Peter Neuhauser in 1860. To that union three children were born, all with the husband having preceded her in death. She was married to Valentine Maninger in 1866. To this union seven sons and one daughter were born. They are John, Frank, Gus, Joe (deceased), William, Ed, Fred, and Mrs. Emma Barth. Mrs. Maninger came to Kansas with her family in the early eighties and had since made this state her home. She had united with the Apostolic church in girlhood and had lived true to the faith ever since. Her life was one of usefulness and the long line of children and grandchildren she leaves are living witnesses of the character of the woman who has passed to her reward. Friends and relatives from a distance who attended the funeral were: Mrs. Fred Hoffman, Mrs. Mary Deil, Rev. Kurtz, Dan Dotterer, Mrs. Barbara Smith, Mrs. Noah Domnick, Misses Mary Zehr, Mary Allenback, Mary Kurtz and Lena Riggenbaugh, of Burlington, Ok., J.P. Farney, Sam Farney and wife of Kiowa; John Schrock and wife, J. Shrock, Sam Schrock and Lena Scrock of Hazelton; John Oyer, Hesston; Mrs. Lena King, Hutchinson and John Raedel and wife of Wichita."

Mary and Frederick are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper.
Joseph Smith was born at what is now Congerville May 23, 1843, and died at Harper, Kansas Jan. 3, 1889. On Dec. 18, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Roth. She was born in Butler County April 25, 1847, and died at Harper Sept. 1, 1920, a daughter of minister Nicholas Roth and Katharina/Catherine Habecker. They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Joseph Smith, 37, born in Illinois to German parents; Barbara, 32, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace and Bavaria; and seven children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Barbara's aunt Frena Roth Stecker/Staker (now 1000 W. Jefferson Avenue), and Peter Oyer and Anna Garber. Joseph and Barbara are buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper.

Christian Smith (Jr.) was born at what is now Congerville Jan. 18, 1846. He signed a one-year enlistment at Springfield Oct. 1, 1864, and served in the Civil War as a private in Company G, 108th Illinois U.S. Infantry. His records describe him as born in Woodford County but living at Elm Grove; age 18; height 5 foot 5-½ inches; hazel eyes; hair, dark; complexion, fair. 23-year-old Noah Garber of Elm Grove (a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paite) and 21-year-old Jacob Kinsinger (son of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara Peter Schmidft) enlisted with him. They were repositioned at Montgomery, Alabama; Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and Vicksburg, Mississippi, where Christian mustered out Aug. 5, 1865. He was transported by steamboat to Cairo, Illinois, and by rail to Chicago, where he was paid and discharged. During Christian's enlistment the 108th moved from Memphis to New Orleans. On March 27 they engaged Confederates at Spanish Fort, a defensive point on Mobile Bay, Alabama. The siege lasted 13 days. From there they were repositioned at Montgomery, Alabama; Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and Vicksburg, Mississippi, where Christian mustered out Aug. 5, 1865. He was transported by steamboat to Cairo, Illinois, and by rail to Chicago, where he was paid and discharged.

According to History of Tazewell County, Christian accepted Amish Mennonite baptism in 1867. On Feb. 13, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Jacobine/Jacobena 'Bena' Suisse/Schweitzer. The ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey (a list of Stuckey's ceremonies names her 'Jacobina Schweitzer'). She was born June 12, 1847, a daughter of Jean Suisse/John Schweitzer and Marie Engel (see ENGEL and SCHWEIZER).

They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as farmer Christian Smith, 33, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; Bena, 31, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine; William, 6, born in Illinois; and Freddie, 1, born in Illinois. They lived next door to Bena's parents, who are shown as farmer John Switzer, 72, Lorraine; and Mary Switzer, 72, Lorraine. Christian farmed his father's Section 2 property with his brother Peter Suisse/Schweitzer.

Their household appears on the 1900 census of Pigeon Grove, Iroquois County, Illinois as Christ Smith, born in Illinois in January 1846 to French parents; Bena, born in Illinois in June 1847 to French parents; W.A., born in Illinois in November 1873; and F.A., born in Illinois in February 1879.

It is thought that they are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Pigeon Grove.

**Petersmith and Smith: Peter Schmidt of Muntzenheim**

Descendants of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber

In his book *Bernese Anabaptists* historian Delbert Gratz mentions the surname Peter as one found among Anabaptists in the Thun area of Bern in the latter part of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The common surname Schmidt is also found among those families. Both surnames are found in the villages of Upper Alsace where Swiss emigrants settled in the early 1700s.

Whether the pairing of the two originated in Bern, or later in Alsace, is not certain. The earliest Alsatian records we could identify give the surnames of males as 'Petter Schmid.' Over time this has evolved in France into 'Peterschmitt.' In America it was accepted as Schmidt or Smith, with a middle initial 'P.' It has also taken the forms 'Peterschmidt' and 'Petersmith.'

French genealogist Thierry Huckel describes Bastian Peter Schmidt and Anna Augspurger/Augsburger, born circa 1700, as the parents of Sebastian Peterschmitt, born in 1748.

The majority of Peterschmitts in Upper Alsace today appear to be descendants of Sebastian and his wife Barbe Schlatter. Sebastian was born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace (adjacent to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) circa 1748, and died at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine (six miles south of Colmar) June 17, 1826. Circa 1788 at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines he married Barbe. She was born circa 1758, and died at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine Dec. 7, 1823. Sebastian may have been a minister or deacon. In 1822 he was the author of a short letter on behalf of the Colmar congregation to the congregation on Birkenhof at Ruederbach. One of their sons, Sebastian (born 1780) may have fathered as
many as 24 children by two wives. Another, Peter (born 1785) is thought to have fathered 16 children. A third son, François Joseph (born in 1790) may have fathered 17 children.\(^{161}\)

Given their shared Amish Mennonite background, the shared surname, proximate birth dates, and proximate geography, it seems likely; that Johannjes/Jean Peter Schmid was also a son or nephew of Bastian and Anna.\(^{162}\) He was born circa 1743, and died at Bollwiller, Upper Alsace May 26, 1784. He married Verena Wagner. She was born circa 1743, and died at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Oct. 22, 1812.

Their son Jacob Peter Schmid was born circa 1767.\(^{163}\) He married Barbara Lauber. According to the research of Neil Anne Stuckey Levine, Barbara was born in 1771 (likely at Mussig, Upper Alsace), a daughter of Christian Lauber and Katharina Schwartz.\(^{164}\) Jacob was a weaver and laborer. He and Barbara lived at Muntzenheim, Upper Alace (six miles east of Colmar) 1790-97.

Two (Jean and Jacob) and perhaps three (the oldest Christian) of their children were born at Muntzenheim. The birth of their oldest son Christian took place before the 1792 establishment of the état civil system of administrative record keeping (his age can only be estimated from a baptism entry likely created at age 15).

One Muntzenheim entry suggests that Jacob had a sister there. On April 29, 1796 Elizabeth Schwarz was born. Her parents were described as cultivator Michael Schwarz and Anne Pierre Schmid. Witnesses were described as weaver Jacques Pierre Schmid, 31, and day laborer Jacques Roth, 33. The entry bore the signatures of father Michel Schwartz, Jacob Roth, and 'Jacob Peter Schmid alt zuig' ('the elder, witness'). We can only guess at other relationships, noting that Barbara Lauber's mother was a Schwartz.

After 1798 the family relocated approximately 48 miles to the south to live near the Swiss boarder. Two mentions are found in records at Feldbach in 1801 (the birth of a child, and Jacob as a witness to another birth). Later records are found at nearby Ruederbach. That village was the location of Birkenhof farm, where Amish Mennonites assembled for religious meetings after the French Revolution.\(^{165}\) Jacob/Jacques Rich (1789-1879) and Joseph Rich (1822-1894) who settled at Morton were the son and grandson of Peter Rich, who was elder at Birkenhof farm 1790-1820. The owner was Christian Hirschi; he was married to Marie Anne Ropp, a cousin of Andreas Ropp. The community was also only three miles from Barthel Hutte farm at Largitzen, where the family of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann lived before emigrating in 1826. For more on Ruederbach see RICH.

In 1820 a son was married at Bendorf, a tiny village eight miles south of Ruederbach and only three miles north of the Swiss boarder. The marriage entry described parents of the groom Jacob and Barbara as residents there.

The final location where family records were found was Hirsingue (adjacent to Ruederbach on the north side). Hirsingue was the home of the Amish Mennonite Ulrich family. Central Illinois figures with connections to Hirsingue include:

- Peter Ulrich (1811-1904) was born at Hirsingue. He married Anna Oyer and Barbara Zimmerman, and died at Eureka.
- Joseph Litwiller (1799-1884) married Barbe/Barbara Ulrich at Hirsingue Sept. 19, 1829. He settled in Dillon with his second wife, Magdalena 'Malinda' Sommer.
- Jacob Berse (1803-1877) married Catherine Ulrich at Hirsingue April 7, 1831. He used Peter Ulrich's passport to emigrate from Europe. Jacob and Catherine settled at Elm Grove, where Jacob was known as Christian Wagler.
- Peter Jacob Berse (1831-1903) was born at Hirsingue. He married Catherine Rediger and settled at Elm Grove as Peter Wagler.

Jacob Peter Schmid died at Hirsingue Nov. 28, 1831. Fortunately historical relics survive. The Oyer family possesses a notebook detailing his business transactions and medical remedies. He described small purchases.

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\(^{161}\) In the course of Ropp searches we also found a hitherto unknown son, Christian Pierre Schmitt. He was born circa 1789, and died at Uengersheim, Upper Alsace (10 miles south of Ste. Croix-en-Plaine) Sept. 19, 1806. His civil death entry named his parents as Sebastien Pierre Schmitt and Barbe Schlatter, and was signed by his father and father-in-law as 'Pierre Smit' and 'Christian Roth.' He was the first husband of Barbe Roth, who remarried to Joseph Ropp at Uengersheim in 1807. Joseph was a brother to Andreas Ropp, the patriarch of the Central Illinois family.

\(^{162}\) French minister Willy Peterschmitt believed that Bastian was Jacob Peter Schmid's father, removing a generation, but this would be a very long reach — Bastian was born circa 1700, and Jacob circa 1767.

\(^{163}\) His age was given as 42 when he signed as a witness on the birth entry of Johannes Roth at Feldbach, Upper Alsace in the Republican calendar year 9 (either 1800 or 1801). His signature appears to say 'Jacob Petter Schmidt alt Zuig' — Jacob Petter Schmid senior, witness.

\(^{164}\) Levine's excellent article *European Folk Remedies*, from the *Notebook of Jacob Peterschmidt (1766-1831)* can be found in the January 2008 issue of *Mennonite Family History*.

\(^{165}\) Before the French Revolution the Anabaptists in the area had attended services at remote Neuneich. It was a farm in the foothills of the Jura Mountains between Ligsdorf (14 miles south of Altkirch) and the Swiss boarder (two miles below Ligsdof).
payments, and labor tasks such as hauling. It also holds a copy of an Amish Discipline formulated at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1779. The notebook has been translated twice, and has been studied by Neil Ann Stucky Levine. It is now held by the Mennonite Heritage Center at Metamora. A German-language devotional/prayer book called Manuele de Praeparatione ad Morten published at Basel in 1744 and inscribed "Dieses Buch Gehoert Mir, Jacob Petter Schmid" is also held in the Peter Smith (1837-1875) collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana.

In the early 1830s 'American fever' induced many French families to consider emigration. A wave of departures was inspired by the threat of military conscription to support the French occupation of Algeria (see STAKER for more on this significant factor affecting French emigration).

In the spring following Jacob's death his widow Barbara Lauber Peter Schmid began her family's journey to America by purchasing passage in steerage on the ship Havre. Alvan Stewart, who had been a passenger on the Havre as it made the transit from Le Havre [or Havre de Grace] to New York the previous summer, wrote about the ship in his diary: "July 23, 1831 – Yet in sight of Havre de Grace, its chalk hills and two light houses, wind adverse. But I am content because I am going towards America if it is but five miles a day. We have a fine captain; fine ship. The Havre is a vessel of 500 tons, highly finished. Capt. De Peyster is an experienced navigator. The cabin has it share of intelligence; many gentlemen who have spent years abroad in cultivating their minds and manners. The steerage is also filled with passengers of a humbler cast.”

The obituary of Barbara's daughter Anna says that "...In 1832 she [Anna] came with her mother [Barbara], 3 brothers and 3 sisters to America." The Havre sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 23, 1832.

When the Havre passenger list was created at New York, these family members were clearly identified:

Barbe P. Schmidt, 60, farmer, France
Chestine, 40 [female; Christine]
Jacob, 35
Christian --- [age illegible]

The widowed mother Barbara Lauber
Her daughter-in-law Christina Schwartz
Her son Jacob
Her son Christian

The remainder of the passenger list seems to be oddly jumbled. There are several groups of children, ordered by descending age, with no parents listed. The wife of son Johannes appears as 'Chestine'; much farther down the list, we notice three of her children in order of age: Jacques, 8; Barbe, 6; and Catherine, 4. Not only does Johannes not appear, but we cannot find individuals who may have been his oldest son or sisters.

The apparent disorganization actually follows a familiar pattern. Often the young adult passengers disembarked at a ship's first landfall and traveled directly to a place of promised employment. This not only spared them a few additional days or weeks of seasickness, but brought the first wage as quickly as possible. The older members of a party and the children would remain onboard to ultimately reach a point as near as possible to the destination, shortening the overland portion of their journey.

Anna's obituary: "...They settled in Lancaster Co., Pa., at Samuel Lantz’s. From the church at this place this poor family received many favors. Three years afterwards the family moved to Butler Co., Ohio..." The only Samuel Lantz who appears as a property owner on the 1830 census of Lancaster County was a minister living at Leacock. Leacock is seven miles northeast of the community of Lancaster.

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166 An Amish Discipline is a statement of basic beliefs and practices pertaining to religion. In some instances they distinguish Amish Mennonites from Mennonites or others.

167 A German-language devotional/prayerbook called Manuele de Praeparatione ad Morten published at Basel in 1744 and inscribed "Dieses Buch Gehoert Mir, Jacob Petter Schmid" is held in the Peter Smith (1837-1875) collection of the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen, Indiana.

168 For more on Captain Frederick A. De Peyster, see the KENNEL account of the 1830 De Rham voyage.

The most famous Havre passenger was French abolitionist Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), who made the passage immediately before Stewart's. He departed Le Havre April 2, 1831, arriving at Newport, Rhode Island May 9, and New York May 11. Ostensibly touring prisons on behalf of the French government, he made a nine-month tour of the country that included a meeting with President Andrew Jackson. He returned to France on the Havre, departing from New York Feb. 20. In 1835 he published De la Démocratie en Amerique [Democracy in America]. His observations were much more honest than those found in American newspapers of the time: "The first who attracts the eye, the first in enlightenment, in power and in happiness, is the white man, the European, man par excellence; below him appear the Negro and the Indian. These two unfortunate races have neither birth, nor face, nor language, nor mores in common; only their misfortunes look alike. Both occupy an equally inferior position in the country that they inhabit; both experience the effects of tyranny; and if their miseries are different, they can accuse the same author for them."

169 Samuel Lantz (1781-1852) was a grandson of immigrant Samuel König/King and Anna Yoder (see KING), and a son of Samuel Lantz and Elizabeth King (thus a stepson to Elizabeth's second husband Christian Stoltzfus). He married Magdalena...
The birth place of their youngest child, born in 1833, has been passed down as Mill Creek. This may have been the Mill Creek Valley in Leacock. Mill Creek is a tributary of the Conestoga River.

From 1835 to 1837 the Peter Schmidts migrated to Butler County. Barbara Lauber Peter Schmidt is thought to have died there.

The children of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber include:

1. Christian Peter Schmidt was born circa 1790, likely at Muntzenheim. A Neuneich record shows that Christian Schmid, a son of 'Jakob Schmid' and Barbara Lauber, was baptized on Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach June 21, 1804. He was shown on the Havre passenger list in 1832, but his age was obliterated by stains.

2. Johannes or Jean Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith was born at Muntzenheim Dec. 6, 1794 (despite American censuses that indicate a birth circa 1798-99). The entry describes his parents as 'Jacques Schmidt,' weaver, and Barbe Lauber. One witness was Michel Schwartz, 40, who was likely Jacob's brother-in-law Michel Schwartz. On Jan. 22, 1820 at Bendorf he married Christine Schwartz. She was born at Dürenentzen (adjacent to Muntzenheim), a daughter of Michel Schwarz and Catherine Frey. The marriage entry described the groom as a 25-year-old native of Muntzenheim, and the bride as a 29-year-old native of Dürenentzen. Each signed with an 'x,' indicating they were illiterate; father of the groom Jacob signed his full name as a witness. Although Christine and three of their children are shown on the Havre passenger list, Johannes is not. In America Johannes changed his name to John P. Smith. It is probable that their household is shown on the 1840 census of Milford, Butler County Ohio. Under the name 'John P. Smith,' a tally shows two males 15-19 years of age (sons John and Jacob); one female 5-9 (daughter Fannie); two females 10-14 (Barbara and Catherine); and one female 50-60 (Christine). Only the head of household is missing. 'John Peter Schmitt' submitted a Declaration of Intent to obtain naturalization in Butler County in September 1840. The entry gave his age as 46, and noted sons John Peter, 19; and Jacob Peter, 17. The household appears on the 1850 census of St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio as laborer Peter Smith, 52, Germany; Christina, 60, Germany; Fanny, 18, Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth, 6 months, Ohio. They also appear in the household of a son on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa: John Smith, 40, France; Catherine, 28, Canada; Elizabeth, 7; Fanny, 4; Catherine, 8 months; John P. Smith, 61, gentleman, France; and Christina, 69, France. One source says Johannes is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Waldo, Livingston County. Their children include:

   a. Johannes Peter Schmidt/John P. Smith was born at Bendorf Oct. 12, 1820 (the entry calls him 'Jean Pierre Schmit'), and died at Waldo, Livingston County Jan. 11, 1904. He was naturalized in Butler County in 1844. On Oct. 17, 1847 in Butler County he married Catherine Birkelbach/Burgelbaugh/Birkelbaw. She was born 'in the English Colony' of Canada Aug. 20, 1830, and died at Waldo Aug. 14, 1905, a daughter of Christian Birckelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber. Their household is found on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County: John P. Smith, 29, France; Catharine, 20, Canada; and on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa. The 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows them as farmer John P. Smith, 49, France; Catherine, 39, Canada; Elizabeth, 16, Iowa; Fanny, 12, Iowa; Catherine, 10, Iowa; and Phebe, 3, Illinois. John and Catherine are buried in Waldo Mennonite Cemetery. Herald of Truth, January 1904: "Pre. John P. Schmidt fell asleep in Jesus on the 11th of January 1904, after suffering for about four weeks of asthma. For some time he was obliged to sit up night and day, but in the last days of his life he could lie down and rest. He reached his 84th year and had lived in matrimony over 56 years. Of his five children three daughters survive, who with the aged companion, twenty grandchildren and one great-grandchild mourn his death, yet with the consolation that he has gone to his eternal reward in glory. He was in the ministry for over 40 years and was faithfully engaged in the work in the Flanagan A.M. Cong. McLean Co., Ill., until four weeks before his death. The text for his last sermon was Matt. 11:28-30. Funeral services at his home near Gridley, Ill., by Pre. Lehman from James 4:14, and at the M.H. by Peter Zimmerman from 2 Tim. 4:6-8, and by Daniel Schlegel from Num. 23:10. A large concourse of friends met on this solemn occasion. Barbara Albrecht." Gospel Witness, August 1905: "Catherine Smith (nee Birkelbaw) departed this life at her home near Gridley, Ill., August 14, 1905. She was born in the English Colony, Canada, August 20, 1830. Aged 74 y. 11 m. 14 d. She was married to John P. Smith in Butler Co., Ohio, Oct., 17, 1847. To this..."
union were born five children, two preceding her to the glory world. She is survived by one step brother, one step sister and one sister, three daughters, twenty grand children, two great grand children, and a host of friends to mourn her death. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and faithfully served the master to the end. Her last words were, 'Home! Home!'. Our loss is her gain. Funeral services at the home by Daniel Orendorf, text, Psalm 90; at the church in English by Daniel W. Slagel, text John 11:25, 26 in German by John Smith, text Gal.6:6-9. D.W. Slagel.'

b. Jacques Peter Schmidt/Jacob P. Schmidt was born at Benddorf Aug. 9, 1823, and died at Montgomery, Hickory County, Missouri Oct. 7 or Nov. 10, 1873. He is buried as Jacob P. Smith in Gerber Cemetery at Elkton, Hickory County, Missouri, where his headstone gives an accurate birth date but the date of death Nov. 10, 1873 (conflicting with his obituary). He was naturalized in Butler County in 1844. In 1865 he became the second husband of Francis 'Fannie' Ramseyer (first husband Michael Oswald), a daughter of Johannes Ramseyer and Freni/Veronica 'Fanny' Lichtunegger Ramseyer; their Butler County marriage entry lists them as 'Jacob P. Schmidt' and 'Frances Rumpshire.' The household of Jacob and Fannie appears on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio as Jacob P. Smith, 27, Pennsylvania [France]; Francis, 32, Pennsylvania; Barbara, 12, Ohio; Daniel, 6, Ohio; Ann, 11, Ohio; Mary Schaub, 42, Germany; May, 7, Ohio; and farm laborer Christopher Grange, 20, Germany. The 1860 census of Hanover, Butler County shows Jacob P. Smith or Jacob L. Smith, 36, Germany; Francis, 42, Germany; Barbara, 22, Ohio; Danl., 14, Ohio; Anne A. Smith, 10, Ohio; Jo. P. Smith, 8, Ohio; M. A. Smith, 5, Ohio; and Samuel Otto, 32, Germany. Before 1865 Fannie Ramseyer died, and in 1865 in Butler County Jacob remarried to Barbara Yoder, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine (possibly at Huningue) Sept. 4, 1845, and died May 11, 1939, a daughter of Nicolas Joder and Barbe Wurgler. They resettled in Missouri in 1870. The 1870 census of Montgomery, Hickory County, Missouri has farmer Jacob P. Smith, 47, France; Barbara, 25, France; Joseph, 18, Ohio; Amanda, 15, Ohio; Mary, 8, Ohio; Amelia, 2, Ohio; Lydia, 7 months, Missouri; and farm laborer Daniel, 26, Ohio. The familiar surnames Isch [Oesch], Yoder, Naafsinger [Nafziger], and Coffman [Kaufman] can be found on the same census page Herald of Truth, December 1873. "Oct. 7th, in Hickory Co., Mo., very suddenly, Jacob P. Schmidt, aged 50 years, 1 month, and 28 days. On the funeral occasion remarks were made by Peter Lehman."[171] On Feb. 14, 1876 in Hickory County Barbara remarried to Adam Hostetler. He was born at Menno, Pennsylvania March 6, 1823, and died Nov. 4, 1910, a son of John Hostetler and Veronica Kurtz. Barbara and Adam are buried in Clearfork Cemetery, Garden City, Missouri. Gospel Herald, June 1939: "Barbara , daughter of Barbara and Nicholas Yoder was born in Alsace Lorraine, France, Sept. 4, 1845; died at the home of her daughter (Mrs. W. J. Oesch) May 11, 1939; aged 93 y. 9 m. 7 d. She was the last of a family of 13 children. She was always considered first with Mrs. Oesch and her family. She was a quiet, home-loving woman, never complaining of her sufferings, always thinking of her family. She spent her childhood in the land of her nativity. At the age of 18 she with a brother and sister came to the United States, making her home in Butler Co., Ohio. In 1865 she was united in marriage to J. P. Smith. To this union 4 children were born (Mrs. Mary King and Mrs. Lydia Shaw, who preceded her in death; Mrs. Amelia King, Rock Island, Ill.; J. P. Smith, Garden City, Mo.). In 1870 the family moved to Hickory Co., Mo., where in 1874 her husband passed away. Several years later she was married to Adam Hostetler, who preceded her in death Nov. 4, 1910, at Index, Mo. To this union 5 children were born (Mrs. Emma Hostetler, Garden City, Mo.; W. S. Hostetter, Redlands, Calif.; Mrs. Ellen Oesch, East Lynne, Mo.; W. A. Hostetler, Weaubleau, Mo.). She was converted at an early age, joined the Mennonite Church, and remained a faithful member until death. On account of failing health she has been unable to attend services for several years. Besides the above mentioned children she is survived by 31 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the S. J. Oesch home and the Sycamore Grove Church by J. G. Hartzler, assisted by D. W. Britton. Text, Job 5:26,27. Interment in the Clearfork Cemetery."

c. Barbe Peter Schmidt/Barbara Smith was born in Upper Alsace April 29, 1826, and died at Normal, McLean County June 11, 1916. On Aug. 20, 1851 in Butler County she married Andrew Salzman. He was born at Blémont, Meurthe-et-Moselle circa 1828, and died in McLean County April 20, 1891, a son of Andrew Salzman and Anna Hodler. Gospel Herald, February 1916: "Barbara Schmidt was born in Alsace, Germany, April 29, 1826; died Jan. 12, 1916, at the home of her daughter, Christiana Leuschner, Normal, Ill., aged 89 y. 4 m. 13 d. She was the third in a family of six sons and daughters. She came with her parents to this country in 1832, first settling in Lancaster Co., Pa. Five years later they moved to Butler Co., Ohio. In 1856 they moved to Tazewell Co., Ill. In 1867 she with her husband moved to McLean Co., which has been her home ever since. She was united in marriage to Andrew Saltzman in 1851. To this union were born 6 children, 2 of whom died in infancy. There were 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She died of the infirmities of old age. She was an earnest Christian, a member of the Mennonite Church from her youth. Hers was a life lived above reproach. Quiet and unassuming, her

[171] In 1868 minister Peter S. Lehman led his Berne, Indiana congregation to resettle in Cass County, Missouri. By the mid-1880s even Lehman had returned to Indiana.
heart went out in tender sympathy towards the needy. She enjoyed extensive acquaintance and was always a welcome visitor in the homes of friends and relatives. Funeral Jan. 14 was conducted at the house by Bros. Peter Shantz and Lee Lantz, and at the East White Oak Mennonite Church by I. Shantz, J. H. King, and Valentine Strubhar. Interment in the Shantz Cemetery near Carlock, Ill., where lies her husband who preceded her in death more than 25 years.” They are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock.
d.
Catherine Peter Schmidt/Smith was born in Upper Alsace May 8, 1828, and died in Johnson County, Iowa Oct. 24, 1898. On Jan. 16, 1848 in Butler County, Ohio she married John von Gunden. He was born in Baden Jan. 4, 1827, and died in Johnson County Nov. 16, 1906. It is likely that this was the John who was born to Christian Bruckelbach and Marie/Mary Schwartzentruber (Marie/Mary remarried to Johannes von Gunde/John Gundy; see the earlier footnote). Their family is found on the 1870 census of Trenton, Henry County, Iowa as John B. Gunten, 43, Darmstadt; Catharina, 43, Darmstadt; Barbara, 21, Ohio; Fannie, 20, Ohio [she married her second cousin John W. Neuhauser]; John, 17, Ohio; Christian, 16, Ohio; Jacob, 12, Iowa; Joseph, 10, Iowa; and Catharina, 5, Iowa. *Herald of Truth*, December 1898: “On Oct. 24, 1898, at 2 A.M., near Amish, Johnson Co., Iowa, Sister Catherine, wife of Pre. John Von Gunden, at the age of 70 years, 5 months and 16 days. Her disease was heart and stomach trouble. Interment took place on the 26th at the church burying ground, on which occasion J. F. Schwartzentruber and C. J. Miller conducted the funeral services in the presence of a large gathering. Sister Von Gunden was born in Upper Alsace, France. Her maiden name was Peter-Schmitt. In 1832 her father emigrated to America with his family, where he first settled near Millcreek in Lancaster Co, Pa. In 1835 they went to Butler Co., Ohio, where the deceased grew up and was taken into the Amish Mennonite Church through baptism. She remained a faithful member up to her death. During the last few years she suffered a great deal with stomach and heart trouble but she bore her great pains with Christian patience and longed for her death. She leaves a deeply stricken husband, to whom she was a great support, not only in temporal things, but also in his ministerial office. Of eleven children there are six still living, who mourn her departure. Four of them stood by her bedside to see how their dear mother had gained the victory. Her aged brother, John P. Schmitt, and her widowed sister, Barbara Saltzman, were also present. She also leaves twenty-seven grandchildren to mourn her death, but we do not mourn like those who have no hope. Her whole life, as far as known to the writer, was an example of Christian virtue, to approve good and censure evil, and no one will regret, even now yet, following her instructions. She read a great deal in the Holy Scriptures, as well as in the Herald of Truth and other Christian literature, but she was not easily moved by empty doctrines and deceptions of the people and had a dislike for those who followed every innovation. Some time ago she showed me a large collection of choice poems and other literature, which for years she had been cutting out of periodicals and pasting into a book kept specially for that purpose. I should consider this collection a rich treasure, for it reflects her innermost heart, and I could advise her children, as well as others ‘Go, thou, and do likewise,” for herein lies a blessing which far excels all worldly pleasures on which the eye likes to feast. Deceased was married to John Von Gunden on the 16th of January, 1848. The latter was born on the 4th of January, 1827, in the palace-yard in the kingdom of Bavaria. J. D. G.” *Herald of Truth*, December 1906: “John Von Gunden was born in Baden, German, Jan. 4, 1827; died near Amish, Iowa, Nov. 16,1906; aged 79 Y., 10 M., 12 D. He emigrated with his parents to America in 1834, first living in Pennsylvania and later took up their residence in Fulton Co., Ohio. In early life he identified himself with the Amish Mennonite church. When a young man he went to Butler Co., Ohio, and there was united in marriage to Catharine P. Schmitt, Jan. 16, 1848. A few years later he, with his wife and then small family, moved to Lee Co., Iowa, where they lived a short time; thence they removed to Henry Co., Iowa where the deceased grew up and was taken into the Amish Mennonite Church. A very large concourse of relatives and friends attended to pay their last tribute of respect. Of his children there are yet six living and were a
l present except Katie of Milford, Neb. He also leaves 29 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to mourn his death; but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. Peace to his ashes.”
e.
A son was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace March 13, 1830, and died the same day. The entry labels the child 'Schmit N.N.,’ and describes the parents as cultivator 'Jean Pierre Schmit,' 35, a native of 'Montzheim,' and 'Cristine Schwarts,' 38.
f.
Anne Peter Schmitt was born at Hirsingue April 7, 1831. The entry describes her parents as ‘Jean Petter Schmit,’ 36, and Christine Schwartz. Anne died at sea on the Havre in 1832.
g.
Fannie Schmidt/Smith (headstone ‘Fannie Schmitt’) was born at Mill Creek, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 10, 1833, and died at Normal, McLean County Jan. 21, 1914 (headstone dates). On March 13, 1852 in Butler County she married Jacob Rediger. He was born in Baden Sept. 17, 1833, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Sept. 25, 1910 (headstone dates). They are found on the 1900 census of Bloomington as cooper Jacob Rediger, 67, born in Germany in September 1832; Fannie A., 67,

172 Some sources say Jacob Rediger was born Sept. 11, 1832, and died Sept. 26, 1910. His Lantz Cemetery headstone is clearly legible.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

born in Pennsylvania in August 1832 to parents from Germany; and daughter Minnie, born in Illinois in October 1872. Jacob and Fannie are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock.

3. Jacob Peter Schmidt was born at Muntzenheim Jan. 11, 1797. The birth entry called him Jacques Pierre, and described his parents as Jacques Pierre Schmid, 30, and Barbe Lauberin. Witnesses included day laborer Jacques Roth, 30, and cultivator Michel Schwarz, 42. A Neuneich record shows that he was baptized on Birkenhof farm at Ruederbach Nov. 27, 1812. Levine writes that he was a witness at the marriage of his cousin Christian Ulrich at Bourg-Bruche, Lower Alsace in 1820. He signed his father's death entry at Hirsingue in 1831. He is also found as a 35-year-old on the Havre passenger list.

4. Katharina Peter Schmidt was born at Feldbach (midway between Bendorf and Hirsingue) March 7, 1801. Her civil birth entry described her as 'Catharine Peter Schmit,' and her parents as 'Jacob Peter Schmid' and 'Barbara Laǔberin.' Johannes Roth senior ('alt') was a witness. Levine states that Katharina accompanied her family to America in 1832; we could not identify her source.

5. Barbara Peter Schmidt was born circa 1803, and died age 4 at Ruederbach Oct. 4, 1807.

6. Elizabeth Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Dec. 6, 1805. The margin note on her birth entry called her 'Elisabeth Schmitt,' while the text called her 'Elisabette.' Either Elizabeth or her younger sister Barbara did not make the trip to America in 1832 (only four sisters traveled).

7. Anne Marie Peter Schmidt (also known as Mary) was born at Ruederbach July 22, 1807, and died Feb. 2, 1884. On Jan. 23, 1835 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania she married Peter Neuhauser. He was born 'near Basel' Feb. 20, 1796, and died at Morton July 23, 1889, a son of Jacob Neuhauser and Catherine Sommer. See NEUHAUSER for more on this couple.

8. Joseph Pierre Schmid was born at Ruederbach Nov. 20, 1809 (the civil entry was created Nov. 28), and died there April 20, 1810.

9. Barbara Peter Schmidt/Barbara P. Smith was born at Ruederbach Jan. 8, 1811 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Barbara Peterschmitt'), and died in Butler County in 1860. In 1837 in Butler County she married Johannes/John Kinsinger. He was born on the Heckanenschbacherhof estate at Contwig, Zweibrucken, and died at Tremont in October 1900. In 1861 he remarried to Barbara Wagler. See KINSINGER.

10. Anne/Anna Peter Schmidt was born at Ruederbach June 25, 1814 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Anne Petter Schmitt'), and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Jan. 11, 1892. In 1840 in Butler County she married Joseph Roth. He died in 1850. Levine suggests that he appears on the 1840 census of Butler County as 'Joseph Rhodes,' and that he may have been a son of Johannes/Hans/Roth and Freni/Véronique Mosimann (if so, he was born on Risholz farm at Hattigny Feb. 11, 1811; see MOSIMAN). They had two children:
   a. Fannie Roth was born in Butler County April 14, 1846, and died Dec. 23, 1919.
   b. An unidentified son died before 1926.

Anna remarried to Joseph Oyer at Farmdale Sept. 7, 1851. He was born at Niderhoff, Moselle Jan. 29, 1814, and died at Farmdale Aug. 16, 1866; a son of Joseph Oyer and Catherine Schrag. For her obituary and a list of her children with Joseph Oyer see OYER.
Good: Guth of Epenbrunn

The progenitor of this family left Canton Bern (a part that was later Canton Aargau) several decades before the Amish Division. Jakob Gut of Oftringen was imprisoned as an Anabaptist leader, then banished from the canton Sept. 9, 1660. He was presumably the same Jakob Gut who went to Hilsbach in the Palatinate. As a representative of Anabaptists in the Lower (northern) Palatinate, he corresponded with Reist faction Mennonites in the Upper Palatinate and Amish Mennonites at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (see HEISER).

According to Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, descendant Michael/Michel Guth was a resident of Mehlingen (a suburb of Kaiserslautern) in the Palatinate in 1761.173 He married twice and had two sons 24 years apart.

**Background geography:**

*Epenbrunn and Trulben are in Germany, two miles above the border with the French department of Moselle. Epenbrunn was administered by the Counts Palatine, Trulben by the Duchy of Zweibrucken.*

*Just below the Moselle border are Walschbronn, Epping, Hotviller, Urbach, Bitche, and Sturzelbronn.*

*Though within France, these communities were German speaking.*

*The Sulztzhaerhof and Günztalherhof are forest estates located between Windstein and Langensoulztach, Lower Alsace. Their relative isolation would allow the families there to pass through the Napoleonic wars undisturbed.*

**FIRST SON**

The mother of first son Heinrich/Henri Guth has not been identified. He was born at Mehlingen in 1747, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Epenbrunn in 1809. He married Susanna/Suzanne Steiner. They lived on the Sulztzhaerhof estate.

Johannes/Jean Guth was born on the Sulztzhaerhof estate in 1773, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Epenbrunn in 1828. He married Anna Christner. She was born on the Günzthalherhof estate in 1773, and died at Epping, Moselle Jan. 30, 1814, a daughter of Christian Christner and Margarete Stutz.

The *Global Anabaptist Encyclopaedia Online* states that Johannes "was the ancestor of all the families of this name that are today found in the Palatinate and adjoining regions, all of whom belonged to the Amish branch."

The children of Johannes/Jean Guth and Anna Christner include:

1. Johannes/Jean Guth was born on the Günzthalherhof estate July 30, 1798, and died on the Bürenbrunnerhof estate at Dahn (22 miles northeast) in 1889. His civil birth entry created at Windstein described his parents as miller Johannes Guth, 30, and Anna Christner. Witnesses included Michael Müller, 30; and Barbara Christner, 28. On Nov. 1, 1820 at Epping, Moselle he married Barbara Catherine Nafziger. She was born at Gros-Réderching, Moselle April 27, 1801, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch of the Faunerhof. When their daughter Catherine married Christian Jordy at Lembach July 11, 1846, their civil marriage entry described the bride's parents as Jean Guth, 49, laborer at Busenberg; and Barbe Nafziger, 46; both present and consenting.

2. Barbara Guth was born in 1801. We could not identify her birthplace. On July 20, 1818 at Epping, Moselle she married Peter Nafziger. He was born in 1790, a son of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch.

The family moved to the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Epenbrunn in the Palatinate in 1802. The children born there include:

3. Peter Guth was born Aug. 5, 1806 (headstone date).

4. Christian/Chrétien Guth was born in 1808, and died on the Mühlenthal estate at Sturzelbronn, Moselle April 8, 1853. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Steiner. She was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace Nov. 9, 1809, and died at Sturzelbronn May 3, 1857, a daughter of Andreas Steiner and Barbara Müller. Two of their daughters came to America and married sons of older brother Peter.

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173 Hermann Guth proposed that Michel was a younger brother of Jacob Guth who lived in the Salingsmühle mill near Kaiserslautern in 1738. Jacob was a day laborer there. In one surviving letter Jacob asked for exemption from the Anabaptist protection fee (reprinted in *Amish Mennonites in Germany*). Then he married a widow Zug. They departed the mill and relocated to the Weilensteinerhof at Trippstadt. They sailed from Rotterdam on the Francis and Elizabeth, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742. Jacob obtained a land warrant for 18 1/2 acres at Bern Township (now a part that is Upper Tulpehocken Township) in 1754. His will was probated in Berks County in 1763. The three Zugs/Zooks who came with him obtained Berks County land warrants totalling 384 acres. They parlayed this into more purchases and relocated to Chester County 1770-74. They left many descendants in Lancaster and Chester Counties.
5. Georg/Georges Guth was born Feb. 8, 1811, and died on the Dorsterhof estate at Bitche, Moselle in 1889. He married Marie Gingerich. She was born at Bitche March 13, 1811, and died at Walschbronn, Moselle in 1844, a daughter of Michel Gingerich and Barbara Hauter. George farmed on the Ransbrunnerhof, Kirschbacherhof, and the Dorsterhof. In 1859 he was the deacon of the Ixheim congregation. Georg/Georges and Marie were the great-grandparents of author Hermann Guth.

6. Elisabeth Guth was born in 1813. She married Christian Oesch. He was born on the Wahlerhof estate at Hengstbach, Zweibrücken Jan. 14, 1801, and died at Gerhardsbrunn (27 miles north of Eppenbrunn), a son of Joseph Oesch and Magdalena Nafziger.

On July 6, 1814 at Epping Johannes/Jean remarried to Anna Madeleine Nafziger. She was born in 1783, and died on the Ransbrunnerhof estate in 1828, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Anna Esch of the Faunerhof estate at Urbach, Moselle. Note that she already had a brother and sister married to his children.

The children of Johannes/Jean Guth and Anna Madeleine Nafziger born on the Ransbrunnerhof at Eppenbrunn include:

7. Valentin 'Welti' Guth was born in 1815, and died on the Weinumshof estate at Hagenu, Alsace in 1881. He married Barbara Steiner. She was born at Windstein, Lower Alsace July 17, 1813, a daughter of Christian Steiner and Marie Stokki.

8. Joseph Guth was born March 3, 1817, and died on the Grafenweierhof at Bitche, Moselle March 23, 1894. He married Barbara Stalter of the Wahlerhof, then Magdalena Stalter of the Bickensascbacherhof, then Marie Gingerich of the Freudenbergerhof near Zweibrücken.

9. Katharina/Catherine Guth was born in 1819, and died at Hottviller, Moselle March 24, 1896. She married Joseph Eyer. He was born on the Felsenbrunnerhof estate at Trulben in 1807, a son of Christian Eyer and Elisabeth Stalter.

10. Magdalena Guth was born in 1820. She married Daniel Eyer. He was born on the Felsenbrunnerhof estate at Trulben in 1816, a son of Christian Eyer and his second wife Elisabeth Stalter.

11. Christine Guth was born March 3, 1823, and died at Gros-Réderching, Moselle May 28, 1896. On May 22, 1841 at Walschbronn, Moselle she married Andreas/André Oesch. He was born on the Dorsterhof at Bitche, Moselle May 24, 1815, a son of Nicholas Oesch and Catherine Hauter.

**Peter Guth** was born on the Ransbrunnerhof estate Aug. 5, 1806 (headstone date), and died at Washington June 21, 1886 (headstone date).

Acting as a servant in exchange for his fare, Peter assisted the travel of Jacob Kinsinger and his family. He appears on the passenger list as Peter Good, 24.

They boarded the packet ship *De Rhum* at Le Havre in mid-October of 1830. It sailed directly to Boston. However, Peter appears on a passenger list for a second disembarkation at New York on Dec. 21, 1830. An account of the voyage and other familiar names on the passenger list is given in KENNEL.

C. Henry Smith's *Mennonites of America* places Peter's arrival in the 'Wesley City colony' in 1833. Circa 1835 he married Susanna/Susan Oyer. She was born at Niderhoff, Moselle April 4, 1808, and died at Washington Dec. 12, 1888, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Oyer and Suzanne Schertz. Her family had been passengers on the *Superior* arriving at New Orleans Dec. 4, 1830 (see OYER).

The 1850 census of Tazewell County lists their family as farmer Peter Good, 40, Germany; Susan, 30, Germany; Nancy, 14; Eliza, 11; John, 10; Peter, 7; Christian, 2; and Joseph, 5 months; all children born in Illinois. They appear next door to Nicholas Rhode [Roth] and Andrew Roth, and are found on the same census page as Jacob Ower [Oyer] and Benjamin Redger [Rediger], indicating that they were already living in the community of Washington.

The marriage pattern of the family was a bit unusual: the two youngest sons married cousins in 1868 and 1871. The 1870 census of Washington shows the household as farmer Peter Good, 65, Germany; Susan, 63, Germany; farm laborer Joseph, 21, Illinois; and Mary [cousin, later wife], 21, Illinois. They lived next door to son Christian and his wife Elizabeth 'Eliza' Guth, who was Mary's sister.

In 1868, bishop Michael Mosiman of Groveland and minister Nicholas Roth of Morton led the *Busche Gemeinde* congregation (in the northwest corner of Tazewell County) into alignment with the Egly Amish. When the Defenseless Mennonite Church was constructed at Groveland in October 1878, Peter served as the first deacon with minister Nicholas Roth.

In 1880 his household appears on the Washington census as farmer Peter Guth, 73, Germany; and Susan Guth, 70, France.

The children of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer born at Washington were all found with the spellings 'Guth' and 'Good.' They include:
1. Anna 'Nancy' Guth/Good was born at Washington Aug. 20, 1836, and died at Schickley, Nebraska Aug. 25, 1921, where she is buried in Salem Mennonite Cemetery. On Feb. 20, 1856 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Rediger. He was born June 28, 1831, and died at Waldo Aug. 26, 1861, a son of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehrisman. They are found on the 1860 census of Washington as farmer Jacob Rediger, 28; Anna, 23; Illinois; Susannah, 3; and Barbara, seven months. On March 7, 1867 in Tazewell County Anna remarried to Christian G. Roth.174 He was born at Will mandingen, Baden Dec. 19, 1834, and died at Milford, Nebraska Dec. 28, 1893 (headstone date), a son of Benedict Roth and Jacobina King. Herald of Truth, January 1894: "On the 31st of December, 1893 near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., of grippie, Bro. Christian Roth, aged 59 years and 9 days. He was laid to rest in the Fairview cemetery. He lived in matrimony 26 years and 10 months. He leaves his wife and 3 sons to mourn his departure. Funeral services by Joseph Schlegel. Text, 2 Cor. 5:1-8." Gospel Herald, September 1921: "Anna (nee Guth) Roth was born near Washington, Ill., Aug. 20, 1836; died at the home of her son (Peter Roth) near Shickley, Neb., Aug. 25, 1921; aged 85 y. 5 d. She leaves 3 sons, 2 daughters, 37 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, besides many other relatives and friends. Husband and 3 children preceded her to the spirit world. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth, and remained faithful until death. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Ben Schlegel and W. M. Eicher. Burial at Salem cemetery. May God bless the bereaved ones."

2. Elisabeth 'Eliza' Guth/Good was born April 5, 1838, and died at Washington Dec. 6, 1894. On March 20, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Reeser.175 He was born at Châteauroux, France Dec. 28, 1838 (see REESER for an explanation), and died at Washington April 25, 1900, a son of Jean/John Risser/Reeser and Catherine Zimmerman. He is found as 'Joseph Reeser' on the 1860 census of Washington. 1880 census of Washington as farmer Joseph Reeser, 42, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Switzerland; Elizabeth Reser, 43, born in France to a father from Germany and a mother from France; Susan; Peter; 17; Anna, 13; and Joseph, 10. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

3. John Guth/Good was born May 10, 1840, and died at Washington Oct. 8, 1896.176 On March 5, 1861 in Woodford County he married Maria/Marie Ehresman. She was born in Ohio Nov. 30, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894, a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his second wife Anna Barnett. In 1861 they moved onto a 315-acre farm at Washington. They appear on the 1880 census of Washington as John Guth, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; Mary, 40, born in Ohio to a father from Bavaria and a mother from France; and nine children born in Illinois. Gospel Herald, June 1894: "On the 8th of May 1874 near Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., sister Maria Ehresman, wife of John Good. Buried on the 10th in the Washington cemetery. Sister Maria was married on the 5th of March 1861. The union was blessed with 10 children. There are also 14 grandchildren. She was a beloved mother and wife and a faithful follower of Christ in our denomination. Funeral services by the writer and Pre. Koenig of the Deer Creek Cong. and Emanuel Hartman from Isa. 18 and 38:12, 13: A large concourse of friends followed her remains to the grave. Michael Kinsinger." John remarried Oct. 15, 1895 to Catherine Schlegel, widow of John Gascho (see SCHLEGEL), but John is buried in Glendale Cemetery with Maria/Mary.

4. Peter Guth/Good was born Jan. 6, 1843, and died single Sept. 17, 1865. He is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington.

5. Christian Guth/Good was born in May 1848, died Aug. 6, 1918. On Aug. 29, 1868 in Tazewell County he married his cousin Elisabeth 'Eliza' Guth.177 She was born on the Mühlenbach estate at Stützelbrom, Moselle May 5, 1846, and died at Milford, Nebraska June 11, 1923, a daughter of Christian Guth and Magdalena Steiner. The 1870 census of Washington shows them next door to Christian's parents, as farmer Christian Good, 23; Illinois; Eliza, 26; Germany; and Peter, 1, Illinois. The 1900 census of Washington shows them as Christian Guth, born in Illinois to German parents in May 1848; Elizabeth, born in Germany in April 1847; Daniel, born in December 1879; and Amos, born in December 1884. Gospel Herald, July 1923: "Elisabeth Guth was born in Zweibricken, Bavaria, Germany, May 5, 1846; died at the home of her daughter Mrs. Jacob Roth at Milford, Nebraska, June 11, 1923; aged 77y. 1m. 6d. She came to America with an uncle and two of her sisters in the spring of 1868, settling near Washington, Ill. She was married to Christian Guth, Aug. 29, 1868, who preceded her to eternity Aug. 6, 1918. This union was blessed with six children, 5 sons and 1 daughter. She leaves her children, 18 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and many relatives and friends to mourn her departure. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth in

174 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christian Roth and Mrs. Anna Rediger.
175 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Joseph Reiser and Elizabeth Good.
176 In 1887-88 the village of Guthville was surveyed on the border of Tazewell and Woodford Counties for John Guth. It was halfway between Peoria and Bloomington, and centered around stock pens and a depot for a new Lake Erie & Western Railroad line. The following year the name was changed to Goodfield at the urging of public relations-minded railroad officials. They were eager to bring new settlers who might purchase their excess land in the new community.

At the same time Joseph Schrock (1828-1901) had a survey taken around his farm, where rail line construction had stopped in the winter of 1887-88. New workers arrived in the cold months awaiting jobs when spring arrived. Eventually a siding had to be put in place to bring them supplies. This became the depot, instead of Farnsiville. Joseph envisioned a community called 'Schrock.’ But public opinion prevailed, and the surveyed area officially accepted the name it had been known by for over 40 years: Congerville.

177 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index calls them Chris Good and Elizabeth Good.
which faith she died. The funeral services were held at the home, conducted by Jonas Litwiller and Samuel Gerber. 

Text, Rev. 14:13.” They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.

6. Joseph Guth/Good was born Dec. 22, 1849, and died April 22, 1872; he is buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington. On Feb. 26, 1871 in Tazewell County he married his cousin Marie/Mary Guth.178 She was born on the Mühlenbach estate at Stützelprom, Moselle Feb. 1, 1850, and died in Seward County, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1878, a daughter of Christian Guth and Magdalena Steiner. On March 19, 1874 in Livingston County she remarried to Joseph Stauffer. He was born at Willmadingen, Baden June 18, 1852, and died in Ontario Dec. 10, 1918, a son of Joseph Stauffer and Barbara Roth. In 1880 he remarried to Matti Bender in Henry County, Iowa. Gospel Herald, May 1878. “Feb. 26th, in Seward Co., Neb., in childbirth, Sister Mary, wife of Joseph Stauffer, aged 28 years and 25 days. She leaves a bereaved husband and three children to mourn their loss. Her child she took with her. She was a faithful sister in the Amish church. She bore her brief sickness with great patience. A very touching sermon was delivered on the funeral occasion by Joseph Gascho and P. P. Hershberger, from Lamentations 3: and Matt. 24:42-44. This family with his parents came to this place from Livingston Co., Ill., and in less than a month the sister was caller to her eternal home.”

SECOND SON

The mother of Michel Guth’s second son Christian Guth was Michel’s second wife Susanna Springer. Christian was born at Mehligen in 1771. He married Barbara Güngerich from the Bärenbrunnerhof at Dahn. They farmed at Schweinbach and Burgwalden near Augsburg after 1802.

Their son Christian Guth was born on the Günstalerhof estate circa 1800, and died at Burgwalden. He married Barbara Chrstiner of the Günstalerhof estate.

Their youngest four children sailed from Le Havre on the Charles Hill, and arrived at New York May 19, 1854. The passenger list shows Württemberg passengers Joseph Guth, 23; Peter, 22; Christin, 20; and Magd, 20. The eldest daughter followed with her future husband in 1856.

The children of Christian Guth and Barbara Christner born at Burgwalden include:

1. Elisabeth Guth/Good was born circa 1828, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 5, 1899. The ship Havre sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York Nov. 24, 1856. The passenger list names Peter Christner, 48; Elis. Guth, 28; and Anton Koelbel, 26 (her future husband). Anton Kalbl (a Hungarian surname) was born in Germany in 1830, died at Kearney, Nebraska Dec. 22, 1915, and is buried in Kearney Cemetery as ‘Anton Kabel 1830-Dec. 22, 1915.’ They are found on the 1860 census of Hope as farmer Anthony Kobbel, 32; Germany; Elizabeth, 32; Germany; Elizabeth, 1; and Frank Otto, 49; Germany; they were next door neighbors to Elizabeth’s younger brothers Christian and Peter Good. ‘Anton Kelbel’ signed a declaration of intent for naturalization in Tazewell County in 1862. After Elisabeth’s death Anton lived with their daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Unzicker at Garfield, Nebraska (per the 1910 census, which shows Anton as an 82-year-old widower, Lizzie 52, and John 52). They are buried in Kearney Cemetery as ‘John Unzicker, Oct. 11, 1858-April 17, 1936, and ’Lizzie Unzicker, 1859-Jan. 16, 1922.’ John was born at Gridley, McLean County, a son of Valentine Unzicker and Magdalena Schertz. They also had a daughter Mary born at Peoria Nov. 3, 1862, who died at Colby, Kansas Nov. 26, 1954. Dec. 2, 1886 at Wilber, Nebraska Mary married Heio Bremer. The marriage entry stated that Mary’s parents were Anton Kalbl and Elisabeth Good. Heio Bremer died in 1934, age 78. They are buried in Beulah Cemetery at Colby, Kansas.

2. Joseph Guth/Good was born Jan. 19, 1831, and died at Hopedale Feb. 10, 1909. On March 2, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Katharina ‘Katie’ Stalter. She was born at Hemerton, Bavaria Jan. 22, 1832, and died at Hopedale Oct. 15, 1919, a daughter of Jakob Stalter and Katharina Stalter. She immigrated in 1854. Gospel Herald, March. 1909: ‘‘Died, Feb. 10, 1909, near Hopedale, Ill., Bro. Joseph Good, aged 78 y. He leave to mourn his death his aged wife, who has shared the joys and sorrows for 51 years, two sons, six daughters, one brother and one sister, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. Bro. Good was an earnest and humble Christian. For him to live was Christ, and to die was gain. he suffered much pain during his sickness, but we believe that now he is being comforted. Buried Feb. 13. Services by Jos. Egli, John C. Birky and Daniel Nafziger.” Gospel Herald, Nov. 1919: “Good,- Katharine, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena Stalter, was born in Germany Jan. 9, 1832; died at the home of her daughter in Hopedale, Ill., Oct. 15, 1919; aged 87 y. 9 m. 6 d. At the age of 14 she united with the A. M. Church, of which she was a faithful member until death. In the year of 1854 she sailed for America. She was united in marriage to Joseph Good in 1856. Her husband died Feb. 10, 1909; To this union were born 10 children. One son and 1 daughter died in infancy. She leaves 2 sons and 6 daughters, (Joseph, Dan, Lizzie Birkey, Phoebe Birkey, Barbara Bachman, Sarah Beller, Katie Horsch, and Mary Birkey); also 40 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren. Funeral services at the home by Bro. J. C. Birkey and the church by Jonas Litwiller and J. C. Birkey.” They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

3. Peter Guth/Good was born March 25, 1832, and died Aug. 8, 1916. On Aug. 17, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Veronika/Veronica/Fronika ‘Fanny’ Birkey. She was born Jan. 16, 1837, and died Feb. 12, 1916, a daughter of Christian Birki and Mary. They are found next door to brother Christian and brother-in-law Anthony Kobbel

178 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index calls them Joseph Good and Mary Good.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

[Anton Kalbl] on the 1860 census of Hopedale: farmer Peter Good, 28, Germany; Fanny, 23, Illinois; Elizabeth, 2, Illinois; and Ludwick, 25, Illinois. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Peter Goot, 48, born in Albin [Altbayern or Oberbayern, the governmental district of Bavaria where Munich and Augsburg are located] to a father from France and a mother from Albin; and Fronia, 43, born in Albin to parents from France. See BIRKEY/BIRKEY.

4. Christian Guth/Good was born in Württemberg Feb. 4, 1833, and died Sept. 26, 1889 (headstone date). In 1858 at Little Mackinaw he married Jacobine 'Phoebe' Ehresman. She was born in Germany March 11 or 19, 1834, and died May 2, 1902 (headstone date), a daughter of Christian Ehresman and his first wife Magdalnea Barnett. They are found next door to brother Christian Good and brother-in-law Anthony Kebbel [Anton Kalbl] on the 1860 census of Hopedale: laborer Christian Good, 26, Germany; Phoebe, 24, Germany; Christian, 1, Illinois; and John, 30, Germany. Their household appears on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as farmer Christian Gutt, 47, Bavaria; Phoebe, 46, born in Württemberg to parents from Würtemberg; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. Her obituary can be found in EHRESMAN. They are buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

5. Magdalena 'Lena' Guth/Good was born Feb. 14, 1835, and died at Hopedale Aug. 18, 1921. On March 27, 1855 in Tazewell County she married Johann/John Sutter. He was born at Probfeld (adjacent to Karlskron, below Ingolstadt) March 14, 1825, and died at Hopedale Dec. 11, 1904, a son of Johannes/John Sutter and Barbara Oesch (see SUTTER for his obituary). They are found on the 1860 census of Boynton as farmer John Suter, 35, Germany; Magdaline, 26, Germany; John, 3, Illinois; Barbara, 2, Illinois; and Magdaline, 1, Illinois. Gospel Herald, January 1922: "Magdalena Good-Sutter was born in Bavaria, Germany, Feb. 14, 1834. She came to America, when about 19 years old, settling in Tazewell Co., III., where she has since resided. She was united in marriage to John Sutter who preceded her in death. She passed away at her home southeast of Hopedale, Ill., after an illness of several weeks; 87 y. 6 m. 4 d. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her early youth and lived a consistent Christian life, until called home. She leaves six children (Andrew W., Amos, Christian, John, Lizzie Wittrig, and Mrs. Susan Egli). Funeral services were held at the A. M. Church, Aug. 21, conducted by Simon Litwiller, and Samuel Gerber. Interment in the Amish cemetery west of Hopedale."
Plank: Blank of Steffisburg

In the Bernese dialect Blanck describes someone with a pale or white complexion. A look at the Blank family of Steffisburg led us to links with the Rupp/Ropp family (see ROPP). This was the element that bridged our Rupp searches from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines back to Steffisburg. But it was an equal surprise to find the Blanks had descendants in Central Illinois.

No Anabaptist birth records were created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (some of our impressions were derived from burial, real estate, and notorial records). Because of this, it is largely suspected that both families had sons who have not been identified, and there are connections with the Rupp and Blanks who settled in Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s.

On Jan. 7, 1577 at Steffisburg Jost Blank married Elsbeth 'Elsi' Hebeisen [also found as Hebysen].

Their son Hans Blank was baptized Feb. 15, 1586. On Jan. 21, 1611 he married Beatrix Grünig.

Their son Hans Blank was baptized Nov. 25, 1621. On March 22, 1644 he married Margreth Karli. Hans became overseer of community property [Ger. Seckelmeister des Lands] for Steffisburg. His name and title are found on the enameled tableau called the Mosestafel, on the wall of the Reformed Church.

The children of Hans Blank and Margreth Karli baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Niclaus Blank was baptized May 31, 1646. Witnesses included Hans Brönniman, Christen Frey, and Madlen Walhart.
2. Margreth Blank was baptized Dec. 31, 1648.
3. Hans Blank was baptized March 14, 1652, and died as an infant.
4. Hans Blank was baptized Nov. 6, 1653, and died in a mill owned by the noble Ribeauville family at Ribeauvillé, Alsace Dec. 23, 1742. On May 22, 1676 at Steffisburg he married Catharina/Cathrin Rupp. She may have been a daughter of Uli Rupp and Anna Bucher who was baptized at Steffisburg Nov. 3, 1650. Their children include:
   a. Susanna Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Feb. 24, 1678. The entry described her father as Hans Blank of Riedern.
   b. Jacob Blank was baptized at Steffisburg Dec. 19, 1680. Witnesses included Jacob Ruchti, Christian Blank, and Magdulena Erb.
   c. Hans Blank was born at Riedern bei Bern (west of the city of Bern), baptized at Steffisburg July 1, 1683, and died Dec. 18, 1744. He was a miller in the Herrenmühl at Ribeauvillé.
   d. Barba Blank was baptized at Steffisburg March 7, 1686.
   e. Christen/Christian Blank was born at Riedern bei Bern, baptized at Steffisburg March 10, 1689, and died Aug. 12, 1760. He was a miller in the Schlundermühl at Ribeauvillé.
   f. Niclaus/Nicolas 'Nigi' Blank was born at Riedern bei Bern, baptized at Steffisburg April 24, 1692, died Aug. 31, 1753, and was buried at Fertrupt. He signed his own name 'Nigi Blanc.' Nicolas married Anna Goldschmidt, who died in childbirth Sept. 6, 1756. He was a miller at Ribeauvillé.
   g. Cathrin Blank was baptized at Steffisburg March 24, 1695.
5. Christen Blank was baptized Dec. 14, 1656. On Dec. 13, 1680 at Steffisburg he married Anni/Anna Joder, a daughter of Jost Joder and Anna Trachsel. He was the 'heretic Anabaptist' mentioned earlier.

Niclaus Blank was baptized May 31, 1646. Barbara Im Hoof/Im Hooff was baptized at Steffisburg June 19, 1651. On her 20th birthday they were married in the Reformed Church at Steffisburg. The marriage entry identifies Niclaus as the town treasurer's son.

Niclaus and Barbara lived at Schwarzenegg in Steffisburg parish. Niclaus became a minister and companion of Jacob Amman, and occasionally co-signed documents with his barely literate friend.

Niclaus appears as 'Niguy Blanc' on a list of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1697; as 'Niklaus Blanck' on a 1703 tax roll; and as 'Niclaus Blanck' on a 1704 tax roll.

The children of Niclaus Blank and Barbara Im Hoof/Im Hooff baptized at Steffisburg include:

1. Margreth Blank was baptized Oct. 27, 1672.
2. Christen Blank was baptized Oct. 5, 1673. He married Verena Carli at Steffisburg Dec. 17, 1696. They were still there in 1712.
3. Barbara Blank was baptized April 1, 1677. She may have married Peter Eiman at Steffisburg Feb. 10, 1696.
4. Hans Blank was baptized Oct. 5, 1679.

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179 The Hans Blank who married Barbara Jenni in a double ceremony with Hans Rupp and Christina Meier in 1656 was a second cousin of this Hans.
5. Niclaus ‘Nigi’ Blank was baptized Dec. 4, 1681. He married Barbara Ummel of Diessbach. She was born circa 1683, and died Aug. 22, 1753, a daughter of David Ummel and Barbara Stauffer. Niclaus ‘Nigi’ Blank appears as an 85-year-old on a list of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines residents created in 1765.

   On Aug. 13, 1712 King Louis XIV of France issued an order expelling Anabaptists from Alsace. Only a handful of families that Christian III directly employed were permitted to remain at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Only six heads of households remained during the period 1713-19. The number rose to 13 by 1721, as older sons started their own families.\(^{180}\)

   One of those who remained at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines until 1721 was minister Jacob Hochstettler (see HOCHSTETTLER). He had lived at Echery 1697-1711, then relocated to La Petite Liépvre, where he was a next door neighbor to Jacob Amman. He was a father-in-law of Michael/Michel Blank, and grandfather to Hans/Jean’s wife Barbara Hochstettler.\(^{181}\) He was also great-great-grandfather to Joseph Hochstettler, who came to America in 1849 and farmed at Elm Grove; Joseph worshipped with Ropps in the Pleasant Grove congregation.

   Two records link minister Jacob Hochstettler to either a very old Niclaus Blank or his son Niclaus ‘Nigi’ Blank:

   — In 1713 Hochstettler borrowed money from the Blank family. ‘Nigi’ was living at Mongoutte, a hamlet on the eastern outskirts of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, when Hochstettler repaid part of the debt in 1721.
   — In 1719 ‘Nigi Blank’ and Hochstettler signed a letter to Christopher III asking for a reduction of the protection fee [Ger. Schutzgeld] they were required to pay each year.

   A letter of recommendation [Fr. certificat de attestation] was signed by a representative of Christian III and the mayor of Echery Nov. 8, 1715 for ‘honest Niclaus Blank’ [Fr. original honneste Nicola Blanc], his brothers Michel and Pierre, their brother-in-law Henry Hyser [Heinrich Hüser], brothers Christe and Anthony Kropf, David Chertzer [later Schertz], and Michel Mourer [Maurer], ‘all of the Anabaptist religion.’\(^{182}\) They were obligated to leave the kingdom [Fr. Ils sont obligé de se retirer hors du Royaume]. It attested to the quality of their ‘conduct, life, and manners’ over ‘many years they have lived in this vicinity.’ All of those listed except Peter Blank are found on a list of Anabaptists created at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1732.

   Minister Nikolaus/Nicolas ‘Nigi’ (pronounced ‘Nicky’) Blank was born near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1720. He married Catherine/Katharina Gingerich. She was born on the Froensburgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace circa 1725, a daughter of Johannes ‘Hans the elder’ Gingerich. She died in childbirth with stillborn twins Jan. 21, 1747.\(^{183}\)

   He persevered to become an elder of the Colmar congregation. No doubt he was influenced by two relatives who figured prominently in the early history of the Amish Mennonite community. His father-in-law was Johannes ‘Hans the elder’ Gingerich. His nephew (though older than he) was Johannes ‘Hans’ Nafziger.

6. Peter/Pierre Blank was baptized March 1, 1685. He may have been married to Verena Stauffer or Stauffer, certainly lived in the area of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and may have died before 1729.\(^{184}\)

7. **Michel Blank** was born at Schwarzenegg, and baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687.

8. Anna Blank was baptized Aug. 17, 1690. She may be the Anna Blank who married Hans Lehman at Steffisburg June 5, 1713. If so, she died Oct. 22, 1772. Lehman was born at Steffisburg Nov. 10, 1689, and died there July 1, 1756, a son of Niclaus Lehman and Maria Berger.

9. Verena Blank was born circa 1693, and buried at Fertrupt March 27, 1743. She married Heinrich/Henry Hauser/Hüser/Hyser (see HEISER). They lived on the Ziegelhof at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.\(^{185}\)

**Michel Blank** was born at Schwarzenegg, baptized at Steffisburg July 31, 1687, and buried at Fertrupt May 24, 1755.

   He married Elizabeth Hochstettler, who was born circa 1676, a daughter of minister Jacob Hochstettler. They lived in the main house [Ger. Landhaus] of a large estate at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines with her sister Verena.

   Their children include:

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180 In 1732 a list of Anabaptist heads of households in the county of Ribeauvillé included ‘Nicolas Blanck,’ ‘Michel Blanck,’ and a Joseph Rupp (we could not identify him further).

181 Jacob Hochstettler was also father to Jacob, who was held captive by Native Americans on the Pennsylvania frontier 1757-60 (see the HOCHSTETTLER genealogy). His son Joseph married a Rupp, while his son Christian married a Blank.

182 Niclaus ‘Nigi’ Blank’s financial records mention training [Fr. apprentissage] for Michel Maurer in 1722 and Christ Kropf in 1727, so it is likely that they were his employees.

183 According to one source, Fertrupt burial records show that Josef Blank son of Nicolaus Blank died Jan. 8, 1757, and was buried at Fertrupt the following day. His age was given as 9 years and 3 months. If this is correct, it would place his birthdate circa Oct. 8, 1748 – after the death of Catherine/Katharina Gingerich.

184 According to Hermann Guth’s Amish Mennonites in Germany, Valentine/Veltin Gingerich was a son of Johannes ‘Hans the elder’ Gingerich. Valentin/Veltin was on the Froensbourg estate with his father in 1736, but died before 1759. He married at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1729. His bride was Verena/Verène/Freini Stauffer/Stauffer, who was the widow of a Blank. Peter was the only adult male Blank living in the community in 1715, who does not appear there on a list created in 1732.

185 Ziegel mean ‘brick.’ A Hof can be a farm or estate, but the literal translation is yard, describing an enclosed courtyard surrounded by house, barns, and stable on most estates. Thus Ziegelhof could be the name of an estate, or a brick yard. This address is also found as Ziegelhaus.
Michel Blank/Blanck was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1742, and died at Hottviller, Moselle Sept 7, 1804. His death entry described him as a day laborer. He married Anna Jantzi/Jansy of Longeville-lès-St. Avold, Moselle.

Their children include:

1. Barbe Blanck was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1773, and died at Ville-en-Vermois, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 20, 1837. On Nov. 25, 1795 she married her second cousin Christian Kempf. He was born circa 1770, and died at Ville-en-Vermois Oct. 28, 1830, a son of Christian Kempf and Elisabeth Hochstetller (Elisabeth was a granddaughter of minister Jacob Hochstetller and Anna Wagler). The mixed Kempf/Jantzy household on the Olberding farm at Gros-Réderching was reported on a 1794 census as Christian Kempf, 52; Elis. Hochstetter, 54; Christian Kempf, 24; Madeleine Kempf, 19; Elisabeth Kempf, 12; Andre Kempf, 15; Elisabeth Jantzy, 22; and Anne Jantzy, 3.

2. Anne Blanck/Blanque was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 4, 1774, and died at Grostenquin, Moselle in 1829. On Jan. 10, 1797 at Grostenquin she married Joseph Maire/Meyer. He was born at Albestroff, Moselle Sept. 29, 1759, and died at Grostenquin March 15, 1828, a son of Pierre Maier/Meyer and Anne Hirschi/Hirchy.


4. Joseph Blanck was born at Longeville-lès-St. Avold, Moselle May 4, 1779, and died at Ville en Vermois March 6, 1859. On Nov. 7, 1802 at Herbéviller he married Madeleine Eymann/Eiman. One witness to the marriage was Christian Roup, who was a younger brother to minister Hans Rupp/Jean Ropp and an uncle to Andreas Ropp. He was described as a 47-year-old living at Igney, and a friend of the groom; he would also have been a second cousin through his mother, Barbara Hochstetller.

5. Christian Blanck was born circa 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle Dec. 28, 1809.

Christian Blank was born circa 1780, and died at Imling, Moselle Dec. 28, 1809.

A 1794 census of Brandefing farm [Ger. Brandelfingerhof] above Gros-Réderching [Ger. Grossredcherchen] reported the family of 42-year-old Joseph Genurich [Güngerich] and 34-year-old Anne Roubin [Rübi] 186 Among the children in the household were Nicolas Blanck, 21; Barbe Blanck, 21; and Christian Blanck, 14.

Christian married Susanne Neuhauser circa 1803. She was born on Singling farm at Gros-Réderching in 1777, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Dec. 16, 1849, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Barbe Zimmerman. Christian was a cultivator.

The children of Christian Blank and Susanne Neuhauser born at Imling include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Blanck was born Aug. 10, 1804, and died at Wilmot Dec. 24, 1872. She married Jacob Lebold. He was born circa 1803, and died at Wilmot Dec. 6, 1849. She is found on the 1851 census of Wilmot with seven children.

2. Jean Blanck/John Plank was born Aug. 10, 1806, and died near Congerville Dec. 10, 1885.

186 After Joseph's death, she remarried to Michel Engel, a brother to elder Christian Engel of Metamora; see ENGEL.
3. Christian Blanck was born March 14, 1808, and died at Wellesley, Ontario March 9, 1881. She married John S. Schwartzentruber. He was born April 10, 1802, and died at Wellesley Dec. 21, 1879. They are found with 10 children on the 1851 census of Wilmot.

4. Elisabeth Blanck was born Sept. 3, 1809, and died at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Moselle April 24, 1826.

5. Christian Blanck was born July 31, 1810, and died at Imling eight days later.

   Susanne remarried to Christian/Christophe Abresol [Aebersold] at Imling Oct. 29, 1812. He was born at Rhodes, Moselle March 1, 1788, and died at Waterloo, Ontario March 25, 1862, a son of Jean Christian Abresol and Barbe Zwalter. He had been working as a cultivator at Azoudange.

   Susanne Neuhauser and her second husband married Le Havre on the France. They can be found on the passenger list as it arrived at New York June 26, 1828: Christian Abresol, 41; Susan, 46; John, 22; Catharine, 20; Christian, 13; Joseph, 9; and Susan, 6.

   In North America Abresol became 'Ebersol' or 'Ebersole.' However, widower Christian is found as an 'Ebersoll' on the 1851 census of Waterloo.

   The children of Susanne Neuhauser and her second husband Christian/Christophe Abresol include:

   6. Christian Ebersole was born at Reding, Moselle Oct. 17, 1814, and died at Upper Leacock, Lancaster County Aug. 28, 1890. He married Elisabeth Stoltzfus. She was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 26, 1814, and died at Monterey, Lancaster County Jan. 2, 1894, a daughter of David Stoltzfus and Anna Fisher. Herald of Truth, October 1890: "On the 28th of August, in Upper Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., of cancer. Christian Ebersole, aged 75 years, 10 months and 22 days. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church from his youth. He left his wife and 8 children, and 23 grandchildren to mourn his departure. Buried Sunday the 31st, in Myers' graveyard. Services to a large gathering of relatives and friends by David Beiler and Christian King." Herald of Truth, January 1894: "On the 2d of January 1894, near Monterey, Lancaster Co., Pa., Elizabeth Stoltzfus, aged 77 years, 2 months and 27 days. Buried on the 5th. Funeral services by Benjamin Fisher and Henry Stoltzfus from 2 Cor 5:1-10."

   7. Joseph Ebersole was born at Reding Jan. 5, 1816, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Aug. 18, 1862.

   8. Susanna Ebersole was born at Tanconville, Meurthe-et-Moselle Feb. 10, 1822, and died at Wayland, Iowa March 21, 1906. On Sept. 20, 1840 she married Emile Arthaud (also found as Ardo) of Wilmot. He was born March 10, 1806, and died Jan. 24, 1887. They resettled in Iowa in 1851. Herald of Truth, February 1887: "On the 24 th of January, near Olds, Henry Co., Iowa, of paralysis, Emil Arthaud, aged 80 years, 10 months and 14 days. Services by Ben. Eicher from 2 Cor. 5:1-10. The deceased brother was much loved and respected by all. He leaves a widow and 12 grown-up children." Herald of Truth, May 1906: "On March 21, 1906; in Wayland, Iowa, Susan, wife of the late Emil Arthaud, aged 83 years. Her maiden name was Susanna Ebersolt. She was born in France, Europe, and at the age of four years came with her parents to Pennsylvania, where she lived for two years and then went to Canada. In 1840 she was married to Emil Arthaud. In 1851 they emigrated to Iowa, where she resided in Washington and Henry counties until she died. She was the mother of fifteen children of whom ten are still living: 48 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by D. Graber and P. Stuckey in German, and S. M. Musselman in English. She united with the Amish M. church in her youth and remained a faithful member."

Jean Blanck/John Plank was born at Imling, Moselle Aug. 10, 1806, and died at Congerville in Montgomery Township Dec. 10, 1885.187

Jean/John married Catherine Engel in Tazewell County Feb. 24, 1840.188 She was born at Zommange, Moselle Aug. 30, 1819 (headstone date), and died at Congerville Dec. 22, 1898, a daughter of Joseph Engel (son of elder Christian Engel) and Barbara/Barbe Roggy. Her family arrived in Central Illinois in April 1837.189

They are found next door to minister Jacob Zehr (found as Jacob Sears) and his wife Elizabeth Ehresman, and a household removed from Christian Smith and his wife Catherine Bechler on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County): John Blank, 40, France; Catharine, 31, France; Christian, 11; Susan, 7; Joseph, 4; Barbary, 2; all children born in Illinois.

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187 John Plank who lived at Danvers, McLean County was not a descendant of the Blank family. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 3, 1792, and died at Danvers April 20, 1868. On April 20, 1816 he married Barbara Lantz. They came to McLean County from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania in 1856. John's parents were Christian Blank and Barbara Yoder. Christian's father was Melchior Blank, who moved from Berks County to Mifflin County in 1799. His father was immigrant Johann Melchior Blankenburg.

188 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists John Blank and Catherine Engle.

189 There is a household for a 'Jean Blank' on the 1840 census of Tazewell County, but it shows two males 20-29 years of age and one female 30-39.
The 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County shows John Plank, 54, France; Catherine, 44, France; Christian, 19; Susan, 17; Joseph, 15; Barbara, 12; John, 10; Catherine, 7; Marie, 5; Peter, 2; and Magdalena, 6 months; all children born in Illinois.

The family is entirely omitted from the 1870 census, though this was likely inadvertent. The 1873 plat map of Montgomer Township shows the 79-acre property of 'J. Plank' next to that of 'J. Zehr' in the northwest corner of Section 8. They appear on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer John Plank, 73, born in August, France; Catherine, 60, born in June, France; Barbara, 31, born in June, Illinois; Lena, 20, born in May, Illinois; and Peter, 23, born in December, Illinois.

Jean Blanck/John Plank and Catherine Engel ('Katharina Plank') are buried in Imhof Cemetery at Danvers near another grave that is thought to be her sister: "Mary Engle, June 1, 1828-Aug. 16, 1908."

Their children born at Montgomery, Woodford County include:

1. Christian Plank was born Feb. 24, 1841, and died Jan. 9, 1896; he is buried in Hardy Cemetery at Hardy, Arkansas. On Sept. 4, 1861 he enlisted at Peoria as a private in Company I of the 47th Illinois Infantry. He was described as a 20-year-old single farmer with blue eyes, brown hair, and dark complexion, 5-foot-5-inches, a resident of Minonk, Woodford County. In February 1862 his company became part of the Army of the Mississippi under Major General John Pope. From Feb. 28 to April 8 they engaged in campaigns against New Madrid and Island No. 10 on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. On March 14 they captured New Madrid, cutting off supplies to the fortified island. Then they cleared a 12-mile canal through swampland, cutting trees down to four feet below the waterline. On April 8 they captured over 8,000 prisoners, 123 pieces of artillery, and an enormous stash of ammunition and supplies. This cleared passage on the Mississippi River all the way to Vicksburg. Though he signed up for three years, the unit actually served until Jan. 21, 1866, he was 'discharged for disability' May 20, 1862. In 1866 he paid state income tax at Minonk. The entry described him as 'retarded.' He does not appear on the 1870 census of Minonk. His wife Harriet is buried beside him in Hardy Cemetery; she was born April 11, 1844, and died April 9, 1897. Hardy grew out of a railroad construction camp in the Ozarks in 1884.

2. Susanna/Susan Plank was born July 2, 1843. She may be the domestic servant Susan Plank, 20, born in Ohio, in the household of Peter Noffsinger on the 1870 census of Deer Creek. The 1880 census of Danvers shows her as a 36-year-old servant, born in Illinois, in the household of Cary Hougham. In 1900 and 1910 she lived at Washington with her sister Marie/Marie and brother-in-law Daniel O. Kinsinger.

3. Joseph Plank was born Aug. 31, 1845. We could not locate him after the 1860 census. He did not serve during the Civil War.

4. Barbara Plank was born May 24, 1848, and died May 5, 1882. She is buried in Imhof Cemetery.

5. John Plank was born March 28, 1850. His household is found on the 1880 census of Darlington, Kansas: John Plank, 20, born in Illinois to parents from France; and Jenny, 23, born in Illinois to parents from Pennsylvania. The 1885 state census of Newton City, Kansas describes them as fireman John Plank, 35; and Jennie Plank, 28. They appear on the 1900 census of Newton City, Kansas as railroad engineer John Plank, 49, born in Illinois in March 1851 to parents from Germany and France; and Jennie E., 43, born in Illinois in February 1857 to parents from Pennsylvania.

6. Katharina/Catherine Plank was born July 18, 1852. On Jan. 22, 1880 in McLean County she married George H. Goodenough. They are found on the 1900 census of Arlington, Kansas as livestock dealer G.H. Goodenough, 46, born in Illinois in October 1833 to parents from New York and Illinois; Katherine, 47, born in Illinois in July 1832 to French parents; and daughter Berrie L., 15, born in Illinois in December 1884 to parents from Illinois. The census taker had the correct ages for George and Katharina but miscalculated their birth years.

7. Marie/Plank was born Jan. 2, 1855, and died Feb. 19, 1930. On Nov. 4, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Daniel O. Kinsinger. He was born March 5, 1842, and died Dec. 15, 1922, a son of minister Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger. See KINSINGER for more on this couple.

8. Peter Plank was born Dec. 14, 1857, and died Sept. 28, 1916; he is buried in Imhof Cemetery. He is found on the 1900 census of Montgomery as farmer Peter Plank, born in Illinois in December 1857 to parents from France. The 1910 census of Fayette, Livingston County shows him as a 52-year-old servant/farm laborer in the household of Emanuel Schmidt.

9. Magdalena 'Lena' Plank was born May 6, 1860, and died June 28, 1953. On Feb. 17, 1904 she married Peter Kistler, becoming his third wife. Peter was born at Congerville April 19, 1843, and died Oct. 1, 1904, a son of John Michael Kistler and Elizabeth Naffziger. He married Caroline Defenbaugh at Streator, LaSalle County Sept. 5, 1865; she was born June 23, 1845, and died June 11, 1870. On Jan. 10, 1872 in Barton County, Missouri he remarried to Catherine 'Kate' Vercler. She was born in Woodford County in October 1849, a daughter of John

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190 He is easily confused with Joseph Planck, later known as carpenter Joseph F. Planck. He was born at Metamora in 1841, a son of Joseph Planck and Mary Ann Ricketts, and appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as a 9-year-old in the household of Justis Stewart. He served as a private and finally a sergeant in Company E, 108th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He married Emily C. Brady in Woodford County Nov. 24, 1862. They lived at Washington and Peoria.

191 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as George H. Goodenough and Katharine E. Plank.
Vercler and Catherine Dettweiler. She can be found in their household on the 1850 census of Woodford County as Katharine, 1, born in Illinois. Peter and Kate appear on the 1880 census of Grant, Missouri as farmer Peter Kistler, 37, born in Illinois to parents from Hesse-Darmstadt; and Kate, 30, born in Illinois to parents from Lorraine. In 1900 Kate was already separated or divorced from Peter; she is found on the 1900 census of Kearney, Nebraska in the household of her brother-in-law Jacob Sommer and sister Elizabeth as dressmaker Katharine Kistler, born in Illinois in October 1849 to French parents. Lena Plank is found as a widow living at Washington with her sister Marie/Marie and brother-in-law Daniel O. Kinsinger in 1910. Lena and Peter are buried in Glendale Cemetery.
Goldsmith: Goldschmid of Richterswil

Not all family histories end happily. That is certainly the case of the unfortunate Goldsmith family of Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

As noted in HEISER, Richterswil is a village on the southwestern shore of the Zürichsee in Canton Zurich. Other Anabaptist families from that area are Bachmann/Bachman, Bär (North America Behr and Bear), Egli (Fr. Egley), Hüsner or Haüser (later standardized as 'Heusser' and pronounced 'Hoyzer'; Heiser in Illinois), Hiestand, and Landis (later Landes). We found 'Goldschmid' there. This became Goldschmidt to German speakers and Goldschmitt to French speakers.

Hans Heinrich Goldschmidt was baptized at Richterswil, Canton Zurich Feb. 23, 1621. He was likely the 'Heinrich Goldschmid, alt: 90' who died there May 16, 1709. He married Anneli Haüser before 1650. She was baptized at Richterswil Aug. 24, 1628.

Their son Jacob Goldschmidt was baptized at Richterswil Nov. 5, 1661, and died there April 27, 1721. On Nov. 12, 1689 at Richterswil he married Barbara Haab (the marriage entry calls her 'Barbara Habin auf den Langenberg,' her death entry also calls her 'Habin,' but her children's birth entries spell her surname 'Haab').

She was born at Horgen Feb. 17, 1667, and died at Richterswil April 25, 1718, a daughter of Jörg Haab and Elisabeth Langenberg, her death entry also calls her 'Habin,' but her children's birth entries spell her surname 'Haab').

At least four of their children baptized at Richterswil resettled at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines:

1. Heinrich Goldschmidt was baptized Jan. 18, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755.
2. Anna Goldschmidt was baptized Nov. 25, 1694, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 6, 1756. She married Niclaus/Nicolas 'Nigi' Blank. He was born at Riedern bei Bern, baptized at Steffisburg April 24, 1692, died Aug. 31, 1753, and was buried at Fertrupt, a son of Hans Blank and Catharina/Cathrin Rüp. He signed his own name 'Nigi Blanc.' He was a miller at Ribeauville. (See PLANK).
3. Hans Heinrich Goldschmidt was baptized July 15, 1709. Circa 1732 he married Barbe Maurer. She may have been born at Rosheim in what is now Lower Alsace. He may be the Joh. Heinrich Goldschmidt who was listed in a census of Anabaptists at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in 1763.
4. Conrad Goldschmid was baptized Jan. 15, 1713, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 17, 1760. He was described there as the knife smith 'in the meadow' [Ger. auf der Matten]. He married Anne Marie Huntzinger. She was born at Montbéliard circa 1725, and died in childbirth at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 9, 1755.

Heinrich Goldschmidt was baptized at Richterwil Jan. 18, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1755. He is thought to have arrived there circa 1712. He was described as a blacksmith 'in the meadow.'

In 1717 he married Elisabeth Schmitt. She had two children with Heinrich, and died before 1732. Circa 1732 he remarried to Barbara Hauser/Hüser. She was born circa 1691. She died at age 51 years 6 months, and was buried at Fertrupt Feb. 19, 1743. She was likely a daughter of Rudolph 'Rudy' Husser, who arrived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines from Richterswil and Mannheim between 1708 and 1712.

Heinrich Goldschmidt and his first wife Elizabeth Schmitt had two children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines:

1. Jacob Goldschmidt was born Feb. 2, 1722.
2. Elisabeth Goldschmidt was born in 1726, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 30, 1755. She married Christian Tschantz. He died Aug. 24, 1754.

Jacob Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 2, 1722, and died there March 16, 1771. He married widow Barbara Frey (also found as Fritz or Fretz). She was born in 1722, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines...

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192 An earlier son Jacob baptized Sept. 13, 1659 died as an infant.
193 Langenbert is now a wild animal park at Langnau am Albis near Horgen. Horgen is 7 miles up the western shore of the Zürichsee.
194 The overall picture of this family is more complicated than what is given here, in part because Goldschmidts continued to arrive at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines from Richterswil. For example, Jean Henry Goldschmidt was born at Richterswil circa 1715. He married Anna Maria Neuhauser. Their children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include Jacob Goldschmidt (1737-1810) who married Barbe Eymann/Eiman (an aunt to Andreas Ropp's wife Elisabeth Eymann/Eiman); Susanna Goldschmidt (1745-1812) who married Christian Zimmerman (see ZIMMERMAN, ZIMMERMAN OF BERRWILLER); Marie Goldschmidt (1750-1831) who married Nicolas Hyser (see HEISER) and Noah/Noé Augspurger (see AUGSBURGER); and Heinrich/Henri Goldschmidt (1753-1813) who married Anne Reck.
Nov. 7, 1797. In 1766 Jacob traveled to the Netherlands with other ministers to settle a dispute between congregations.

Their children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines spelled their surname Goldschmid, Goldschmidt, Goldschmitt, or Goldschmitte. They include:

1. Jacob Goldschmidt was born Feb. 5, 1744, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 27, 1803. He married Catherine Stucky. She was born on the Schoppenwirh estate at Ostheim March 19, 1749, a daughter of minister Benedict/Benoit 'Ben' Stucki/Stucky and Anna Maria Neuhauser.
2. Heinrich Goldschimd was born Oct. 22, 1746, and died April 21, 1747.
3. Heinrich Goldschmidt was born July 1, 1748, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 15, 1791. He married Barbe Güngerich. She was born at Landau near Essingen circa 1755, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 11, 1815, a daughter of Valentin Güngerich and Anna Nafziger.
4. Conrad Goldsmith/Goldschmidt was born June 30, 1756.
5. Elisabeth Goldschmidt was born in 1759, and may have died as an infant.
6. Joseph Goldschmidt was born March 13, 1761. He married Catherine Güngerich. She was born in 1763, and died in 1827.
8. Jean Goldschmidt was born in 1763, and died unmarried at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 29, 1806.
9. Pierre Goldschmidt was born June 9, 1766, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 1, 1837. He married Anne Kaufmann. She was born in 1762, a daughter of Valentin Kaufmann and Barbe Sommer.

Miller Conrad Goldschnitt/Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 30, 1756, and died there March 8, 1818. 195

He married Katharina/Catherine König. She was born at Obernimbarg, Baden circa 1760, and died in 1836, a daughter of Christian König and Elisabeth Stucki/Stucky (see KING, THE KÖNIGS OF OBERNIMBUG). They lived in the Tannenzapfen Mühle (Pine Cone Mill) southeast of Ribeauvillé (at least 1792-1800), perhaps at Ungersheim, Upper Alsace; and then at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines 1813-1818 (Conrad's 1818 death entry said he had been a resident for the past five years).

Conrad's distinctive signature appears on a civil entry created in Upper Alsace in 1807. He is found as a 39-year-old witness (note that the age is a decade off) at the marriage of Joseph Ropp (younger brother to Andreas Ropp) and Barbe Roth, where he was described as a resident of Ungersheim. This would seem an unlikely location, but we note that his son Jacob/Jacques married at nearby Richwiller in 1824; his wife came from Baden; and his daughter Catherine was living in Baden.

The children of Conrad Goldschmidt/Goldschmidt and Katharina/Catherine König include:

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195 Initially we confused this Conrad with cultivator Conrad Goldschmitt/Konrad Goldschmidt, who was born circa 1750. He married Marie Reck. She died in Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche April 21, 1794. Their children include:
1. Catherine Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1781, and died at Bourg-Bruche March 30, 1846, age 65. Her civil death entry named her birthplace and parents, and was signed by witness and brother-in-law Jean Schlabach, 42.
2. Henry Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1786, and died at Bourg-Bruche Jan. 8, 1829. His civil death entry gave his age as 43, stated that he was a son of 'Coinrat Collschmt,' and 'Marie Regnner,' and was witnessed by brother Joseph 'Collschmit,' 38.
3. Barbe/Barbara Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or Bourg-Bruche Jan. 9, 1790, and died at Le Vermont, Vosges April 23, 1849. The death entry calls her 'Barbe Clochemet,' age 58, and says that she was born in Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche. On April 1, 1819 at Saales, Lower Alsace she married Jean Schlabach. He was born at Saales April 8, 1787, and died at Le Vermont, Vosges March 22, 1849, a son of David Schlabach and Marguerite Lugimblüth. Conrad was present and consenting as father-of-the-bride (he is actually found as 'Conneralte Clochemitz,' and signed his name as 'Conrat Goltschmidt'), and another witness was brother Joseph 'Colchmitz,' described as a 30-year-old cultivator from Colroy-la-Grande. The entry described the bride's parents as cultivator Connerale Collmitz, age 68 years six months, and the deceased Marie Reck.
4. Joseph Goldschmidt was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche May 26, 1792, and died at Le Hang June 1, 1830. On Feb. 23, 1813 at Bourg-Bruche he married Madeleine Schoerique [Gerig/Görg]. She was born at Bourg-Bruche June 27, 1794, and died there June 30, 1815, a daughter of Christian Görg and Marie Barbe Eymann. On April 14, 1815 at Bourg-Bruche Joseph remarried to Barbe Beller. She was born at La Broque, Salm Feb. 28, 1791, and died in 1857, a daughter of Jacob Beller and Marie Ann Lehmann. Their civil marriage entry called them 'Joseph Kolsmitte' and 'Barbe Bèler.' Joseph's father signed as a witness.
1. Catherine Goldschmidt was born circa 1788. She married widower Christian Gautschi before 1811. He was born on Wopplinsberg farm on the north side of Emmendingen, Baden circa 1783, and died at Madison, Butler County, Ohio July 3, 1856, a son of Christian Gautschi and Maria Stritt. 196 Some of the witnesses on entries for his family include Michael Zimmerman, later a resident of Tazewell County (see ZIMMERMAN); Benedict König, who was later a minister in Butler and Fulton Counties, Ohio; and Jacob König (see KING, KÖNIG OF NIMBURG). Christian and Catherine lived at Emmendingen before emigrating. Catherine’s name appears on documents there for the first time as a witness to the death of her sister-in-law Jacobea Gautschi in 1811. They were passengers on the Asia as it arrived at New York from Le Havre May 26, 1834 with Redigers, Gundys, Gautschis, and Eyers from Baden bound for Butler County, Ohio. The Asia passenger list shows Chret, Gaucshi, 51; Catherine, 46; Jacobine, 20; Jean, 17; Madeleine, 15; Benoit, 11; Henry, 5; and Catherine, 42. ‘Christian Gauchie’ is found on the 1840 census of Madison, Butler County: one male under 5 years of age: one male 10-14; three males 15-19; three males 20-24; and one male 40-49; one male 50-59; one female under 5; two females 15-19; one female 20-24; and one female 50-59. Their son Heinrich/Henry Gautsche was born on Elbschberf farm near Emmendingen July 15, 1825. In accordance with local law his birth was registered at Sankt Martinus Katholisch church at Kirchdorf, Villingen, Baden (25 miles east of Emmendingen) July 26. He was naturalized at Hamilton, Butler County Oct. 9, 1852. On Aug. 23, 1853 at Madison, Butler County he married Barbara Meyer. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augspurger, who was married to Henry’s older sister Magdalena Gautsche. The minister was also an uncle to the bride, because Barbara was a daughter of Nicholas’s sister Mary Augspurger and the ‘hook-and-eye’ Augspurger congregation minister Joseph Meyer. She may be found on the 1850 census of Lemon, Butler County as a 16-year-old born in Ohio to farmer Joseph Myers, 35, and May, 34. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Worth, Woodford County as farmer Henry Gaughshe, 54, Ohio; Barbara, 44, Ohio; eight children born in Ohio, a 3-year-old born in Illinois, and boarder Peter Nafzinger, 75, France. Henry died at Worth June 4, 1899. Gospel Herald, January 1912: “Barbara Gautsche (nee Meyer) was born March 1, 1835; died Dec. 10, 1911; aged 76 y. 9 m. 9 d. She was a member of the Mennonite church from her youth. She was united in marriage with Henry Gautsche, which union was blessed with 7 sons and 3 daughters, 1 son and 1 daughter, also her husband, preceded her to the realms beyond. She leaves to mourn her death 6 sons, 2 daughters, 25 grandchildren 4 having preceded her, and 3 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 13, 1911, at the Union church in Metamora, Ill., by Bros. Andrew Schrock and Val. Strubhar. Texts, nno. 5:24, 25, and Isa. 35:3-10.” Henry and Barbara are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

2. Jacob Jacques Goldschmidt was born at Ribeauvillé circa 1792. On April 12, 1824 at Richwiller, Upper Alsace he married Catherine Schlatter. She was born at Richwiller Feb. 21, 1791, and died in Adams County, Indiana Sept. 3, 1878, a daughter of Christian Schlatter and his second wife Christina Frey. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as a 31-year-old cultivator living at Richwiller. It said that Jacob’s father Conrad had died at Ste. Maires-aux-Mines March 8, 1818, and his mother Catherine Koenig was present and consenting; the bride’s father was also present and consenting. The Asia passenger list names the couple as Jacq. Goldschmidt, 43; Charlotte, 43; Charlotte, 70; Joseph, 17; Charlotte, 6; and Jacques, 10. They are found on the 1840 census of Madison, Butler County as Jacob Goldsmith: one male 40-49; one female 10-14; and one female 40-49. Their daughter Catherine born June 15, 1828 married Defenseless Mennonite founder Henry Egly (see STAKER). The 1870 census of Hartford, Indiana shows farmer Henry Egly, 45; Baden: Katharine, 42, France; nine children born in Ohio and Indiana; Henry’s father Abram, 72, Württemberg; and Jacob Goldschmidt, 79, France. Jacob died before October 1878. Gospel Herald, October 1878: “Sept. 3rd, in Adams Co., Ind., of the infirmities of age, Catharine Goldsmith, widow of Jacob Goldsmith, aged 87 years, 6 months and 13 days. She leaves 2 children, 19 grand-children, and 27 great-grand-children.”

3. Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith was born in the Pine Cone Mill [Ger. Tannenzapfen Mühle] near Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace March 19, 1796. There is no civil records of the event, but his personal Bible gives details and named his parents as Konrad Goldschmidt and Katharina Koenig. He sailed from Amsterdam with Augspurgers on the Montgomery and arrived at Philadelphia June 18, 1819. He remained near Philadelphia, where he met Elizabeth Schwarzentuber. She was born at Lisch, Hesse Feb. 17, 1807. They were married Jan. 4, 1824, and resettled on the north side of Snyder Street in the German Block of Wilmot Township, Ontario. Later that year bishop 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, farming at St. Clair and then Lemon. Joseph ministered with his uncle, Benedict König/King. On Jan. 25, 1835 the stormy meeting leading to a division into conservative ‘hook-and-eye’ and progressive ‘button’ congregations in Butler County took place at Goldsmith’s farmstead, now 2605 Oxford-Middletown Road at Milford (see STAKER). He was ordained an elder or bishop of the Collinsville congregation in 1838. In 1840 he appeared on the census of Madison as Joseph Goldsmith. In 1847 he ran into financial difficulties, sold his Ohio land, and moved again to Lee County, Iowa, where he established the state’s first Amish Mennonite congregation. His family can be found on the 1850 census of Lee County, Division 28, as Joseph Goldsmith, 50; Elizabeth, 45; and 12 children. They later lived in Henry County, Iowa, where he died April 26, 1896. Elizabeth died there Aug. 18, 1900.

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196 In Bernese dialect a Gauschi is a money lender. The surname became Gautsche in Ohio.
4. Magdalena Goldschmidt was born at Ribeauvillé April 18, 1797. Her civil birth entry described her parents as miller Conrad Goldschmitt, 39, and Catherine Koenig, living at Tannenzapfen Mühl in the forest. Her father signed 'Conrad Goldschmitt.'

5. **Benjamin Goldschmidt** was born at Ribeauvillé Aug. 9, 1800. The civil entry described the location as on the road to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. It was witnessed by Frederic Fanny, 36.

- A note in Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmit's personal *Bible* said that his parents had three sons and three daughters. We could not identify the third daughter.

When Conrad Goldschmitt/Konrad Goldschmitt died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines March 8, 1818, his civil death entry described him as a 61-year-old miller, a son of Jacques Goldschmitt and Barbe Fritz. It mistakenly stated that he was survived by the widow 'Barbe Koenig.' It was signed by son Jacques Golschmitt, 34, who signed his name 'Jacob Goldschmidt.'

**Benjamin Goldschmidt** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Aug. 9, 1800. 'Benj. Goldschmet, 26' is found on the passenger list of the *Nimrod* as it arrived at Philadelphia from Amsterdam Aug. 18, 1826. This was the ship that brought land claimant Christian Nafziger (see STAKER). 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger (later of Woodford County), Christian Steinman (who later purchased Andreas Ropp's lot at Wilmot), Peter Danner (later Donner of McLean County), and others going to Wilmot.

Benjamin may have lived with his older brother Joseph on the north side of Snyder Street at Wilmot. The 1830 survey map of Wilmot does not show his name, but does show Joseph Goldsmith.

In 1831 Joseph left Ontario to resettle in Butler County, Ohio. Benjamin may have accompanied him. The 1840 census of Lemon shows the household of Benjamin Goldsmith: three males 20-29; one male 30-39; two females under 5; and one female 30-39.

It is likely that Benjamin was married to Catherine in Ohio circa 1835. We could not identify her beyond the census information that she was born in Hesse-Darmstadt in 1799.

Benjamin and Catherine resettled in Tazewell County in 1843 or 1844. It is likely that they were accompanied on the journey by his cousin, Andreas/Andrew Roth, who became the first of the Roth family to move west from Ohio. KING, THE KÖNIGS OF NIMBURG shows how the Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths and the Roths were cousins, sharing Johannes König and Barbara Roth as aunt and uncle.

The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows Benj. Goldschmidt, 50, Germany; Catherine, 51, Germany; Mary, 15, Ohio; Catherine, 13, Ohio; and Daniel, 6, Illinois. The 1860 census of Washington has Benjamin Goldnutt, 60, Germany; Catharine, 60, Germany; Mary, 22, Ohio; Catharine, 21, Ohio; and Daniel, 16, Illinois (note the years taken off the ages of the daughters).

The family apparently relocated to Worth in Woodford County after the 1865 state census (they were not listed at Worth; we have not seen the list for Washington). As improbable as it seems, they appear on the 1870 census of Worth as Michael Goldsmith, 60, ferrier [blacksmith], Wurttemberg; Margaret, 50, Wurttemberg; and farm hand Daniel, 30, Wurttemberg. We assume that only the location, the father's occupation, and the name and occupation of the son was correct.

The children of Benjamin Goldschmidt/Goldsmit and Catherine include:

1. Mary Goldsmith was born at Lemon, Ohio circa 1835. The 1870 census of Metamora shows Mary Goldsmith, 35, born in Pennsylvania, a domestic servant in the household of Samuel Powell of England. The 1880 census of Metamora shows servant Mary Goldsmith, 34, Germany, in the household of 72-year-old Dominique Mangin of France. She is found again on the 1900 census of Metamora as servant Mary Goldsmith, 63, born in Germany in August 1837 to German parents, a boarder in the home of John Zimmerman. Her immigration date was given as 1843 [actually the year she came to Illinois from Ohio]. She lived next door to her brother Daniel's wife Clara M. Smith and her nephew William Goldsmith.

2. Catherine Goldsmith was born at Lemon, Ohio circa 1837. She appears on the 1880 census of Metamora as Kathi Goldschmidt, 44, born in Indiana to German parents, a servant in the household of Joseph Grabill.

3. **Daniel Goldsmith** was born at Washington, Tazewell County circa 1844.

Two excerpts from *Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois* (1878) tell the story of son Daniel Goldsmith:

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197 On the census page the Goldschmidt family is one house removed from Michael Zimmerman, 70. Michael's connection to Benjamin is problematic. He was a brother to Verena Zimmerman (the wife of Nicolaus Roth and mother to Andreas/Andrew Roth). Nicolaus Roth was a brother to Barbara Roth (who married Johannes 'Hans' König). Johannes 'Hans' König was a brother to Katharina/Catherine König, Benjamin’s mother.
"The next in the vocabulary was a murder which for some time created the most intense excitement, and the final acquittal of the prisoner seriously threatened lynch law. This was the alleged murder of Christian Schertz by Daniel Goldsmith, in 1871, and had attendant circumstances of a most distressing character.

Schertz was a stepson of Mr. Joseph Schertz, an old settler of Worth Township, and a highly respected citizen. He had taken the name of his stepfather, upon assuming that relationship, and when he married, the old people set him up on a farm six miles east of Metamora, on the Panola road. [Roanoke]

It was while sitting at home in the bosom of his family, spending a quiet Sunday evening, listening to the reading of the Bible, that a shot came through the window and killed him. It was on the 3d of December, and one of the stormiest nights of the Winter season, when the howling of the wind without and the driving of the snow against the sides of the house would stifle the sound of a a murderer's footsteps.

The evidence was wholly circumstantial, but of a very strong character of that kind. Goldsmith was indicted by the Grand Jury, and the fact that he had lived with Schertz, that they had had trouble and disagreements, and Goldsmith had left him but a few days previous to the murder, coupled with other points of a strong circumstantial character, everything seemed to indicate beyond a doubt that he was the assassin.

His trial lasted from Monday afternoon until about the same time on Saturday, when the jury, who had received the case at 7 o'clock on Friday evening, returned a verdict of 'Not guilty.' The counsel for the people were Smith M. Garratt, District Attorney, and Hon. W. W. O'Brien, now of Chicago. For the defense, Messrs. Burns (now Circuit Judge), Ray, Feilitzsch and Barnes, all able lawyers.

As we have said, the points in the case were all circumstantial, and therefore left room for doubt. The assassin of Christian Schertz may never be positively known until the last day, when all things shall be revealed.

The following extract from the Woodford Sentinel shows the prevailing sentiment at the result of the trial: "We are now, and always have been, opposed to mob violence of any character whatever, and we trust we may never be compelled to chronicle a case in Woodford County, but if we are to have such farces enacted as the last two murder trials spoken of, we want to ask, where are the people going to get justice, and how?"

"In the Winter of 1870-71, occurred, in the western part of the township, a horrible murder. Mr. Christian Schertz, while sitting by his fireside and playing with his children, was most brutally murdered, by a shot from without, by some unknown person.

Certain suspicious circumstances led to the arrest of Daniel Goldsmith, a resident of the western part of the county. It appeared in evidence, that he had been out hunting the day before; that one barrel of his gun had been discharged; and that the ball found in Mr. Shertz's body corresponded to those used by Goldsmith.

The evidence, though considered by many as convincing, failed to convict, and he was set at liberty."

For more on murder victim Christian Schertz see SCHERTZ, THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF OBERSTINZEL.

The 1880 census of Metamora shows Benjamin as Benn. Goldschmidt, 79, "worked at farm." (lined out, marked 'died') Katharine, 81. The Woodford County Mortality Book notes that Katharine Goldschmidt died in August 1880, age 81. She was thought to be a resident of the county for 47 years, but this probably should have been 37, expressing an arrival in 1843. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora, where the half-sunken headstone says, "Catherine, wife of B. Goldsmith." Benjamin may also be buried there.

The same census shows them next door to son Daniel. He had married Clara M. Smith in Peoria County July 3, 1877. They appear as farmer Daniel Goldschmidt, 35, Illinois, parents from France and Hesse-Darmstadt; Clara M., 20, Illinois, parents from Ohio and Vermont; William, 2, Illinois; and Minnie J., 3 months, Illinois.

The 1900 census of Metamora shows William [Louis] Goldsmith, 22, born in Illinois in March 1878 to parents from Illinois; his occupation seems to say 'compliment clerk,' but is overwritten and illegible. He lived with his mother Clary [Clara Smith], 38, born in Illinois in December 1861 to parents from Ohio, married 23 years.

At the same time Daniel was living in Iowa. The 1900 census of Hardin, Iowa shows teamster Daniel Goldsmith, 55, born in Illinois to German parents December 1844, as the father-in-law in the home of John Heirmeier, born in Illinois in June 1869, and Minnie [Goldsmith], 20, born in Illinois in March 1880, and their three children (birth places indicate they moved from Illinois to Iowa between 1897 and 1900). Looking back at the 1880 census of Metamora we find Johny Hermeier, 12, living only two households removed from the Goldschmids.

The 1910 census of Panola has Daniel Goldsmith, 66, born in Illinois to parents from France and Germany. He was described as a divorced railroad laborer. The 1920 census of Limestone, Peoria shows Daniel Goldsmith, 76, born in Illinois to parents from France and Hesse. He was described as an inmate at the Peoria County Home.

The Sept. 12, 1918 draft registration of William Louis Goldsmith, 40, gave his birth date as March 16, 1878. He was described as a married traffic clerk living at Peru, LaSalle County. His physical characteristics included grey eyes and black hair.
The *Metamora Herald* obituary for William Louis Goldsmith says he was born March 16, 1878, and died Aug. 12, 1937. He is buried near his mother Clara in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora. The birth year 1878 is found on his headstone, but the year of death was never inscribed. He may have been the last of his family in the area.
Rediger: Reutiger or Reidiger of Ichenheim

R euthigen is located inland from the western shore of Lake Thun in Canton Bern.

Johannes Reutiger and Barbara Jaggi were the parents of Sebastian Reutiger. Sebastian was born at Boltigen (14 miles southwest of Reutigen) in 1721. He was a member of the Swiss Reformed Church when he went to work for an Anabaptist leaseholder on the Klosterhof (‘cloister farm’) at Hornbach, Zweibrücken. There he chose to be rebaptized. The church ethics court of Zweibrücken banished him from their parishes.

He married Susanne Dettweiler. She was born circa 1725, and died on the Offweilerhof at Contwig, Zweibrücken March 15, 1758, a daughter of Jacob Dettweiler.

No original birth entries or tax documents list Sebastian's children. We have made a rough attempt with room for error. The children of Sebastian Reutiger and his first wife Susanne Dettweiler include:

1. Josef Reutiger/Rediger was born Sept. 7, 1753, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate in 1819. He married Katharina Hunzinger. She was born on the Katzentalerhof estate at Wisssembourg (now in Lower Alsace) in 1758. According to French genealogist Jean François Lorentz she remarried to Daniel Schlatter, and died on the Katzentalerhof estate at Wisssembourg, Lower Alsace in 1830. Other sources say she died before Josef, and he remarried to her sister Magdalena. Josef's daughter Katharina married minister Jakob Ackermann (see BELSLEY and RINGENBERG); they were the parents of two Ackermanns who came to Tazewell County.

2. Barbara Reutiger/Rediger was born circa 1754, and died Sept. 13, 1808. In 1771 she married Christian Schertz. He was born at Haut-Clocher (now in Moselle) in 1758, and died at Gondrexange Jan. 16, 1808.

3. Magdalena Reutiger/Rediger born circa 1755 may belong to this family. She married Joseph Dettweiler. They farmed on the Spitalhof estate between Kehl and Kork (11 miles north of the Ottenweierhof estate).

4. Johannes Reutiger/Rediger was born circa 1757. According to Hermann Guth, he was farming on the Spitalhof estate in 1791. His wife could not be identified.

5. Benjamin Reutiger/Rediger was born March 15, 1758, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate Jan. 15, 1835. Circa 1784 at the mill La Forge below Imling he married Barbara Ringenberg. She was born circa 1764, and died before 1835. They lived at Strasbourg after 1785 and had six children.

Sebastian leased the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim with several brothers in 1763, and died there Feb. 10, 1791. The Ottenweierhof estate is only two miles from the Rhine River and Alsace, and halfway between Baden-Durlach (north) and Hochburg (south). It became a meeting point for Anabaptists from Strasbourg in Alsace and those in Baden.

Circa 1772 Sebastian remarried to Anna Lederer. She was born on the Rohrhof estate at Brühl, Baden in 1739. Their children born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden include:

6. Jakob Reutiger/Rediger was born March 6, 1773, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate in 1843. Circa 1790 he married Jacobea/Jakobina Güngerich. She was born on the Schafbusch estate at Steinelszt, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Anna Holly.

7. Jakobina Güngerich. She was born on the Schafbusch estate at Steinseltz, April 15, 1779, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Anna Holly. Circa 1790 she remarried to Magdalena Güngerich, who was born at Steinelszt June 27, 1773, and died on the Ottenweierhof estate May 29, 1835. Jakob farmed on the Schreibenhardt estate near Karlsruhe, Baden 1818-1837 (this estate is now the Golfklub Hofgut Scheibenhardt).

8. Andreas Reutiger/André Rediger was born on the Ottenweierhof estate March 13, 1775, and died at Blanche Eglise, Moselle Nov. 9, 1828. On July 24, 1796 at Imling, Moselle he married Anne Ringenberg. She was born at Imling March 10, 1779, a daughter of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engle. They settled on Rinting farm at Bébing, Moselle.

9. Jakobine Rediger/Rediger was born circa 1776. She married Johannes/Jean Eyer. He was born on the Johannestalerhof at Königsbach in 1802, and died in 1864, a son of Christian Eyer and Verena Jordy.

10. Maria Magdalena Reutiger/Rediger was born circa 1778, and died at Willmandingen, Baden Aug. 25, 1826. On June 2, 1795 at Obernimburg, Baden she married Benedict 'Benz' König/King. He was born at Obernimburg, Baden circa 1774, and died at Fulton County, Ohio circa 1856; a son of Christian König and Elisabeth Sticki (see KÖNIG). Benedict appears elsewhere in this text as the minister/elder of the Collinsville congregation in Butler County, Ohio.

Ferme Schafbusch is still an active entity.
The surname Reutiger evolved into 'Reidiger' for German speakers. In Alsace and America it became 'Rediger,' perhaps because of familiarity with the French verb rédiger, to write.

We will follow three chains: 1) Sebastian's son Johannes had a son Joseph, who came to what is now Partridge before 1839. 2) Sebastian's son Benjamin had a grandson Benjamin who settled at Washington. 3) Sebastian's son Jakob had a son Benjamin. Benjamin died at Ichenheim, but his widow Barbara Ehrismann and their children came to America in 1849.

**Joseph Rediger**

*(Partridge)*

In 1791 Sebastian's son **Johannes Rediger** (mother Susanne Dettweiler) was farming on the Spitalhof estate between Kehl and Kork, 11 miles north of Ichenheim. 199

His son **Joseph Rediger** was born on the Ottenweierhof estate Jan. 31, 1796. He sailed from Le Havre on the British brig *Larpoole*, arriving at New York June 5, 1832. 200 The passenger list shows him as 'Joseph Reidiger, 36, farmer, Baden.'

On July 13, 1834 in Butler County, Ohio he married Anne Schmitt, who was also called Anna or Nancy Schmidt. She was born at Bisping, Moselle Aug. 2, 1808, a daughter of Joseph Schmitt and Freni/Véronique Gerber (see SMITH).

Before 1839 Joseph purchased the northwest quarter in Section 36 at what is now Partridge. At the time the timberland property was in Tazewell County, but is now in Woodford County. Partridge was not named until before 1839. 2) Sebastian's son Benjamin had a grandson Benjamin who settled at Washington. 3) Perhaps because of familiarity with the French verb *rédiger,* to write.

On Oct. 21, 1855 in Woodford County she married Jacob R. Rediger (the entry calls them Jacob Rediker and Lenna Rediker). 201 He was born July 25, 1824, and died Nov. 13, 1895. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Jacob Roddiker, 53, Germany; Lena, 44, born in Ohio to German parents; Joseph, 15, Illinois; David, 9, Illinois; and Noah, 7, Illinois. They resettled at Milford, Nebraska in February 1888. They are buried in Eastview Cemetery at Milford. *Herald of Truth,* February 1896: "On the 13th of December [sic] 1895, in Seward Co., Neb., Bro. Jacob Rediger, aged 71 years, 4 months and 18 days. He leaves his wife, 3 sons and 6 grandchildren; 5 children preceded him. He was a faithful member in the Amish church. Buried on the 15th in the Fairview cemetery. Funeral services by Bish. Christian Rediger from *John 14:13.*" *Gospel Herald,* March 1912: "Sister

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199 Johannes was determined to be the father of Joseph through process of elimination. Of Sebastian's sons, one had a wife who was too old to have been his mother. Another lived at Strasbourg, where a civil entry would have recorded his birth. Others have well-documented families.

200 Found as 'Larpole' on the passenger list.

201 On June 15, 1855 a license was issued at Metamora, but not returned, for a marriage between 'Andrew Wessel' and 'Magdalene Rediger.' Presumably this was the Andrew Wissel who appears on the same census page as Redigers at Partridge in 1860, age 38, married to Catharine, age 26, with three small children.
Léger, a Schulmeister estate on the outskirts of Paris, for the first six months of 1818.

3. Anna ‘Nancy’ Rediger was born in Butler County Oct. 16, 1837. We could not identify her after the 1850 census. She may have been the Anna Rediger who married John Smith in Woodford County Jan. 26, 1857, but we could not find a matching couple in the county on the 1860 census.

4. Catherine Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 4, 1839, and died at Morton Oct. 10, 1915. On Dec. 28, 1858 in Tazewell County she married Peter Wagler (born Peter Jacob Berse). He was born at Hirsingue, Upper Alsace Nov. 29, 1831, and died at Morton Aug. 28, 1903, a son of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer Peter Wagler, 48, born in France to French parents; Catherine, 40, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from France; and nine children. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

5. David Rediger was born at Partridge March 2, 1840, and died at Richland, Illinois May 25, 1883. In December 1864 at Richland, Illinois he married Mary Jane Duchesne. She was born in Woodford County June 3, 1842, and died at Peoria March 3, 1931, a daughter of John Baptiste Duchesne and Elizabeth Catherine Voutrain. They are found at Richland in 1870, and on the 1880 census of Richland as farmer David Rediger, 39, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary J., 38, born in Illinois to French parents; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Old Salem Cemetery in Marshall County.

6. Jacob Rediger was born at Partridge Oct. 13, 1842, and died at Great Bend, Kansas April 17, 1922. He married Mary Felicite Duchesne. She was born in Woodford County Dec. 29, 1841, and died at Great Bend Feb. 11, 1921, a daughter of John Baptiste Duchesne and Elizabeth Catherine Voutrain. They are found at Richland in 1870, and on the same page of the 1880 census of Richland as brother David: farmer Jacob Rediger, 38, Illinois; Mary, 28, Illinois; and four children born in Illinois. Jacob farmed 160 acres at Richland. They are found on the 1920 census of Great Bend as Jacob Rediger, 77, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Alsace; and Mary F., 69, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Lorraine, France.

7. Barbara Rediger was born at Partridge May 29, 1844, and died at Pekin Aug. 3, 1934. She can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as 16-year-old domestic Barbara Rediker in the household of Jacob Ropp and Elisabeth Schlegel. On Dec. 3, 1865 at Pekin she married John Schrock. He was born at Trenton, Butler County March 26, 1843, and died at Pekin April 20, 1935, a son of John Schrock and Catherine Salzman. They are found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as farmer John Schrock, 37, born in Ohio to parents from France; Barbara, 36, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and eight children born in Illinois.

8. Frances ‘Fannie’ Rediger was born at Partridge March 13, 1846, and died at Pekin Nov. 19, 1934. On April 29, 1866 in Tazewell County she married Isaac Wagler. He was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Oct. 15, 1840, and died at Groveland March 30, 1920, a son of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.

9. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Rediger was born at Partridge Jan. 11, 1848. On Oct. 5, 1868 in Tazewell County she married David Faith. He had served as a private and corporal with Company K, 78th Infantry regiment Ohio during the Civil War. They can be found on the 1910 census of Pekin, which gives his age as 66, hers as 60; her birthplace and some other information is incorrect. David is buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin, where his headstone gives his military rank and unit. David died several days after an accident while employed by the Pekin Wagon Company. Estate administrator Samuel S. Rediger appealed to the Industrial Board of Illinois on behalf of the widow. The appeal was heard March 4, 1915. David was making $11.60 a week when his foot was cut by a buzz saw at work; the only disputed issue was whether or not he died from infection. Elizabeth was awarded $5.80 a week for 416 weeks.

Benjamin Rediger
(Washington)

Sebastian’s son Benjamin Rediger/Rediger (mother Susanne Dettweiler) was born on the Ottenweierhof estate March 15, 1758, and died there Jan. 15, 1835. Circa 1784 at the mill La Forge below Imling he married Barbara Ringenberg. She was born circa 1764, and died before 1835. They lived at Strasbourg after 1785 and had six children. Their son Benjamin Rediger was born circa 1787. He married Barbara Guérin. They lived at Boissy-Saint-Léger, a Schulmeister estate on the outskirts of Paris, for the first six months of 1818. Their two children include:

1. Benjamin Rediger was born Feb. 16, 1818 (his headstone says Feb. 18). The entry was found in Boissy records by Neil Anne Stuckey Levine as ‘Benjamin Reithiger’ and ‘Barberar Gaiuerine.’
2. Magdalena Rediger was born circa 1819.
Barbara Guérin died, and Benjamin remarried to Barbara Geisert. She was born at Friestett, Baden in 1799, and died there Sept. 20, 1819, a daughter of George Geisert and Barbara Bernert.

After her death widower Benjamin and his two children sailed from Le Havre on the Asia, arriving at New York May 26, 1834. The passenger list shows Benj. Reuttinger, 45; Benjamin, 15; and Madeleine, 14. Fellow passengers included widower Johannes von Gunde, called 'Jean Gunde' on the passenger list and later called John Gundy (see ROTH); Daniel Eyer; Christian Gautsche and Catherine Goldschmidt; and Catherine's brother Jacob Goldschmidt (see GOLDSMITH).

On March 28, 1842 in Woodford County the younger Benjamin Rediger married Barbara Oyer. The ceremony was performed by minister Andrew Baughman. Barbara was born at Niderhoff Aug. 20, 1824 (her headstone says Aug. 24, 1825), a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller (see OYER). They appear on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Benjamin Redger, 32, Germany; Barbara, 26, Germany; Joseph, 6, Illinois; Madeline, 2, Illinois; Phoebe Ower [Jacobine Oyer, Barbara's younger sister], 12; and Catherine Fournes [Farny], 22, Illinois. They lived next door to Barbara's uncle Jacob Ower [Oyer], 72; and Barbara, 50. They also appear on the same census page as Peter Good [Guth] and Nicholas Rhodes [Nicholas Roth].

On the 1860 census of Washington: farmer Benj. Rediger, 42, France; Barbara, 33, France; Joseph, 16; Madalin, 12; Elizabeth, 6; Mary, 4; and Phoebe, 1. On the 1870 census of Washington: farmer Benjamin Rediger, 52, France; Barbaray, 45, France; farm laborer Joseph, 26; Magdalena, 22; Elizabeth, 16; Mary, 14; Jacob [Jacobine], 11; Christian, 9; and Catharine, 5; all children born in Illinois. The 1880 census of Washington shows farmer Benjamin Rediger, 62, born in France to parents from France and Baden; Barbara, 54, born in France to French parents; Magdalena, 28; Mary, 23; Jacobine, 21; Christian, 19; and Catharine, 14; all children born in Illinois.

The 1900 census of Reno, Kansas shows Benjamin living in the household of his son Christian: farmer Christian Rediger, 45, born in Illinois in February 1855; Magdalena, 40, born in Illinois in February 1860; Judith, 20, born in Illinois in July, 1879; Dina, 18, born in Illinois in September 1881; Tillie, 4, born in Kansas in June 1885; and Benjamin, 82, born in Germany in February 1818. They lived next door to Peter Farny and Barbara Rediger.202

Barbara died at Washington Oct. 30, 1881, and was buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland. Benjamin died in Kansas March 27, 1906, and was buried beside his wife.

Their children born at Washington include:

1. Joseph Rediger was born Jan. 9, 1844, and died Jan. 23, 1875. He married Mary Birky. She was born March 23, 1848, and died Oct. 11, 1925. They are buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
2. Madeleine or Magdalena Rediger was born circa 1847/48. We could not identify her after the 1870 census.
3. Elizabeth Rediger was born June 24, 1855, and died in Kansas March 22, 1911. On Jan. 31, 1875 she married Joseph Benjamin Stuckey. He was born in Germany in December 1849, and died in Kansas in 1921. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Jos. Stuckey, 31, Germany; Elizabeth, 25, Illinois; Ruffina, 2, Illinois; Jos. B., 11 months, Illinois; and sister-in-law Phebe Rediker [Jacobine] 20, Illinois. They are buried in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas.
4. Mary Rediger was born in 1856, and died July 7, 1927. She is buried in Glendale Cemetery. She is found living with her widowed sister Jacobine on the 1920 census of Washington: Phoebe Freidenger, 60, born in Illinois to French parents; and Mary Rediger, 63, born in Illinois to French parents (in 1918 Alsace-Lorraine had been freed from German occupation).
5. Jacobine 'Phoebe' Rediger was born Feb. 8, 1859, and died June 7, 1934. She married Henry Freidinger, who was born March 10, 1854, and died Aug. 5, 1918, a son of John Nicholas Freidinger and Elizabeth Sandmeyer. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery.
6. Christian Rediger was born circa 1861. His headstone in Sterling Mennonite Cemetery at Nickerson, Kansas says he was born Feb. 23, 1855, and died Oct. 10, 1830. This birth date is not consistent with his family's census reports, though it is consistent with his last census report. On Feb. 6, 1878 at Danvers he married Magdalena Hildy. She was born at Danvers Feb. 16, 1860, and died Jan. 28, 1956, a daughter of Nicolas Hildi/Hilty and Elizabeth Stuckey.
7. Catharine Rediger was born July 12, 1866. On Feb. 19, 1884 in Tazewell County she married Isaiah Metzler. He was born in Indiana July 25, 1859, and died in Tazewell County July 3, 1926, a son of Christian Metzler and Anna Wagner. Before the marriage he was a boarder in the household of Andrew Roth at Washington. They are found on

202 Peter Farny was born at Wilmot, Ontario June 3 or 8, 1835 and died at Hutchinson, Kansas July 9, 1903. He was a son of Pierre/Peter Farny (one of the 'Amishmen who hired Lincoln') and Anne Kempf. On Feb. 12, 1860 in Woodford County he married Barbara Neuhouser, who died in Woodford County April 3, 1871. On Dec. 17, 1874 in Livingston County he remarried to Barbara Rediger. She was born in Woodford County Dec. 8, 1853, and died at Hutchinson, Kansas Dec. 3, 1927, a daughter of Jacob Rediger and Veronica 'Fannie' Schmitt (this couple lived at Dry Grove, McLean County).
the 1900 census of Tremont as farmer Isiah Metzler, born in Indiana in July 25, 1859 to a father from Pennsylvania; Cathrin, born in Illinois July 12, 1866 to parents from Germany; and Benjamin, born in Illinois Dec. 31, 1884.

**Forty-Eighter Redigers**

Sebastian's son Jakob Rediger/Rediger (mother Anna Lederer was born on the Ottenweierhof estate March 6, 1773, and died there in 1843. Circa 1790 he married Jakobine/Jakobin Güngerich. She was born on the Schafbusch estate at Steinseltz April 15, 1779, a daughter of Christian Güngerich and Anna Holly. From 1818 to 1837 they leased the Scheibenhardt estate at Karlsruhe. Circa 1790 he remarried to Magdalena Güngerich, who was also born at Steinseltz June 27, 1773, died on the Ottenweierhof estate May 29, 1835. Jakob farmed on the Schreibenhardt estate near Karlsruhe, Baden 1818-1837.

Their son Benjamin Rediger married Barbara Ehrismann July 20, 1820. She was born on the Obermönshheim estate at Wimsheim, Württemberg (26 miles southeast of Karlsruhe) Aug. 27, 1797, and died in Tazewell County Aug. 31, 1861, a daughter of Johannes Ehrismann and Veronika Egli.

The couple farmed on Lärchenhof estate at Wimsheim. Benjamin's death was recorded in the Wimsheim Familien Register Feb. 3, 1848. It identified him as a son of Jakob Reidiger and Jakobine Güngerich of the Scheibenhardt estate at Karlsruhe. A later note says that his family went to America in 1849.

The Carnatic sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York June 23, 1849. The passenger list includes (in order) Joseph Roediger, 24, farmer, Bavaria; Barbara, 48; Barbaray, 26; Johannes, 20; Jacob, 18; Elisabeth, 9; [illegible] Oesterle, 35; Veronika Roediger, 24; and Barbary Gängerich, 32. In America, German immigrants from this time frame were collectively known as Forty-Eighers, reflecting the political unrest that began in that year. The Rediger family later explained that they had departed to avoid military conscription.

The family is shown on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Barbara Reiger, 52; Barbara, 28; Fanny, 26, farmer Joseph, 25; laborer John, 22; laborer Jacob, 20; and Elizabeth, 11; all born in Germany.

The children of Benjamin Rediger and Barbara Ehrismann born on the Lärchenhof at Wimsheim include:

a. Barbara Rediger was born Sept. 3, 1821, and died at Morton April 16, 1886. On Feb. 22, 1853 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of bishop Michael Mosiman (see MOSIMAN).

b. Veronika/Veronica Rediger was born Nov. 3, 1822, and died Oct. 25, 1872.

c. Christian Rediger was born Jan. 20, 1824, and died at Wimsheim Sept. 10, 1834.

d. Joseph Rediger was born March 2, 1826, and died at Meadows, McLean County March 8, 1904. On Oct. 29, 1850 in Tazewell County he married Veronica 'Fanny' Oyer. She was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1834, and died May 30, 1872, a daughter of Joseph Oyer and his second wife Magdalena Litwiller. On Jan. 18, 1876 in Livingston County he remarried to Anna Fanny Oyer, the widow of John Oyer, a daughter of Peter Farny and Anna Kempf. Joseph was ordained as an Amish Mennonite minister in 1863. Like Nicholas Roth and Michael Mosiman, Joseph fellowshipped with his second cousin Henry Egly of Berne, Indiana and was won over. His congregation was the fifth to join the Defenseless Mennonite movement, and became the Salem Defenseless Mennonite Church in 1866. In 1878 Rediger gave the dedication sermon at a new meeting house that became the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland (later the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Groveland). His household is found on the 1880 census of Waldo as farmer Joseph Rediger. 55, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna, 50, born in Canada to a father from Baden and a mother from Baden; six Rediger children 22-8 years of age; and five Oyer stepchildren 20-12 years of age; and Philip Oestille [Oesterle], 66, brother-in-law from Baden. The entry is found only four households removed from cousin John Ehresman and his wife Catherine Sommer; Joseph, Veronica, and Anna are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley.

e. Johannes/John Rediger was born Nov. 28, 1828, and died March 13, 1882. On March 15, 1853 in Tazewell County he married Anna Birky. She was born Jan. 20, 1832, and died Dec. 4, 1901, a daughter of Christian Birki and Mary. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer John Rediger. 51, born in Baden to a father from France and a mother from Württemberg; Anna Rediger, 46, born in Bavaria to parents from France; and 10 children born in Illinois.

f. Jacob Rediger was born June 28, 1831, and died at Waldo Aug. 26, 1861. On Feb. 20, 1853 in Tazewell County he married Anna 'Nancy' Guth/Good. She was born at Washington Aug. 20, 1836, and died at Shickley, Nebraska Aug. 25, 1921, a daughter of Peter Guth and Susanna Oyer. They are found on the 1860 census of Washington as farmer Jacob Rediger, 28; Anna, 23, Illinois; Susannah, 3; and Barbara, seven months. For the details of Anna's second marriage to Christian Roth and her obituary see GOOD.

Elizabeth Rediger was born Sept. 5, 1839, and died March 15 or 25, 1861. Her name alone is not found in the Wimsheim Familien Register, and she may have been born elsewhere or adopted into this family.
Steider of Kerprich-aux-Bois

As Swiss emigres dispersed in the early and mid-1700s, it occasionally happened that a young woman from an Anabaptist family found a husband who was a lapsed Catholic, Reformed, or Lutheran congregant. In the rare instances where their children chose adult baptism, it brought a new surname into the fold. That may be the case with the Steider family that came to Woodford County in 1849.

Johann Niklaus Steiter had a son Albert Steiter. Albert was born circa 1726, and died at Altwiller (now in Lower Alsace, on the boundary with Moselle) Oct. 2, 1778.

On July 5, 1751 at Altwiller Albert married Marie Madeleine/Magdalena Schultz. She was born at Altwiller Feb. 22, 1728, a daughter of Jean Pierre Schultz and Marie Barbara Textor. The marriage entry says Albert was from 'Luderfingen.' It is likely this was the village Loudrefing (now in Moselle), about nine miles southwest of Altwiller.

Their son Georges/George Steiter/Steider was born circa 1761, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois, Moselle April 3, 1807. His death entry described him as a 46-year-old Lutheran.

On Feb. 22, 1780 at Altwiller George married Catharina Klein, a dependent of Johann Nikolaus Klein. The Protestant marriage entry described George as a son of Albert.

The marriage yielded only one child, who died young:

1. Christine Steiter. A death entry (#536) created in the Protestant parish register at Altwiller July 2, 1789 names Christine Steiterin, a daughter of George Steiter. On the opposing page is an entry for her mother.

Catharina died at Cappel (now Diane-Capelle) Dec. 2, 1789. Her birthplace was described as 'Mievens' or 'Miedens,' and her age was given as 27 years, 4 months, and 16 days. George Steiter was described as a 'burger von Miedens' in the parish of Kappel.

On July 25, 1790 at Altwiller George remarried to Christine Abresohl [Aebersold]. She was born at Rhodes circa 1767, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois Nov. 25, 1851, a daughter of Joseph Abresohl and Christine Schertz. The Protestant marriage entry describes the groom and bride as 'Georg Steiter' and 'Christina Abersohllinn einen Täuferinn' (an Anabaptist).


Diane-Capelle and Kerprich-aux-Bois were also home to the couples Johannes/Jean Litwiller and Freni Zehr, and Johannes/Jean Suisse and Véronique Neuhauser/Neyhauser (the parents of Litwiller, Kempf, and Suisse/Schweizer generations that came to Central Illinois).

The first mention of cultivator 'George Teyder' that we found in Kerprich-aux-Bois records was a death entry created Oct. 26, 1801. He reported the death of Catherine Litwiller, a daughter of Jean Litwiller and Françoise/Freni Zehr. His signature suggests that he was illiterate, and he may not have known that the municipal clerk was spelling his surname 'Teyder,' 'Theirdier,' and 'Teider' on civil entries.

The area was occupied by Russian cavalrymen in 1814 (see FARNY for the impact on nearby Bisping). Approximately 150,000 English, Prussian, Austrian and Russian troops occupied Lorraine between 1815 and 1818. The children of Georges/George Steiter/Steider and his second wife Christine Abresohl include:

2. Christine Steider was born circa 1793, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois June 22, 1815 (her death entry gives age 22).
3. Jean Baptiste Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Nov. 1, 1794. On Oct. 28, 1848 Barbe 'Habressol,' 80, died at Kerprich-aux-Bois. The death entry described her as a daughter of Joseph Habresol [Abresohl] and Christine Chatz [Schertz] and the widow of Joseph Kelbert [Gerber]; thus she was a sister to Christine Abresohl. It described the witness who reported the death as 50-year-old Jean Steider, Barbe's nephew. He signed the entry 'Hans Steider.'
4. Madeleine Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 12, 1796, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois Nov. 14, 1801.
5. Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle in 1799, and died at Kerprich-aux-Bois April 2, 1804.
6. Barbe Steider was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Sept. 4, 1801.
7. Joseph Steider was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Dec. 31, 1804, and died at St. Louis, Missouri Jan. 21, 1849.

203 When they were actually merged as 'Diane et Kerprich,' from 1972 to 1985, their combined populations totalled less than 320.
The unusual mortality rate in the area owed not so much to deprivation caused by war, but to the nature of its geography. Drinking water was drawn from ponds. The ponds were also used to raise carp as food. They accumulated waste from feed grain and the excrement of water foul. This led to a high incidence of waterborne disease. In the next few decades the problem was alleviated by canals connecting the ponds to rivers.

**Joseph Steider** was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois Dec. 31, 1804. On May 7, 1825 he married Catherine Miller there. She was born circa 1803. The marriage entry described the groom as shoemaker [Fr. cordonnier] Joseph Steider, a son of 'Christine Abressole' (his father was deceased). It described the bride as an illegitimate daughter [Fr. enfant naturelle] of Elisabeth Muller of Toupet (a farm and mill) at Azoudange, Moselle. The signatures read 'J. Steider,' 'C. Miller,' and 'Christine Abrefohl.'

According to *The Past and Present of Woodford County*, Joseph Steider, Catherine Miller, and their four children Joseph, Jean/John, Peter, and Barbe/Barbara sailed from Le Havre in September 1848. They arrived at New Orleans 48 days later.

Despite the date and voyage length in this story told 30 years after the event, it is possible that they arrived on the *Vesta* Nov. 27, 1848. A single entry on its passenger list shows 'Steider, 40.'

It is obvious that the timing of their arrival and the length of their stay in New Orleans was unfortunate. The *Swanton* had also departed from Le Havre, on Oct. 31. After 27 days at sea cholera was detected onboard, and 16 passengers died. The ship arrived at New Orleans Dec. 11, 1848. It was not put into quarantine, and on the day of its arrival only one passenger was sent to a hospital. Another passenger fell ill two days after disembarking. The ensuing epidemic peaked in June, when 2,500 lives were lost. (In contrast, the ship *New York* sailed from Le Havre Nov. 9, 1848. Cholera was detected onboard after 16 days, and seven passengers died; but the ship was quarantined at New York, and the disease did not spread).

After spending a month in New Orleans, the Steiders traveled up the Mississippi River as far as St. Louis. We do not know which steamboat carried them. Poet Walt Whitman made the trip in the same time frame. His recollections did not mention the epidemic:

> "Our voyage up the Mississippi was after the same sort as the voyage, some months before, down it. The shores of this great river are very monotonous and dull—one continuous and rank flat, with the exception of a meagre stretch of bluff, about the neighborhood of Natchez, Memphis, etc. Fortunately we had good weather, and not a great crowd of passengers, though the berths were all full. The *Pride* jogg’d along pretty well, and put us into St. Louis about noon Saturday.*

Whitman stopped over at St. Louis less than a day:

> "After looking around a little I secured passage on the steamer *Prairie Bird* (to leave late in the afternoon) bound up the Illinois River to La Salle, where we were to take the canal for Chicago...* Our *Prairie Bird* started out at dark, and a couple of hours after there was quite a rain and blow, which made them haul in along shore and tie fast. We made but thirty miles the whole night. The boat was excessively crowded with passengers, and had withal so much freight that we could hardly turn around. I slept on the floor, and the night was uncomfortable enough. The Illinois River is spotted with little villages with big names, Marseilles, Naples, etc.; its banks are low, and the vegetation excessively rank. Peoria, some distance up, is a pleasant town. I went over the place; the country back is all rich land, for sale cheap. Three or four miles from Peoria, land of the first quality can be bought for $3 or $4 an acre... Illinois is the most splendid agricultural country I ever saw; the land is of surpassing richness; the place par excellence for farmers.*

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204 Whitman worked as a journalist in New Orleans in 1848. "Probably the influence most deeply pervading everything at that time through the United States, both in physical facts and in sentiment, was the Mexican War, then just ended. Following a brilliant campaign (in which our troops had march’d to the capital city, Mexico, and taken full possession) we were returning after our victory. From the situation of the country, the city of New Orleans had been our channel and entrepot for everything, going and returning... I remember very well seeing Gen. [Zachary] Taylor with his staff and other officers at the St. Charles Theatre one evening (after talking with them during the day). There was a short play on the stage, but the principal performance was of Dr. Colyer’s troupe of Model Artists, then in the full tide of their popularity. They gave many fine groups and solo shows. The house was crowded with uniforms and shoulder-straps... I used to wander a midday hour or two now and then for amusement on the crowded and bustling levees, on the banks of the river. The diagonally wedg’d-in boats, the stevedores, the piles of cotton and other merchandise, the carts, mules, negroes, etc., afforded never-ending studies and sights to me. I made acquaintances among the captains, boatmen, or other characters, and often had long talks with them—sometimes finding a real rough diamond among my chance encounters."

205 The Illinois & Michigan Canal connecting the Illinois River with Lake Michigan opened in 1848. It was used for passengers until a rail line was laid parallel to it in 1853. It remained in use for freight until 1933.
Unfortunately, the Steider family remained at St. Louis for a longer period, and suffered a loss there. *The Missouri Republican*, Dec. 21, 1848:

“In all the Eastern cities, measures are already in progress, to prepare for the visitation of cholera. Complaints are loudly made in the newspapers of the filthy condition of several cities, and efforts to improve them strongly recommended. Something of this kind should be done in St. Louis. The general condition of the city and of every street in it, is as favorable for the spread of the disease as can possibly be imagined. Everywhere, arising to some extent, from the prevalence of wet weather and the negligence of the city scavengers, causes of complaint exist, and if our citizens desire to escape the ravages of this scourge they should at once attempt some reform in this particular. All the writers upon the cholera urge a proper attention to cleanliness, throughout the town, as most likely to lessen its ravages.

It is not now too soon to begin this work. Its existence at New York is pretty well established [recall the quarantined *New York*], and an arrival at New Orleans, from Havre, of an emigrant ship [recall the *Swanton*], on board which was a large number of passengers sick, gives reasons to fear that it may soon break out there.

The papers do not make mention of the disease as being cholera, though it is not improbable, from the fact that the cholera was brought to New York by a vessel from Havre, leaving about the same time as the vessel which has arrived at New Orleans. At all events, two or three months may be sufficient for it to reach St. Louis in its course from New York, and we cannot expect entirely to escape, though much may be done to mitigate its severity.”

Cholera reached St. Louis in the very week that the *Republican* made its prediction. On Dec. 27 the steamboat *Alton* arrived from New Orleans. A woman and five children had died on the transit.

Joseph Steider became sick at St. Louis on about Jan. 14. He died a week later, a victim of the St. Louis Cholera Epidemic of 1849. It eventually killed 4,500 persons, about 10 percent of the population.

Recall the *Vesta* passenger list: if Joseph or any other passengers had the symptoms of cholera when they arrived at New Orleans, it might explain why the list provided so little information.

Joseph was buried in the German Cemetery (also called the first Old Picker's Cemetery, now the site of Roosevelt High School). His headstone said he was born in 1807 (he was actually born Dec. 31, 1803), and died Jan. 21, 1849. Under the circumstances it would have been surprising to find an accurate birth date on his headstone. He was born while France was under the Republican calendar system. It is unlikely that either Joseph or his wife would have known the date on the birth entry created the day after his birth — 11 Nivôse 13 — and been able to make a conversion to the Gregorian calendar date Jan. 1, 1805, minus one day: Dec. 31, 1804.

In February floating ice prevented navigation on the river. No new cases of cholera would be identified until warming brought more steamboats.

In late March Catherine and her children continued on to Woodford County. It was dangerous to remain in the city of St. Louis; the Board of Health reported 24 new cases March 21-28, most from passengers who had come from New Orleans.

In Woodford County Catherine rented a house east of Metamora. Her new surroundings must have seemed idyllic. Back in New Orleans on May 3, a levee burst and water flooded into the city. The levy could not be repaired until June 20. It was the worst natural disaster on the delta until Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In St. Louis at least 250 deaths were reported in the first two weeks of May. On May 17 a substantial fire brought a respite from the epidemic. It not only consumed 430 buildings, but 23 moored steamboats as well (see DETTWIELER)

Catherine's 16-year-old daughter Barbara married Joseph Bachman/Baughman in Woodford County June 3, 1849. He was a son of minister Andrew Baughman and Elizabeth Nafziger or Behr (see BACHMAN).

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) misidentifies Catherine: Christian Stider, 46; France; Joseph, 16; France; John, 12; France; and Peter, 11; France. It may also show two of the sons in the household of Joseph 'Red Joe' Belsley and his second wife Barbara/Barbe Engel, where they are found as J. Stide, 17; France; and John Stide, 14, France.

The 1860 census of Metamora shows Catherine Steider, 57; France; and farm laborers Joseph, 35; France; John, 23; France; and Peter, 31; France. In 1870: Catharina, 68; France; in the household of son Peter Stider, 30; France; Catharine [Gerber], 25; France; and Lena, seven months, Illinois. One address removed was the family of Joseph Stider, 28; France. The same census also shows Catherine, 67, living in the household of her son John at Metamora.

The 1873 plat map of Metamora shows Joseph, John, and Peter as the owners of the northwest corner of Section 12; their mother Catherine owned the southwest corner. In 1880 Catherine was living in the household of her son Peter.

Catherine Miller Steider died at Metamora Sept. 13, 1884. Her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery reads, "Catharine, wife of Joseph Steider, died Sept. 13, 1884, aged 81 years [illegible]."

The children of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller include:
1. Joseph Steider was born at Kerprich-aux-Bois March 27, 1826, and died there April 2, 1826.

2. Barbe/Barbara Steider was born at Diane-Capelle circa Sept. 13, 1832, and died at Metamora Oct. 20, 1904. On June 3, 1849 in Woodford County she married Joseph Bachman/Baughman. He was born circa Aug. 16, 1826, and died at Metamora Dec. 29, 1897, a son of André Bachmann (later known as minister and elder Andrew Bachman or Baughman) and Elizabeth Naßiger or Behr. They are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. For more on this couple see BACHMAN.

3. Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 1, 1834, and died at Metamora Feb. 8, 1920.

4. Jean/John Steider was born at Diane-Capelle in March 1837, and died at Milford, Nebraska circa 1900. On July 1, 1863 in Woodford County he married Elisabeth/Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Wagler. She was born at Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace June 15, 1836, and died in Nebraska Dec. 26, 1907, a daughter of Jacob Wagler and Magdalena Röschli (found as Reschly and Roeschley). Their household appears on the 1870 census of Metamora as farmer John Stider, 34, France; Elizabeth, 34, France; Catharine, 6, Illinois; Sara, 5, Illinois; Phoebe, 3, Illinois; Mary, 1, Illinois; Jacob Wagler, 65, Bavaria; Madalene, 68, Bavaria; and Catherine Stider, 67, France. They are found on the 1880 census of Metamora as John Steider, 43, Germany [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany in 1870]; Elisabetha, 43, Germany; and eight children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Milford, Nebraska describes farmer John Steider, born in March 1833, with his correct age 63 lined out and 66 written in, with France given as his birthplace but lined out and Germany written in, immigrated in 1847; Elizabeth, with her correct age 63 lined out and 66 written in, born in Germany in June 1835, immigrated in 1875; and three grown children born in Illinois. See WAGLER for her obituary.

5. Peter Steider was born at Diane-Capelle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora Aug. 10, 1914.

**JOSEPH STEIDER**

Joseph Steider was born at Diane-Capelle Sept. 1, 1834, and died at Metamora Feb. 8, 1920.

On March 18, 1866 in Woodford County he married Anna Stauffer. She was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace March 12, 1841, and died in Woodford County May 23, 1880, a daughter of Joseph Stauffer and Catharine Capelle. Their joint headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery is inscribed, "Joseph Steider 1833-1920, Anna Staufier his wife 1841-1890."

His Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County biography said Joseph was "a native of France, born at Dearne, Capelle canton [Diane-Capelle], and arrondissement of Sorboume [Sarrebourg]. Department of Muerthes [Moselle], Sept. 1, 1835. His father was a native of the same place, and was there reared and married, Catharine Miller becoming his wife."

The following preserves a familiar template:

"The early years of his life were passed amid the pleasant scenes of his birthplace in sunny France, and he was the recipient of a very good education, as he attended school regularly till his parents emigrated to the United States. At that time he was a bright, active lad of fourteen years, with eyes and ears open to all the strange sights and sounds in this, to him, strange country. He still remembers the vivid impression that the wild, scarcely cultivated, sparsely inhabited prairies made upon him when he first set foot in Woodford County, where the deer and other game were then roaming at will.

He commenced life here by working by the month, receiving $8 for that length of time as compensation for his services. He was prudent and thrifty, and with wise economy saved his earnings, so that three years later he was enabled to go to farming on his own account, renting land for that purpose the ensuing four years. In the meantime he and his brother bought land in partnership in their mother's name, and building a frame house to live in, commenced to improve their realty.

There was then no railway here, and Peoria and Spring Bay were the nearest markets for some years. The brothers were prosperous in their undertakings, and made money, with which they bought more land, the deeds being in the mother's name till her death.

The land was then divided, and our subject now owns the original eighty acres that he and his brothers purchased, and 140 acres besides. He has his farm under excellent cultivation, has it provided with suitable frame buildings, and everything about the place is in good order.

Mr. Steider was married in 1865 to Miss Ann Stauffer, a native of the province of Alsace, Germany. She was in every sense a true and devoted wife; making her home comfortable and attractive to her family, and her death, May 23, 1880 was a sad blow to her beloved ones. Of her happy wedded life three children were born: Ama, Louisa A. and David W. Ama is the wife of David Wagner, of Roanoke Township. The other two are at home with their father.

Mr. Steider is a whole-hearted, warm-hearted man, kind, genial and charitable in his intercourse with others, and a true friend to all who need a helping hand. He possesses a fair share of energy, acumen and thrift, and a knack of working to the best advantage, and these with other attributes have contributed to his success in life, as he is entirely a self-made man, having had no adventitious aids of birth or fortune, but what he is and what he has, he owes to his own exertions. His character is appreciated by his neighbors, who hold him in high respect and esteem.

He and his family are devoted members of the Omish Church. Politically he is a Republican as regards national affairs, but in local matters he votes for the man and not for the party."
The household appears on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Joseph Steider, 45, France; Anna, 39, France; Emma, 12; Louise, 6; and David, 4; all children born in Illinois.

Joseph is found in the household of his son at Metamora in 1900 (on the same census page as his brother Peter): farmer David W. Steider, 23, born in Illinois in October 1876 to a father from France and a mother from Germany; Catherine, 21, born in Illinois in May 1879 to parents from Illinois; and Joseph, 66, born in France in September 1833.

*The Metamora Herald*, Feb. 13, 1920:

"Joseph Steider Dies at Age of 85 Years, Came to Woodford County at Age of 14 Years from France, With Parents was 48 Days in Making Voyage Here in 1848.

Joseph Steider, for 71 years of his life of 85 years a resident of Woodford county, passed away February 8, 1920 at his homestead in the northeast part of Metamora township, in the home of son David W. Steider. His health had been failing for some years due to heart weakness, which eventually caused his death.

Mr. Steider was born in Elsace-Lorraine, Sept. 1, 1834. At the age of 14 years with his parents he set sail in the month of September, 1848, for the United States and 48 days later landed at New Orleans. The family spent a month there, then proceeded to St. Louis where the father took sick and died a week later, at the age of 42. The unfortunate mother and children were thus left without protection in a strange country and with but limited means.

They remained at St. Louis two months, then came on to Woodford County. The mother rented a house two miles west of Metamora as a home for herself and children. In the course of a few years they moved on the farm where Mr. Steider lived until his death.

Deceased was united in marriage with Anna Stauffer March 18, 1866. To this union were born three sons and two daughters. His beloved wife, two sons, one daughter and one grandchild preceded him in death. There remains to mourn his loss one son, David W. Steider, and one daughter, Mrs. Henry G. Schertz, 14 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, besides other relatives and many friends who knew him and held him in honor and esteem.

He had a helping hand to help where help was needed and never refused while health and strength was given him. He united with the A.M. church in his youth and remained faithful until his death.

The funeral was held Wednesday morning. Prayer was offered at the residence at 8:45 by Peter Garber and the body was then taken to the Metamora A.M. church, where funeral services were held at 10 o'clock, in charge of Peter D. Schertz and Peter Garber. The body was laid to rest in the Hickory Point Cemetery, west of Metamora, where lie buried the bodies of the deceased's mother and wife and other relatives."

Their children of Joseph Steider and Anna Stauffer born at Metamora include:

1. Joseph Steider was born Dec. 29, 1866, and died Aug. 23, 1867. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.
2. Joseph Steider was born March 5, 1868, and died Sept. 21, 1868. He is also buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
3. Emma Lydia Steider was born June 18, 1868, and died at Peoria Dec. 25, 1911 (headstone date). On Jan. 24, 1888 she married David Wagner. He was born at Roanoke Feb. 10, 1866, and died at Eureka Aug. 7, 1946, a son of Joseph Wagner and Magdalena. *Gospel Herald* January 1912: "Emma Wagner (nee Steider) was born near Metamora, Ill., June 18, 1868. She was taken to the St. Frances Hospital in Peoria, Ill., where she underwent an operation on Thursday and Sunday morning she fell asleep never to awaken this side of eternity, making her age 43 y. 6 m. 6 d. She united with the Amish Mennonite Church at the age of 18 years, being a faithful member till death. Jan. 24, 1888, she was united in marriage with David Wagner. This union was blessed with 2 sons and 5 daughters, who with their father survive the death of one whom they loved. She also leaves her father, 1 brother, 1 sister and many friends to mourn her departure. Funeral services Dec. 27, 1911, conducted at the home by Bro. A. A. Schrock (text, *Psa*. 39), and at the Roanoke Church by Bro. P. D. Schertz from *Matt*. 11:26-30, and by Bro. A. A. Schrock from *II Cor*. 4:16-18. Interment in nearby cemetery." *Gospel Herald* September 1946: "David, son of Joseph and Magdalena Wagner, was born near Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 10, 1866; passed away at his home in Eureka, Ill., after a short illness, Aug. 7, 1946; aged 80 y. 5 m. 27 d. On Jan. 24, 1888, he was married to Emma Steider, who preceded him in death Dec. 24, 1911. On Sept. 15, 1914, he was married to Emma Dellenbach, who predeceased him on Aug. 9, 1920. On Oct. 2, he was married to Kathryn Plank, who survives. Also surviving are 7 children (Clara, Battle Creek, Mich.; Anna, of Eureka; Henry, of Roanoke; Mrs. Laura Donze and Mrs. Rose Donze, both of El Paso, Ill.; Elmer, Twin Falls, Idaho; and Mrs. Beulah Bachman, of Eureka), 2 brothers (Joseph—a twin and Chris), 19 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. One brother (Peter) preceded him in death. In his youth he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful unto death. He was of a cheerful disposition and will be greatly missed in the home, church, and community. Funeral services were in charge of Ezra B. Yordy, assisted by John L. Harnish. Burial was made in the church cemetery."
4. Peter H. Steider was born in 1869, and died in 1872. He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
5. Louisa Steider was born in 1873, and died in 1957. On Jan. 14, 1894 she married Henry G. Schertz. He was born at Eureka July 10, 1871, and died there March 21, 1930, a son of Joseph Schertz and Elizabeth Gingerich. *Gospel Herald*, April 1930: "Henry G. Schertz was born June 10, 1871, and died Mar. 21, 1930; aged 58 y. 9 m. 11 d. He
was a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Schertz, and was the oldest of a family of 6 children, only 3 of whom survive. He was married Jan. 18, 1894, to Louisa Steider. To this union were born 3 children (Lester L.; Alvin J.; and Laura M.). These with 3 grandchildren survive to mourn the loss of a kind, loving husband, father, grandfather. Bro Schertz was born on a farm near Eureka, Ill., and lived in this vicinity all his life. He lived on a farm until 5 years ago, when he moved into a new home he had built in Eureka. He united with the Mennonite Church in early life and remained a faithful and consistent member, ever taking a deep interest in the affairs of the Church. He was out at his home farm looking after the farm interests, and that evening, March 17, he was taken ill. He was ill only four days and his death was caused by an attack of apoplexy. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Bro. H. R. Schertz, and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church by Bros. Ezra Yordy and John L. Harnish. A very large number of friends and relatives attended the service.” They are buried under a joint headstone at Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

David W. Steider was born in 1875, and died at Metamora March 30, 1945. He married Catherine E. Schertz. She was born in 1879, and died in 1948. They were buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.

PETER STEIDER

Peter Steider was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora, Woodford County Aug. 10, 1914.

On March 29, 1869 in Woodford County he married Catherine Gerber/ Garber. She was born at Metamora Oct. 6, 1846, and died there Aug. 8, 1926, a daughter of Christian Gerber and Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach.

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois published in 1878 listed Peter, John, and Joseph ‘Stider’ as farmers served by the post office at Metamora.

The 1880 census of Metamora shows farmer Peter Steider, 41, France; Katharina, 33, Illinois; Lena L., 10; Joseph W., 8; Christian, 6; Samuel, 4; Sarah L., 2; Martha, 4 months; and Katharina, 76, France.

When Peter was naturalized at the Metamora Courthouse Nov. 7, 1884, his country of origin was given as France-Germany (Lorraine was occupied by Prussia 1870-1918). His application was witnessed by John Abersol, a grocer with a store adjacent to the courthouse.

His household appears on the 1900 census of Metamora (on the same page as brother Joseph) as farmer Peter Steider, 60, born in France to French parents in June 1829 [note the decade error], married 31 years, immigrated in 1849; Catherine, born in Illinois to German parents in October 1847; Sarah L., 22, born in February 1878; Martha, 19, born in December 1880; Barbara, 19, born in May 1880 [sic]; Henry, 13, born in June 1886; Peter, 10, born in July 1889; Christian, 26, born in March 1874; and Andrew, 16, born in July 1883; all children born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Illinois.

Metamora Herald, August 1914: "End Comes to Well Known Farmer Monday Night, Lived Here 66 Years, Born in France and Came to Woodford County When a Child. After five weeks of patient suffering, with no hope held out for his recovery, the end came to Peter Steider, one of the well known and highly respected residents of Metamora township at about 10 o’clock Monday night. Deceased had been in failing health for over two years, but was able to be around until the early part of the summer, when he was stricken bedfast and since that time he had been in charge of a nurse. Mr. Steider was almost a lifelong resident of this county having lived here continuously for 66 years. He was born at Sorbourne [Sarrebourg administrative district], France, June 2, 1839. He was nine years old when his family immigrated to America and settled in Western Woodford county. He was married in the year 1866 [1869] to Katherine Garber, who survives with eleven children. The children are: Mrs. Jos. Wagner of Roanoke, Joseph of Metamora, Chris of Aurora, Neb., Samuel of Eureka, Mrs. S.E. Unzicker of Roanoke, Mrs. B. W. Springer of Aurora Neb., Andrew, Henry, and Peter of Metamora. Two daughters, Mrs. C.C. Springer and Anna are deceased. One brother, Joseph, of Metamora, survives. Surviving are also 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Years ago when the early settlers of the county began to vacate the timber country in the west part of the county and settle upon the prairies, Mr. Steider moved to the location of his late home in the east part of Metamora township. Deceased was a member of the Amish and Mennonite church and lived up to his faith conscientiously. He commanded the respect and esteem of all his neighbors and acquaintances and his memory will long be cherished in the community in which he lived and died. The funeral was held yesterday. Services were held at 12:30 P.M. at the residence and the body was then taken to the Harmony A.M. church northeast of Metamora, where final services were held at 1:30. Interment was made in the Harmony cemetery."

Gospel Herald, August 1926: "Katherine Garber was born west of Metamora, Ill., Oct. 6, 1846; died Aug. 8, 1926; aged 79 y. 10 m. 2 d. She was united in marriage to Peter Steider Mar. 2, 1865. To this union were born 11 children, of whom 8 survive (Sam, Lena, wife of Joe Wagner, Joe, Henry, Peter, Sarah, wife of Sam Unzicker, Chris, and Barbara, wife of B. W. Springer). There are 29 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and two sisters (Mrs. Fred Schertz, and Mrs. Aug. Schertz). She made her home with her daughter, Sarah Unzicker, since the death of her husband 12 years ago. About three years ago she was stricken with paralysis and has been an invalid since. She bore her affliction with unusual calmness. She was a patient, devoted mother to her children, who will greatly
miss her. Services conducted at the house by Bro. A. A. Schlock; and at the church by Bros. H. R. Schertz and A. A. Schlock. Text, Rev. 2: 10, latter clause.”

The children of Peter Steider and Katherine Garber born at Metamora include:

1. Lena L. Steider was born Dec. 24, 1869, and died at Morton Oct. 23, 1946. On Feb. 5, 1889 she married Joseph Wagner. He was born at Eureka Feb. 10, 1866, and died at Morton Dec. 30, 1946, a son of Joseph Wagner and Magdalena Schertz. Gospel Herald, November 1946: “Wagner.-Lena, daughter of Peter and Katherine Steider, was born near Metamora, Ill, Dec. 24, 1869; passed away at her late home, Morton, Ill., Oct. 23, 1946; aged 76 y. 9 m. 29 d. On Feb. 5, 1889, she was united in marriage to Joseph Wagner, who survives. For one month before her death they made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Roth, Morton, Ill. In her youth she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful to her baptismal vow until death. Surviving, besides her widowed husband, are 4 children (Nora Ulrich, Eureka, Ill.; Walter, Peoria, Ill; and Lucile Dixon, Chicago, Ill.), 7 grand children, 2 great-grandchildren, 7 brothers and sisters (Joseph, Samuel, Sara, Chris, Barbara, Henry and Peter). One infant son, 2 daughters, one sister (Martha) and one brother (Andrew) predeceased her. Funeral services were held Oct. 26 at her late home, in charge of Roy Roth, and at the Roanoke Church, Eureka, in charge of Ezra Yordy and John Harnish.” They are buried under a joint headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery.

2. Joseph W. Steider was born Dec. 24, 1871, and died Sept. 22, 1952. He married Barbara Grob. She was born Jan. 12, 1879, and died March 24, 1962. They are buried under a joint marker in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

3. Christian E. Steider was born March 4, 1874, and died April 19, 1947. He married Mary M. Springer. She was born at Gridley, McLean County June 7, 1876, and died March 17, 1944, a daughter of Christian C. Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried under a joint headstone in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

4. Samuel Steider was born in 1876, and died in 1960. He married Emma A. Schertz. She was born in 1879, and died in Woodford County Nov. 4, 1950. They are buried under a joint headstone at Olio Township Cemetery at Eureka, Woodford County.

5. Sarah L. Steider was born Feb. 19, 1878, and died April 28, 1959. She married Samuel Ernest Unzicker. He was born at Morton March 17, 1876, and died at Eureka Nov. 21, 1963, a son of August K. Unzicker and Elizabeth Birky. They are buried under a joint headstone in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

6. Martha A. Steider was born Dec. 28, 1879, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Dec. 11, 1908. She married Christian C. Springer. He was born at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 19, 1875, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Oct. 27, 1945, a son of Christian Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

7. Barbara Steider was born in May 1881, and died at Aurora, Nebraska in 1963. On Jan. 26, 1904 she married Benjamin W. Springer. He was born at Gridley, McLean County Feb. 14, 1879, and died at Aurora, Nebraska Jan. 19, 1955, a son of Christian Springer and Anna Wagler. They are buried under a joint headstone in Pleasant View Mennonite Cemetery at Aurora, Nebraska.

8. Andrew Steider was born in July 1883, and died at Linn, Woodford County Dec. 19, 1918. He is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

9. Henry Steider was born June 13, 1886, and died Dec. 3, 1965. His marker indicates that he served as a private in the army in World War I. He married Izzola Perrine. She was born in Woodford County April 2, 1908, and died at Peoria Feb. 26, 1988. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora.

10. Peter Steider was born at Metamora July 15, 1889, and died at San Diego, California April 12, 1956. He married Elizabeth Grob. She was born April 19, 1894, and died May 14, 1956. They are in Greenwood Mausoleum in Greenwood Memorial Park at San Diego.

11. Anna Steider died as an infant. She is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery.
Kinsinger: A Variation of Künzi

The ROPP genealogy told the story of Bernese persecution of Anabaptists in 1671-72. The Martyrs' Mirror: "In the year 1671 there arose again a severe persecution against the Anabaptists, in said dominion of Berne; which persecution was so rigorous and long-continued, that it seemed that the authorities would not desist, until they should have utterly driven that people out of their dominion, or exterminate them."

Many of the refugees followed the Rhine River downstream to the north to Mannheim (on the east bank) or Ludwigshafen (on the west bank). By January of 1672 it was estimated that 215 persons had arrived on the west side, and 428 on the east. They were met by Dutch Mennonites, who provided aid and published a report of their efforts in April 1672.206

Johannes/John Kinsinger
(Elm Grove)

One of the families assisted by Dutch Mennonites was met at Eppstein, near Ludwigshafen on the west side of the Rhine River. 'Peter Cuintzi' was described as about 35, and his wife Margaret, about 30, with five or six children. Peter Künzi or Kuenzi and his family had come from Buchholterberg, Canton Bern, six miles northeast of Steffisburg, in the parish of the Steffisburg Reformed Church.207

The Künzis had 30 crowns when they left Bern, where they had both been in prison. The Dutch gave them 107 rix dollars: 18 for a carriage, 32 for two horses, 30 for seed and bread grain, and 27 for clothing and necessities. Their assistance was equivalent to about $3,560 in modern buying power.

The Künzi prospered in the Palatinate, and in 1687 met with representatives of Countess Maria (1642-1688) of the House of Orange-Nassau. Peter signed a hereditary lease for a mill where he was specifically guaranteed freedom of worship. The mill was situated on the grounds of ruined Diemerstein Castle, between two ridges in the forest at Diemerstein, 15 miles west of Eppstein and 10 miles east of Kaiserslautern.

Hermann Guth in Amish Mennonites in Germany: "The Mennonite Kinzingers probably go back to one Peter Kuenzti, who immigrated in 1685 from Buchholterberg near Thun in Switzerland to Eppstein in the Palatinate. In 1687 he was at the Diemersteiermuhle, married to the daughter of the previous hereditary leaseholder and now the leaseholder himself. His descendants appear as Kentsingers in Neukirchen-Mehlingen (eight miles northwest of Diemerstein, now simply called Mehdlingen) near Kaiserslautern, where subsequently Kinsingers are named as members and elders of the Sembach congregation. From here Kinsingers early emigrated to Hesse and Waldeck" Künzi evolved into Kinzing, Kinsing, Kintzinger, Kinzinger, Kensing, Kentzinger, and Kinsinger because of local dialect pronunciations.

The Global Anabaptist Encyclopedia Online says that, "Kinsinger (Kenzinger, Kentsinger, Kinsinger, Kitzinger, Kintzinger) was a Swiss Mennonite family name occurring in the Palatinate Mennonite census lists under various spellings in 1717, 1724, 1743 and 1759. A Christian Kentsinger, whose name appeared in 1724, was the ancestor of those carrying this family name in South Germany." A 1724 census actually shows Christian Kentsinger as a hauler and farmer living at Neukirchen-Mehlingen, with married sons Abraham, a linen weaver, and Johannes, a wool spinner.

Older son Abraham may have been an early emigrant. The Mortonhouse arrived at Philadelphia from Rotterdam Aug. 19, 1729. The standard passenger list contains 'Abraham Kensinger'; the signature on a Declaration of Fidelity to the Crown reads 'Abraham Keysinger'; and the signature on an Oath of Allegiance taken at the Philadelphia City Hall that afternoon reads 'Abraham Kinsinger.' He was accompanied by his wife Anna Barbara and his daughter Freni (a nickname for 'Verena,' found as 'Frene'). Typical Swiss surnames on the lists include Bumgarner [Baugartner], Crebil [Krayenbühl], Eshelman [Aeschliman], Huber, and Reis. According to the Lancaster County Warrant Register, 'Abraham Keysinger' took out a warrant for 150 acres in Lebanon Township and Bern Dec. 19, 1737. The warrant was not patented, indicating payments were not completed before his death in 1749. Over the years some information has been passed down about him, but the original source can no longer be identified: he was born at 'Neukirchen,' and his father was a Mennonite named Christian.

206 In 1672 Dutch congregations provided 15,446 guilders—almost $216,000 in modern buying power.
207 Künzi is a diminutive form of Konrad.
208 The Nederlandse Rijksdaalder or rix dollar was a standard silver coin. In the Palatinate a similar coin was known as a Thaler, the origin of the word 'dollar.'
Younger son **Johannes Kinsinger**, born in 1698, is found with three children on censuses of Frankenstein (adjacent to Diemerstein) in 1743, 1753, and 1759. In 1753 and 1759 two sons may have reached maturity, because there is a second Johannes Kinsinger (presumably expressing a father and son) and a Jacob Kinsinger (presumably another son) listed at Frankenstein.

There is a strong likelihood that the son Johannes was the individual later known as **Johannes Kinsing or Kinsinger** (assuming that Abraham did not leave sons behind when he emigrated). Johannes Kinsing or Kinsinger was born before 1732, and died at Weisenheim am Berg before April 1788. He married Maria Magdalena Schwarzentruber. She was born circa 1737, a daughter of Johannes Schwarzentruber (recall him as a minister mentioned in **SCHWARZENTRAUB**). When she died at Weisenheim am Berg Dec. 30, 1810, the death entry calling her 'Madeleine Schwartztraub' age 73, and also called her deceased husband 'Jean Kinsing,' but was signed by their 53-year-old son Jean Kinsinger.'

Johannes and Maria resettled at Weisenheim am Berg after 1759. The village is only 10 miles northeast of Diemerstein and Frankenstein, half covered by forest, at the edge of the Hardt Mountains.

Their children include:

1. **Johannes Kinsinger** was born at Herxheim am Berg in 1758, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 15, 1828.
2. Jacobina Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1766, and died after August 1823. She married Christian Imhof. He was born on the Weilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt (eight miles below Kaiserslautern) in 1755, a son of Christian Imhof and Katharina Danner.
3. Jacob Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1768, and died after September 1825. He married Anna Elisabetha Roggy. She was born at Neidenfels (12 miles southwest of Weisenheim am Berg) circa 1778, a daughter of Christian Roggy.
4. Katharina Kinsinger was born at Kaiserslautern before 1770, and died at Nieder-Modau, Darmstadt (about 40 miles northeast of Weisenheim am Berg) circa 1824. She married Samuel Maurer. He was born at Kaiserslautern before 1772, and died on the Gersweilerhof estate at Erlenbach before August 1823.
5. Maria Magdalena Imhof was born at Weisenheim am Berg after 1770. She married Joseph Imhof. He was born in 1768, a son of Peter Imhof and Katharina Roggy.
6. Maria Elisabeth Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg after 1770, and died before August 1823.
7. Johann Peter Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1774, and died at Walshausen (25 miles southwest of Kaiserslautern) March 14, 1816. On Nov. 24, 1798 at Contwig, Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Hauter. She was born in the mill at Ixheim, Zweibrücken March 30, 1780, and died at Walshhausen May 17, 1851.
8. Maria Susanna Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg Feb. 21, 1778, and died at Fechingen, Saarland Jan. 1, 1803. On March 16, 1800 on the Weilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt she married Johannes Hauter. He was born in 1779, a son of Andreas Hauter and Katharina Imhof.
9. Anna Barbara Kinsinger was born at Weisenheim am Berg circa 1781, and died there Feb. 7, 1799.

**Johannes/Jean Kinsinger** was born at Herxheim am Berg (adjacent to Weisenheim am Berg) in 1758, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 15, 1828. He married Veronica Imhof of the Wilensteinerhof estate at Trippstadt (eight miles south of Kaiserslautern). She was born circa 1771, and died at Weisenheim am Berg May 31, 1828. She was born at Abraham did not leave sons behind when he emigrated).

Witnesses included his father Peter Imhof and his second wife Katharina Roggy. He remarried to Maria Grub [Kropf]. She was born in 1761, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Feb. 17, 1839.

Five of their seven sons came to America: Samuel and Joseph in 1826, Jacob in 1830, Christian circa 1840 (after his son Johannes/John had sailed in 1834), and Peter likely in 1850. Oldest son Johannes did not emigrate, and youngest son Daniel died as an infant.

The children of Johannes/Jean Kinsinger and his first wife Veronica Imhof born at Weisenheim am Berg include:

1. Johannes Kinsinger was born Oct. 29, 1789, and died on the Stausteiherhof estate at Kleinsteinhauser near Pirmasens Nov. 13, 1834. On April 14, 1810 at Contwig, Zweibrücken he married Christina Schrag. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig circa 1794 (she was 16 at her marriage, he was 20), and died in Butler County, Ohio after 1870, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Christine Esch. The marriage entry described Jean as a cultivator at Weisenheim am Berg. Witnesses included his father cultivator Jean Kinsinger, 52; cultivator Jacques Kinsinger, 46; and cultivator Christian Schwarzentruber, 75. Christina Schrag is found as 'C. Kinsinger, 64, Hesse Cassel' on the 1860 census of Oxford, Butler County, living in the household of her daughter Barbara and her son-in-law Christian Zimmerman. In 1870 she was living with her daughter Veronica and her son-in-law Moses Augspurger at Madison, Butler County, where she is found as 'Christina Kinsinger, 76, lives with daughter, France.' One of their children had an Illinois connection. Barbara Kinsinger was born Jan. 1, 1820, and died at Washington Nov. 17, 1896; she is buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington. On Sept. 8, 1850 in Butler County, Ohio she married Christian Zimmerman. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augspurger. Christian was born...
at Bourgfelden, Upper Alsace March 27, 1827, died in Tazewell County June 23, 1879, and was buried in Railroad Cemetery at Elm Grove, a son of Christian Zimmerman and Catherine Sommer. For more on this couple, see ZIMMERMAN.

2. Jacob Kinsinger was born Sept. 14, 1791, and died in Davis County, Iowa after the 1870 federal census. On July 2 or 19, 1817 at Weisenheim am Berg he married Marie Madeleine Augspurger. She was born on Point du Jour farm at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines or at Ixheim, Zweibrücken in 1793, and died in 1856, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Maria Magdalena Kropf. They sailed from Le Havre on the *De Rhum*, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830. The passenger list shows them as Jacob Kingsinger, 39; Marie, 36; Magdalene, 10; Jacob, 9; Catherine, 8; John, 6, Lisa, 5; Christian, 3; and Peter, 1. For the story of this voyage and their encounter with the Great Snow of 1830, see KENNEL. Jacob signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840; it was witnessed by Conrad Schmiedman and Augustus Breitenbach. Jacob is found on the 1860 census of Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa as a 69-year-old farmer in the household of Anna Miller. On the 1870 census of Roscoe, Davis County he is found as an 80-year-old living in the household of his son Christian Kinsinger, 43.

3. Christian Kinsinger was born Sept. 22, 1794, and died in Davis County, Iowa in 1860.

4. Peter Kinsinger was born in 1795, and died in Butler County Dec. 12, 1864 (his headstone gives only his date of death and that he was 69 years old). He is buried in Collinsville Cemetery, Butler County. He is found in the household of his brother Joseph on the 1850 census of Milford described as farmer Peter Kinsinger, 55, Germany. The 1860 census of Milford shows the household as farmer Peter Kinsinger, 64, Germany; Magdalene, 56, Germany; and six children born in Ohio, presumably the children of his companion's earlier marriage. *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* states that he did not marry.

5. Samuel Kinsinger was born in 1799, and died in Butler County circa 1840. He and his younger brother sailed from Le Havre on the *Howard*, and arrived at New York Sept. 27, 1826. He appears on the passenger list as S. Kingsinger, 26. On Sept. 25, 1828 in Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born at Ixheim, Zweibrücken Feb. 26, 1808, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. On June 20, 1848 in Butler County Catherine remarried to Samuel's nephew Joseph Kinsinger (son of Christian Kinsinger and Magdalena Schrag).

6. Joseph Kinsinger was born Sept. 6, 1801, and died in Butler County Dec. 16, 1857. He appears on the *Howard* passenger list as J. Kingsinger, 24. On April 1 or Oct. 5, 1830 in Butler County he married Magdalena Augspurger. She was born on the Meinau estate at Strasbourg Dec. 13, 1809, and died in Butler County Oct. 19, 1884, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. According to *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio*, "He came to America and settled in Butler County in May, 1826. On Oct. 5, 1830 he united in marriage with Magdalena Augspurger. Soon after his arrival he identified himself with the Augspurger congregation, and in 1844 he was elected a minister, and was ordained by Reb. Jacob Augspurger." In 1835 Joseph purchased 110 acres at 1075 Oxford-Middletown Road, Milford from his father-in-law Christian Augspurger. They appear on the 1850 census of Milford, Butler County as farmer Joseph Kinsinger, 49, Germany; Magdalena, 40, Germany; seven children born in Ohio; farmer David Summers, 28, Ohio; and brother Peter Kinsinger, 55, Germany. Joseph served as a minister of the Augspurger 'hook-and-eye' congregation until his death. *Herald of Truth*, November 1884. "On the 19th of October, in Butler County, Ohio, Magdalena Kinsinger fell asleep in Jesus. She was the widow of Pre. Joseph Kinsinger who died in 1857. She leaves 9 children, 26 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren; 8 children and 8 grandchildren have gone before her to their eternal home. She had been affected many years with heart disease. She was a faithful wife, an exemplary mother, a kind friend and an earnest, devoted Christian. She taught her children the saying: 'Do not disrespect thy friend and thy father's friend.' She was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church and died in a blessed hope of eternal life. Peace to her ashes." They are buried in Union Cemetery at Collinsville.

7. Daniel Kinsinger was born April 19, 1804, and died April 21, 1805.

**Christian Kinsinger** was born at Weisenheim am Berg Sept. 22, 1794, and died in Davis County, Iowa in 1860. On Nov. 1, 1814 at Contwig, Zweibrücken he married Magdalena Schrag. She was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig in 1798, and died there May 9, 1824, a daughter of Johannes Schrag and Christine Esch. They lived on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate.

The children of Christian Kinsinger and his first wife Magdalena Schrag born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig include:

1. **Johannes/John Kinsinger** was born Oct. 21, 1815.

2. Christian Kinsinger was born Feb. 2, 1817 (birth entry; Feb. 7 in his obituary and Feb. 11 on his headstone), and died in Cass County, Missouri Feb. 7, 1872. He married Anna Bertsche. She was born March 1, 1828, and died

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209 He may have sailed from Le Havre on the *Onward*, and arrived at New York July 13, 1850. The passenger list describes Pierre Kinsinger, 54, Bavaria. The 1850 federal census is supposed to have pictured households as they were on June 1 (half are interviewed before the date, half after). This suggests that he was not the passenger, or that he arrived at Milford before canvassing was completed.
March 1, 1878, a daughter of Michael Bertsche and Katharina Nafziger. Anna was an aunt to the Bertsches who married children of Johannes/John. They are found on the 1870 census of Camp Branch, Cass County, Missouri as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 53, Bavaria; Anna, 42, Bavaria; Katie, 20, Bavaria; Joseph, 13, Ohio; Samuel, 7, Ohio; and Anna, 4, Ohio. "Gospel Herald," March 1873: "February 7th, in Cass county, Missouri, of lung fever, Christian Kinsinger, aged 55 years, 11 months, and 24 days. He leaves a wife and 4 children to mourn his removal." They are buried at Clearfork Cemetery, Garden City, Cass County, Missouri.

3. Jakob Kinsinger was born April 11, 1818, and died April 21, 1818.

4. Joseph/Kinzinger was born June 13, 1819. On June 20, 1848 in Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born at Ixheim, Zweibrücken Feb. 26, 1808, a daughter of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. She was the widow of Joseph's uncle Samuel Kinsinger, mentioned earlier. They are found on the 1850 census of Fairfield, Ohio as farmer Joseph Kinsinger, 31, Germany; Catharine, 40, Germany; Catharine, 20, Ohio; laborer Christopher, 18, Ohio; John, 17, Ohio; Elizabeth, 12, Ohio; Samuel, 21, Germany; Elizabeth Oyer, 18, Germany; Daniel Brannan [Brenneman?], 30, Germany; and Joseph Brannan, 66, Germany. They are listed two families removed from John Staker and Barbara Schertz. The 1880 census of Grove, Davis County, Iowa shows them as J. Kinsinger, 60, Germany; and Catharine, 58.

5. Jakob Kinsinger was born Oct. 27, 1827, and died Nov. 20, 1820.

6. Peter Kinsinger was born Nov. 25, 1821, and died Aug. 9, 1822.

7. Magdalena Ellen Kinsinger was born May 27, 1824. We could not follow her after she is found as a 27-year-old on the 1850 census of Wayne, Butler County.

On June 26, 1827 at Contwig Christian remarried to Elizabeth Sommer. She was born at Contwig in 1794, and died at Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa after 1870, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Barbara Kempf. The children of Christian Kinsinger and his second wife Elizabeth Sommer include:


9. Peter Kinsinger was born Feb. 6, 1829, and died March 15, 1830.

10. Daniel Kinsinger was born May 14, 1830, and died at Grove, Davis County, Iowa May 28 or 29, 1898. On Nov. 12, 1854 in Davis County, Iowa he married Mary Miller. She was born at New Hamburg, Ontario April 22, 1836, and died Aug. 31, 1925, a daughter of Michael Miller and Phoebe Nafziger. They are found on the 1885 state census of Grove as Daniel Kinsinger, 54; Mary, 49; with seven children. They are buried in Pulaski Cemetery.

11. Elisabetha/Elizabeth Kinsinger was born July 4, 1831. We could not follow her after she is found as a 28-year-old on the 1860 census of Grove.

12. Samuel Kinsinger (twin) was born July 16, 1834. At Bloomfield, Davis County he married Margaret Ann Godsey. She was born in Meigs County, Tennessee March 20, 1832, a daughter of Drury Godsey and Sarah Cox. The 1900 census of Bloomfield shows their household as storekeeper Samuel Kinsinger, 45; Margaret A. Kinsinger, 45; and six children. He is found on the 1900 census of Marion, Davis County, Iowa as widower farmer Samuel Kinsinger, 65, born in Germany in July 1834; with four children born in Iowa between 1869 and 1876; immigrated in 1846.

13. Peter Kinsinger (twin) was born July 16, 1834, and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Nov. 23, 1910. On Sept. 8, 1857 in Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa he married Catherine Miller. She was born at New Hamburg, Ontario May 3, 1840, and died Feb. 24, 1920, a daughter of Michael Miller and Phoebe Nafziger. They last appear on the 1910 census of Prairie as Peter Kinsinger, 75, Germany; and Catherine, 69, Germany. Peter's death entry gave his burial place as Peoria, Illinois.

14. Barbara Kinsinger was born March 12, 1837, and died at Pulaski Feb. 7, 1894. We could not follow her after she is found as a 33-year-old on the 1870 census of Grove.

According to Amish Mennonites in Germany, Christian "...remained on the Heckenaschbacherhof, at first with his brother-in-law Christian Schrag and then as sole leaseholder after Christian Schrag's early death. Christian married twice and had in all fourteen children, and he was in constant financial difficulties. Because he was behind in lease payments, he had to leave the estate in 1840. He leased the Faunehof near Epenbrunn. Due to the poor soils, he had no luck there either and finally emigrated to the U.S.A." By April 1841 Christian owed an amount equivalent to two years of payments on the Faunehof. The family emigrated from Europe in 1846.²¹⁰

They are shown on the 1850 census of Wayne, Butler County as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 55; Lesbin or Leslie, 55; Daniel, 20; Samuel, 16; Peter, 16; Ellen, 27; Elizabeth, 19; and Barbara, 13; the entire family born in Germany.

Christian and his brother Jacob resettled briefly near Charleston, Lee County, Iowa. In 1853 they relocated about 40 miles farther west at Pulaski, Davis County. An 1856 state census of Davis County shows Christian Kinsinger, 63; Elizabeth, 63; Elizabeth, 25; Peter, 22; and Barbara, 19; all born in Germany. The 1860 census of Grove, Davis County, Iowa shows Christian's household as farmer Christian Kinsinger, 66; Elizabeth, 70; Elizabeth,

²¹⁰ According to the 1900 federal census remark of Samuel Kinsinger.
28; and Barbara, 22; all born in Germany. They lived next door to the households of sons Daniel Kinsinger, 30; and Peter Kinsinger, 26. The 1870 census of Grove shows only Elizabeth Kinsinger, 79, Bavaria; and Barbara Kinsinger, 33, Bavaria.

**Johannes/John Kinsinger** was born on the Heckenaschbacherhof estate at Contwig, Zweibrücken Oct. 21, 1815.

He sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Sully*, and arrived at New York Nov. 5, 1834. He appears on the passenger list as Jean Kinzinger, 19, Bavaria.

John is found on tax lists at Wayne Township, Butler County in 1836 and 1837. In 1837 in Butler County he married Barbara Peter Schmidt, who was also known as Barbara P. Smith. She was born at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace Jan. 8, 1811 (her civil birth entry calls her 'Barbara Peterschmitt'), and died in Butler County in 1860, a daughter of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber.

'John Kensenger' signed a *Declaration of Intent* for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in February 1840. 'John Kensinger' can be found on the 1840 census of St. Clair. The tally shows one male and one female 20-30 years of age, and one male and one female under five years of age.

The 1850 census of Fairfield shows farmer John Kinsinger, 34, Germany; Barbara, 34, Germany; Malinda, 12; Barbara, 10; Jacob, 8; John, 6; Anne, 4; and Elizabeth, three months; all children born in Ohio.

Barbara died in the first six months of 1860.

The children of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara Peter Schmidt born in Butler County, Ohio include:

1. John Kinsinger was born circa 1838, and died before 1850.
2. Magdalena ‘Malinda’ Kinsinger was born at Hamilton, Butler County Feb. 14, 1840, and died at Big Horn, Wyoming July 30, 1931. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County she married David Garber. He was born in Ohio June 30, 1838, and died at Big Horn, Wyoming Feb. 25, 1924., a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe. David worked at brother-in-law Moses Ropp's Sinking Creek sawmill until 1870, when they moved to Grant, Missouri. They are found on the 1870 census of Grant, Missouri as farmer David Garber, 30, Ohio; Melinda, 29, Ohio; Sara A., 7, Illinois; Manuel, 5, Illinois; Edward, 2, Illinois; and William, 7 months, Illinois. When others moved away, they moved again to Wyoming and Montana. Walter Ropp wrote that, “...He took up a claim and became a hunter and frontiersman again in his old age, where he died at the good old age of 90.” They are buried in Big Horn Cemetery.
3. Barbara Kinsinger was born in October 1842, and died in May 1921. On Jan. 16, 1862 in Butler County she married Jacob Augspurger. He was born in Butler County May 25, 1838, and died at Middletown, Butler County Dec. 12, 1912, a son of Nicholas Augspurger and Magdalena Gaitsche. They are found on the 1900 census of Lemon Township, Butler County as farmer Jacob Augspurger, 62, born in Ohio in May 1838 to German parents; Barbara, 57, born in Ohio in October 1842 to German parents; and two children born in Ohio.
4. Jacob Kinsinger was born circa 1842, according to the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County. He served in the Civil War as a private in Company G, 108th Illinois U.S. Infantry. His records describe him as born in Butler County, Ohio but living at Groveland; age 21; 5 foot 6 inches; dark eyes; dark complexion; brown hair. He signed a one-year enlistment at Springfield Oct. 1, 1864. 23-year-old Noah Garber of Elm Grove (a son of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe) and 18-year-old Christian Smith Jr. (a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock) enlisted with him. During Jacob’s enlistment the 108th moved from Memphis to New Orleans. On March 27 they engaged Confederates at Spanish Fort, a defensive point on Mobile Bay, Alabama. The siege lasted 13 days. From there they were repositioned at Montgomery, Alabama, where Jacob transferred to the 47th Illinois Infantry. He mustered out at Montgomery Oct. 14, 1865.
5. John Kinsinger was born in Butler County circa 1844, and died in Dade County, Missouri in 1882. Circa 1876 he married Fontanella Aiken.
6. Anna Kinsinger was born at Fairfield, Butler County May 24, 1847, and died at Trenton, Butler County Nov. 9, 1930. On Nov. 16, 1865 in Butler County she married Christian Mosiman/Moseman. He was born at Milford, Butler County March 12, 1841, and died there in 1934, a son of Christian Mosiman and Barbe Schmitt/Smith. A *History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio: Christian Mosiman, the son of Christian Mossiman, Sen., and Barbara Smith, was born at Milford Township March 12, 1841, and was married on the 16th of November, 1865 to Anna Kinsinger, daughter of John Kinsinger and his first wife Barbara P. Smith. She was born in Fairfield Township May 24, 1848, her parents coming here in 1831, as did those also of Mr. Mosiman. Mr. Mosiman has been school-director, being elected in 1879. He is a farmer, and has a well-cultivated place. He is a member of the Mennonite Church.” A road in Madison and Middletown is now named in his honor. Samuel K. Mosiman, a son of this couple born in Butler County Dec. 17, 1867, was president of Bluffton College 1910-35.
7. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Kinsinger was born at Fairfield, Butler County May 3, 1850, and died in McLean County Nov. 18, 1913. On March 21, 1878 in McLean County she married Andrew Benjamin Salzman. He was born in Butler County July 29, 1855, and died Nov. 10, 1930. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.
After Barbara's death John came to Tazewell County and worked on the farm of Christian Bechler (see GERBER/GARBER for more on him). The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows laborer 'John Kissinger,' 44, Bavaria, living in Bechler's home. The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows Christian Bechler living in a home on his timberland in Section Two just west of Pleasant Grove, on the north side of Allentown Road across from the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Presumably Christian and John entered into a 15-year agreement trading John's work for future land ownership.

The land that John purchased from Bechler is near the Tremont line, which has caused some confusion. Bechler did have another 101 acres on the Tremont side of the town boundary, but that parcel was sold to Nicholas Stecker/Staker Jan. 5, 1858; full payment was made Feb. 4, 1859. The boundary between the two townships confuses many because it actually cuts off the western side of the merchant area Tremont Village.

On March 10, 1861 in Tazewell County John remarried to Barbara Wagler.211 She was born in Butler County Feb. 19, 1837, and died at Tremont Oct. 9, 1902, a daughter of Jacob Berse/Christian Wagler and Catherine Ulrich. He was 45, and she was 24.

Their household appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove as farmer John Kinsinger, 56, Bavaria; Barbara, 32, Brunswick; Catharine, 8, Illinois; Phillipine, 6, Illinois; Veronika, 3, Illinois; and Sarah, five months, Illinois; next door to George Rittihaler.

On Jan. 15, 1876 Bechler sold John the land that he had worked. The one-dollar transaction was legally documented in the county deed book.

John could read and write English, and often acted as a business mediator or appeared in court for his German-speaking neighbors.

In 1880 the household contained farmer Jno. Kinsinger, 64, born in Germany to German parents; Barbara, 40, born in Ohio to French parents; Katie, 16; Pheba, 15; Fannie, 14; Sarah, 10; Samuel, 8; and Willie, 3; all children born in Illinois. The 1900 census of Elm Grove shows retired farmer John Kinsinger, 84, born in Germany in September 1815 to German parents, immigrated in 1834; Barbara, 71, born in Ohio in March 1829 to French parents; farmer Samuel, 27, born in Illinois in July 1872 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; William B., 22, born in Illinois in March 1878 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio; and Carrie E., 19, born in Illinois in June 1880 to a father from Germany and a mother from Ohio.

John died at Elm Grove in October 1900, and Barbara died there Oct. 9, 1902. They are buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery at Elm Grove.

The children of Johannes/John Kinsinger and his second wife Barbara Wagler born at Elm Grove include:

8. Katharina 'Katie' Kinsinger was born Dec. 27, 1862, and died at Dillon Oct. 7, 1903. On Feb. 2, 1882 at Pekin she married Christian Oesch.212 He was born at Pekin May 30, 1854, and died at Dillon Jan. 15, 1890; he is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, a son of Christian Oesch and Magdalena Zehr. In 1901 Katharina remarried to Christian King. He was born at Liberty, Butler County Oct. 13, 1840, and died at Deer Creek Nov. 23, 1924, a son of Michael King and Elizabeth Barnett. See KING for an accounting of Christian's three wives.

9. Jacobina 'Phoebe' Kinsinger was born Jan. 11, 1864, and died at Chicago July 20, 1953. On Jan. 11, 1891 in McLean County she married her cousin Johannes/John Bertsche; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Johannes/John was born on the Erlenkophof estate at Epenbrunn on the German-Lower Alsace border Jan. 11, 1864, and died at Waldo, Livingston County May 27, 1938, a son of Johannes/John Bertsche and Katherine Hauter. Gospel Herald, July 1938: "Bertsche - John, son of John and Katherine (Hauter) Bertsche, was born Jan. 13, 1864, near Erlenkoph, Hof, Pirmasens, Bavaria, Germany; died at his home near Flanagan, Ill., May 27, 1938, following a brief illness of influenza and complications; aged 74 y. 4 m. 14 d. In 1873 he came to America with his parents and lived near Hamilton, Ohio, for two years, later moving to a farm near Weston, Ill., where he lived for one year, then moving to the community where he spent the rest of his life. He became a member of the Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a faithful member unto the end. From boyhood throughout life he was called upon to bear much suffering, but through God's grace he bore all pain bravely and was never known to complain, believing that 'all things work together for good to them that love God.' He left a beautiful testimony of his faith in God. On January, 1891, he was united in marriage to Phoebe Kinsinger of Groveland, Ill. This union was blessed with seven children. He leaves a sorrowing wife and 6 children: Almon, Nyle, Sarah, and Lucile of Flanagan, Ill.; Orville, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Mrs. Linda Jacobs of Pontiac, Ill. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 3 sisters (Mrs. Lena Gyssler of Flanagan, Mrs. Barbara Kinsinger of Meadows, and Phoebe Bertsche of Chicago), and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter (Alta Lillian), a grandchild, and 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Funeral services were held at the Salem Mennonite Church on Monday, May 30, in charge of G.I. Gundy and Emanuel Ulrich." They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

211 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as John Kinsinger and Barbara Wagler.
212 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christian Oesch and Katie Kensing.
10. Veronica 'Fannie' Kinsinger was born Oct. 16, 1866, and died at Goodland, Indiana June 19, 1927. On Feb. 16, 1892 in McLean County she married her cousin Peter Bertsche; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. He was born on the Erlikophof estate at Eppenbrunn Aug. 1, 1867, and died at Goodland, Indiana Sept. 7, 1921, a son of Johannes/John Bertsche and Katharina Hauter.

11. Sarah Kinsinger was born Feb. 11, 1870, and died in Tazewell County June 21, 1891. *Herald of Truth*, July 1891: "On the 21st of June 1891, near Groveland, Tazewell Co., Ill., of consumption, Sarah, daughter of John and Barbara Kinsinger, aged 21 years, 4 months and 10 days. Sarah was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite church, and expressed a living hope in Christ Jesus. Her parents, 8 sisters, 3 brothers, and many friends mourn their loss. The funeral on the 23d was largely attended. Services by Peter [illegible], Chr. King, and John P. Schmitt, from *John 5: 24, 25.* She is buried in Laudes Mennonite Cemetery.

12. Samuel Kinsinger was born July 28, 1873, and died at Morton April 18, 1924. Circa 1908 he married Bernice Sankey. She was born in Missouri in 1872 (headstone), circa 1878 (age 42 on the 1920 census of Morton), or circa 1881 (age 29 on the the 1910 census of Groveland). She died in 1942. They are buried in Lakeside Cemetery at Pekin. 213

13. John Kinsinger was born March 23, 1875, and died Jan. 27, 1879. He is buried in Landes Mennonite Cemetery as 'Johnnie Kinsinger.'

14. William Daniel 'Willie' Kinsinger was born April 21, 1876, and died in Livingston County July 27, 1935. He is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. He had cognitive disabilities. He can be found as a 43-year-old on the 1920 census of Morton, living with older brother Samuel.

15. Carrie E. Kinsinger was born June 3, 1880, and died at Mineral, Bureau County July 31, 1945. On Jan. 7, 1902 in Woodford County she married Joseph D. Ulrich. He was born in Woodford County Aug. 10, 1872, and died at Rock Island March 23, 1930, a son of Peter Ulrich and Elizabeth King.

**Minister Michael Kinsinger (Montgomery)**

We could not determine how this chain links to the main line. **Daniel Kinsinger** was born at Marburg on the Lahn River in Hesse in 1765, and died in 1818. In 1805 he married Catherine Schwartzentruber. She was born in 1771, and died in 1834. Their son **Michael Kinsinger** was born at Marburg Oct. 10, 1814, and died at Danvers, McLean County June 28, 1895.

*History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church:* "Michael was the third of five children. After the death of his father he, being practically homeless, lived with a man called Gingve [likely 'Gingerich'] near Marburg, Germany, for ten years. He first learned the blacksmith's trade and then later the distilling business."

Michael sailed to America as a 15-year-old in 1829. 214 On Nov. 12, 1837 in Butler County he married Magdalena Naffziger. Magdalena Naffziger was born at Hochheim May 3 or Aug. 1, 1818, and died Aug. 9, 1895, a daughter of minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck (see NAFZIGER). The marriage ceremony was performed by her father. 215

*History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* says that, "In 1837 Peter Donner, Sr., and family came from Butler County; Ohio, in a wagon and settled in Dry Grove, a few miles east of Danvers. This was the first

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213 Was Bernice an orphan? The 1880 federal census of children at the Catholic Orphan School, 5th Ward, St. Louis includes Nettie Sankey, 8, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Fanny Sankey, 10, born in Missouri to parents from Missouri.

214 Michael had a brother who also came to America. Jacob Kinsinger was born Sept. 12, 1807, and died at Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania Jan. 20, 1894. He immigrated in 1832, and married Catherine Beachy in Somerset County circa 1833. She was born in the county May 3, 1809, and died there Dec. 13, 1892, a daughter of Peter Beachy and Barbara Hershberger. Five of their 10 children relocated to Iowa. Their son Peter (1839-1923) served as elder/bishop in Johnson County, Iowa.

Michael's profile in *History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church* is the source of the idea that his father Daniel died in 1828. However, it is obvious that there are inconsistencies: "Rev. Michael Kinsinger was born in Germany, October 10, 1814. His parents were Daniel and Catherine Schwartzentruber Kinsinger. Daniel was born in 1765 and Catherine in 1771. They were married in 1805. Daniel died in 1828 and Catherine in 1834. Michael was the third of five children. After the death of his father he, being practically homeless, lived with a man called Gingve near Marburg, Germany, for ten years. [This would only be consistent if] his father Daniel Kinsinger had died in 1818. He first learned the blacksmith's trade and then later the distilling business. He came to America in 1829 and settled in Butler County, Ohio. He came to America on his wedding trip. His wife died on the ocean. [It is unlikely that he would be a newlywed at 15]. Here he married Magdalena Naffziger, the daughter of Apostle Peter Naffziger in 1837. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Peter Naffziger."

215 The county entry lists them as Michael Kensinger and Magdalena Noffsenger.
Amish family in Dry Grove Township. In the same year Valentine and Peter Strubhar, with their mother and Rev. Michael Kinsinger, came from Butler County to Danvers Township." "They [the Kinsingers] came to McLean County, Illinois, in 1838. They lived in Bloomington a short time and then rented land in Danvers Township. They were parents of twelve children. The children were raised in a log house 16x18 feet, divided into two rooms and ground for the floor." In Old Professions and New Ideas, Robert Dirks says that, "Bloomington's first professional distiller, Michael Kinsinger, a native of Marburg, was Hessian Amish."

Michael and Magdalena are found on the 1850 census of Woodford County as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 34; Malinda, 30; Catharine, 12; Peter, 12; Daniel, 8; Jacob, 6; Christian, 4; and Barbaray, 2. They lived next door to Jacob Schantz and Catherine Deiss (see SCHANTZ). They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 45; Hesse; Magdalena, 45; Catherine, 22; farm laborer Peter, 20; Daniel, 18; Jacob, 16; Christian, 14; Barbara, 12; Magdalena, 10; Anna, 8; Phebe, 6; Caroline, 4; and Killian, 1.' They lived next door to Magdalena's father minister 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, who was separated from his wife and living in the household, and her brother Peter Jr.

Elder John Michael Kistler (who had also lived in Butler County) ordained Michael as a minister of the Hessian South Danvers congregation in 1862.

The Kinsingers were omitted from the 1870 federal census, but there is little doubt that they were still living on their first homestead. An 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows the 'M. Kinzinger' farm as the southeast quarter of Section 22. The Rock Creek ran through its 160 acres. Adjoining farms are labeled P. Noffsinger, J. Schrock, V. Strubbar, Jos. Maurer, and M. Zimmerman.

They are found on the 1880 census of Montgomery as farmer Michael Kinsinger, 64, born in Hesse to a father from Prussia and a mother from Germany; Magdalena, 61, born in Darmstadt to parents from Darmstadt; and August, 18, born in Illinois. They lived one home removed from 'Apostle Peter,' found on the census as Peter Naffsinger, 91.

Michael died at Congerville (an area within Montgomery Township) June 28, 1895. Magdalena died there Aug. 9, 1895.

Herald of Truth, July 1895: "On the 28th of June 1895, near Congerville, Woodford Co., Ill., of general debility, Michael Kinsinger, aged 80 years, 8 months, 18 days. He was born in Hesse Darmstadt in 1814, was married to Magdalena Naffziger, Oct. 12th 1837 [sic], came to Illinois in 1839, where he has since resided. He leaves his aged and infirm companion and eleven children; also 49 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; 4 children preceded him. He was for many years a minister in the South Danvers Cong. Buried on the 29th. Funeral services at the North Danvers M. H. by Chr. Guengrich in German and Joseph King in English. Services at the Imhoff grave yard by Joseph Stucky."

Herald of Truth, September 1895: "On the 9th of August 1895, in Woodford Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Magdalena Kinsinger, maiden name Naffziger, aged 77 years, 8 days. Her husband died just six weeks previously. Her remains were laid to rest in Imhoff's graveyard beside her husband. Funeral services in the North Danvers Mennonite M. H. by Chr. Guengrich, Jno. Kingsinger, Val. Strubhar, and Joseph Stucky. She leaves 11 children, 49 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren."

They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers, under the spelling 'Kinzinger.'

The children of Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger include:

1. Catherine Kinsinger was born in Butler County July 14, 1838, and died at Normal, McLean County Dec. 14, 1927. On Feb. 25, 1864 in McLean County she married Joseph Frye. He was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace Aug. 3, 1828, and died in McLean County Jan. 11, 1910, a son of Jean/John Frei and Catherine Sommer. Catherine is found as a widowed 71-year-old mother-in-law in the household of Thomas E. Adams and her daughter Kate on the 1910 census of Bloomington. They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers, where the joint headstone calls her 'Catherine Kensinger.'
2. Peter F. Kinsinger was born at Congerville Dec. 13, 1839 (headstone date) or Dec. 17 (death entry), and died at Washington Jan. 25, 1921. On June 25, 1867 he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Naffziger. She was born Nov. 11, 1838, and died Oct. 30, 1883, a daughter of Valentine Naffziger and Anna Katharina Naffziger. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton as 'Elisabeth, wife of Peter F. Kinzinger.' They are found on the 1880 census of Morton as Peter Kinsinger, 40, servant; Lizzie, 35; with two children born in Illinois. On Aug. 3, 1886 in Tazewell County Peter remarried to Paulina Wilhelmina Russe. She was born in 1851, and died in 1921. They were living at Washington in 1920. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

217 One home removed was Michael Kinsinger, 30, Germany; Catharine, 28, Germany; Anna, 4, Ohio; Catharine, 3, Ohio; and Lena, 1, Illinois.
218 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as Paulina Rusch.
3. Daniel O. Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 5, 1842, and died at Washington Dec. 15, 1922. On March 11, 1875 in Tazewell County he married Mary A. Schick. In 1880 they were living at Sheridan, Missouri: Daniel Kinzinger, 39, born in Illinois to parents from Hesse; Mary A., 25, born in Illinois to parents from Prussia (Alsace was occupied by Germany 1870-1918); Rosalie, 2, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; and Fannie, 11 months, born in Missouri to parents from Illinois. On Nov. 4, 1884 in Tazewell County Daniel remarried to Mary Plank. She was born at Montgomery, Woodford County Jan. 2, 1855, and died Feb. 19, 1930, a daughter of Jean Blank/John Plank and Catherine Engel. The 1900 census of Washington shows Daniel Kinzinger, 58, born in Illinois to German parents; Mary, 45, born in Illinois in January 1855 to French parents; three children; and sister-in-law Susan Plank. Their household is found on the 1910 census of Washington as Daniel Kinsinger, 68, born in Illinois to parents from Germany and Ohio; Mary, 52, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany. Arthur, 23, born in Missouri to parents from Illinois; Ray, 16, born in Illinois to parents from Illinois; sister-in-law Susan Plank, 58, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany; and sister-in-law Lena [Plank] Kistler, 49, born in Illinois to parents from Fr. Germany. The 1920 census of Washington shows them as retired farmer Dan Kinsinger, 77, born in Illinois to German parents, and Mary, 64, born in Illinois to French parents.

4. Jacob Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 5, 1844, and died in McLean County Nov. 21, 1914. On Jan. 11, 1877 in McLean County he married Helen Kiehn.219 She was born Sept. 8, 1854, and died in McLean County May 23, 1940, a daughter of David Kiehn. They are buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

5. Christian W. Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 11, 1846, and died March 25, 1914. On Jan. 10, 1871 in McLean County he married Magdalena Strubhar; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey.220 She was born at Danvers, McLean County Feb. 12, 1849, and died June 16, 1935, a daughter of John Strubhar and Anna Schertz. They are buried in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery.

6. Barbara Kinsinger was born at Congerville Aug. 22, 1848, and died in Nebraska Feb. 7, 1890. She is buried as 'Barbara Zook, wife of David' in Fairview Cemetery at Dawson County, Nebraska. On Aug. 11, 1878 in McLean County she married David Alexander Zook. He was born in Ohio Aug. 11, 1848, and died at Dry Grove, McLean County Feb. 4, 1922 (headstone date) of Feb. 6 (death entry), a son of David Zook and Barbara King. He is buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock. They were living at White Oak in 1870 and 1880.

7. Magdalena/Helena Ellen' Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 18, 1849 (headstone date, 1850 is also found), and died Nov. 29, 1932. On Jan. 14, 1869 in McLean County she married Jacob Gundy; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. Jacob was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Nov. 26, 1846, and died in McLean County April 26, 1919, a son of John von Gunden/Gundy and Mary Schwartzentruber. They lived at White Oak. Their joint headstone in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery calls her 'Helena Kinsinger.'

8. Anna/Annie Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (twin) (her headstone says March 3), and died at Normal, McLean County March 8, 1906. On Dec. 23, 1875 in McLean County she married minister Peter Schantz; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church called him, 'The outstanding leader of the Central Conference Mennonite Church for a quarter of a century (1896-1921)." See SCHANTZ.

9. Jacobina 'Phoebe' Kinsinger was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (twin), and died Feb. 19, 1939. On Feb. 9, 1886 in Tazewell County she married widower Joseph Strubhar. He was born Aug. 8, 1853, and died at Danvers June 20, 1916, a son of Peter Strubhar and Barbara Schweizer. His first wife had been Jacobina Ropp, who had died Aug. 9, 1883. All three are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

10. Caroline Kinsinger was born at Congerville Dec. 7, 1855 (headstone date), and died at Normal. McLean County July 30, 1924. She is buried in Park Hill Cemetery at Bloomington, McLean County. On Oct. 16, 1884 in McLean County she married George L. Kirchner; the ceremony was performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. George was born in Germany in August 1847. The 1910 census of Dry Grove, McLean County lists them as George L. Kirchner, 63; Caroline, 43; and four children born in Illinois. They are found on the 1920 census of Normal, McLean County as George L. Kirchner, 72; and Caroline, 54.

11. Killiam M. Kinsinger was born at Congerville Oct. 12, 1858, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Feb. 12, 1945. He is found at Montgomery in 1860, and White Oak from 1880 to 1930. He did not marry. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

12. August Valentine Kinsinger was born at Congerville Aug. 26, 1860, and died Feb. 28, 1956. On Sept. 19, 1889 he married Minnie Florence Rhadovi. She was born April 27, 1865, an died in McLean County Aug. 23, 1938. He is found at Montgomery in 1880, and they are found at White Oak in 1900. They are buried in the North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery under the name 'Kinsinger.'

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219 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Jacob Kinzing and Helena Kihm.
220 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christian W. Kinzinger and Mary M. Strupher.
Ringenerberger of Fribourg

Ringenberg is a village located near Interlaken on Lake Brienz, just below Lake Thun in Bern. Under the *Heimatrecht* legal rights system it is the legal point of origin (*Heimatort*) for almost all Swiss citizens named Ringenberg, Ringenberg, and Rinkenberg.

Not a single Ringengerberger appears on census lists of the core followers of Jacob Amman at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines after the Amish Division. Historian Delbert Gratz wrote a 200-page book called *Bernoise Anabaptists* (including pages of lists of Anabaptists in Bern as late as 1823) without once mentioning the surname.

In the early 1700s they came from what is now Moselle in the region of Lorraine to the Bärlbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach in the Palatinate, a property that became a sort of training ground for future ministers. Eventually the lease on the property passed to a Ringengerger. By 1800 it was impossible to imagine a congregation in the region of Lorraine without some link to this family.

The French Peter Ringengerger

(Groveland)

Christian Ringengerger is known to us as the father of the groom on a marriage entry in the Catholic churchbook of the administrative district/parish of Niederschlettenbach in the Palatinate (now just above the border of the Rhineland Palatinate with Lower Alsace). It documented a ceremony performed by Anabaptist minister Christian Hohli/Holli on the grounds of the Bärlbelsteinerhof at Erlenbach bei Dahn May 23, 1720. He is described as "Christiani Ringenberg, comorantis in Dominatu Friburg pago Langenberg," living at Fribourg [Ger. *Freiburg*] in the parish of Languimberg [Ger. *Langenberg*]. Fribourg is now in Moselle (the department was not established until 1794) in the region of Lorraine.

His son **Christian Ringengerger** was born circa 1690. He was a laborer and farmer on the castle estate Ketzing near Gondrexange, nine miles northwest of Fribourg.

He married Anna Maurer in the 1720 ceremony. Anna Maurer was likely the daughter of Michel Murur born circa 1660, who had migrated from the area of Diessbach and Munsingen in the parish of Steffisburg to resettle at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. Steffisburg records indicate that his surname was originally Mürer, as it is still spelled in Canton Bern.

The children of Christian Ringengerger and his first wife Anna Maurer include:

1. André Ringengerger was born between 1723 and 1731, and died at Rhodes April 9, 1793. He married Madeleine Schwartz. She was born circa 1729, and died in the hamlet La Blanche Allemande (between Blâmont and Hattigny) Jan. 19, 1800. Her death entry described her as 'Magdalaine Noire,' 70, the widow of the deceased 'André Ringberger.' The entry was witnessed by Pierre Suisse, who was described as her son-in-law and a resident of Blâmont. He signed with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate (see SCHWEIZER). They farmed at Hattigny. Their sons account for the immediate proliferation of the family name in Moselle.

2. Hans/Jean Ringengerger was born circa 1725, and died circa 1766. In 1743 he came from the castle estate Ketzing to the Bärlbelsteinerhof to marry Anna Holly, daughter of minister and leaseholder Christian Hohli/Holli. Her father died in 1748, and she died the following year, leaving him with the lease on the Bärlbelsteinerhof estate. He remarried to Anna Rupp. He died in 1763, leaving three children who have not been identified. Anna continued on the estate with Tobias Kiefer as her co-leaseholder. Kiefer had been a co-leaseholder of the Steinbacherhof estate near Asswiller, with his brother Jacob Kiefer and Christian Nafziger (a nephew to Ulrich Nafziger). Perhaps he introduced widower Isaac Hochstettler to Asswiller to widow Anna; Isaac and Anna married in 1766. She had two more children, one Peter Hochstettler, whose descendants came to Tazewell County (see HOCHSTETTLER). Anna died in 1784.

3. **Christian/Christophe Ringengerger** was born circa 1730.

Christian returned to what is now Moselle, perhaps after the death of Anna. He also remarried. Christian died at Danne-et-Quatre-Vents [Ger. *Vierwinden*] on the west side of Phalsbourg (now in Moselle) April 6, 1780. The death entry calling him 'Chrétien Ringengerger' described him as an Anabaptist laborer and farmer at Ketzing, and gave his age as 90. It stated that he was buried in the garden of landlord [Fr. *aubergiste*] Antoine Ulrich. In addition it described him as the widower of 'Elizabette Pflegtiger' (possibly Elisabeth Fluckinger).
**Christian/Christophe Ringenberg** was born circa 1730, and died in the home of a daughter at Sotzelting, Moselle March 30, 1796. He farmed on the ruined castle estate Hingsange Farm at Linstroff in what is now Moselle. Other families found there included Abresol, Blank, Esch/Oesch, Farni/Farny, Hirschi, Meyer, Oyer, and Vitrich (this became Widrick in America).

He married Marie Schertz. They had children on Hingsange farm in 1765 and 1772. Marie died, and he remarried to Catherine Kempf before 1786. Catherine died at Dolving, Moselle Aug. 23, 1821.

Christian attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759 as a representative of the Morhange area [Ger. Mörchingen; Linstroff is seven miles northeast of Morhange].

Christian/Christophe and his second wife Catherine Kempf were the parents of weaver Pierre Ringenberg, later known as Peter Ringenberger. He was born on Hingsange farm June 12, 1786, and died at Elm Grove May 5, 1861. On Jan. 13, 1810 at Haut-Clocher, Moselle he married Anna/Anne Schrag/Schrock. She was born at Rhodes in May 1787 (her headstone says 1790), and died at Elm Grove in April 1859, a daughter of Caspar Schrag and his second wife Maria Blaser.

Their marriage entry calls the groom Pierre Ringenberier, a son of Christophe Ringenberier and Catherine Kampf. The bride was Ann Schraque, a daughter of Gaspart Schraque and Marie Blaser. One witness was Jean Herges [Hirschi], 58, a farmer from Haute-Clocher and cousin of the groom.

The groom signed his name Peter Rinckenberg, and the bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate. Catherine Kempf also signed with an ‘x’.

They emigrated from Europe in 1831. Their youngest child was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1833. They also spent time in Butler County, Ohio before resettling at what is now Groveland in 1837.

Anna was a half-sister to Catherine Schrag (1771-1823) who married Joseph Oyer (1774-1845). Catherine died in childbirth, and Joseph remarried to Magdalena Litwiler. Anna’s family’s move from Butler County to Groveland in 1837 apparently prompted the Oyers to make the journey and purchase land in Groveland the following year (see OYER).

The Ringenberg/Ringenbergers can be found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Peter ‘RingerBarger’, 64, France; Anne, 62, France; laborer Christian, 30, France; and laborer Abraham, 17, Pennsylvania; next door to Oyers.

After Anna’s death in 1859, Peter lived with his youngest son Abraham. The 1860 census of Groveland lists the household as Peter Ringenberger, 74, France; his son Abram [Ringenberger], 32, Pennsylvania; Barbara [Stalter], 25, Bavaria; and grandson/son Peter, three months, Illinois.

When Peter died May 5, 1861, it was reported by his son Abraham. His estate was administered by Jacob Zimmerman. His application listed the heirs as John, Peter, Christian, Ann, Barbara, Mary, Catherine, and himself. Peter and Anna are buried in Rinkerberger Cemetery at Fond du Lac.

All their children except the youngest were born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, where their birth entries employed the spelling ‘Ringenberg.’ We know that Peter signed his name ‘Petter Rinckenberg.’ Perhaps because of this, many of his descendants have chosen the spelling ‘Rinkenberg.’

Peter and Anna’s children include:

a. Joseph Ringenberg was born Oct. 15, 1810, and died at Linstroff Aug. 7, 1817.

b. Jean Ringenberg/John Ringenberg was born Nov. 12, 1811, and died in Livingston County Oct. 29, 1886; he is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Gridley. He married Anna Garber, who was born in Ohio March 15, 1817 (headstone date), and died Feb. 1, 1902. According to daughter Mary’s obituary, they lived in Woodford County, then relocated to Tazewell County in 1854. Before 1870 they divorced, and Anna went to live with her children in Nebraska Township, Livingston County. John remarried to Catherine Baker (probably the surname of her first husband). The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows 72 acres belonging to J. Ringenberg in the southwest corner of Section 11, Montgomery Township (his brother Peter lived in the northeast corner of the same section). His household is found on the 1880 census of Montgomery Township as farmer John Ringenberger, 68, France; Catherine, 50, New Jersey; and stepson Linhart Baker, 15, Illinois. The 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows Anna Ringenbarger, 64, as well as her daughter Anna, 25, in the household of son C. Ringenbarger, 33. *Herald of Truth*, February 1887: “In Livingston county, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, John Ringenberger, in his 75th year. Services by John P. Schmidt from John 5:24-25. Deceased united with the Amish Mennonite church in his youth.” The children of Jean/John Ringenberger and his first wife Anna Garber include:

1) Mary Ringenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells (formerly Farnisville) in Montgomery Township, Woodford County Sept. 19, 1844, and died at Manson, Iowa Sept. 22, 1928. On July 15, 1863 she became the second wife of Johannes König/John R. King. He was born in Baden Sept. 16, 1825, and died in Livingston County April 25, 1895, a son of Johannes König and Jacobea Rediger. His first wife had been Fanny Ehresman. See KING for more on him including his obituary and their common
censuses. On Nov. 12, 1901 at Milford, Nebraska Mary remarried to John Stauffer. He was born at Dolweiler, Germany March 19, 1841, and died May 5, 1914. Gospel Herald, October 1929: "Mary Rinkenberger was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Sept. 19, 1844; died at the home of her son (C. R. King) at Manson, Iowa, where she was visiting at the time; aged 85 y. 3 d. At the age of 10 she she with her parents moved to Tazewell Co., Ill. July 15, 1863, she was married to John R. King of Tazewell Co., where they lived on a farm, later moving to Livingston Co. To this union were born 9 children, one dying in infancy. Those who survive her mother are Mrs. Phoebe Shafer, John R., D. E., N. E., Mrs. Anna Bachman, Chris, and Will, and Mrs. Maud Graber. Her husband preceded her in death April 26, 1895. She also leaves one brother and one sister, thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, also many relatives and friends. Nov. 12, 1901, she was married to John Stauffer of Milford, Nebr. After the death of her husband she resided there until the marriage of her youngest daughter, when they came to Nobel, Ia., where she has since made her home. Sister Stauffer accepted Christ as her personal Savior, united with the Mennonite Church, and remained a consistent member. At the time of her death she had her church home with the Sugar Creek church near Wayland, Iowa. In her passing the children lose an affectionate mother. Her pleasant personality won her many friends. She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her. Her remains were brought to the home of her daughter in Flanagan where, on Sept. 26, services were held and at the Waldo church by the brethren J. D. Hartzler and D. W. Slagel. Interment in the Waldo cemetery by the side of her husband."

2) Christian Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Sept. 28, 1846, and died in Livingston County March 28, 1924. On March 7, 1871 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Augsburger. She was born at Minier May 20, 1854, and died at Gridley Jan. 4, 1936, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. They are shown on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County as 'C. Rinkenberger, 33; Lizzie, 25; four children born in Illinois; his mother Anna, 64; and his sister Anna, 25. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

3) Peter Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Jan. 24, 1850, and died at Gridley April 30, 1933. On April 1, 1875 in Livingston County he married Christina Funk. She was born May 18, 1848, and died at Gridley March 31, 1927 (her headstone says April 3), a daughter of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are found at Rinkenberger on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County; on the 1910 census of Gridley; and Peter is found as a widower at Gridley in 1930. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

4) Anna Rinkenberger was born at Mackinaw Dells Sept. 28, 1853, and died May 23, 1888; she is buried in Gridley Cemetery.

5) Sara Rinkenberger was born in Tazewell County Nov. 1, 1857 (headstone date), and died at Gridley Aug. 19, 1944. On Oct. 20, 1874 in Livingston County she married Frederick W. Schultz. He was born Feb. 17, 1848, and died at Gridley June 20, 1903. They are found on the 1900 census of Gridley as farmer Frederick W. Schultz, 52, born in Germany in February 1848, immigrated in 1860; Sarah R., 42, born in Illinois to German parents in September 1857; and six children born in Illinois. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

c. Christian R ingenberger was born in February 1814, and died Mary 23, 1814.
d. Pierre Ringenberg or Peter Ringenberger was born June 3, 1815, according to his civil birth entry from Linstroff.
e. Christian Ringenberg/Ringenberger was born May 26, 1817, and died at Washington, Tazewell County July 17, 1871. On March 14, 1852 he married Jacobina 'Bena' Kiddner [Kettner] in Tazewell County. See the paragraph on George Kettner and Marie Birki in BIRKY/BIRKEY. Christian and Bena's joint headstone in Rinkenberger Cemetery gives no dates.
f. Anne Ringenberg or Anna Ringenberger was born Nov. 6, 1819, and died at Alvin, Vermilion County July 17, 1871; she is buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery. On Oct. 25, 1846 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Burkey. He was born April 26, 1816, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Dec. 12, 1887, a son of John Burkey and Sophonia.
g. Barbe Ringenberg or Barbara Ringenberger was born Sept. 25, 1821, and died at Walnut, Bureau County Jan. 4, 1864; she is buried in Red Oak Cemetery at Walnut. On Jan. 7, 1844 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of Jacob Albrecht (his first wife was Katharina Ackerman, 1813-1842). He was born at Hochspeyer in the Palatinate Dec. 9 or Jan. 9, 1805, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 11, 1878, a son of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel (see ENGEL). He is buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton.
h. Marie Ringenberg or Mary Ringenberger was born Oct. 1, 1823, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Aug. 24, 1905; she is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Flanagan. On Oct. 15, 1844 in Tazewell County she married Jacob Zimmerman, also known as Jacob J. Zimmerman. He was born on the Schlattlfahrt at Tiengen bei Freiburg, Baden April 18, 1818, and died at Flanagan Oct. 15, 1849, a son of Michael Zimmerman and Barbara Roggy (see ZIMMERMAN). He is buried in Center Cemetery at Flanagan. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists a

221 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as Peter Rinkenberger.
222 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Frederick W. Schultz and Sarah Rinberger.
223 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists Christian Renkenburger and Jacobobina Kitten.
224 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists Jacob Albright and Barbara Rinkenger.
marriage for Jacob Klaus and Mary Ringenberger July 9, 1816. However, Russ McClallen informs us that although intent-to-marry papers were taken out at the County Clerk's Office, they were never returned. Klaus married Mary Widman in Tazewell County Oct. 8, 1861. They lived in McLean County before resettling at Wayne, Kansas in 1875.

i. Catherine Ringenber or Katie Ringenberger was born Nov. 14, 1826, and died at Farmdale Jan. 24, 1905. She is thought to be buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington, though no headstone is found there. On Nov. 20, 1849 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Schrock. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists this marriage as 'Joseph Snook' and 'Catherine Ringenberger,' so it is likely that the misspelling appeared on their original county marriage entry. They had a second civil ceremony June 12, 1859 (perhaps to correct the earlier recordkeeping error for purposes of future inheritance). Joseph was a son of Catherine Oyer, and his stepfather was John Schrock (see SCHROCK, JOHN SCHROCK OF GROVELAND). They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County (in a part that became Groveland) as farmer John Schrock, 77, Germany; Catherine [Oyer], 57, Germany; farmer Joseph Schrock, 27, Germany; and Catherine [Ringenger], 23, Germany. Joseph died before the 1860 census. Catherine appears as 34-year-old widow 'Catherine Schrock' on the 1860 census of Groveland, with two children, 7-year-old Anna and 3-month-old Peter, living next door to her widowed father Peter Ringenberger. On Nov. 7, 1869 in Tazewell County she remarried to neighbor Jean Springer/John Spring. See SPRINGER for more on this couple.

j. Magdalena/Madelaine Ringenberg was born May 12, 1829, and died in infancy.

k. Abraham Ringenberger/Ringenberg was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania May 28, 1833, and died April 15, 1915. On May 19, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Stalter.225 She was born at Tripstadt in the Palatinate May 18, 1835, and died at Washington Jan. 15, 1922, a daughter of Jacob Stalter and Magdalena Stalter. They are found on the 1880 census of Fond du Lac as farmer A. Rinkenberger, 47, born in Pennsylvania to French parents; Barbara, 45, born in R. Biern [Bavaria]; and eight children born in Illinois. They belonged to the Defenseless Mennonite Church of Groveland. They are buried in Rinkenberger Cemetery.

Pierre Ringenberger or Peter Ringenberger was born on Hinsange Farm at Linstroff, Moselle June 3, 1815 (birth entry), and died Jan. 18, 1892.

In 1837 or earlier in Ohio he married Catherine 'Katie' Garber. She was born in Alsace in June 1813, and died April 24, 1901.

They are found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Peter Ringenberry, 35, France; Catharine, 25, France; Anna, 5, Illinois; Gideon, 3, Illinois; and Peter, 2, Illinois. Before 1860 they moved from Farmdale to a part of Montgomery Township called Congerville.

They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery as farmer Peter Rinkenberger, 44, France; Catherine, 44, France; Anna, 15, Illinois; and Gideon, 13, Illinois.

After the 1860 census the family employed the spelling 'Rinkenberger.' In that year the oldest child, daughter Anna, turned 15. She had attended Railroad Schoolhouse in Elm Grove (see GERBER AND GARBER), and may have been the first fully-literate person in her family. The decision may have been hers.

The 1873 plat map of Montgomery shows 'P. Ringenberger' as the owners of 160 acres in the northeast corner of Section 11. The 1880 census of Montgomery shows Peter Ringenberger, 65, France; Catherine, 66, France; Gideon, 33, Illinois; Abraham, 22, Illinois; and Catherine, 26, Illinois.

Peter and Catherine are buried in Gridley Cemetery, McLean County as 'Peter Ringenberger born June 1815 died Jan. 1892' and 'Katie Rinkenberger born June 1813 died Apr. 1901.'

The children of Peter Ringenberger and Catherine 'Katie' Garber include:

1. Mary Ringenberger (twin) was born June 6, 1845, and died Dec. 6, 1845.
2. Anna Ringenberger/Ringenberger (twin) was born June 6, 1845, and died at Carlock Oct. 26, 1911. She married Christian M. Miller. He was born May 1, 1842, and died May 14, 1907. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Congerville in Montgomery Township.
3. Gideon Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Dec. 21, 1846, and died June 2, 1931. He is buried in Gridley Cemetery.
4. Peter Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Nov. 17, 1848. He is thought to have died in 1866; he is not shown on the 1860 census of Montgomery.
5. Rachel Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Sept. 9, 1850, and died at Gridley Feb. 25, 1954 — age 103 years, five months, and 16 days. In 1874 she married Henry Funk. He was born in Baden June 1, 1845, and died at Gridley Nov. 1, 1905, a son of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.
6. Catherine 'Kate' Ringenberger/Ringenberger was born Aug. 18, 1853, and died Jan. 29, 1940. She is buried in Gridley Cemetery.
7. Lydia Ringenberger was born and died in 1855.

225 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists Abraham Ringenberger and Barbara Stalter.
8. Abraham Rinkenberger/Rinkenberger was born July 19, 1857, and died at Gridley April 3, 1940. In 1877 he married Lydia Zimmerman. She was born Feb. 22, 1857, and died June 2, 1951, a daughter of Michael Zimmerman and Katharina/Catherine Naffziger. They lived at Montgomery, then at Hancock, Minnesota for 30 years, and finally at Gridley. They are buried in Gridley Cemetery.

The Bavarian Peter Ringenberg
(Elm Grove)
Third Cousin to the French Peter Ringenger

Christian Ringenberg (circa 1690-1780) had a son André Ringenberg. He was born between 1723 and 1731. He married Madeleine Schwartz, who was born circa 1729.

Their son Jean Ringenberg (as his signature appears on the birth entry of his youngest child) was born no later than 1749, and died at Sarrebourg, Moselle Feb. 13, 1795. He married Marie Engel. She was born in 1747, and died at Bébing, Moselle Jan. 27, 1813, a daughter of Christian Engel (see ENGEL).

They lived at the LaForge Mill below Imling, which is adjacent to Bébing; then on Sarixing farm at Bébing. Marie’s age was given as 65 on the marriage entry of her son, Joseph Ringenberg, created at Bébing May 18, 1812; witnesses at that event included ‘cousins of the groom’ Michel Engel and Joseph Engel. Her death on Rinting farm at Bébing was reported by son-in-law Andreas Rediger/André Rediger.

The children of Jean Ringenberg and Marie Engel born at the mill La Forge below Imling (now in Moselle) include:

a. Johannes/Jean Ringenberg was born in 1770. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Hochstettler at Reichshoffen, Lower Alsace Feb. 14, 1796. She was born in 1778, a daughter of Christian Hochstettler and his first wife Barbara/Barbe Naefziger of the Lauterbachhof near Reichshoffen (see HOCHSTETTLER). Elder Christian Engel and his father-in-law Christian Naefziger were marriage witnesses. Christian Engel was actually cousin to the groom and uncle to the bride; the bride was the stepdaughter of Magdalena/Madeleine Naefziger of the Steinbacherhof at Durstel, Lower Alsace, who was a sister to Christian Engel's first wife Katharina/Catherine Naefziger. He may have been the Johannes Ringenberg who in 1813 migrated to work at the castle estate at Stepperg and the brewery at adjacent Rennertshofen, 19 miles west of Ingolstadt, Bavaria. 226

b. Christian Ringenberg was born in 1771, and died on the Samhof estate near Ingolstadt, Bavaria in 1829.

c. Anne Ringenberg was born March 10, 1779. On July 24, 1796 at Imling she married Andreas Rediger/André Rediger. He was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden March 13, 1775, and died at Blanche Eglise, Moselle Nov. 9, 1828, a son of Sebastian Reitiger and his second wife Anna Lederer. They settled on Rinting farm at Bébing.

d. Pierre Ringenberg was born June 29, 1783, and died between 1815 and 1818. On July 9, 1802 at Gros-Réderching he married Suzanne Guingerich, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi, and a stepdaughter of Michel Engel. The marriage entry was signed by stepfather Michel Engel and mother Anne Rubi, residents of Linstroff. They lived on Weidesheim, the Roggy family estate at Kalhausen; then on Rinting farm at Bébing. Pierre's age was difficult to pin down; when he witnessed a civil entry at Bébing for the birth of a daughter Madeleine to Andreas Rediger/André Rediger and his sister Anne Ringenberg in 1813, his age was given as 38, when he was in fact 30. After Pierre's death, Suzanne became the second wife of Joseph Engel (1778-1818). Pierre and Suzanne's son Nicholas Ringenberg married Caroline Jutzi in Butler County, Ohio June 2, 1839; minister Benedikt König/King performed the ceremony. Nicholas's brother Jacob Ringenberg married Caroline's sister Johanna Jutzi in 1843. The two sisters were daughters of Johannes Jutzi and Johanna Sommer. The two brothers and their wives later resettled at Lockport on the Erie Canal.

e. Joseph Ringenberg was born March 25, 1786. On May 18, 1812 at Rilming he married Catherine Schantz. She was born at Bettwiller Aug. 26, 1787, a daughter of Christian Schantz and his first wife Marie Birki, who was living at Brandelfing farm. Witnesses included Michel Engel, 40, of Brandelfing farm; and Joseph Engel, 34, of Kalhausen, described as cousins of the groom; Christian Gerber of Wising farm at Vahl-Ebersing; and Valentin Naefziger, 40, living on Offerding estate at Gros-Réderching.

f. Catherine Ringenberg was born Sept. 15, 1788, and died Sept. 25, 1863. On Feb. 6, 1806 at Hellocourt she married Joseph Vercler. He was born Oct. 6, 1771, and died Feb. 19, 1818 at Hellocourt. They had four children (see VERCLER). On Dec. 21, 1819 at Hellocourt she remarried to Peter Engel, son of Christian Engel (later elder at

226 Noted in Dr. Hans Perlinger's *The Mennonites. An Almost Forgotten Community in and around the Danube Marsh*. Anabaptists were invited to resettle for work there by Archduchess Maria Leopoldine. She was a Habsburg princess born in Italy in 1776. In 1795 she was forced to marry Charles Theodor, Elector of Bavaria. He was 52 years older. She refused his advances, but had affairs with a number of courtiers. She renounced her claim to succession after her husband died in 1799. She lived at Castle Berg on Lake Starnberg below Munich, but became wealthy from her productive estate at Stepperg. She remarried to a count in 1804, and died after a carriage accident in 1848.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Metamora. At the time of their marriage she was living on Boule farm at Bihl, belonging to Baron Charles Louis Grandjean. See ENGEL for more on this couple.

g. Barbe Ringenberg was born in 1792, and died in 1821. She married Christian Nafziger of the castle estate Ketzing near Gondrexange.

h. Jacobeé/Jacobine Ringenberg was born April 1, 1793, and died at Brandelfing farm April 23, 1823. On June 23, 1812 at Gros-Réderching she married cultivator Jean Guingerich of Brandelfing farm. He was born circa 1792, and died Aug. 28, 1832 on Brandelfing farm, a son of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Rubi (who later remarried to Michel Engel). They had four children at Brandelfing farm.

**Christian Ringenberg** was born at the mill La Forge below Imling (now in Moselle) in 1771, and died on the Samhof estate near Ingolstadt, Bavaria in 1829. The Samhof estate is now the Samhof district on the west side of the city of Ingolstadt.

In 1796 he married Katharina Reidiger/Rediger. She was born on the Ottenweierhof estate at Ichenheim, Baden circa 1775, a daughter of Sebastian Reutiger and his second wife Anna Lederer (see REDIGER).

Six of their children born at Imling have been identified with birth dates ranging from 1798 to 1806. Sometime around 1810 this couple resettled in the area of Ingolstadt, Bavaria.

Ingolstadt was a university town. When Elector Max Joseph became King Maximilian I Joseph of Bavaria in 1799, he made changes in the law that lessened the influence of Jesuits at Ingolstadt and permitted religious freedom there for the first time. He had seen what Anabaptist farmers had done in Zweibrücken, and welcomed them to resettle in the area. Catholic properties were secularized in 1802. Coinciding with the occupation of the Palatinate by French troops, a number of Anabaptist families move eastward onto Bavarian soil.

Within a few years about 50 families such as Oesch, Oswald, Ingold, and Güngerich were given formerly Catholic properties in the 16 miles from Ingolstadt east to Neuburg an der Donau, as the government encouraged cultivation of the Old Bavarian Donaumoos, also called the Danube Marsh. There were enough families to form a congregation about 1810, and more families came in 1820. They remained in the area until the '48er emigration. For more on this area see SUTTER and STEINMAN.

The exact birth place of Peter Ringenberger could not be identified. When he died at Precinct K, Seward County, Nebraska (now the town of Goehner) Dec. 31, 1892, his Herald of Truth obituary said that he was age '82 years, 5 months' — yielding the approximate birth date July 31, 1810. He is buried near Goehner. Perhaps a death certificate could be found there.

Our use of the spelling 'Peter Ringenberger' is arbitrary. He came from the Ringenberg family, the surname derived from the Bernese village Ringgenberg. He signed his own name 'Petter Rinckenberg.' His children employed the spelling 'Ringenberger.' This Bavarian Peter was a third cousin to the French Peter described earlier.

**Christian Ringenberg born circa 1690**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Christian} & \quad \text{born circa 1730} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{Pierre/Peter} & \quad \text{born in 1786} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{Pierre/Peter of Groveland,} & \quad \text{the French Ringenberger} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{born in 1815} & \\
\text{André} & \quad \text{born between 1723 and 1731} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{Jean} & \quad \text{born no later than 1749} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{Christian} & \quad \text{born in 1771} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{Peter of Elm Grove,} & \quad \text{the Bavarian Ringenberger} \\
\downarrow & \\
\text{born in 1810} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

He appears as 'Peter Ringenberg' on the passenger list of the bark *Atlantic* as it arrived at New York from Bremen Sept. 12, 1838. \textsuperscript{227} He is found in steerage with his second cousin Christian Ackermann (1813-1903), who later spelled his name 'Ackerman.' \textsuperscript{228} The list did not give their ages.

\textsuperscript{227} Some sources say that he was the *Burgundy* passenger Pierre Ringenberg, found on the passenger list as a 24-year-old native of Switzerland. It sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 1, 1839. However, the *Burgundy* passenger was the Peter Ringenberger who is found on the 1860 census of Holmes County, Ohio as 45-year-old farmer Peter Ringenberger of
Sebastian Reutiger born in 1721

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<td>Katharina Reidiger/Catherine Rediger</td>
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<td>b. 1783 m. Jakob Ackermann</td>
<td>b. 1783 m. Anna/Anne Belsley</td>
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Recalling BELSLEY: Christian Ackermann/Ackerman began his journey from Regensburg, Bavaria. Upon arrival at New York he went directly to Butler County, Ohio, where he stayed for six months before continuing on to Spring Bay. In 1839 he married Anna/Anne Belsley. Christian and Anna settled at what is now Groveland in 1841, and near Evans Corner at Morton (now north of Route 74) in 1852.

On Feb. 7, 1848 in Tazewell County Peter Ringenberger married Sybilla Garber. She was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1827, and died before 1880, a daughter of John Garber and Eva Caroline Paithe (see GERBER AND GARBER).

Their household appears on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as Peter Ringenberger, 35, Germany; Siba, 23, Ohio; and farm laborer Christian Schlabach, 30, Germany. The names surrounding their entry — such as Sybilla's brother Emanuel Garber, the Ropp, and blacksmith Jacob Unzicker — indicate that they were already living in what would become Elm Grove.

Sybilla was admitted to Jacksonville State Hospital July 10, 1854, and discharged Sept. 1, 1854. The admissions record lists her as "Sibila Ringenber, 24... nativity Germany, next of kin Peter Ringenber of Pekin." The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows them as Peter Ringenbarger, 48, Bavaria; Phebe, 33, Ohio; Catharine, 9; Joseph, 8; Jacob, 3; and Daniel; all children born in Illinois; the lived next door to Sybilla's brother Emanuel Garber. The 1864 plat map of Elm Grove shows 'P. Ringenberger' on 40 acres between the properties of Andrew Ropp and Sybilla's brother. The 1870 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Ringenberg, 60, Bavaria; Sibilla, 44, Ohio; Joseph, 18, Illinois; Jacob, 13, Illinois; Emily, 9, Illinois; and Mary, 6, Illinois.

Sybilla died before the 1880 census of Elm Grove: Peter Ringenberger, 69, Germany; Katie, 29, Illinois; Mary, 16, Illinois; Katie Saltons, 8 [Katie Saltonstall, Mary's daughter], Illinois; J. [Jacob] Ringenberger, 23, Illinois; and Sam Rahler, 20. She is thought to be buried in Railroad Cemetery. A number of markers and graves there were deeply covered when a rail bed was built up on its north side.

At the time of his death Peter was living with his oldest son Jacob in Precinct K, Seward County, Nebraska which has become the town of Goehner. Herald of Truth, February 1893: "On the 31st of December, 1892, in Seward County, Nebraska, suddenly, Peter Ringenber. He appeared as well as usual and was sitting on a chair beside the stove when, without warning, he fell from the chair. They laid him on a lounge near by, but he was dead a moment after. His age was 82 years, 5 months. Funeral services by Joseph Schlegel and Jacob Stauffer."

The children of Peter Ringenberger and Sybilla Garber born at Elm Grove include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob, 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily, 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary, 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Illinois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

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Switzerland. He later appears on the 1880 census of Lincoln, Iowa as farmer Peter Ringenberg, 65, Switzerland; Anna, 49, Switzerland, and six children born in Ohio with two grandsons born in Iowa. The 1885 state census of Iowa shows him as a 70-year-old in the household of his son-in-law George Harris and daughter Amelia. The History of Polk County, Iowa (1880): "Ringenberg, Peter Sr. — Farmer, section 27, P O. Palmer. Was born in Switzerland February 28, 1815, and in 1839 moved to this country, settling in Holmes county, Ohio. He lived there until he came to this county, in 1868. He owns 160 acres of land, well improved, also 160 acres on section 34, all of which he has made since coming to this country. He was married in Ohio March 7, 1841, to Miss Anna Duttler, who was born near the same place as himself. They are the parents of fourteen children..."

Ingolstadt is approximately 50 miles southwest of Regensburg. Regensburg was the birth place of Christian Ackermann/Ackerman. Christian's father was presumably Jakob Ackermann (1785-1841), who was the first Amish Mennonite minister at Regensburg. His mother was Katharina Reuter, born in 1783. Like the earlier figure with the same name, she was born on the Ottenweihof at Ichenheim, Baden, but she was a granddaughter of Sebastian Reutiger (her father was Josef Reuter 1753-1819). There is one more clue: at some point that we could not determine, Jakob and Katharina lived at Josephenburg, about 7 miles south of the Samhof estate and Ingolstadt. This village is adjacent to Karlskron, a site associated with the Sutter family. All of this suggests that Peter Ringenberger and his traveling companion Christian Ackermann/Ackerman were related as second cousins; Peter was a grandson, Christian was a great-grandson.

Perlager lists Johann Ackermann arriving at Deubling and Karlskron in 1811, and Heinrich Ackermann at Josephenburg and Karlskron in 1815.
1. Joseph Ringenberger was born May 19, 1850, and died in Seward County, Nebraska Nov. 18, 1917. On March 4, 1875 in Tazewell County he married Arnetta Hollstein. She was born in Illinois circa 1854, and died in Seward County Aug. 31, 1915. They are found on the 1910 census of Precinct K, Seward County as Joseph Ringenberg, 62, born in Illinois to a father from Germany (Alsace-Lorraine was occupied by Germany 1870-1918) and a mother from Pennsylvania; Arnete, 56, born in Illinois to German parents; and John, 16, born in Nebraska to parents from Illinois.

2. Catherine 'Katie' Ringenberger was born Dec. 29, 1851, and died at Limestone, Peoria County Jan. 6, 1836. On May 19, 1870 in Tazewell County she married Thompson J. Saltonstall; he is found on the 1870 census of Pekin as saloon keeper Thompson Saltenstall, 21, Illinois. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows Catherine divorced with a daughter, living with her widowed father. On Oct. 27, 1889 she remarried to Noah Augsburger. He was born at Paradise, Lancaster County Feb. 18, 1850, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 27, 1892, a son of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. He is buried in Railroad Cemetery. On Aug. 19, 1900 in Tazewell County 'Katherine Ringsburger Augsburger' married a third time to Peter Vandyke. He was born in Tazewell County circa 1862, and died at Pekin Sept. 16, 1935, a son of Peter Van Dyke Sr. and his first wife Minerva Brown.

3. Jacob Ringenberger/Ringenberg was born Nov. 16, 1857, and died at Eustis, Frontier County, Nebraska April 20, 1938. On July 12, 1883 in Tazewell County he married Wilhelmine 'Minnie' Feith. She was born in April 17, 1863, and died at Clearwater, Frontier County, Nebraska June 12, 1919, a daughter of Rudolph Feith and Elisabeth Weisman. Her family is shown on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as laborer Rudolph Faith, 36, Prussia; Annie, 40, Prussia; Wilhelmina, 17, Prussia; and August, 9, Prussia. They are found on the 1910 census of Clearwater, and Jacob is found there as a widower in 1920 and 1930. They are buried in Eustis City Cemetery as Jacob Ringenberg and Wilhelmine Ringenberg.

4. Daniel Ringenberger was born circa 1860, and died before 1870.

5. Amelia Sybilla 'Emily' Ringenberger was born Oct. 29, 1862, and died at Davenport, Iowa June 28, 1931. On Jan. 12, 1890 at Minier she married widower John R. Whisler. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio May 15, 1846, and died at Danville, Vermillion County July 28, 1915, a son of Joseph Whisler and Emeline Emery. They are found on the 1910 census of Mackinaw as John R. Whisler, 63, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; Emelia, 50, born in Illinois to German parents; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried at Mackinaw.

6. Mary Ringenberger was born circa 1864. One source says that on Dec. 20, 1883 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Miller, who was born in Dearborn County, Indiana circa 1868; and that she died in 1888. This marriage is found in the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, where she is listed as 'Mary Ringenberg.'

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229 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Thompson J. Saltonstall and Catharine Rhingberk.
230 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Peter Vandyke and Katherine Ringsburger Augsburger. We had difficulty finding Peter Jr., but no problem finding his father Peter Van Dyke Sr. He was born in Canada April 10, 1820, and died in Tazewell County Nov. 14, 1893. Minerva Brown was the first of his three wives. He had 20 children. The 1880 census of Hittle shows him as Peter Van Dyke, 60, Canada; wife Elisabeth A. [Spencer], 35; and six children 13 and under born in Illinois. Peter Sr. and third wife Elizabeth Spencer are buried in Danforth Cemetery at Hopedale.
231 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as John Raymond Whisler and Amelia Ringinberg.
Presumably 'Springer' was derived from Spring, a surname that is woven through many of the early genealogies from the area of Lake Thun in Canton Bern.

Daniel Springer was born circa 1750. Circa 1775 he married Marie Kohler, who was born in 1753. When she died on Offerding estate at Gros-Réderching, Moselle March 28, 1806, the civil death entry said that she was a daughter of Christophe Kohler and Anne Hunssinger of Colmar, Upper Alsace. Their children include:

1. Johannes/Jean Springer was born circa 1776.
2. Catherine Springer was born in 1779.
3. Madeleine Springer was born on Offerding estate at Gros-Réderching circa 1780, and died at Porcelotte, Moselle Feb. 4, 1819. On Oct. 30, 1809 at Porcelotte she married Chrétien/Christian 'Weiez.' He was a son of Pierre Weiss and Catherine Moser.
4. Christian Springer was born at Plaine-de-Walsch (four miles southeast of Sarrebourg) circa 1782, and died at Dambach, Lower Alsace Jan. 18, 1827, age 45. He is found on his civil death entry as 'Chrétien Spring'; it was witnessed by his brother-in-law Joseph Bachman, described as a 45-year-old weaver, and Jean Steiner, described as a 45-year-old cultivator. On Feb. 2, 1809 on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle he married Suzanne Farny. She was born at Bistroff, Moselle in 1788, a daughter of Christian Farny and Anne Hirschi/Hirschy. One of their sons was Jean Springer, who was known in Tazewell County as John Spring. See DAVID'S COUSIN JEAN SPRINGER/JOHN SPRING.
5. Joseph Springer was born circa 1784.
6. Barbe Springer was born at Plaine-de-Walsch circa 1784, and died at Dambach, Lower Alsace June 14, 1839, age 55. On March 18, 1813 at Gros-Réderching she married weaver Joseph Bachman. He was born on Rinting farm between Bébing and Imling circa 1782, and died at Thuilley-les-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle July 7, 1843, a son of Jean Bachman and Barbe Rouvenacht. In 1856 Joseph remarried to Anne Elisabeth Turque/Turk.

Johannes/Jean Springer was born circa 1776.

On Jan. 27, 1798 at Struth, Lower Alsace he married Katharina/Catherine Zehr. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as Johannes Springer, 21, a son of Daniel Springer and Maria Kohler; and the bride as Cathrina Zehr, 19, a daughter of Daniel Zehr and Cattrina Zehr. She was born April 15, 1778, and died at Tremont Sept. 10, 1849 (see ZEHR).

They migrated to Bavaria in 1819. There they settled at Solln, a suburb southwest of Munich. Their children born at Struth include:

1. Daniel Springer was born July 13, 1800; he may be the 'Daniel Sprenger' who died at Augsburg Nov. 8, 1875. He married Veronica Oesch. She was born at Hanfeld, Germany in 1804, and died there March 22, 1829, a daughter of Christian Oesch and Katharina Bürki.
2. Madeleine/Magdalena Springer was born Aug. 24, 1803.
3. David Springer was born Oct. 14, 1806, and died at Minier in Little Mackinaw Township April 16, 1884.
4. Christian Springer was born July 11, 1810.
5. Jean/Johannes Springer was born May 23, 1815.

David Springer was born at Struth Oct. 14, 1806, and died at Minier in Little Mackinaw Township April 16, 1884. He is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

David married Elisabeth Guth. She was born at Busenberg in the Palatinate Jan. 31, 1803, and died at Tremont Sept. 10, 1849, a daughter of Christian Guth and Barbara Güngerich.

In Auswanderung die Nordamerika, Friedrich Blendinger lists the family of David Springer, his wife, and seven children. They emigrated from Sollin with 3,000 florins in 1949, stating that their destination was Illinois. They sailed on the Minnesota via Liverpool to New York, where they arrived June 21, 1849. The passenger list shows David Springer, 43; Elisabeth, 43; Catharine, 22; Elisabeth, 19; Johann, 15; Christian, 13; Joseph, 11; Magdalena, 9; and Barbara, 7. As noted earlier in EIGSTI, their fares from New York to Chicago would have been about $9.50. This would have been equivalent to about $250 in modern buying power.

From there many in their group traveled directly to Central Illinois. The party included 17-year-old Christian Eigsti; the widow Valentine Birky of Gern (now part of Munich) with the youngest five of his 13 children; Jacob Stalter (found as 'Stalder') and his new wife Barbara Birkey, a niece of Valentine Birky; 67-year-old Daniel Zehr of Hanfeld; George Ritthaler (found on the passenger list as George 'Riedthaier,' 30), who became a member of the Dillon Creek meeting; Andreas Oesch, 26, of Hanfeld; and Elizabeth Egli, 50, of Hanfeld.
Elisabeth died within three months of the family's arrival in Central Illinois. She is buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

David initially settled in Tremont (the township was established in 1851). He farmed there for eight years. He applied for naturalization at Pekin Dec. 29, 1854., and was affirmed Jan. 11, 1855. His application said that he was born at Struth, but had given allegiance to Maximilian of Bavaria.

In 1858 David resettled at Little Mackinaw, where he is found on the 1860 census.

In 1854 a 'Delavan Prairie meeting' had been formed, meeting every second Sunday in private homes. Some of the first heads of families were Christian Nafziger, Peter Nafziger, Joseph Litwiller, Christian Schlegel, and Christian Birkey. David Springer joined that meeting. It later became known as the Hopedale Amish-Mennonite Church or the German Church. In 1876 a building was constructed to become the Hopedale Mennonite Church.

The children of David Springer and Elisabeth Guth born at Sollin near Munich include:

1. Catherine Springer was born in 1829, and died in Woodford County in December 1849. On Dec. 9, 1849 in Tazewell County she married Pierre/Peter Zehr. He was born at Struth June 1, 1819, and died in August 1850, a son of Joseph Zehr and Anna Verly. Catherine must have died within weeks of her marriage; her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora calls her, "Catharine Springer, Ehefrau des Peter Zehr gest. 1849." Pierre/Peter died in August 1850.

2. Elizabeth Springer was born July 24, 1830, and died Aug. 30, 1921. On Feb. 2, 1850 in Tazewell County she married Valentine Birky. He was born Oct. 12, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County June 28, 1901, a son of Valentine Birky and Elizabeth Unzicker. In 1846 he was a Daniel Kilby passenger. Valentine is listed as 38-year-old farmer Valentine 'Bucky' on the 1860 census of Tremont. The 1880 census of Tremont lists their household as farmer Valentine Burkey, 59; Elisabeth Burkey, 48; and 7 children. Every member of the household is erroneously listed as a native of Berne with parents from Bern. For his obituary see BIRKY/BIRKEY.

3. John Springer was born Aug. 28 or 29, 1834, and died May 13, 1896. On March 16, 1857 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Nafziger. She was born May 1, 1836, and died Feb. 2, 1908, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Veronica Burkey. They are found on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw as John Springer, 35, born in Bavaria to a father from France and a mother from Bavaria: Elizabeth, 42, born in Bavaria to Prussian parents; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale.

4. Christian Springer was born Oct. 12, 1835, and died at Peoria July 9, 1920. He is found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as a farm laborer in the household of Joseph Ropp and Catherine Birky. On Nov. 1, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Fannie Reeser. She was born in Ohio Aug. 19, 1842, and died Feb. 13, 1906, a daughter of John Reeser and Katharina Zimmerman. They farmed 235 acres in Section 2 of Boynton.

5. Joseph Springer was born June 29, 1837, and died at Hopedale March 29, 1902. On May 24, 1863 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Nafziger. She was born on the Rohrhof estate in Schwetzingen district, Baden Sept. 9, 1834, and died Sept. 22, 1869, a son of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hunsicker/Unzicker. Joseph and Barbara are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale, where their joint headstone spells her surname 'Nafziger.' They appear on the 1880 census of Little Mackinaw, and the 1900 census of Minier (a village within Little Mackinaw township). Barbara may be the 69-year-old Barbary Springer in the household of Ben Springer on the 1910 census of Little Mackinaw.

6. Magdalena Springer was born Feb. 2, 1840, and died at Colfax, McLean County July 16, 1921. On March 28, 1859 in Tazewell County she married Christian Litwiller. He was born at Milford, Butler County, Ohio Sept. 15, 1835, and died at Waldo, Livingston County Aug. 13, 1917, a son of Joseph Litwiller and Barbara Ulrich. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery.

7. Barbara Springer was born April 28, 1842, and died at Boynton Jan. 16, 1917. On March 20, 1862 in Tazewell County she married Valentine Nafziger. She was born on the Rohrhof estate in Schwetzingen district, Baden Sept. 9, 1834, and died Sept. 22, 1869, a son of Peter Nafziger and Katharina Hunsicker/Unzicker. Barbara is is found on the 1900 census of Boynton as mother-in-law Barbara Nafziger, born in Germany in April 1842, immigrated 1849, living in the household of Henry Schantz, born in Germany in April 1864; and Bertha, born in Illinois to German parents in December 1867. Gospel Herald, February 1917; "Barbara Springer Nafziger was born in Germany, April 28, 1842; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Anna Birky, near Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 16, 1917; aged 74 y. 9 m. 19d. She was married to Valentine Nafziger, who preceded her in death in September, 1869. To this union were born 3 children who still survive her, namely, Mrs. Anna E. Birky, Mrs. Lena Litwiller, and Mrs. Bertha Schantz, all of near Hopedale, Ill. She also leaves to mourn her death 17 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother, besides many other relatives and friends, but who mourn not as those who have no hope. She united with the A. M. Church in her childhood days, and lived a consecrated Christian life, till death came and she was called home. Funeral services were held at the A. M. Church near Hopedale, Ill., by J. C. Birky and Daniel Nafziger in the German language, and Simon Litwiller in English. The latter's text was Rev. 14:14. Interment in the A. M. Cemetery. Rest in peace."

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232 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Frana Reisor.'
David's Cousin Jean Springer/John Spring

Christian Springer and Suzanne Farny were married on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle Feb. 2, 1809. Their son Johannes/John Spring was born at Sturzelbronn, Moselle Feb. 2, 1817. He was not only a cousin to David Springer, but also a cousin to Joseph Stecker/Staker (1808-1872) of Morton. He may have immigrated with Michael Zimmerman and Magdalena Erb, and Johannes Müller and Magdalena Eyer. The packet ship Polan departed Le Havre and arrived at New York May 3, 1839. The passenger list includes Magdalena Springer, 35, and Johannes Spring, 22. This suggests that he had worked with the Zimmermans and Müllers near St. Valentin, Indre, France; their employer was Comte Henri Gatien Bertrand, the former aide-de-camp to Napoleon (see ROTH for background on Bertrand).

In Tazewell County Jean Springer would be known as John Spring. The 1850 census of Tazewell County shows three households in succession. They were situated on the northwest corner of what became Groveland overlapping into Fond du Lac:

- Peter Ringerbarger [Ringenberg], 64, farmer, France; Anne [Schrag], 62, France; Christian, 30, laborer, France; Abraham, 17, Pennsylvania.
- John Oyer, 34, farmer, France; Ann, 23, France; Joseph, 5, Illinois; Catharina, 4, Illinois; Anne, 2, Illinois; Peter, 5 months, Illinois; and Joseph, 36, farmer, France.
- Daniel Miller, 40, farmer, Germany; Adaline, 34, Germany; Martin, 9, Ohio; Madeline, 8, Ohio; John, 6, Ohio; John Springer, farmer, 34, Germany; Catharine Miller, 26, Germany; and John Oyer, 64, Germany.

On Sept. 1, 1850 in Peoria County John Spring married Catherine Farni/Farny/Forney. She was born on Alzing farm at Gosselming Nov. 1, 1828, a daughter of Peter/Pierre Farny and Anne Kempf. Peter/Pierre and his brother Christian were 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln' (see FARNY).

The 1860 census of Groveland lists these families in succession:

- Farmer John Oyer, 42, France; Anne [Farny], 33, France; and several children born in Illinois; also in the household, widow Catherine Schrock, 64, France [this was Catherine Oyer, widow of John Schrock].
- Farmer John Spring, 40, France; Catharine [Farny], 30, France; and five children born in Illinois. John would later remarry to Joseph Schrock's widow.
- Farmer Peter Ringenger, 74; his son Abraham, 32; Barbara [Barbara Stalter, Abraham's wife], 25; and Peter, seven months.
- Widow Catharine Schrock [Catherine Ringenberg, the widow of Joseph Schrock], 34, France: Ann, 9, Illinois; and Peter, three months, Illinois.

Catherine Farny died at Groveland March 28, 1868. On Nov. 7, 1869 at Groveland John remarried to Catherine Ringenberg, also known as Katie Ringenger. She was a daughter of Pierre Ringenberg/Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag, and the widow of Joseph Oyer Schrock. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff, Moselle Nov. 14, 1826.

The 1870 census of Fond du Lac shows them as John Spring, 53, France; Catharine, 43, France; Christian, 18; Peter, 16; Anna, 15; Joseph, 13; John, 11; Daniel, 8; Magdelena, 6; and David, 5; all children born in Illinois. They lived next door to Catherine's brother Abraham Ringenger and his wife Barbara Stalter.

The 1880 census of Fond du Lac shows them as farmer Christ Spring [John Spring], 64, France; Catharine, 43, Germany; Peter, 27; John, 20; Samuel, 17, 'bilious fever'; Madaline, 17; and David, 15. All the children were noted as having been born in Illinois, to parents from France and Canada (though their natural mother Catherine Farny was actually born in France in 1828, and only lived in Canada 1831-34). They were still living next door to 'A. Rinkenberger.'

John died at Groveland Jan. 25, 1891. He and his first wife are buried in Guth Cemetery at Washington under a joint headstone. His second wife Catherine Ringenberg died at Farndale Jan. 24, 1905. She is thought to be buried in Guth Cemetery, though no headstone is found there.

The children of Johannes/John Springer and his first wife Catherine Farny include:

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233 A point that may or may not be relevant: Joseph Risser was witness to the death of Joseph Spring, 18, at Jeu le Fois, Indre Sept. 13, 1830. A look at Sturzelbronn records may tell us if Joseph was a brother or cousin to Jean.

234 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Catharine Forney.'
1. Christian Spring was born in 1852, and died in 1914. On May 21, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Frona Oesterle.\textsuperscript{235} She was born Aug. 22, 1854, and died July 21, 1919. They are found on the 1880 and 1910 censuses of Washington. They are buried at Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

2. Peter Spring was born at Morton in April 1954, and died at Limestone Township, Peoria Sept. 2, 1920. He farmed at Washington. He is buried in Glendale Cemetery.

3. Anna Spring was born in January 1856. On Nov. 11, 1877 in Tazewell County she married John Hulse. They are found on the 1880 census of Clayton, Woodford County. The 1900 census of Yakima, Washington shows them as blacksmith J.H. Hulse, 4, born in Illinois in July 1855 to German parents; Anna, 44, born in Illinois in January 1856 to a father from Pennsylvania and a mother from France; and five children born in Illinois.

4. Joseph Spring was born at Fandale March 27, 1857, and died at Washington Dec. 30, 1927. On April 3, 1884 in Tazewell County he married Margaret ‘Maggie’ Behrends. She was born at Morton circa 1863, and died there circa 1946.

5. John Spring was born at Washington Dec. 9, 1859, and died at Peoria March 22, 1923. On March 29, 1887 at Washington he married Anna Katherine ‘Katie’ Geltmacher.\textsuperscript{236} She was born at Morton Jan. 6, 1867, and died at Washington Jan. 16, 1942, a daughter of Henry Geltmacher and Anna Margaretha Möhl. They lived at Fond du Lac. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

6. Daniel Spring was born Aug. 15, 1861, and died at Peoria Aug. 27, 1925. Daniel was a painter at Peoria.

7. Magdalena Spring was born Feb. 26, 1863, and died July 23, 1951. On April 2, 1885 in Tazewell County she married Frederick Opper. He was born Feb. 15, 1861, and died March 5, 1936, a son of Charles Opper and Katherine Pauley. They are buried under a joint headstone in Fond du Lac Township Cemetery at East Peoria.

8. David Spring was born at Fond du lac Dec. 2, 1864, and died at Peoria April 28, 1929. On April 7, 1887 in Tazewell County he married Emma Dinicus. David was a carpenter at Richwood Village, Peoria. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.

## McLean County Springers

**Gaspard Spring** was the father of **Jörg Springer** (he signed his own name 'Jörg,' but it often appeared on civil entries as Georges).\textsuperscript{237} Jörg was born circa 1753, and died at Hoff (adjacent to Sarrebourg), Moselle Dec. 17, 1813. Jörg may have been an older brother to Daniel Springer born in 1750, but this cannot be verified with documentation. If so it would mean that the Springers of McLean County were cousins to the Springers of Tazewell County.

Jörg married Magdalena/Madeleine Würgler. She was born at Bébing July 8, 1760, and died at Hoff Jan. 5, 1825, a daughter of Rudolf/Rodolphe Würgler and his first wife Barbe Engel

As noted in the supplantal genealogy VERCLER, an official document created at Sarrebourg June 17, 1794 barred Rudolf/Rodolphe Würgler and his son-in-law Jörg Springer from holding Anabaptists meetings in the Mattmühl.

The children of Jörg Springer and Magdalena/Madeleine Würgler/Vercler born in the Mattmühl ('grain mill') at Sarrebourg (all except André) include:

1. **Christien/Christian Springer** was born Sept. 21, 1782, and died at Stanford, McLean County Oct. 8, 1879.
2. **Catherine Springer** was born Aug. 14, 1783. On Feb. 6, 1807 at Hoff she married Christian Gerber, a son of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich. Christian was probably born at Kreutzfeld. An 1839 ship’s passenger list gives his age as 52, yielding a birth year circa 1777. A second dubious source, his marriage entry created at a time of high military conscription, stated that he was born at Insviller in 1765. (See GERBER AND GARBER).
3. **Madeleine Springer** was born in 1784, and died at St. Médard, Moselle May 1, 1854.
4. **André Springer** was born June 15, 1788, and died at St. Médard, Moselle May 2, 1861. On May 25, 1809 at Bourscheid he married Catherine Oesch. She was born at Bourscheid in 1789, and died at St. Médard Sept. 1, 1866, a daughter of Nicolas Oesch/Esch and Madeleine Baechler.
5. **Joseph Springer** was born Jan. 17, 1790, and died as an infant.
6. **Joseph Springer** was born May 1, 1791.
7. **Christien Springer** as born July 1, 1792 and died as an infant.
8. **Marie Springer** was born Jan. 14, 1793, and died there July 14, 1795.
9. **Pierre/Peter Springer** was born circa 1795. On March 15, 1823 at Destry he married Marie/Mary Engel. She was born at Bistestroy, Moselle in 1800, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber. They are found on the 1840 Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Katie Geldmacher.'

\textsuperscript{235} The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Frona Easterly.'

\textsuperscript{236} The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Frona Easterly.'

\textsuperscript{237} Gaspard Spring's second wife was Anne Eissin (1732-1798). She was too young to have been the father of his son Georges.
census of Liberty Township, Butler County. Peter and ‘Mary’ can also be found on the 1850 census of Liberty Township; and on the 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County (this community became Allin in 1867). They are buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers as “Peter Springer, June 1800”, and “Mary, his wife, June 1800-Sept. 1870” (near Bachman, Schoenbeck, and Christian Famy/Sleeker/Staker).

10. Anne Springer was born Dec. 10, 1795. On Dec. 21, 1822 at Destry she married Jean Engel. He was born at Inspviller Oct. 27, 1796, and died at Dolving Dec. 13, 1843, a son of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber. They lived at Ernestviller.


**Chrétien/Christian Springer** was born in the Mattmühl at Sarrebourg Sept. 15, 1792. Amish Mennonites were frequently retained by French officers as servants. The employer's idea was to travel and live within an immediate circle of politically-neutral, nonviolent people. Their communal practices and common religion made each one intimately familiar with the group — and more likely to recognize a stranger in their midst. See EIGSTI for the story of one employer, Napoleon's spymaster Schulmeister.

A biography of a son in *The History of McLean County, Illinois* describes his father Christian Springer: "From 1812 to 1815, he was in the service of, and member of the body guard of Napoleon the First." *The Sequicentennial History of Washington* says, "The Springers came from France, where a brother, Christian, served as a personal bodyguard to Napoleon Bonaparte and was in the memorable battle at Waterloo." *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* says: "Christian Springer was a miller by trade, and with four other brothers, served under Napoleon in the War of 1812, in his native country, for a period of four years and then deserted, for the third time, finally coming to the United States."

On Dec. 21, 1822 at Destry Christian married Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel in a double ceremony with sister Anne Springer and Jean Engel. The civil entry said that he was living at Hoste. Witnesses included Gaspard Gerber, 78, and Joseph Schwendi, 44. She was born Feb. 24, 1796, a daughter of Joseph Engel and Magdalena Gerber.238

*The History of McLean County* says that the Springers "...came to the United States, and landed at New Orleans June 12, 1830; went to Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio, July 5, the same year."

*Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* says Christian "...purchased 206 acres of land, where he resided for sixteen years." Christian appears on the 1830 census of Madison Township as a neighbor of Christian Augspurger, and on the 1840 census of Fairfield Township next door to brother-in-law Christian Gerber ('Christian Garver') who married his oldest sister Catherine.

They sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New Orleans, arriving June 12, 1830.

The Butler County Records Center in Hamilton, Ohio holds a naturalization Declaration of Intent from the September 1840 court term for Christian Springer, 48, from France; and sons Joseph, 16; Peter, 13; Christian, 11; John, 6; and Andrew, 4. Christian and Magdalena are absent from the 1850 census of Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio. It shows a household with only their children: farmer Joseph Springer, 25, France; Peter, 22, France; Christian, 20, France; Magdalena, 17, Ohio; John, 12, Ohio; Andrew, 10, Ohio; Catharine, 7; Ohio; and Mary, 5, Ohio.

In 1853 sons Joseph and Peter Springer ran a dry goods store at Hamilton, Butler County. It was destroyed by fire in February 1954. Joseph remained in Butler County, while his parents and siblings moved on to McLean County. They arrived at Danvers Nov. 10, 1854, and resettled at Allin in 1856.

On Sept. 26, 1865 three of the younger brothers obtained public land in Allin. The names Christian W., John S., and Andrew J. Springer appear on the purchases of two parcels in Section 10: 107 acres and 53 acres, at $10 per acre.

On the 1870 census of Allin, McLean County Christian is described as an 82-year-old retired farmer from France and ‘Magdeleine’ as a 77-year-old from France; the household also includes Andrew, 34; Ohio; Mary, 24; Ohio; and servant Mary Sherbine, 16, Ohio.

Magdalena/Magdeleine Engel died at Stanford Sept. 29, 1870. *Gospel Herald*, November 1870: "On the 29th of September, in McLean county, Illinois, Magdalena Springer, aged 72 years, 2 months and 7 days. She lived 48 years in the bonds of matrimony, and leaves a deeply afflicted husband, 8 children, and 11 grand-children. She was a member of the Mennonite church since she was 14 years old, and trusted in God unto the end. She was buried on the 2nd of October, and many friends and relations followed her to the grave. Funeral discourses were delivered by Pre. Harris and the writer in English, and by Michael Linsinger in the German language. Chr. Gingerich."

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238 *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* gives the birth date Feb. 2, 1796.
Christian Springer died at Stanford Oct. 3, 1879. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford. Their children include:

1. **Joseph Springer**, also known as Joseph E. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Dec. 21, 1823.\(^{239}\)
2. Catherine Springer was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Feb. 21, 1825. She died as an infant.
3. Peter Springer, also known as Peter D. Springer, was born at Lorquin, Moselle Sept. 5, 1826, and died at Stanford, McLean County April 24, 1916. On Nov. 13, 1856 in Tazewell County he married Elise/Eliza Brenneman. She was born at Wohra, Hesse Oct. 13, 1831, and died at Stanford June 7, 1911, a daughter of Daniel Brenneman and Elisabeth Jutzi. The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County calls her Eliza, 27, born in Ohio; but the 1870 census of Allin (the same community under a new name) describes the household as farmer Peter D. Springer, 43, France; Eliza, 39, Hesse; and four children born in Illinois. After his store in Butler County burned in February 1854, Peter worked for two years in dry goods stores at Peoria. In 1856 he resettled at Allin with other members of his family. He was elected to terms as McLean County justice of the peace in 1873 and 1878. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford, McLean County.

4. Christian Springer, also known as Christian W. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Oct. 25, 1828. On March 28, 1871 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Stalter. She was born in Germany March 22, 1837, and died in 1919, a daughter of Joseph Stalter and Katharina Rediger/Rediger. They are found on the 1880 census of Martin, McLean County as farmer C.W. Springer, 50, France; Elizabeth, 42, Germany; and four children born in Illinois.

5. Magdalena Springer was born at Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio in 1831, and died in 1916. On Dec. 28, 1864 in McLean County she married widower Nicholas Risser. He was born July 15, 1836, and died Aug. 12, 1907. He had married Katie Gerber/Garber in Butler County, Ohio March 21, 1858. The ceremony was conducted by minister Nicholas Augspurger, and is listed in *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* as 'Nicholas Reaser and Katie Garver.' Katie had one child and died before the 1860 federal census of Fairfield, Butler County 1860.\(^{240}\) The 1870 census of Allin shows Nicholas and Magdalena's household as farmer Nicolas Resser, 35, born in France; Magdalena, 39, born in Ohio to French parents; Catherine, 63, "living with son," born in France; Barbaray, 12, born in Ohio; Anna M., 1, born in Illinois; and John Riser, 21, born in Illinois; and on the 1880 census of Allin, McLean County as farmer Nicholas Rissor, 46, Germany; Magdaline, 49, born in Ohio to French parents; four children born in Illinois; and Catharine Rissor, mother, 70. They are buried as Magdalena Risser and Nicholas J. Risser in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.

6. John Springer, also known as John S. Springer, was born at Madison Township Nov. 13, 1833, and died Jan. 23, 1904. On Nov. 16, 1865 in McLean County he married Susan Sharbine. She was born in Pennsylvania Aug. 5, 1851, and died Nov. 14, 1905, a daughter of John Sharbine and Sophie Lape. John and Susan appear on the 1880 census of Allin as John Springer, 46, born in Ohio to parents from 'Lourean' [Lorraine]; Susan Springer, 26, born in Pennsylvania; and five children born in Illinois. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

7. Andrew Springer, also known as Andrew J. Springer, was born at Madison Township April 24, 1836, and died at Cleghorn, Oklahoma Nov. 29, 1915. On July 22, 1875 in McLean County he married Elizabeth Slabaugh [Schlabach].\(^{241}\) She was born in Allegany County, Maryland May 9, 1851, and died at Cicero, Cook County Feb. 14, 1928, a daughter of Daniel Slabaugh and Marie Brenneman.

8. Catherine 'Kate' Springer was born at Madison Township Aug. 13, 1839, and died at Gibson City, Ford County May 21, 1915. On Feb. 20, 1862 in McLean County she married Peter Schertz. He was born Aug. 18, 1833, and died June 13, 1911, a son of Joseph Schertz and Marie Lehman. They lived at Stanford. They are buried in Gibson City Cemetery.

9. Mary Springer, also known as Mary A. Springer, was born at Madison Township circa 1845, and died at Stanford May 17, 1889. On June 4, 1874 in McLean County she married David Habecker. He was born in Germany Nov. 18, 1835, and died at Stanford June 29, 1924, a son of Johannes Habecker and Magdalena Klein. They are found on the 1880 census of Allin as farmer David Habecker, 44, Germany; Mary A., 37, Ohio; and daughter Emma, Illinois. They are buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.

10. George Springer died in infancy.

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\(^{239}\) *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County* gives the birth date Dec. 24, 1824. Our date is drawn from the civil record.

\(^{240}\) His household can be found on the 1860 federal census of Fairfield, Butler County as Nicholas Reesor, 24, Germany; Catherine [his mother], 55, Germany; Barbaray, 1, Ohio; and John Myers, 30, Germany. We could not identify the mother of Nicholas Risser. Her obituary: *Herald of Truth*, August 1892: "July 2, 1892, in McLean Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Catharine Risser, aged 85 years. She was born in France, came to this country in 1856 settling in Butler Co., Ohio, and in 1868 moved to McLean Co., Ill., where she lived with her only son Nicholas, until her demise. Besides her son she leaves five grand children and two great-grand children to mourn their loss. Buried on the 4th at Stanford. Funeral services by Peter Schantz and Joseph Stuckey from Rev. 14:13 and Phil. 1:21. She was a peaceable member of the church." She is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Stanford.

\(^{241}\) The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Andrew J. Springer and Eliza Stanbaugh.
Oldest son Joseph Springer, also known as Joseph E. Springer, was born at Sarrebourg, Moselle Dec. 24, 1824. His story not only explains a rift in the Springer family, but crosses over into Tazewell County, and explains the family breakup that saw the Schweizer family of Morton disperse to other states.

On July 21, 1852 in Butler County he married Catherine Kinsinger. She died April 3, 1853. In that year Joseph and his brother Peter ran a dry goods store at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. When the store was destroyed by fire in February 1854, his parents and siblings decided to resettle in McLean County. He elected to remain in Butler County with his Kinsinger in-laws.

In Butler County he practiced law. Though the name Joseph E. Springer appears as a witness for at least two naturalizations in McLean County in 1864 (including Killian Kennel), Joseph apparently remained at Hamilton, where he represented a mining company with offices there.

In 1868 he decided to buy a farm near his family in McLean County. He made an agreement with his brother John Springer and brother-in-law Nicholas Risser. Joseph would send money, and they would purchase land for him. In 1868 and 1869 he mailed $2,000 in bank drafts from Ohio to Illinois.

A farm was purchased in February 1869, but the title was placed solely in the name of Nicholas Risser. When Joseph returned to Illinois, he found that his investment had yielded nothing. But his two 'partners' promised to revise the land title to give him partial possession.

On Jan. 11, 1870 Joseph remarried to a much younger partner. Catherine 'Kate' Risser, a daughter of Nicholas/Nicholas Risser and Catherine Schmid, was only 17 years old. She may or may not have been related to the Nicholas Risser who held title to Joseph's land (his mother's background could not be determined).

KATE RISSER'S FAMILY

Kate's father Nicolas Risser was born at Gosselming, Moselle Oct. 19, 1811, a son of Nicolas Risser and Barbe Engel. He had a European family connection to Johannes/John Suisse (1807-1885), known in Morton as John Schweitzer or Switzer. He had two sisters who married Jean Suisse (1802-1871), a son of Christian Suisse and Marie Farny who was also a cousin of Johannes/John known as John.

On Dec. 16, 1845 at Imling, Moselle Nicolas Risser married Catherine Schmid (also found as 'Magdalena' on American censuses). She was born at Imling April 15, 1824. Their family can be found on the passenger list of the Heidelberger as it arrived at New Orleans from Le Havre in February 1859: Nicolas Riessler, 47, France; Catherine, 32; Andrés, 16; Joseph, 14; Emilee [later found as Marie or Mary], 12; Hanette [later found as Anna], 10; Pierre, 8; Catherine, 6; and Madeleine, 3. Upon arrival they traveled directly to Woodford County.

The other children of Nicolas/Nicholas and Catherine included André/Andrew (married to Marie/Mary Schweitzer), Joseph (married to Catherine Schweitzer), Emilie Marie/Mary, Annette/Anna, Peter (married to Barbara Strubhar), Magdalena/Madeleine/Maggie (married to Valentine Naffziger), and Victoria (married to William R. Rusmisell). They are found on the 1860 census of Montgomery, Woodford County as farmer Nicholas Reaser, 50, France; Magdalane, 36, France; Andrew, 18; Joseph, 16; Mary, 14; Anna, 12; and Catherine, 6; all children born in France. Elsewhere on the same page was his cousin Christian Farny (with his brother Peter 'the Amishmen who hired Lincoln') and Christian's wife Magdalena Strubhar.

On the 1870 census of Montgomery they are shown next door to the Farnys as farmer Nicholas Raseman, 52, France; Magdalene, 40, France; Adine [slurred handwriting meant to be 'Andrew'], 27; Joseph, 24; and Peter, 21; sons born in France. The 1880 census of Stanford, McLean County shows their household as farmer Nicholas Risser, 69, born in France to French parents; Magdalena Risser, wife, 55, born in France to French parents; Maggie Nafziger, daughter, 24, born in France to French parents; Victoria Risser, daughter, 20, born in Illinois to French parents; and Louisa Schweitzer, 5, born in Illinois to French parents.

The dates of death and burial places of Nicolas/Nicholas Risser and Catherine Schmid could not be determined.

Their household is found on the 1870 census of Allin as farmer Joseph E. Springer, 46, born in France; Catherine, 17, born in France; and John Springer, 35, born in Ohio.

As the families of John Springer and Nicholas Risser grew, they came to see the purchased farm as an investment opportunity. They wanted to keep it intact to enhance its rental and resale value. Joseph was repeatedly rebuffed when he asked to have the land title rewritten to reflect his investment.

Eventually Joseph decided to bring suit, naming his brother John Springer and brother-in-law Nicholas Risser as co-defendants. His claim was heard in the circuit court of McLean County in August 1876. Joseph presented evidence that included bank drafts he had sent and letters he had received in Ohio. He won the case, and was given a quarter interest in the farm. He also received an award of $1,334 in damages to compensate for rent he should have received from the other two over the intervening years. The court decision said Joseph had waited "from spring until fall, and fall until spring" to receive the promised proper title.

Local public opinion must have come down on the side of Joseph. He served one term as supervisor of Allin, and two terms as justice of the peace. He and Kate appear on the 1880 census of Stanford as lawyer Joseph E.
Springer, 54, born in France to French parents; Catharine, 27, born in France to French parents; and three children born in Illinois.

John Springer delayed paying the damages to his brother as long as he could. In 1885 his appeal reached the Supreme Court of Illinois at Springfield as the case Springer vs. Springer. There a judge confirmed the original decision.

The ill will from the law suits was so unsettling that many family members left the county. The 1900 census of Buckley Village, Artesia Township, Iroquois County shows Joseph E. Springer, 75, born in France in December 1824 to French parents; Catherine, 48, born in France in August 1851 to French parents; and five of their children born in Illinois. It also noted that Joseph had been a citizen since 1841, and Catherine had been a citizen since 1858.
Dellenbach of Donon

Dählenbach is a valley brook. The Swiss Düllenbach or Dellenbach family has legal points of origin [Ger. Heimatort] at Langnau and Signau in Canton Bern.

The progenitor of this family line was Andreas Dallenbach/André Dellenbach. He was born at Eriswil, Canton Bern circa 1621, and died at his home on the road called Saint Philippe at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Feb. 12, 1687. His children or grandchildren include:

1. **Andreas/André Dellenbach** was born circa 1663, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines June 20, 1702. He was a weaver [Fr. tisserand].

   On Feb. 8, 1688 at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines he married Anne Marguerite Zancker. She was born at nearby Ribeauvillé circa 1663, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 6, 1737. Their children born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

   2. Andreas/André Dellenbach was born March 10, 1691, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines May 11, 1691.
   3. Johannes Jacob/Jean Jacques Dellenbach was born May 22, 1692.
   4. Verena/Verène Dellenbach was born April 3, 1695, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 14, 1769. She married Jean Lautenschlager and Henri Hupscher [Hübsher].
   5. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born Oct. 20, 1697, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 9, 1700 or Aug. 31, 1702.
   6. Andreas/André Dellenbach was born Oct. 10, 1700, and died Nov. 9, 1701.
   7. **Oswald Dellenbach** was born Oct. 29, 1701, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Nov. 24, 1746.

**Oswald Dellenbach** was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Oct. 29, 1701, and died there Nov. 24, 1746. He married Marie Madeleine Knauss at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 12, 1732. She was born at Mittelwihr, Upper Alsace (11 miles southeast of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) March 5, 1710, a daughter of Johann Jacob Knauss and Magdalena Vogel.

After 1745 they moved north to resettle as cultivators in Salm, the part of the town of La Broque where the prince of Salm had a farm (see ROPP). Swiss Anabaptist families had settled in the area after 1670. The first acknowledged Amish Mennonite religious leader at La Broque may have been Johannes 'Hans der Jüng' [the younger] Gingerich who arrived after 1712.

The children of Oswald Dellenbach and Marie Madeleine Knauss born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines include:

2. Jean Pierre Dellenbach was born Dec. 1, 1735.
3. **Oswald Dellenbach** was born Aug. 14, 1737, and died at Salm in La Broque Jan. 24, 1801.
4. Jean Frédéric Dellenbach was born Sept. 25, 1740.
5. Jean Marc Dellenbach was born Feb. 24, 1742.
6. Madeleine Dellenbach was born May 18, 1744, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Sept. 29, 1744.
7. Jean Jacques Dellenbach was born Sept. 8, 1745.
Oswald Dellenbach was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines Aug. 14, 1737, and died at Salm in La Broque Jan. 24, 1801. He married Sara Forwald/Forvalt [Fordemwald]. She died at Salm July 22, 1792.

On Dec. 21, 1751 property from the Duchy of Lorraine passed to the prince of Salm. They had their family farm in Salm at La Broque, but moved the seat of government to Senones (now in the department of Vosges). The prince became sovereign of a

16-by-16 mile area encompassing 10,000 citizens and 30 villages. Anabaptists found themselves ideally situated in an entity that did not have to follow French or Alsatian dictates. The principality of Salm was not dissolved until 1793, when it was absorbed by France. Thus 'Salm' might refer to a part of the town of La Broque, or the principality of Salm, or its ruling family. For more on the principality see ROPP.

The children of this couple resettled in the heights along the road Rue du Donon. It runs through Raon-sur-Plaine, a village that is now located in the department of Vosges. Neuhausers and Sommers lived there. The road leads east to a clearing called Haut Donon, near the top of Mont Donon, the highest peak in the northern Vosges mountains. The peak is over a departmental boundary into Lower Alsace. From there the road turns, heading south downhill to the mining town of Grandfontaine. It is crisscrossed with streams running east to the Bruche river. Farther downhill is the hamlet of Framont. In the 1700s it was the site of iron foundries and forges. Finally La Broque and Schirmbeck sit by the Bruche river. (For more on this area see ROPP)

The children of Oswald Dellenbach and his first wife Sara Forvalt/Forwald include:

1. David Dellenbach was born at La Broque circa 1760, and died at Bourg-Bruche April 13, 1840, age 60. He civil death entry described him as a son of Oswald Dellenbach and Elisabeth Forvald, and the widower of Anne Neuhauser; it was witnessed by his son Jacob Dellenbach, 39. David married Anne Marie Neuhauser. She was born at La Broque in 1763, and died at Bourg-Bruche March 31, 1837, a daughter of Christian Neuhauser and Véronique Vonpond. They lived at Calmaquet (near La Broque) and Bourg-Bruche.

2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born circa 1765. A translation of an entry found in Catholic records from Plaine: “In the year 1790, on the 25th day of March, Elisabeth Dellenbach, 25, of the parish of La Broque has been a resident of Plaine for several months. Having come to the realization that the true church is the way to salvation, of her own volition and without coercion, she has made a profession of faith in the Roman Catholic Church and renounced the Anabaptist heresy.” Three weeks later, on April 13, 1790 at La Broque she married Joseph Gerst. He was 30, a son of Henri Gerst and Barbe Klein of Plaine. The Catholic marriage entry described Elisabeth’s parents as “Oswald Dellenback et de Salomé Fortenwald de la religion anabaptiste.” The bride signed with an ‘x’, indicating she was illiterate.

3. Christian Dellenbach may belong here. He was born circa 1772, and died at Raon-sur-Plaine Dec. 11, 1819.

4. Ulrich Dellenbach was born circa 1781, and died at La Broque May 1, 1794. His civil death entry described him as Ulrich Tallepach, 23, a son of cultivator Oswald Tallepach of Salm. It was witnessed by Christian Gerber and Jacob Beller.

On May 5, 1794 Oswald remarried to Sarah Vagner. She was born at Selestat, Lower Alsace Aug. 3, 1751, a daughter of Jean Vagner and Elisabeth Kheller. They had no children together.

Oswald died at Salm in La Broque Jan. 24, 1801. His civil death entry called him ‘Owald Dalebach.’ It described him as a 66-year-old cultivator born at Salm in La Broque, who was married to Sara Vagler (an incorrect spelling of Vagner). It said that he was a son of the deceased Oswald Dalebach and Magdelaine Knausin. The entry was witnessed by cultivator ‘Jaquele Dalebach,’ 40 (he was actually about 34); he signed ‘Jacob Dellenbach.’

Sarah Vagner remarried to Christian Baltzli (found as ‘Baltze’) at La Broque Feb. 24, 1806. He was born at Freistett, Freibourg near Rhodes (now in Moselle) March 9, 1745, and died at La Broque Jan. 8, 1807, a son of Rudolf Bälzli and Barbe Gerber. Witnesses included elder Jacob Kupferschmidt, 75, and Christian Gerber, 38, as friends of the bride; and Ulrich Von Gond, 55, and Christian Neuhauser, 43, as friends of the groom.

Christian Baltzli was a son to Rudolf Bälzli and Barbara Gerber. He was also a brother to Rudolf/Rodolph/Rudolphes Bältzli, who was the grandfather of ‘Red Joe’ Belsley and his brothers, who were early settlers of what would become Woodford County. Thus this second marriage of a Dellenbach stepmother established a brief connection between the Belsley and Dellenbach families. When the Dellenbachs first arrived in Central Illinois they chose to settle near Spring Bay, where Belsleys were already established.

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1. Mont Donon is a climb in the Tour de France bicycle race and a tourist destination. 5,000-year-old Celtic and Roman artifacts from the Bronze Age such as stone axes, flints, and tools have been found there. They were removed to Strasbourg, but a neo-Roman structure was built in 1869 to shelter them still remains. It is thought that Mont Donon once held a number of buildings devoted to Teutates, a Gaulois diety; then the Romans rededicated it to Mercury.

2. Mont Donon is a climb in the Tour de France bicycle race and a tourist destination. 5,000-year-old Celtic and Roman artifacts from the Bronze Age such as stone axes, flints, and tools have been found there. They were removed to Strasbourg, but a neo-Roman structure was built in 1869 to shelter them still remains. It is thought that Mont Donon once held a number of buildings devoted to Teutates, a Gaulois diety; then the Romans rededicated it to Mercury.
Descendants of Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach (ca. 1772-1819)

Occasionally we may state that a Dellenbach event took place in Raon-sur-Plaine or Grandfontaine, where civil records were kept, when it actually took place in the woods of Donon between them. Presumably each village claimed part of the forest.

**Christian Dellenbach** was born circa 1773, and died at Donon Dec. 12, 1819. The civil death entry created at adjacent Raon-sur-Plaine described him as Christianne Tellenbach, 47. He married Barbara Schrensberg (her signature looked like 'Trensberg' and later 'Schvensberg'). She was born circa 1781, and died after 1833.

The couple worked as itinerant laborers, and had children in the departments of Meurthe-et-Moselle (1801); Moselle (1801); Meurthe-et-Moselle (1806); Schirmack, Lower Alsace (1810 and 1812); and at Donon, Lower Alsace (1815, record created at Grandfontaine). There may be more locations that have not been accounted for.

After his death Christian was described as a *voiturier* (a valet or porter) at Donon in a civil entry created at Raon-sur-Plaine.

Christian and Barbara had six readily identifiable children. Another is thought to belong to this family:

1. Joseph Dellenbach was born at Lagarde, Moselle Jan. 2, 1799, and died at Turquestein-Blancrupt, Moselle July 24, 1844. On Jan. 21, 1832 at Raon-sur-Plaine he married Barbe August. She was born at Strasbourg Aug. 13, 1810, a daughter of Joseph August and Barbara Augspurger. The marriage entry described Joseph as a *voiturier* at Raon-sur-Plaine like his father. His widowed mother 'Barbe Scherensberg' was described as a 51-year-old farmer at Donon who was present and consenting. It was witnessed by *voiturier* Christian Bächer, 29. On April 8, 1847 at Hermelange, Moselle Barbe August remarried to Jean Kempf, a son of André Kempf and Madeleine Abresol. Joseph's birth at Lagarde suggests a family familiarity with elder Christian Engel, who farmed on Jambrot farm at Lagarde.

2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born at Verdenal, Meurthe-et-Moselle Aug. 13, 1801 (per her marriage entry). On Aug. 22, 1833 at Raon-sur-Plaine she married François Antoine Aimé. Their civil marriage entry described him as a 27-year-old domestic living at Donon. He was born at Breitenbach, Lower Alsace June 8, 1806, a son of deceased parents Lorenz Aimé and Barbe Claude. Elisabeth was described as 32, a daughter of the deceased Christiane Delabach and Elizabeth Schvenber, who was present and consenting.

* Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach may belong here. According to the late historian-archivist Steve Estes, he was born circa 1803. We could not identify his source.

3. Anne Dellenbach was born at Angomont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Sept. 19, 1806, and died at Salm in 1866. On July 24, 1825 at Raon-sur-Plaine she gave birth to an illegitimate daughter Julie Dellenbach. The civil birth entry was witnessed by Anne's mother who was described as 'Barbe Schwenberger,' 45, a widow of the deceased Christian Dellenbach; and by laborer Jean Oury, 59. The entry gave Anne's age as 19. When Julie died at Donon July 3, 1827, the civil death entry witness was described as *voiturier* Joseph Dellenbach, 28. On Aug. 30, 1832 at Raon-sur-Plaine Anne married Joseph H. Neuhauar. He was born at Moussy, Vosges May 7, 1800, and died at Salm in 1868, a son of Joseph Neuhauar and Elisabeth Sommer. Anne and Joseph are buried in the cemetery at Salm.

4. Madelaine Dellenbach was born at Schirmack June 9, 1810. The civil birth entry described her as a daughter of Christianne Thélépach, *annabatiste*, 36, and 'Barbe Scvinparich,' living on Vackenbach at Schirmack. Her father Christian signed with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate.

5. Jean/John Dellenbach was born at Schirmack Aug. 24, 1812. The civil birth entry created the following day described her parents as Christianne Thélépach, *annabatiste*, 39, and 'Babe Schwinpar,' living on Vackenbach at Schirmack. Witnesses included landowner [Fr. *sieur*] Sebastian Paradis, 60, a cultivator on the Herenbach; and cultivator Louis Paradis, 50. Christian signed with an 'x'.

6. Pierre Dellenbach (found as 'Tellepach') was born at Donon Aug. 2, 1815. The entry created at Grandfontaine called his parents Christian Dellepach and Barbe Schvensburg of Framont at Grandfontaine, and gave Christian's age as 42.

We propose that Christian Dellenbach who was married in what later became Woodford County in 1837 was also a child of Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach and Barbara Schrensberg. Thus he and Jean/John Dellenbach were cousins to a family that came in 1842.

Christian and John:

**Christian Dellenbach**

Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach is thought to have been born circa 1803. Elder Christian Engel of Lagarde only ministered in Tazewell County for five years. He last spoke at a meeting of the Partridge Creek congregation Sept. 9, 1838, and died six days later. The late historian-archivist Steve
Estes identified 11 marriages performed by Engel in Illinois. A ceremony Nov. 20, 1836 united Christian Delebaugh (Christien/Christian Dellenbach) and Barbara Gerar (Barbara Schrag/Schraque/ Schrock).\footnote{Estes gives the date Nov. 20, 1837.}

Barbara was born 'Barbe Schraque' at Marsal, Moselle Dec. 14, 1805, a daughter of Hans Schrag/ Jean Schraque and his first wife Anne Engel (see SCHROCK). Thus elder Christian Engel, who performed the marriage ceremony, was Barbara's uncle.

Barbara brought one child to the marriage, 5-year-old Magdalena. They may have came to America in 1832, when the daughter was 1 year old (per remarks on the 1900 census), or later with widowed father Hans. Magdalena married Christian's cousin Jacob Dellenbach in 1848.

The Illinois Public Land Database notes that 'Christophe Delebaugh' purchased 80 acres in Section 9 of Township 27N June 10, 1845. Township 27N later became Worth in Woodford County.

The Mortality Schedule of Woodford County says 'Christian Delabaugh' was 'killed by a horse' in December 1849. Jacob Dellenbach was appointed executor of his estate. Jacob's surety bond was provided by Peter Bechler. After accounts were settled the estate totaled $2,534.50.

His widow and children are shown on the 1850 census of Woodford County. Their household included Barbary Delabaugh, 45, France; Christian, 15; Barbary, 12; Ann, 12; and Mary, 10; all children born in Illinois.

The children of Chrétien/Christian Dellenbach and Barbara Schrock born in what would become Woodford County include:

1. Christian Dellenbach was born circa 1835 (1850 census) or 1836 (1860 census), and died between 1865 and 1869. The Tax Assessment of 1862, District 7, shows Christian Dellenbach of Worth as a retail dealer paying $20. On March 7, 1865 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Wombacher (found as 'Warnbarger' on the marriage entry). She was born in Woodford County in April 1843, a daughter of John Wombacher and Magdalena Gross. After Christian's death she remarried to Henry Sommer. They are found on the 1880 census of Metamora as farmer Henry Summer, 38, Germany; Elisabeth, 37, born in Illinois to German parents; six children born in Illinois; and step-daughter Louise Delebach, 14, born in Illinois. Christian and Elizabeth are also thought to have had a son Frank born in 1862 (he was later a policeman at Peoria) and a daughter Magdalena.

2. Barbara Dellenbach [twin] was born circa 1838.\footnote{Barbara and Ann are both age 12 on the 1850 census. Their names are bracketed together.} She died before the 1860 census.

3. Ann/Anna Dellenbach [twin] was born circa 1838, and died March 24, 1862. Her headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery says died at 23 years, 10 months, and [illegible] days. She is found on the 1860 census of Spring Bay as a 21-year-old domestic in the household of Swiss butcher Charles Spillman.

4. Mary Dellenbach was born June 23, 1840, and died at Metamora April 20, 1897. Her headstone says she died April 20, 1897, age 56 years, 9 months, and 27 days. On Nov. 1, 1859 in Woodford County she married George Wagner. He was born at Stolpen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany Aug. 24, 1834, and died at Cruger, Woodford County May 15, 1889. The 1880 census of Cruger shows them as Wagonner, 47; Mary, 38; and seven children born in Illinois. They are buried in Union Cemetery at Washington, where their headstone calls George 'J.G.T. Wagner.'

Barbara Schrock died in Woodford County Oct. 26, 1852. Christian's cousin Jacob Dallenbach served as executor of her estate. After items were auctioned and accounts were settled her estate totaled only $34.10. Buyers included son Christian Dellenbach, Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach's husband Christian Gerber, John Bachman, and Michael Bechler.

**John Dellenbach**

Jean/John Dellenbach was born at Schirmeck Aug. 24, 1812.

He sailed from Le Havre on the Marcia Cleaves, and arrived at New Orleans July 26, 1840. He appears on the passenger list as laborer 'Jean Dehahot,' 27. For the story of his disastrous trip up the Mississippi River see GERBER AND GARBER.

The voyage also brought Peter Gerber and Magdalena Güngerich; their names appear immediately after his. Peter Gerber and Magdalena Güngerich had attended the marriage of their son Chrétien/Christian Gerber at La Broque Jan. 25, 1840. The bride was Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach, a cousin to Jean/John. The bride and groom would emigrate in 1842.

'John Delabaugh' appears on the 1850 census of Woodford County. He was living next door to the widow and children of Christian Dellenbach. His is shown as John Delabaugh, 40, France in the household of farmer Nathan Annice, 40, France.
After the accidental death of Christian in December 1849, John apparently acted as a stepfather for his children. When Christian's daughter Ann died, accounts identified her as a daughter of John and Barbara Dellenbach, though no marriage between John Dellenbach and Christian's widow was recorded.

John died intestate in Woodford County Jan. 16, 1857. Charles Molitor was appointed as executor of his estate Jan. 20, 1857; 22-year-old nephew Christian Dellenbach put up his $230 surety bond. Appraisers were Charles Molitor, Heinrich Rocke, and Joseph Donner. After settling accounts the estate came to $119.10.

**Descendants of Jacques/Jacob Dellenbach (1775-1835)**

**Jacques/Jacob Dellenbach** was born at Salm Oct. 4, 1775, and died at Grandfontaine Nov. 26, 1835. He married Magdalena/Madeleine Müller. She was born in 1760, and died at Raon-sur-Plaine March 1 or 4, 1808. Their children include:

1. Anne Dellenbach was born at Donon in 1795, and died at Gondrexange, Moselle March 22, 1848. On July 2, 1814 at Grandfontaine she married Jean Ringenberg. The civil marriage entry called them ‘Jean Rinckesbeck’ and ‘Anne Tellepach.’ The entry said that he was 25, born at Chazelles, Meurthe (actually Chazelles-sur-Albe, Moselle); his father Jean Ringenberg had died Dec. 14, 1809, and his mother Madeleine Haury had died Dec. 25, 1796. Anne was described as 19, born at Donon, a daughter of ‘Jacob Tellepach’ who was present and consenting, and the deceased Magdelaine Müller.

2. Elisabeth Dellenbach was born at La Broque Dec. 9, 1800, and died at Grandfontaine May 2, 1863. On May 26, 1830 at La Broque she married Jean Neuhauser. He was born at La Broque Dec. 7, 1806, and died at Grandfontaine Jan. 6, 1856, a son of Pierre Neuhauser and Anne Mosiman.

3. Marie Dellenbach was born at La Broque Sept. 30, 1803, and died before Aug. 20, 1810.

On April 20, 1808 at Grandfontaine Jacob remarried to Marie Neuhauser. She was born at La Broque Dec. 3, 1775, and died in Woodford County March 4, 1872, a daughter of Nicolas Neuhauser and Elizabeth Gerber/Karber/Karber.

The civil marriage entry described him as Jacques Dalebach, 40, born at Salm (dependence of La Broque) Oct. 4, 1767, a cultivator at Donon, Raon-sur-Plaine, and the widower of Magdeleine Muller, who died March 1, 1808. He was the adult son of Oswald Dalebach, who had died at Salm Jan. 17, 1800, and Sara Forvalte, who died there July 22, 1792. Marie was described as 30, born at Salm Jan. 23, 1778, a daughter of Nicolas Neuhauser of Bruche and the deceased Elisabeth Karber [Gerber], who had died Feb. 7, 1783. Witnesses included inn keeper Balthasare Fongond, 47, (he signed his name Bastien Fongond) a friend of the groom from La Broque; and Christiene Karber, 38, a cultivator at Salm (he signed his name Christiane Karbre) and friend of the bride. In this instance the groom signed his name ‘Jacob Dellenbach,’ and the bride signed with an ‘x’ indicating that she was illiterate. After the marriage they resided at Donon.

All of their children were born at Donon, and their births were recorded at adjacent Grandfontaine. There records uniformly spelled their surname ‘Tellepach’:

4. Marie Dellenbach was born Aug. 20, 1810, and died at Grandfontaine Feb. 22, 1813. Her civil birth entry described her father as ‘Jacob Tellepach,’ 45, and her mother as ‘Marie Nayhauser.’

5. A female child was born and died on the same day Jan. 1, 1812.

6. **Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach** was born Oct. 7, 1814 (her headstone says Sept. 17), and died in Woodford County Jan. 19, 1899.

7. Marie Dellenbach was born April 16, 1816, and died at Grandfontaine June 11, 1817.

8. **Joseph Dellenbach** was born Oct. 14, 1819, and died in Woodford County Aug. 3, 1855.

9. **Jacob Dellenbach** was born March 10, 1822, and died in Woodford County Sept. 16, 1884.

While the two married oldest daughters chose to remain in Europe, the others chose to emigrate. The packet ship Sally sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 13, 1842. The passenger list shows Christian Gerber, 27, 2 trunks, 1 bed; Magdalena, 27; Marie Neuhauser, 66, 1 trunk, 1 bed; Joseph, 22, 2 trunks, 1 bed; and Jacob, 20, 1 trunk, 1 bed.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows Marie and her son Joseph: farmer Joseph Delabaugh, 29, France; and Mary, 72, France.

The mother of this family died at Worth March 4, 1872 in the home of her daughter Madeleine/Magdalena and son-in-law Chrétien/Christian Gerber. *Gospel Herald*, April 1872: "On the 4th of March, at the residence of her son-in-law, Christian Gerber, in Woodford Co., Ill. of the infirmities of age, Maria Dellenbach, aged 97 years, 7 months, and 1 day. Her mortal remains were interred the 6th, in the presence of many friends and acquaintances."
Sermon by Christian Esch and Peter Gingerich. Her intellect remained until the end. She was a faithful sister in the Omish Church for 80 years, and a widow 36 years. She was born in France, and came to America about 30 years ago."

Magdalena, Joseph, and Jacob:

Magdalena Dellenbach

Madeleine/Magdalena Dellenbach was born at Donon Oct. 7, 1814 (her headstone and obituary say Sept. 17). On Jan. 25, 1840 at La Broque she married Chrétien/Christian Gerber. He was born at Oberhaslach Nov. 2, 1814. Their marriage entry describes the groom as Chrétien Gerber, 25, a servant at Guevelles at Oberhaslach. His parents were described as Pierre Gerber, 46, and Magdelaine Gingrick, 45, cultivators at Niderhaslach. The bride was described as Magdelaine Tellepach, 25, born at Grandfontaine Oct. 6, 1814 and living at Salm. Her parents were Jacob Tellepach, who had died Nov. 26, 1835, and Marie Nauhauser, 57, who was living at Salm. Witnesses included Jean Kingrich, 39, and Nicolas Augsberger, 38, both of Salm. The signatures included the spellings MadalenTellenbach, Peter Gerber, Christaine Guerber, Johannes Gingrich, Madgalena Gingrich, and Nikolaus Augspurger.

Although Christian clearly wrote his signature 'Christian Gerber,' he is often found in Illinois as a 'Garber.' They are found on the 1870 census of Worth as farmer Christian Garber, 52, France; Madelin, 56, France; Mary, 21, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 18, Illinois.

Christian died at Metamora Dec. 9, 1893. *Herald of Truth*, Jan. 1, 1894: "On the 9th day of December, 1893, in Woodford County, Ill., Christian Garber, aged 79 years, 11 months, and 8 days. He was born in France in 1814, was married in 1840, and came to America in 1842. God blessed him with eight children, of whom four died in childhood. His widow, four children, 32 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren mourn his death. He was a true member of the Amish church. His remains were laid to rest in the Metamora graveyard. Funeral services were held in the Metamora meeting house by John Smith, John Lugibill, and Peter Sommer." He is buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora.

Madeleine/Magdalena died at Metamora Jan. 19, 1899. *Herald of Truth*, March 1899: "Magdalena Garber, nee Dellenbach, fell asleep in the Lord at the home of her son-in-law, Peter Steider, near Metamora, Ill., where she had been making her home for some time, on Jan. 19, 1899, at the ripe old age of 84 years, 4 months, and 2 days. Her husband Christian Garber preceded her to eternity about five years ago. Eight children were born to them, of whom four survive the mother to mourn her departure, but they mourn not as those who have no hope. She was laid to rest Jan. 21st from the Metamora meeting house. Services were held by Pre. Peter Zimmerman from Rev. 20:12-15 and Elder Andrew Schrock from 1 Peter 1:1-7 in German, and Elder John Smith from the same texts in English." She is buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

Their four children who grew to adulthood were:

1. Joseph Gerber/Garber was born in Woodford County May 25, 1843, and died at Kokomo, Indiana May 21, 1921. He is buried in Mast Cemetery at Kokomo. On March 5, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Katharina Naßiger. She was born in Tazewell County June 18, 1848, and died at Garden City, Missouri Feb. 5, 1900, a daughter of Daniel Naßiger and Elizabeth Sommer. Her headstone calls her 'Catharine, wife of Joseph Garber.' In 1881 they moved from Illinois to Garden City, Missouri. Joseph lived at Kokomo in his last years.

2. Catherine Gerber/Garber was born at Metamora Oct. 6, 1846, and died there Aug. 8, 1926. On March 2, 1869 in Woodford County she married Peter Steider. He was born at Diane-Capelle, Moselle June 2, 1839, and died at Metamora, Woodford County Aug. 10, 1914, a son of Joseph Steider and Catherine Miller. For more on this couple see STEIDER.

3. Mary Gerber/Garber was born in Woodford County Aug. 3, 1848, and died there Feb. 24, 1941. His family brought him to Tazewell County in 1859. On Jan. 17, 1875 she married Ferdinand Schertz. He was born in Butler County, Ohio June 26, 1850, and died at Roanoke Dec. 21, 1916, a son of Henry Schertz and Elizabeth Imhoff. They appear on the 1880 census of Roanoke as farmer Ferdinand Schertz, 29, born in Ohio to parents from Alsace and Baden; Mary, 30, born in Illinois to Alsatian parents; and two children born in Illinois. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery.

4. Reiterating an explanation given in GERBER AND GARBER: In German a hide tanner is a 'Gerber.' The literal translation of gerber from French is the verb, 'to stack,' so the name has also been associated with wood gatherers. A 'Garber' harvests grain and binds it into shocks. To the earliest Amish Mennonites in Pennsylvania 'Garber' probably made more sense, and this adaptation carried over as families moved west. In Tazewell County, the surname 'Garber' came to be used interchangeably with 'Gerber.'
Joseph Dellenbach

Joseph Dellenbach was born at Donon Oct. 14, 1819.

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows them living next door to mother Marie and brother Joseph: farmer Jacob Delabaugh, 29, France; and Mary, 72, France.

Joseph's headstone in Hickory Point Cemetery says that he died Aug. 3, 1855, age 35 years, 11 months, and 16 days. His death coincided with an Asiatic cholera epidemic that peaked in July and August of 1855. Joseph Gerber served as executor of Joseph's estate. Probate entries do not mention a widow or other heirs.

Jacob Dellenbach

Jacob Dellenbach was the youngest of his family, born at Donon March 10, 1822.

On Aug. 17, 1848 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Schrock. She was born June 24, 1831, a daughter of Barbara Schrock (already mentioned as the wife of Jacob's cousin Christian). Judging from her federal census reports, Magdalena may have been born in Germany (1850 and 1900), Bavaria (1860), Württemberg (1870), or Lorraine (1880). And Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County described "Jacob and Lena Dellenbach, the former a native of France, and the latter of America."

At the time of the marriage he was 26, she was 17. County records listed them as 'Jacob Delabauch' and 'Madalene Schrock.'

The 1850 census of Woodford County shows them living next door to mother Marie and brother Joseph: farmer Jacob Delabaugh, 27, France; Madaline, 18, Germany; and Joseph, five months, Illinois.

The 1860 census of Woodford County shows Jacob Dellenbach, 30, born in Illinois to parents from France and Lorraine; Joseph, 10, Illinois; Maria, 8, Illinois; Lana, 7, Illinois; Christian, 3, Illinois; and Christian Dellenbach, 24, Illinois (he was the son of Christian Dellenbach). The 1865 state census of Worth shows Jacob Dellenbach next door to Joseph Schertz. His household is tallied as two males 10 years of age and under; one male 10-19; one male 40-49 [Jacob]; two females 10-19; and one female 40-49 [Magdalena]. The 1870 census of Worth shows farmer Jacob Delebach, 49, Württemberg; Madeline, 40, Württemberg; Joseph, 13 [he was actually 20]; Mary, 17; Christian, 12; John, 8; and Jacob, 1; all children born in Illinois.

The farm of 'J. Dellenbach' is found in the northeast corner of Section 36, on the 1873 plat map of Worth Township. It bordered Metamora.

The 1880 census of Roanoke shows farmer Jacob Dellenbach, 58, France; Magdalene, 47, Lorraine; Christ, 22; Jacob, 11; Elisabeth, 9; and Emma, 6; all four children born in Illinois to parents from France and Lorraine. The household of their son Joseph was listed on the same page.

Father Jacob Dellenbach died Sept. 16, 1884.

The 1900 census of Cazenovia shows Magdalena as the 68-year-old mother-in-law in the home of her daughter Elizabeth Ann and son-in-law Peter Bachman. The report indicates that she was born in June 1831, and came to America from Germany in 1832, having spent 67 years in the country.

Magdalena Schrock died 'from pneumonia and heart trouble' at Cazenovia March 25, 1901.

Jacob Dellenbach and Magdalena Schrock are buried in Hickory Point Cemetery at Metamora. Their children born at Worth include:

1. Joseph Dellenbach was born in February 1850, and died at Partridge, Kansas June 16 or 23, 1922. He married Louise Helle. She was born in Alsace June 16, 1858, and died at Partridge, Kansas Dec. 23, 1932. The 1880 census of Roanoke shows them as farmer Joseph Dellenbach, 30, born in Illinois to parents from France and Lorraine; Louisa, 22, born in France to French parents; Lena, 3, born in Illinois; and Alfred, 1, born in Illinois. The 1920 census of Partridge, Kansas shows them as Joseph Dellenbach, 69, born in Illinois to parents from Alsace-Lorraine and France; and Louise, 61, born in Alsace-Lorraine to parents from Alsace-Lorraine, immigrated in 1875. They are buried in Partridge Cemetery.
2. Maria/Mary Dellenbach was born Aug. 15, 1851, and died at Floris, Oklahoma Sept. 21, 1915. On Jan. 4, 1873 at Danvers she married Washington Grove; the ceremony was performed by elder Joseph Stuckey.246 He was born at Washington April 10, 1849, and died at Liberal, Kansas July 12, 1931, a son of Benjamin Grove and Hanna Rinehart. They lived in Kansas and Oklahoma. They are buried in Midway Cemetery at Floris.

3. Magdalena Dellenbach was born Jan. 8, 1853, and died May 8, 1907. On Jan. 7, 1873 she married Peter Samuel Gerber. He was born at Washington Aug. 8, 1849, and died at Lowpoint, Woodford County Dec. 12, 1939, a son of Joseph Gerber and Ann Suisse/Schweizer/Switzer. He was ordained as a minister of the Partridge Mennonite Church by elder Joseph Bachman in 1894. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.

4. Christian Dellenbach was born June 4, 1857, and died at Norborne, Missouri March 1, 1923. On Feb. 19, 1882 at Washington he married Melissa Belle Brownfield.247 She was born May 14, 1856, and died at Hardin, Missouri Feb. 1, 1944, a daughter of Thomas Brownfield and Elizabeth Grove. Their household is found on the 1900 census of Roanoke as farm manager Christian Dellenbauch, 43, born in Illinois in January 1856 to German parents; Melissa B., 44, born in Illinois in May 1856 to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and six children born in Illinois and Nebraska. They can also be found on the 1910 census of Egypt, Missouri. They are buried in Fairhaven Cemetery at Norborne.

5. A daughter died as an infant.
6. A son died as an infant.
7. Jacob E. Dellenbach was born March 4, 1869, and died at Flanagan Sept. 22, 1961. On Sept. 28, 1893 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Litwiller.248 She was born at Delavan Nov. 17, 1868, and died at Peoria June 25, 1918. They can be found on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Panola. They later lived at Graymont, Livingston County, and are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

8. Elizabeth Ann Dellenbach was born April 2, 1871, and died March 8, 1936. On Dec. 19, 1889 she married Peter Bachman. He was born at Cazenovia Aug. 28, 1866, and died at Cazenovia April 21, 1940, a son of Jacob Bachman and Jacobina 'Phoebe' Zook. They are buried in Stewart-Harmony Cemetery at Metamora.


In addition John Dellenbach was raised by this family. He was born in 1861 or 1862, and likely died before the 1880 census. He appears as an 8-year-old on the 1870 census. Family notes say he may have been a nephew (apparently through the Schrots) who died at age 19.

Pennsylvania Dellenbachs

The families that lived at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines and later La Broque were the only European Dellenbach families outside Switzerland that we could positively identify as Anabaptist. There may have been branches that are not documented. It seems highly likely that the Anabaptist immigrants Valentine and Peter Dellenbach who came to Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s share some connection. We took some time to track them because we thought it might be of interest to those descended from the Central Illinois family.

This section also touches on a location that was relevant to a number of Central Illinois families: the Glades. Before the advent of a uniform railroad system, families arriving at New York or Philadelphia traveled by wagon to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; the Glades of Somerset County, Pennsylvania; Wooster, Ohio; and Butler County, Ohio. Belongings were then transferred to flatboats for a water journey on the Ohio River, then to steamboats for the transit up the Mississippi to the Illinois River.

The first immigrant ship that took Anabaptist passengers from the area of Salm to Pennsylvania was the Pink Plaisance. It sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1732. French genealogists have documented passenger Peter Bricker, who had lived in the area of le Ban de la Roche as Peter Bruecker; several Zimmerman families that had originated at Steffisburg, Canton Bern but had lived around La Broque for several generations, and Ulrich Stühli and Ann German, who had lived at Bambois de Plaine, the forest opening

246 The Stuckey marriage list has them as Washington Grove and 'Alary Dellenbach,' likely a misinterpretation of a handwritten 'Mary Dellenbach.'
247 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Christian Dellenbaugh and Belle Brownfield.
248 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Jacob E. Dellenback and Barbara Letwiller.
where Ropps and Ulrichs worked at a water-driven sawmill. They all went to Lancaster County. Other familiar surnames on the passenger list included Landis, Lichten [Liechti], Resser [Reusser], and Stauffer.

There were two and perhaps three Dellenbach brothers among the early Amish Mennonite arrivals in America. KING told the story of the voyage of the galley Muscliffe Galley. The ship sailed from Amsterdam in mid-September, 1744, during the War of the Austrian Succession. After a visit to the customs house at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, it was briefly pursued by a French privateer. It arrived at Philadelphia Dec. 22 with passengers Samuel, Christian, and Jacob König. The passenger list held other familiar surnames such as Albrecht, Bender, Ebi [Eby], Engel, Eyer, Jotter, Jutzy [Jutzi], Höfflig [Hoffli?], Krebel [Krajjenbühl], Kurtz, Lang, Maurer, Mosiman, Schawalter [Schowalter], Seiler, Souder [Sauder], Stauffer, Steiner, Wittmer, and Yotter [Yoder]. Another passenger was 'Valleint Tallebach' — Valentine Dellenbach.

Four years later Valentine's brother Peter Dellenbach sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the Brotherhood. That ship arrived at Philadelphia Nov. 2, 1750. Although no passenger list could be identified, a list from the Oath of Abjuration (renouncing former country) administered by mayor William Plumsted was created at the Philadelphia Courthouse Nov. 3. The Oath of Abjuration was only administered to males over 16 years of age. Some of the surnames found on the list include Blauch [later Blough], Bürkli [Bürki], Farne and Färne [Farni], Frey [Frei], Holly [Holl], Kauffman, König, Lugenbiehl [Luginbühl], Mihler [Müller], Naftziger [Nafziger], Nast [Mast], Rub [Rüpp], Stucky [Stucki], and six Schowalters. The list also names 'Beder Dielbach' — Peter Dellenbach. We assumed that Peter was accompanied on the Brotherhood by an unidentified wife, two sons, and a daughter. Although some passengers were called 'Swiss,' those we could identify came from the border area between Lower Alsace and the Palatiinate. Johannes Mast had been a resident of Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche; Johannes Holly was a son of Christian Hohl/Holli, minister-leaseholder of the Bärbelsteinhof; and Nicholas Müller came from Mühlhofen.

We can guess that the organizers behind the group journey were influential elder Johannes Hans Nafziger of Essingen and Christian Schowalter. Although Nafziger once stated that he had plans to emigrate from Europe, he never did. Schowalter sailed from Rotterdam on the Phoenix with his wife and two sons, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. From Earl Township, Lancaster County he kept up a Transatlantic correspondence with influential elder Johannes Hans Nafziger that lasted from his arrival in 1749 until 1788 (see EHRESMAN).

In Pennsylvania at this time there were four steps to obtaining free land: 1) an individual obtained a 'warrant' for a parcel identified by its corner landmarks; 2) after the land was cleared and cultivated, a survey was made at the expense of the owner; 3) the warrant was returned to the county land office with the results of the survey; and 4) the owner requested a 'patent' stating that the process was completed. It was not unusual for a farm to remain in a family over a century before the last-step patent was obtained.

On May 1, 1751 a warrant for 50 acres in Derry Township, Lancaster County was created for 'Peter Dallebach' (Land Warrant #191). On Jan. 30, 1752 another warrant for 200 acres of adjoining property was created for 'Valentine Dellebach' (Land Warrant #199).

Valentine's warrant was returned Dec. 30, 1761, indicating a survey had been completed at his expense. The survey found that the 200 acres had grown to 352; this generally indicates that swamp had been drained to create more arable land.

Derry had been incorporated as a township in Lancaster County in August 1729.

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249 Among the Schowalters on the Brotherhood was Jacob Mathias Schowalter, an older brother to Christian. Jacob was born in Canton St. Gallen in 1702, or at Schafbusch near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace in 1696, and died at Whitehall, Northampton County, Pennsylvania April 28, 1773. He married Maria Elizabeth Sauter. In Pennsylvania he became a minister of the Siegfried Mennonite congregation. Nevertheless the family is thought to have had five sons who fought in the Revolutionary War. Jacob’s will was probated at Whitehall March 7, 1767.

250 We found one instance of Peter’s surname spelled ‘Delebalgh.’ An article called Jacob N. to America in 1750 in The Naftziger Heritage News Fall 1988 issue talks about Jacob Naftziger, who was a passenger with Peter on the Brotherhood. His family connections could not be determined. He purchased land from Jacob Seiler (the brother of Catherine Seiler) in Londonderry Township in 1770. The Dellenbach’s land in Derry Township bordered on this community. Jacob was an executor with Hans Knegi, and Peter Delebagh was a witness with Jacob ‘Seilor,’ on the will of Hans Zimmerman Sr. It was created in 1771, registered in 1777, and a final settlement was made by new executors Matthias Naftziger and Peter Hershberger in July 1784. Zimmerman had lived in Berks County, then in 1760 relocated to Paxton Township, Lebanon County. It is tempting to say that this was the Hans Zimmerman on the Pink Pleasance in 1732, but there were several immigrants with that name in the area (we found Hans Zimmerman warrants in Berks County in 1747, 1749, and 1750). Hans Knegi was Johannes Gnage, who was born in 1695 and arrived on the Francis and Elizabeth in 1742. He settled in Upper Bern Township, Berks County in 1747, sold that land in 1768, and relocated to Bethel Township (then in Dauphin County, now in Lebanon County).
On Feb. 12, 1761 the Lancaster County *Caveat Book 2* recorded a challenge against Peter’s warrant: "Peter Dellenback enters a caveat against the acceptance of a survey made for David McCord (who has since sold the same to William Sawyer) on a tract of land situated in Derry Township, Lancaster County. The said Dellenback having, as he says, a prior warrant for the same land."

During the Revolutionary War, Amish Mennonite elders assured the Lancaster County Militia Committee that their congregations were "willing to contribute money to assist the Common Cause otherwise than by taking up arms."

Derry Township became part of Dauphin County when that entity was carved out of Lancaster County March 4, 1785. A census in 1787 found 198 residents.

In present day Derry Township is better known as the home of Hershey, the town and chocolate factory. The Dellenbach properties would be described as running along East Governor’s Road in Derry Township. East Governor’s Road leads west in the direction of the Hershey factory; it leads east into Campbelltown, Lebanon County.

### THE QUESTION OF JACOB DALLEBAGH

Lancaster County land records show two properties at Hanover Township warranted by Jacob Dallebagn. A warrant for 100 acres received on Jan. 17, 1754 was not returned until Jan. 3, 1838. Another warrant for 25 acres received March 14, 1755 was not returned until Dec. 8, 1869.

The brothers Valentine and Peter had already warranted their properties. A look at a map of present day Dauphin County shows Londonderry and Conewago Townships at the south end abutting Lancaster County. Above them, touching both townships, is Derry Township. Above that are South Hanover, West Hanover, and East Hanover Townships. Thus Jacob may have warranted land very close to Valentine and Peter.

We searched immigration lists 1749-1754 and could not find a Jacob Dellenbach. He may have accompanied Valentine in 1744 or Peter in 1750 as a minor (less than 16 years of age), or it may simply be that a record of his voyage has been lost over time. One source says a Jacob Dellenbach died in Lancaster County in 1768.

We considered that Jacob Dallebagn of Hanover could have been a son of Peter, as one source suggested. Jacob would have been born in Europe no later than 1733, because he warranted land in 1754. Peter would then have been born no later than 1711. We know that Peter died in late 1796 or early 1797. In this timeframe, and given the circumstances, it would have been extremely unusual for a male head of household supporting at least nine children to live to the age of 85 without some mention in local histories. But it is remarkable to find the unusual surname coinciding so near in an area of such a small population.

This leaves the possibilities that Jacob was a brother or cousin to Valentine and Peter.

We could not identify Peter's first wife. He remarried in Pennsylvania some time between 1768 and 1787.

### PETER DELLENBACH'S SECOND WIFE CATHARINE (SURNAMES UNKNOWN)

Johannes 'Hans' Stauffer was born at Wartenberg, Hesse Aug. 6, 1715, a son of Daniel Stauffer and Veronica Schenk, and raised on Mückenhauser Hof farm near Ibersheim, Hesse. He sailed from Rotterdam with his widowed mother and brothers, arriving at Philadelphia on the *Virtuous Grace* Sept. 24, 1734. This was the same voyage that brought the Kauffmans, a family with earlier generations from Homberg near Steffisburg, Canton Bern.

On Sept. 22, 1738 at Conestoga, Manor Township, Lancaster County Hans married Katharina/Katrina Schenk, a daughter of Michael Schenk and Anna Rassi. She had 13 children before her death Nov. 29, 1760.

Hans then remarried to Catharine, whose surname could not be identified. They had daughters Susanna Stauffer (1763) and Magdalena Stauffer (1765) at Warwick Township. Johannes 'Hans' Stauffer died at Warwick Township, Lancaster County in January 1767.

Catharine remarried to Hans Eyer (also known as John Oyer) of Earl Township. Hans/John had been a passenger with Valentine Dellenbach on the *Muscliffe Galley* in 1744. At the time of the marriage Hans/John already had eight children from his deceased first wife Barbara; two of them (Jacob and Barbara) married children of Christian Schowalter. Some sources say Hans/John was born at Dürrmenz, Baden-Durlach in 1714. Dürrmenz was about five miles east of the Karlshäuserhof at Dürr, and nine miles northeast of Pforzheim. It was a destroyed village that was built up after 1698 by Waldensians who were absorbed as Lutherans in later generations. They came mainly from the Piedmont Region of northern Italy.

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251 His will was created Oct. 27, 1776. The children listed included Jacob (1747), Mary (1748), Abraham (1749), Barbara (1750), Christian, Catharina, Elizabeth, and John. He also left 20 pounds apiece for his stepchildren, Susanna and Magdalena Stauffer. An amendment created Feb. 17, 1777 specified that 70 pounds would go to his wife Catherine to be passed on to the smallest children Catherine, Elizabeth, and John when they came of age.

This generation is generally found as Eyerly. This follows the pattern of many other families, i.e. the first generation in the English colony was semi-literate, and simply accepted the way their surname was Anglicized by municipal clerks on land and tax entries.
The evidence of Catharine's second marriage was provided by a record stating that on May 23, 1768 John Oyer and Catherine of Earl Township filed a quit-claim on land that she had inherited from Johannes 'Hans' Stauffer. Hans/John and Catharine had no children together.
Hans/John died at Warwick Township March 30, 1782.
The evidence of Catharine's third marriage, to Peter Dellenbach, comes from the records of the Lancaster County Orphan's Court (a probate court). A remark on Aug. 6, 1787 mentioned that John Eyer of Warwick Township was dead, and his widow Catharine had remarried to Peter Delabaugh.
Thus the marriage between Peter Dellenbach and Catharine was his second, and her third.

Valentine's death occurred in or before October 1792. Board of Property Minutes of Dauphin County documents a quit-claim on a parcel of property in Derry Township made by 'the heirs of Valentine Delabaugh' Oct. 26, 1792.
Valentine's heirs may have been his brother Peter and his family. We assume that Valentine did not leave a widow or children. No will has been found in Lancaster County or Dauphin County records; we found no references to a widow; and most importantly, it appears that after his death his land passed entirely into the possession of his brother.
The 1790 census of Dauphin County shows four of Peter's son-in-laws on four consecutive pages (as Loiter, Harshbager, Musser, and Branstater). On the same page as Loiter, where we might expect to find Peter as a head of household, we found the household of Christian Tollabaugh. The entry tallies 2 males in the 16 or over category; 2 males in the under 16 category; and 6 females. Christian was a son, managing the farm with Peter and Catharine in advanced years.
Peter probably died in late 1796. According to county land records, a survey of property was completed for his heirs Feb. 9, 1797. Although the warrant for Peter's land had not been turned in at that point, indicating it had never been surveyed before, it was turned in with this survey which was called a 're-survey.' The estate was found to total 372 acres. Thus we will assume that it represented Valentine's initial 352 acres (that had now been surveyed before, it was turned in with this survey which was called a "re-survey." The estate was found to total 372 acres. Thus we will assume that it represented Valentine's initial 352 acres (that had now been surveyed twice), plus Peter's initial 50 acres (not surveyed in his lifetime), minus 30 acres given away by the 1792 quit claim.
Peter's will has failed to turn up in searches of Dauphin County records. Fortunately, some information on the probate process can be found in the Dauphin County Courthouse Mortgage Book. It stated that the will had been probated at Londonderry, and the estate was settled by son-in-law Jacob Krebill April 5, 1797.
No Dellenbachs and no sons-in-law appear on the 1800 census of Derry Township.
Presumably Peter's two sons and oldest daughter accompanied him from Europe on the Brotherhood in 1750. He had six more daughters in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, without the text of his will it is impossible to list them with certainty. The children of Peter Dellenbach and his unidentified first wife include:

1. Christian Dellenbach/Delebaugh was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Derry Township prior to 1799. In Notes and Queries, Chiefly related to the History of Dauphin County (1887) author William Henry Egley wrote: "Christian Delebaugh of Derry died prior to 1799, leaving a wife Anna and children." The children of Christian Dellenbach and Anna born at Derry Township, as listed by Egley, include:
   a. Maria Delebaugh was born Nov. 11, 1771, and died Nov. 11, 1849. She married Henry Ober (also found as Over). He was born in 1781, and died March 3, 1839, a son of Jacob Ober Jr. and Elizabeth Stauffer. They are buried in Mt. Tunnel Cemetery at Elizabethtown Borough, Lancaster County.
   c. Peter Delebaugh. Though no Dellenbachs and no sons-in-law appear on the 1800 census of Derry Township, adjacent Londonderry Township shows a head of household named Peter Tollebaugh (presumably 21, thus born before 1780). The 1810 census of Juniata, Cumberland County shows a Peter Delebaugh. This location would now be described as Juniata Township, Bedford County, on the border of Somerset County in the southwest corner of the state. The household is tallied as one male under 10 years of age; one male 10-15; one male 26-44; two females under 10; one female 10-15; and one female 26-44. He may also be the Peter Dillabaugh listed on the 1820 census of Montgomery Township, Franklin County (at the center of the Pennsylvania-Maryland border) in 1820. That household held a dozen persons.
   d. Pevely Delebaugh.
   e. Catharine Delebaugh.
   f. Veronica 'Freeny' Delebaugh.
   g. Elizabeth Delebaugh.
   h. Christian Christly Delebaugh.

2. Valentine Dellenbach/Delebaugh was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Quemahoning Township, Somerset County in the spring of 1813.
3. Barbara Dellenbach was born in Europe circa 1749. In 1773 in Chester County she married John Feick/Fike. He was born in Berks County circa 1750, and died at Selbytown, Maryland in September 1829, a son of Christian Fike and Barbara Bontreger. Bedford County records say that John Feick warranted 200 acres at Brothers Valley Township Feb. 21, 1785. This property was actually only 149 acres, according to Land Survey Abstracts, Somerset County. In present day the location of his land would be called Elk Lick Township, Somerset County. He erected a gristmill on Boggs Run; one source called him ‘Windmill John.’ They relocated to Selbytown, Allegany County, Maryland (in a part that is now in Garrett County) in 1800. This community is located in the extreme northwest corner of Maryland, about four miles south of the border with Somerset County, Pennsylvania. John Fike is found on the 1810 census of District 5, Allegany County, Maryland. John’s will was probated at Selbytown Sept. 8, 1828; he left 10 children. Their graves at Selbytown have been plowed over, but their headstones were re-erected in Mercy Chapel Cemetery.

4. Magdalena Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1751, and died at Selbytown, Maryland. On Jan. 2, 1781 in the Zion Evangelical Church at Manheim, Lancaster County she married Nicholas Musser [Moser]. He was born at Corgémont in the Jura Mountains of Manheim, Dauphin County (later in Lebanon County) in 1771. John is found as John Harshbarger on the 1790 census of Dauphin County. According to J. Virgil Miller in Both Sides of the Ocean, "John, the third son, lived and worked in various parts of Lancaster County and eventually married Freny Dellenbach, sister of a friend he had traveled and worked with [Valentine...They had a family of nine children, four of whom moved on to Holmes and Tuscawaras Counties in Ohio. John had a homestead between Springs and Salisbury, in Elklick Township, which is well preserved and can be seen today.” They were buried on their farm.

5. Veronica/Freni Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1751, and died circa 1797. She married John Hershberger. He was born in Pennsylvania circa 1750. His parents Christian Hershberger and Barbara Rupp had arrived at Philadelphia on the Charming Nancy Oct. 8, 1737. John was living at Lebanon Township, Dauphin County (later in Lebanon County) in 1771. John is found as John Harshbarger on the 1790 census of Dauphin County. According to J. Virgil Miller in Both Sides of the Ocean, "John, the third son, lived and worked in various parts of Lancaster County and eventually married Freny Dellenbach, sister of a friend he had traveled and worked with [Valentine...They had a family of nine children, four of whom moved on to Holmes and Tuscawaras Counties in Ohio. John had a homestead between Springs and Salisbury, in Elklick Township, which is well preserved and can be seen today.” They were buried on their farm.

6. Catherine Dellenbach was born at Derry Township Oct. 15, 1752, and died Sept. 22, 1805. In 1770 she married Abraham Eyer. He was born in Lancaster County May 16, 1748, and died at Dry Valley (now Winfield), Union County, Pennsylvania Oct. 30, 1823, a son of Hans Eyer/John Oyer and his second wife Catherine (who became Catherine Dellenbach’s stepmother). Abraham and Catherine moved from Lancaster County to Northumberland County (now Union County) in 1773, in response to a dream telling Abraham to “Go to Shamokin.” He described himself as a minister who “God gave strength to thrash church disturbers.”

7. Elizabeth Dellenbach was born at Derry Township May 2, 1754, and died at East Donegal, Lancaster County March 1, 1845. She married Jacob Kriebel/Kraybill. Jacob was born circa 1742, and died at East Donegal Dec. 27, 1810. Jacob was listed as a 12-year-old with his father John on the passenger list of the St. Andrew. It sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes to Philadelphia, arriving Aug. 18, 1750. He married Barbara Kilheffer, a daughter of Henry Kilheffer and Barbara Stauffer. Jacob purchased land at Manheim in 1772. Barbara died at Mt. Hope in 1777, age 33, and Jacob remarried to Elizabeth. They sold their mill and 212 acres in 1784, then purchased 277 acres at East Donegal. This became the family homestead for three generations. In 1810 they donated land for a meeting house that was constructed in 1812. Jacob left three sons and six daughters; he has been called “the founder of the Kraybill family in North America.” They are buried in the Kraybill Family Cemetery on the site of their farm at Donegal Springs. Kraybill family genealogies spell Elizabeth’s surname 'Delabaugh.'

8. Ann Dellenbach was born at Derry Township circa 1759. Circa 1774 she married Georg Andreas/Andrew Brandstetter. He was born at Frischen in the Palatinate Jan. 13, 1752, a son of Johann Friedrich Brandstetter and Anna Barbara Mag. Andrew arrived at Philadelphia with his parents on the Sarah Sept. 20, 1764. He appears on the passenger list as George Andreas Brandstetter, 12. He is also found as Andrew Branstater on the 1790 census of Dauphin County. He may be the Andrew Branstater on the 1810 census of Jerusalem and Upper Antietam Hundreds, Washington County, Maryland.

9. Maria/Mary Dellenbach was born at Derry Township July 4, 1762, and died at Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County March 16, 1838. She married Joseph Leiter/Lyter. He was born in Lancaster County March 7, 1768, and died at Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County Nov. 15, 1854. He is found as Joseph Loiter on the 1790 census of Dauphin County, on the same page as Christian Tollabaugh. They are buried in the Lyter Family Cemetery at Lower Paxton Township.

Valentine Dellenbach (most often found as ‘Delabaugh’) was born in Europe before 1750, and died at Quemahoning Township, Somerset County in the spring of 1813.

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252 Lebanon County was created in 1813 out of Dauphin and Lancaster Counties.
253 Eyer family genealogies confuse Catherine with her sister, calling her Elizabeth Catherine Kreibiel.
He married Anna Berkey. She was born in Upper Tulpehocken Township, Berks County circa 1746, a daughter of Christian Berkey and Catherine Seiler.\footnote{Anna Berkey’s father was Christian, who may have been a younger brother or cousin to Johannes ‘Hans’ Bürki of the Bärbelsteinerhof. See BIRKEY.}

Valentine is found as ‘Feltel Delabaugh’ with brother-in-law John Hershberger on a tax list of temporary laborers at Cocalico Township, Lancaster County in 1771, indicating that they were at least 21 years old.

Delbert Gratz in Bernese Anabaptists: "Before the middle of the eighteenth century the best lands in Southeastern Pennsylvania had been settled by the German and Scotch-Irish immigrants. The second generation of pioneers and the immigrants who came later pushed west...small groups of Mennonites went up the Juniata River and crossed the Allegheny Mountains where colonies were established before the Revolutionary War in what are now Westmoreland, Fayette, and Somerset Counties. The first pioneer was Christian Blauch who went form Lancaster County to near the present site of Berlin, Somerset County, in 1767."

Christian Blauch/Blough was born in Europe July 7, 1743. He arrived with his parents Christian Blough and Elizabeth Gastelli on the 
Brotherhood in 1750, the same voyage that brought Dellenbachs. Christian was married to Magdalena Elizabeth Bender. They went to the part of Bedford County that later became Somerset County in 1767, but did not obtain land until 1773. He died at Berlin in 1777. His actual grave in Blough Cemetery at Brothersvalley Township is marked with a worn headstone that says ‘CB1777’ Near is a commemorative headstone with a brass plaque that recognizes him as a pioneer.

Valentine's wife Anna Berkey was a sister-in-law to Christian Blauch/Blough. Her brother Jacob Berkey was married to his sister Elizabeth Blauch/Blough

In 1773 Valentine and Anna resettled near Christian in the southwest corner of the state, in a location that changed names several times.

THE GLADES

The area where Valentine resettled was originally called the Turkeyfoot region or Stony Creek Glades. Later it was also known as the Cox's Creek Glades. Mineral-rich silt patches created by the patterns of stream runoff had created extensive glades or grassy openings in the forest there. Their thick, moist grass made them ideal for grazing. The Glades [Ger. Kloe] is mentioned in many family histories as the place where a family rested among friends before continuing a journey west to Wooster, Ohio or beyond.

When Valentine first went there he found land in Brothers Valley Township, an expansive area that had been incorporated in 1768. Many of its first settlers were German Baptists, or Dunkers. They called each other Tunkers or Broeders Lide (Brethren), giving the township its name. At the time it was located in Cumberland County.

The area was first part of Cumberland County; it became part of the new Bedford County in 1771. Bedford County Land Records indicates that on Dec. 13, 1773 ‘Valentine Delebaugh of Londonerry Township’ agreed to pay Philip Shever 225 pounds for 300 acres in Turkeyfoot Township, Bedford County. The indenture was recorded May 24, 1775. (An indenture indicated that Valentine intended to clear and work the land, sharing the income from his crops to make payments). Bedford County Warrant Records indicate that on May 25, 1774 ‘Valentine Dellebach’ received a warrant for 300 acres in Bedford County. The warrant was not returned with a survey report until Feb. 22, 1814 (about nine months after his death).

The original boundaries of Brothers Valley Township were much more expansive than they are today, and took in what is now Elk Lick, Summit, and part of Stony Creek Townships. Brothers Valley Township is now a much smaller entity surrounding the town of Berlin.

After 1775 Valentine's home was called Quemahoning Township. Below it Brothers Valley Township has contracted to an entity surrounding the town of Berlin. Both communities are located in Somerset County, which was created out of Bedford County in 1795. The two communities are located 6-8 miles south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike/Interstate Route 70.

In 1817 Hans Nussbaum, a traveling companion of Christian Augspurger, wrote a letter describing part of their journey from France to Ohio. "On the 16th of October we went 23 miles from Philadelphia to a settlement of five Amish families. On the 17th we then went to Pequea. Here we stayed a week to get de-loused. The brethren bestowed upon us food, including butter, meat, bread, and vegetables. From there they guided the way for us to the Kalezis [Kishacoquillas]. There is also an Amish community. We stayed another week. We were given very fine treatment. They guided us to Somerset County which was a nine-day journey. In the Glades is another Amish Community. In all these places they gave us much to eat. They charged us nothing." While Nussbaum eventually found land at Wooster, Ohio, Augspurger continued on to Butler County.

Valentine appears as ‘Vallintine Dilabaugh’ on the 1776 tax assessment of Brothers Valley Township. Brother-in-law Joseph ‘Misheler’ (married to Valentine’s wife’s sister Elizabeth Berkey) and brother-in-law John Hershberger
(married to Valentine's sister Freni/Veronica) are also found on that list. In 1779 'Valintine Delabouch' owned 50 acres.

In the aftermath of the French and Indian War (1754-1763) ill feelings prevailed on the western frontier. The board of assessors for Bedford County sent a letter to the Pennsylvania General Assembly Feb. 16, 1779 to explain why tax revenues were so low:

"For eighteen months past the frontier inhabitants have almost entirely been deprived of the fruits of their labor by the incursions of the Indians. Many of them have gone entirely out of the county, and when that part of the petitioners whose duty it is to take the returns of property [taxes], went to the once cheerful abodes of humble industry & content[ment], the inhabitant had fled to preserve his life, and nothing presented to their view but forlorn inhabitations and untilled fields (in several of which the grave of the former owner, murdered by the Indians, was to be seen); and to levy taxes off those would be adding distress to the afflicted and taking from the poor that which he has not to give.

That part of the inhabitants who remained collected into forts — some formed into companies and ranged along the frontiers in order to afford some small protection to the rest, who, at the hazard of their lives, returned out to save their scanty harvest and to prepare another; but they are so often driven in that there was little they could do.

The panic occasioned by one invasion was scarcely over till they were alarmed afresh by another. Many were deprived of sowing & planting, and not a few were prevented from reaping that whey they had put in; in consequence of which, famine stares us in the face..."

The part of Brothers Valley Township where Valentine lived became Quemahoning Township in 1775. The land records of a neighbor described Valentine as living "on the headwaters of Coxes Creek."

The first Amish Mennonite elder to take up residence at Quemahoning Township was 'Schweitzer Christian' Yoder. He was born in Canton Bern Oct. 28, 1728, and died at Stony Creek Township Nov. 20, 1816, a son of Christian Yoder and Barbara Gerber. He had arrived with his parents on the Francis and Elizabeth Sept. 21, 1742. 'Schweitzer Christian' sold land at Shartlesville, Berks County, then purchased 606 acres for $968 on Oct. 9, 1775. In the spring of 1776 he brought his family to Quemahoning Township. There he began to gather followers in a Glades congregation. The part of Quemahoning Township where he settled became Stonycreek Township when that entity was created in 1792.\textsuperscript{255}

In 1781 Valentine sold land at Quemahoning Township to Joseph Mishler. In 1783 'Valentine Dillabaugh' paid 1 pound, 4 shillings, and 1 pence in federal tax on 300 acres there.

**NAFZIGER AND DELLENBACH**

Reiterating the story of Ulrich Nafziger, the estranged father of influential elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger, from NAFZIGER:

Leaving his wife and children behind, he [Ulrich Nafziger] sailed from Rotterdam through Cowes on the Marlborough, arriving at Philadelphia Sept. 23, 1741. The passenger list shows him as 'Ulrich Nafzer.'

Though his wife Magdalena outlived him, Ulrich married again in Pennsylvania in 1746. Since his wife Magdalena had remained behind in their old congregation, this has been taken as proof that Ulrich must have been expelled, nullifying his Anabaptist marriage vows. The ceremony was conducted by a Lutheran minister. Marie Catherine Bischof was a widow with two children, and they had two children together.

Ulrich died at Green Garden, Leacock County, Pennsylvania prior to June 11, 1754. In the absence of a will, his estate was awarded to two of his American children. In a probate document created at Essingen in March 1760 his European children declined to claim a share."

Raymond L. Nofssger explained what became of the oldest American son John in his excellent article *The Naffzger Families of the Palatinate and Pennsylvania* in The Nafziger Heritage Summer 1985 issue:

"In July 1774 'John Naftzger of the county of Lancaster' was given a warrant for 50 acres of land situated on Quemahoning Creek in Bedford County. [The warrant received July 12, 1774 was returned with a survey report March 20, 1855]. The deed was witnessed by Philip Cable and Johannes Farni. The latter signed in German script. However, the subsequent sale of this property to Peter Kimmel Jr. mentioned 'John Naftzger of Berks County.' In 1788 Valentine Dellabach/Delabaugh sold a piece of land in Turkey Foot Township to John Naftzger [now Upper and Lower Turkeyfoot Townships are adjacent on the west side of Somerset County]. In 1792 John Nafziger and Henry Naphsiger, a single farmer, paid taxes at Quemahoning Township."

'John Noffsinger' received a warrant for 400 acres at Quemahoning Township April 14, 1794; it was returned with a survey report Oct. 24, 1837. Nafziger also paid taxes at Quemahoning Township in 1796. John Nofsinger appears on the 1800 and 1810 census of Somerset County.

\textsuperscript{255} In present day, Stony Creek Township is better known as the place where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001.
In 1791 Congress passed an act designed to balance the federal budget. It levied a tax of four pence (then about nine cents, or $2 in modern buying power) on every gallon of distilled whiskey. At the time corn and rye were significant crops in Western Pennsylvania, and about one-in-six farmers kept a still.

**THE WHISKEY REBELLION**

Frontier farmers were accustomed to bartering for goods. The currency that was printed by small local banks was not recognized elsewhere. Coins were generally in short supply. But when they traveled east to take their whiskey to larger markets, they were confronted by tax collectors demanding coins in payment and threatening confiscation. This seemed like piracy.

In what was later Somerset County, a number of scattered incidents caused injuries to tax inspectors. Then 500 armed farmers protested the tax by encircling the fancy, fortified home of a federal collector.

At first the new federal government under President George Washington sent representatives to bargain for time. Then on Aug. 4, 1794, Justice James Wilson delivered his opinion that Western Pennsylvania was in a state of rebellion. In October General Harry 'Lighthorse' Lee of Virginia arrived with 14,950 militia drawn from four states.

As a consequence of the Whiskey Rebellion, 31 local farmers paid fines ranging from 5 shillings to 15 pounds. Only 20 farmers were arrested. 10 were tried for treason in federal court at Philadelphia, and two were convicted and given the death penalty. They were later pardoned.

At the same time as the Whiskey Rebellion, another significant event took place at Maumee, Ohio. On Aug. 20, 1794 General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne led troops in a victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. It ended Little Turtle's War (now called the Northwest Indian War). The resulting Treaty of Greenville brought a measure of comparative safety for Pennsylvania settlers.

The 1800 census of Quemahoning Township names 'Valentine Dellebaugh.' His household included one male 45 years of age or older; one male 10-16; one female 45 years of age or older; and one female 10-16.

Valentine died in the spring of 1813. Probate papers dated April 28 and 29, 1813 named the executors of his estate as his brother-in-law Joseph Mischler and John Forny; witnesses included brother-in-law Jacob Berkey (he was an older brother to Anna Berkey) and Jacob Mischler. We have not seen the papers to identify his heirs.

Widow Anna resettled in Ontario. A probate statement prepared and notarized in York County, Ontario said that, "Anna Dillabaugh late of Mahona in the county of Somerset in the state of Pennsylvania names Joseph Mischler my nephew my formal attorney."

Delbert Gratz in Bernese Anabaptists: "By the close of the Revolutionary War the demand for cheap lands for the surplus population in the Older Pennsylvania communities became acute. The Mennonites had been made uncomfortable during the war by their refusal to support the army. This new government which had treated them with little respect and which seemed to crumble into anarchy when the war was over gave them little hope for toleration. When large tracts of good cheap land became available in Ontario it is not surprising that many Mennonites directed their steps to that area." We could not identify Anna's place or date of death. It is probable that she left Somerset County to live with her nephew Jacob Berkey (a son of Anna's brother Joseph) and Veronica/Freeny/Fanny Blough/Blough at Markham Township, York County, Ontario (above Toronto).

The land in Valentine's estate was ultimately transferred to Amish Mennonite Samuel Keim. A deed was created and notarized by justice of the peace Peter Berkey, and witnessed by Peter Mischler and Christian Miller.

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256 $29.45 to $1,767 in modern buying power.
257 The boy on the 1800 census may have been Peter Dellaubag (headstone spelling), who was born in Pennsylvania April 12, 1780, and died at Weller Township, Richland County, Ohio Jan 21, 1850. He married Magdalena, who was born in Pennsylvania Jan. 5, 1780, and died at Weller Township Aug. 16, 1868. They are buried in Pavonia Cemetery (formerly Milton Cemetery) at Weller Township. His headstone calls him Peter Dellenbach and says he died June 21, 1850, age 69 years, 9 months, and 9 days. Magdalena's headstone says she died Aug. 16, 1868, age 88 years, 7 months, 11 days. The 1850 Mortality Schedule of Richland County shows Peter Dellaubag, born in Pennsylvania in 1780, who died in June 1850. The 1850 census of Weller Township shows farmer Christian Dellaubag, 46, Pennsylvania; Magdalena, 70, Pennsylvania; and John Fisher, 11, Pennsylvania. The 1860 census of Weller Township shows Magdalena Delenaubag, 60, Pennsylvania; son Christian Delenbaugh, 57, Pennsylvania; and his wife Ann [Haverfield], 44, Pennsylvania. Christian is also found as a 67-year-old on the 1870 census of Weller Township.
258 Jacob and Fanny had a daughter Elizabeth born in Somerset County Jan. 10, 1807. They went to Ontario that spring. These Berkeys are buried as 'Barkey' in Wideman Mennonite Cemetery at Markham.
259 Samuel Keim was born circa 1775, and died at Quemahoning in 1845, a son of Peter Keim and Susanna Eis (or Eyssin). After the death of his mother at Oley, Berks County, his father 'let him out' to neighboring Amish Mennonite families. Samuel married Anna Blough/Blough. They are buried in Covered Bridge Cemetery at Quemahoning.
Peter Eiman of Elm Grove

In Canton Bern an ei or ey is a meadow by a river. The same root that became Eyer or Eier is also found in Eiman or Eymann, describing a person who lives in such a meadow.

The spelling 'Eiman' was the first we found in early records from Steffisburg. The Heimatort is places of legal origin of this surname (i.e. locations that held the most residents with the name in 1672) are Fahmi, the hamlet and valley adjoining Steffisburg; Linden; and Langnau.

Although the Eiman/Eymann family plays an extensive part in the history of the Amish Mennonites, we have only followed one family that came to Tazewell County after 1850. Their arrival date falls beyond our original guideline, but the information corrects general misimpressions that they arrived earlier and had other family connections.

Moses Ropp constructed his first saw mill in the wooded area south of Allentown Road at Elm Grove. His immediate neighbor and co-worker was Peter Eiman. Despite the coincidence, Peter was not a close relation to Elisabeth Eymann/Eiman, the wife of Andreas Ropp and mother to Moses Ropp.

Pierre Eymann was born at Ribeauvillé, Upper Alsace in 1735, and died at St. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Feb. 25, 1807. In 1782 he married Margaret Barbe Maurer (this may have been Pierre's second marriage). She was born circa 1758, and died at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines April 9, 1811.

Their son miller Pierre Eymann was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines July 31, 1798 (according to his civil birth entry). One source says he died at South Easthope, Perth County, Ontario March 27, 1858.

On April 12, 1826 at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine (below Colmar) he married Madeleine Frutiger. She was a daughter of Daniel Frutiger and Véreène Ummel. Pierre and Madeleine's civil birth entry described the groom as farm operator Pierre Eymann, 27, who was born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mine Aug. 2, 1798 (differing from the civil entry). The bride was described as Madelaine Frutiger, 29. The bride was given away by her uncle Chrétien Ummel, living at Pfastatt. Witnesses included shopkeeper Sebastien Peter Schmitt, 73, friend of the groom; and cultivator Joseph Peter Schmitt, 36, friend of the bride (he signed 'Joseph Petter Schmit').

Their son Pierre Eymann/Peter Eiman was the oldest of 10 children. He was born at Niederhergheim, Upper Alsace (eight miles south of Colmar) May 22, 1826.

On Sept. 8, 1849 at Soultz, Upper Alsace he married Barbe/Barbara Roth. She was born at Pfastatt (a suburb of Mulhouse) Aug. 19, 1824, and died in Oklahoma Nov. 28, 1902, a daughter of André Roth and Catherine Kauffman. She is buried in Red Rock Cemetery at Calumet.

Their civil marriage entry described the groom as miller Pierre Eimen, 23, living at Soultz. He was a son of miller Pierre Eimen, 48, and Madeleine Friediger [Frutiger], 46, living at Soultz. The bride was described as Barbe Roth, 25, stateless though born at Pfastatt and living at Pulversheim. Her parents were day laborer André Roth, 58, living at Jungholtz, Rimbach and the deceased Catherine Kauffman. The groom signed his name 'Peter Eiman,' the bride or her father just signed 'Roth.'

In 1855 they were living at Châtenois. According to Dominique Dreyer's Emigrants Haut-Rhinois en Amérique 1800-1870, the passport application of Pierre Eimen stated that he was from Thann and Niederhergheim, and his intended destination was Indiana. The passport was obtained at Colmar July 4, 1855.

Peter's parents, three brothers, and a sister emigrated with his family. They sailed from Le Havre on the ship New York, arriving at New York Aug. 20, 1855. 261

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260 Daniel Frutiger was born at Silsheim, Upper Alsace circa 1777, and died at Pfastatt July 9, 1824. Véreène Verene/Freni Ummel was born circa 1778, and died at Pfastatt Sept. 6, 1812.

261 Passenger 74, François Joseph Eymann, was born at Niederhergheim April 3, 1828.

Passenger 75, Daniel Eymann, was born at Soultz Nov. 15, 1840, and died at Wayland, Iowa March 2, 1916. He married Barbara Zehr, the widow of Jacob Gingerich. She was born Dec. 10, 1837, and died at Wayland Nov. 5, 1886, a daughter of Peter Zehr and Barbara Roth. They also lived in Tazewell County. Their household appears on the 1870 census of Elm Grove one page before his older brother: Daniel Eimen, 28, Bavaria; and Barbara, 32, New York. The same family is shown on the 1885 state census of Jefferson/Wayne, Henry County, Iowa as Daniel Eimen, 43, France; Barbra, 47, France; and nine children born in Canada, the oldest Barbara, 17. (ROTH explains how Barbara Roth was born in New York and then lived in Ontario). Herald of Truth. December 1886: "On the 5th of November in Wayland, Henry Co., Iowa, Barbara, wife of Daniel Eiman, aged 48 years, 11 months and 26 days. She leaves a husband and 11 children to mourn her loss. She was a member of the Amish Mennonite church and was buried on the 7th in the presence of many sorrowing friends and neighbors. Services by S. T. Miller and S. Gerig from 1 Cor. 15:55-58." Gospel Herald, March 1916: "Daniel Eiman was born in Germany, Oct. 15, 1842; died Feb. 27, 1916, aged 73 y. 4 m. 14 d. He was married to Barbara Zehr who preceded him to the great beyond in 1886. He leaves to mourn 4 sons, 4 daughters, 31 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. In his youth he joined the Mennonite Church, later on he
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passenger number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Pierre Eimann</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>(father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Madeleine [Frutiger]</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>(mother)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>(son)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>(son)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Fronika</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>(daughter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Jean</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>(son)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>29</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Barbe [Roth]</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>(written between the lines)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Jean</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The parents Pierre Eymann and Madeleine Frutiger may have settled at South Easthope, Ontario, but this could not be verified – Pierre would have arrived after the 1851 census and died before the 1861 census.

On the 1870 census of Elm Grove: farmer Peter Eimen, 44, France; Barbara, 45; John, 20; Barbra, 9; Catherine, 7; and Mary, 5. On the 1880 census of Elm Grove: farmer Peter Eiman, 55, France; Barbara, 55, France; Kate, 17, Illinois; and Mary, 13, Illinois. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer Peter Eimen, 55, parents born in France; Barbra, 55; Kate, 17; and Mary, 13.

The 1880 census of Olathe, Kansas shows Peter and Barbara's son John Eimen, 28, Alsace; Emily F, 27, Ohio; and two children born in Illinois.

The children of Pierre Eymann/Peter Eiman and Barbe/Barbara Roth include:

1. John Eiman was born at Soultz, Upper Alsace June 2, 1850, and died at El Reno, Oklahoma May 30, 1929. On Oct. 5, 1873 in Tazewell County he married Emily Frances Potts. She was born at Center, Ohio May 22, 1852, and died at El Reno Jan. 4, 1938, a daughter of Hanson Potts and Elizabeth Turner. They are buried in El Reno Cemetery (John's headstone says 'John Eimen').

2. Barbara Eiman was born in Illinois Dec. 3, 1860, and died at Fort Cobb, Oklahoma June 10, 1935. On March 13, 1878 in Tazewell County she married John G. Fisher (spelling Illinois Statewide Marriage Index). He was born in Missouri in January 1848. The 1900 census of Dillon shows them as John V. Fisher, 52, born in Illinois to parents from Maryland and Virginia; Barbara, 39, born in Illinois to parents from France; and six children born in Illinois.

3. Kate Eiman was born in Illinois Nov. 2, 1862, and died at Fremont, Iowa March 19, 1953. Although she was listed as a 17-year-old in the household of her parents in 1880, she may also be the 20-year-old 'Kate Eimen' listed as a housekeeper in the household of Tomas Leonard at Elm Grove the same year. She married Reuben Stam before 1903, and lived with him at Fremont. He can be found as a 26-year-old farmer, born in Pennsylvania, on the 1880 census of Elm Grove. In 1911 Kate remarried to Henry Storm. He was born in 1862, and died in 1941; he was buried with his first wife Lulu in Cedar Township Cemetery at Fremont.

4. Mary Eiman was born in Illinois Nov. 29, 1866, and died at Elm Grove July 22, 1881; she is buried in Railroad Cemetery.

was reunited to the Amish Mennonite Church at Pigeon, Mich. Funeral services at the Sugar Creek Church, near Wayland, Iowa, by Daniel Graber and Simon Gingerich.

Passenger 76, Veronica/Fronika Eymann, also known as Fanny Eiman, was born at Soultz March 5 or 15, 1843, and died Sept. 20, 1899; she is buried in Seward County, Nebraska. On March 6, 1866 in Tazewell County she married Joseph Maurer (also found as Murer and Mourer). He was born in Germany April 5, 1840, and died at Creston, Montana April 22, 1920. They appear in the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index as Joseph Mourer and Fanny Eimen.

Passenger 77, Jean/John Eymann, was born at Soultz Sept. 9, 1845.

Passenger 80, 11-year-old Christian, may have been brought to the marriage by Barbe/Barbara Roth, or may have been her younger brother.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists John Eimen and Frances Potts.
Schantz of Lembach

In Canton Bern 'Schantz' was originally 'Tschanz' or 'Tschantz.' It is not clear whether Tschanz or Tschantz had the same meaning as Schwantz in modern German: an earthwork for defensive purposes, such as a fortification, trench, or moat. As a Bernese surname it would have described someone who lived near an earthwork.

Tschanz/Tschantz/Schantz families lived in Buchholterberg, Diessbach, and Schwarzenegg — all communities that fall within the administrative district of the Free Court of Steffisburg.

Many of the Schantzes who came to America originated from the vicinity of Lembach, Lower Alsace in the 18th century. They were closely associated with Güngerich and Nafziger families.

Amish Mennonites farmed on three estates at Lembach. Each estate was surrounded by a hamlet or forest subdivision. The French names of the hamlets and the German names of the estates were: Fleckenstein - Ger. Fleckensteinerhof, Froensbourg - Ger. Frönsburgerhof, and Katzenthal - Ger. Katzentalerhof.

GÜNZERICH AT LEMBACH

Recalling GÜNZERICH: Christian Güngerich was born at Heimberg and baptized at Steffisburg in 1648. In 1668 he married Barbara Rubi. Their descendants account for every known Amish Mennonite Güngerich or Gingerich.

Christian Güngerich was confined at Schwarzenegg in 1692. He escaped and went to Lower Alsace, within walking distance of the Alsatian border with the Palatinate. He is mentioned as a leaseholder at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace in 1698; on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach 1708-1712; and then on the castle estate the Frönsburgerhof at Lembach. He finally leased an estate near Laasphe in the principality of Wittgenstein (now in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, on its border with Hesse) in 1713.

The Frönsburgerhof estate at Lembach was so called because it fell into a hamlet or forest subdivision of Lembach called Froensbourg. It encompassed the grounds surrounding le Château de Froensbourg, a ruined sandstone castle that had been used for artillery practice by French troops in 1677. The land was exempt from Alsatian expulsion orders because its owners, the Fleckenstein family, were related to Zweibrücken Wittelsbachs.

Christian's son Johannes 'Hans der Alte' Güngerich was born at Heimberg in 1669. He lived at Ecchery from 1693 to 1695, then at La Petite Liépvre in the same time frame that Jacob Amman was there (1695-1712).

In 1712 the son became leaseholder of the Frönsburgerhof. Over the years he became an extremely influential minister, hosting meetings of ministers at his home. He attended the assembly of ministers held at Essingen in 1759, representing the Froensbourg congregation. He was 90 years old, and died the following year.

Johannes 'Hans der Alte' Güngerich had a sister Barbara who married Johann Schantz. This couple may have been grandparents of the first Schantzes at Lembach.

NAFZIGER AT LEMBACH

Although the Nafziger family had a number of connections to the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach, one stands out.

In NAFZIGER we noted that Christian Nafziger of Uetendorf, Bern married Anna Schyder. They had two sons, Ulrich and Christian Nafziger. The son Christian was born at Theirachern (below Uetendorf) in 1675, and died in 1754. He and his brother Ulrich took their families to Alsace in 1711.

His son Peter Nafziger was a miller born circa 1709. In 1749 Peter was working in the Langenmühle or Langmühle near Wissembourg, Lower Alsace. With a brother Valentin, he later leased the Fleckensteinerhof estate.

Peter's son Peter Nafziger was born on the castle estate Fleckensteinerhof circa 1730, and later relocated to Hochheim near Worms, in the landgraviate Hesse-Darmstadt (now in the Rhineland Palatinate of Germany).

His son Valentin Nafziger was born at Hochheim in 1763, and died there in 1800. He married Magdalena Spring. She was born at Hochheim circa 1766, and died in 1806.

They were the parents of Peter Naffziger, later known as the minister and elder 'Apostle Peter.' In 1787 he was born on OBERTRAISA estate in the Odenwald.

Lembach would now be described as a village in the Sauer Valley, surrounded by the forests of the North Vosges Natural Park. The ruins of Froensbourg castle and Fleckenstein castle are accessible as tourist attractions.

Descendants of Michel Schantz born circa 1720

Michel Schantz was born circa 1720, and died on the Katzentalerhof estate at Lembach in 1787.

Michel married Magdalena Güngerich. They lived on the Frönsburgerhof estate. Michel became a minister and represented the Froensbourg congregation at the assemblies of ministers at Essingen in 1759 and 1779, with Christian Joder and Isaac Hochstettler (it is likely that Isaac's third wife Catherine Schantz was closely related to Michel).

Their children include:
1. **Peter/Pierre Schantz** was born on the Frönsburgerhof estate circa 1747, and died at Neidersteinbach, Lower Alsace March 14, 1793.

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz was born in 1746, and died at Lembach Oct. 3, 1807, age 61. Her civil death entry was signed by son Pierre Nafziger, 45. She married Peter Nafziger. He was born on the Fleckensteinerhof circa 1731, and died there May 3, 1807; his civil death entry was signed by sons Christian, 45, and Valentine, 21. Peter and Magdalena farmed on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach. Their son Valentine Nafziger married his cousin, Jacobine/Jakobina Schantz (more to follow).

3. Christian Schantz was born on 1747 or 1751, and died at Rohrbach-les-Bitche, Moselle Jan. 3, 1817. He married Anna Rubi. She was born circa 1753, and died in 1816, a daughter of Pierre Ruby and Barbe Neuhauser. Their descendants made up the Lorraine branch of the Schantz family.
   a. Joseph Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen (now in Lower Alsace) Aug. 13, 1775, and died at Bitche, Moselle June 27, 1848. On Sept. 30, 1799 at Rohrbach-les-Bitche he married Catherine Risser. She was born on Janau farm at Rahling Feb. 13, 1778, a daughter of Joseph Risser and Anne Marie Kropf of Singling farm at Gros-Réderching.
   a. Christian/Chrétien Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in 1776, and died at Blies-Ébersing, Moselle July 3, 1840. On March 17, 1807 at Gros-Réderching, Moselle he married Marie Gümgerich. She was born at Altroff (now Francaltroff, Moselle) in 1786, and died at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace Nov. 23, 1856, a daughter of Joseph Gümgerich and Anne Rubi.
   c. Valentin Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen circa 1777, and died on Singling farm Sept. 8, 1827. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching he married Barbe Risser, of the Singling farm family (a double wedding). She was born on Singling farm Jan. 20, 1793, and died at Diedendorf, Lower Alsace June 30, 1872. On Oct. 20, 1828 at Gros-Réderching Barbe remarried to laborer and cultivator Joseph Roggy. He was born on the Waderhof estate in 1797, and died at Enchenberg, Moselle Sept. 30, 1840, a son of Jean Roggy and Catherine Birki (see ROGGY).
   c. Madeleine Schantz was born on the Waderhof estate at Lorentzen in 1779, and died at Bettviller, Moselle Jan. 7, 1845. On March 30, 1799 at Rohrbach-les-Bitche she married Jean Riser. He was born on Janau farm at Rahling in 1771, a son of Jean Riser and Marie Schneider.
   b. Andreas/André Schantz was born at Rohrbach-les-Bitsche in 1780, and died there Sept. 30, 1816. On June 16, 1812 at Gros-Réderching he married Marie Risser, of the Singling farm family (a double wedding). She was born on Singling farm in 1789.

4. Katharina/Catherine Schantz was born circa 1765. She married Johannes/Jean Habecker. He was born at Höftstatten circa 1765, a son of Johannes Habecker and Veronika Imhoff. They leased the Brunnerhof estate at Lembach. Johannes/Jean died on the Frönsburgerhof estate Sept. 26, 1815. His civil death entry described him as a 50-year-old cultivator born at Höftstatten who had died on the Frönsburgerhof estate, and further as the husband of Catherine Schantz, suggesting that she was still living. It was witnessed by their son Chrétien Habecker, 26, and cultivator Chrétien Sommer, 30.

**Peter/Pierre Schantz** was born on the Frönsburgerhof estate circa 1747, and died at Neidersteinbach, Lower Alsace March 14, 1793.

Peter/Pierre may have had a first wife named Catherine Nafziger. A civil death entry created at Dambach (adjacent to Windstein) Feb. 15, 1812 noted the death of Elizabetha Schantz, 32, born at Fischbach (Fischbach bei Dahn, four miles north of Dambach and Windstein), and living on the Wineckerthal estate at Neuhofen, Dambach. Her parents were described as day laborer Pierre Schantz and Catharina Nefzinger. The entry was witnessed by cultivator Peter Kurtz, 40.

There is considerably more evidence that he married Magdalena Wagler, who died at Neidersteinbach June 1, 1794. They farmed on the Katzentalerhof estate at Lembach. In 1787 ministers at Katzenthal included Peter, Hans Gümgerich, and Peter Nafziger.

The children of Peter/Pierre Schantz and Magdalena Wagler include:

1. Catherine Schantz was born March 8, 1783 at Katzenthal/Lembach, Lower Alsace; was baptized Jan. 25, 1804; and died in America Aug. 4, 1866. On March 28, 1804 at Puttelange-les-Farschviller, Moselle she married Christian Nafziger. He was born at St. Avold March 29, 1771, and died on the Diessburgerhof at Eiffel, Luxembourg April 25, 1849, a son of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Schantz. They farmed on the Frönsburgerhof at Lembach, Lower Alsace. During the Napoleonic Wars Christian and Katharina relocated to live on the Mottenhof near Lebach in the Saar Region. The family fell into poverty, partly owing to the move. They later lived on the Reckeringhof near Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. 261 Christian died in Luxembourg April 25, 1849. Catherine emigrated in 1849. The couple had nine children; one is particularly relevant to other parts of this text. Joseph Nafziger was born on the

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261 Sources that have this couple at Dahlem, Moselle may reflect confusion with Dalheim, a part of Grevenmacher, Luxembourg.
Mottenhof estate near Lebach in the Saar region Aug. 11, 1807, and died at German, Fulton County, Ohio Jan. 16, 1889. He was a cousin to John Bachman, Barbe Schertz, and John Schertz. He and his wife Magdalena/Madeleine Weicz (this family is usually found in America as Wyse) sailed on the packet ship Erie in 1838 with Steckers and John Bachman (see NAFZIGER for more on Joseph Nafziger).

2. Jacobea/Jacoline Schantz was born Nov. 23, 1785, and died in Wayne County, Ohio Nov. 25, 1866. On June 10, 1808 at Lembach she married her cousin Valentine Nafziger. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Pierre Nafziger, 45, cultivator at Fleckenstein (a son of Peter Nafziger and Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz, likely the groom's older brother and bride's cousin). Valentine was born on the Fleckensteinerhof estate at Lembach June 10, 1782, and died in Wayne County March 10, 1857, a son of Peter Nafziger and Magdalena Schantz. We found six civil entries for children born on the Fleckensteinerhof between 1809 and 1826. In 1833 they emigrated from Europe and settled in Canaan Township, Wayne County. Valentine was naturalized in Wayne County in 1836; the entry gives his age as 54, and said that he had immigrated in 1831. They are buried in Mount Zion Church of Christ Cemetery at Smithville. Herald of Truth, December 1866: "On the 25th of November, in Wayne Co., Ohio, near Smithville, of dropsy, Jacobina Nafziger, aged 81 years and 2 days. She was buried on the 7th at Hof's Meeting-house. She was a faithful member of the Omish Church. She leaves seven children and forty-six grand-children. A funeral address was delivered by the writer from Matt. 24:44 and by John Shumaker from John 11:25-29. Chr. K. Jotder."

3. Christian/Chrétien Schantz. One document to support his marriage announcement said that he was born at Neidersteinbach Oct. 7, 1778, a son of Jean Pierre Schanz and Madeleine Wagler. However, this document created in 1812 may have served the purpose of inflating his age to avoid military conscription for the Napoleonic wars. Later entries are inconsistent, but do not support such an early birth, which may have been off by a decade — his obituary gives Oct. 2, 1788.

Christian/Chrétien Schantz may have been born Oct. 2, 1788. He married at Riedseltz Nov. 14, 1812. The civil marriage entry described the bride as Catherine Roggi [Fr. Roggy], who was born at Riedseltz May 3, 1793, a daughter of cultivator Jean Roggi who was present and consenting, and the deceased Elisabeth Eyer. It was witnessed by uncle-of-the-bride Chrétien Roggi, 51.

The France sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York July 12, 1833. The second page of the passenger list shows Jacob Augsburger, 18. Farther down the list: Christian Schantz, 46; Catharine, 40; Magdelina, 19; Christian, 16; Peter, 14; Elizabeth, 11; Jacob, 8; and Barbara Summer [Sommier], 21. The fifth page of the list shows Peter Ulrich of Hirsingue and his wife Catherine Lauber (see ULRICH).

Within the year the Schantzes arrived in Wayne County, Ohio, where Christian's sister Jacobine was already settled. Christian was naturalized in Wayne County in 1836; the entry gives his age as 47.

Christian served as one of the first ministers at Smithville and Wooster. He ordained Jacob Yoder as a minister of the Wooster (later Oak Grove) congregation in 1848, then appointed Yoder as elder before he departed to live in Butler County in 1849. Yoder was a horse and mule trader who spent liberally. He ran up significant debts and declared bankruptcy. Eventually he was expelled from the congregation for misconduct and later joined the Church of the Brethren.

Christian and Catherine resettled at Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio. The 1860 census of Madison Township, Trenton post office, Butler County, shows farmer Jacob Augsberger, 43, France; Elizabeth [Schantz], 38, France; Chris, 9, France; Catharine Augsberger, 17, Ohio; Mary, 15, Ohio; Magdalena, 13, Ohio; Anna, 11, Ohio; Frances, 9, Ohio; George, 5, Ohio; Chris. Schantz, 72, France; Catharina, 66, France; and three farm hands.

Catherine died before 1870. The 1870 census of Madison Township, Jacksonborough post office, Butler County shows Joseph Schantz, 34, Ohio; Catharine, 27, Ohio; three children born in Ohio; and Christian Schantz, 85, France, 'living with son.'

The Ohio Obituary Index states that Christian Schantz died at Milton, Wayne County (presumably in the home of his son Jacob) Oct. 22, 1879, age 93. Herald of Truth, January 1880: "Schantz - Oct. 22nd [1879] in Wayne County, Ohio, of the infirmities of age; the aged father, and bishop in the Amish church, Christian Schantz; at the advanced age of 91 years and 20 days. He was born in Alsace, France, Oct. 2nd, 1788; he immigrated to America in 1833, and settled in Wayne County. Funeral services were conducted by J.K. Yoder from I Peter 1:22-25."

The children of Christian/Chrétien Schantz and Catherine Roggi include:

1. Magdalena/Madeleine Schantz was born at Riedseltz Sept. 7, 1813. The civil birth entry listed her father's age as 32.
2. Jean Schantz was born at Riedseltz Oct. 29, 1815; his civil birth entry listed his father's age as 27. When Jean died at Riedseltz May 8, 1816, his death entry identified his parents as Dieffenbach laborer Chrétien Schantz, 27, and Catherine Roggi, 24. It was witnessed by maternal grandfather Jean Roggi, 62.
3. Christian/Chrétien Schantz was born at Riedseltz March 5, 1819, and died in Fulton County, Ohio May 14, 1907. The civil birth entry listed his father's age as 28. According to his obituary in the June 1907 issue of Herald of Truth,
he first came to Wayne County in 1833. In 1837 he married Rebecca Grieser, and they had seven children together. They relocated from Wayne County to Fulton County in 1842. The 1850 census of German Township, Fulton County shows Christian Schantz, 33, Germany; Rebecca, 32, Pennsylvania; and six children born in Ohio. Rebecca died Nov. 26, 1851. On Nov. 5, 1852 in Wayne County he remarried to Mary Gingerich. She was born near Smithville, Wayne County Aug. 18, 1827, and died at Trenton, Butler County, Ohio in the home of a daughter Jan. 25, 1913 or 1917. They had eight children together. The 1870 census of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio shows farmer Christian Schantz, 53, France; Mary, 43, Ohio; and six children born in Ohio. In 1870 the assembly of ministers [Ger. Diener Versammlung] was held on their farm, two miles from Archbold. The 1900 census of German Township shows Christian Schantz born in Germany in March 1817, immigrated in 1833; Mary, born in Ohio to German parents in August 1827; and two grown children born in Ohio. They are buried in Eckley Cemetery in Fulton County.

4. Peter/Pierre Schantz was born at Riedseltz Sept. 5, 1819, and died at Grove Township, Davis County, Iowa Aug. 21, 1884. The civil birth entry listed his father's age as 31. He married Anna Roth. She died in Lee County of lung disease Nov. 22, 1882. Her obituary in the January 1883 issue of Herald of Truth said she was age 67 years, 5 months, 19 days (yielding an approximate birth date of June 3, 1815), and had come to America at the age of 11 (circa 1826). They relocated from Ohio to Iowa in 1846. The 1860 census of Pleasant Ridge Township, Lee County shows them as farmer Peter Schantz, 40, France; Anne, 40, France; and four children born in Iowa. The 1870 census of Pleasant Ridge Township shows them as farmer Peter Schantz, 50, France; Anna, 49, France; and five children born in Iowa. The History of Lee County (1879) lists farmer Peter Shantz in Section 26, Post Office Denmark, Pleasant Ridge Township. On March 26, 1885 Peter remarried to widow Sara Miller Rees at Stiles, Davis County, Iowa. The application described the groom as a son of Christian Schantz and Marian Rougy, and the bride as a daughter of John Miller and Magdalena King. As a minister Peter led his congregations into the Central Conference Mennonite Church. Herald of Truth, September 1885: “On the 21st of August, in Davis County, Iowa, after a protracted illness of dropsy of the heart, Preacher Peter Schantz, aged 65 years and 11 months. Funeral services were held at the house on the same day, from Rev. 14:13, which text he himself had selected several days before he died. He died in a good hope and with a heart filled with joy. In accordance with his previously expressed wish, he was buried in Lee County, where had lived during the greater part of his life.” Peter Schantz and Anna Roth are buried in Denmark, Lee County.

5. Elisabeth/Elizabeth Schantz was born at Riedseltz July 18, 1821. The civil birth entry listed her father's age as 29. She married Jacob Augspurger, a son of Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. He was born at Strasbourg Feb. 4, 1817. They appear on the 1880 census of Madison Township, Butler County as farmer Jacob Augspurger, 63; Elizabeth, 58, France; with three grown children born in Ohio.

6. Jacob/Jacques Schantz was born at Riedseltz Sept. 2, 1825; and died at Milton Township, Wayne County Aug. 16, 1898. His civil birth entry listed his father's age as 38. In Wayne County in 1858 he married Elizabeth Blough. She was born in Wayne County Aug. 5, 1834, and died there March 20, 1899, a daughter of Peter Blough and his first wife Leah Yoder (Peter Blough later remarried to Magdalena Nafziger, a daughter of Valentine Nafziger and Jacobine/Jacobina Schantz). A census of young men taken in June 1863 shows farmer Jacob Shantz, 37, France, as a resident of Milton. 'J. Schantz' is found on the 1897 Atlas of Wayne County as the owner of 240 acres in Milton Sections 27 and 28.

7. Joseph Schantz was born in Ohio Aug. 6, 1835; and died at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio in April 1931. On Sept. 9, 1862 at Trenton, Butler County he married Catherine Augspurger. She was born Dec. 1, 1843, and died Feb. 3, 1883, a daughter of Jean Augspurger and Jacobina Holly, and a granddaughter to Christian Augspurger and Katharina Hauter. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger; it is listed in Grubb's History of the Amish Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as 'Joseph Shanes and Katie Augspurger.' They are found on the 1880 census of Madison Township, Butler County as farmer Josep Shantz, 44, France; Catharine, 36, France; and seven children born in Ohio. The 1900 census of Trenton Village, Madison Township shows Joseph Schatz, 65, born in Ohio in August 1834; and Maria, 41, born in Germany in May 1859 (she immigrated in 1870). Joseph was buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Trenton. His death entry said that he was a son of Christian Schantz and Katherine Roche [Roggi], and the husband of Catherine Augspurger.

**Descendants of Peter Schantz born circa 1725**

While Michel Schantz remained in the area of the Frönsburgerhof estate, another Schantz who may have been his brother or cousin moved north.

Peter Schantz was born circa 1725, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein, Nassau-Usingen Sept. 6, 1801. His first wife was Magdalena Ullman. We could not identify children from this marriage. His second wife was Veronika, born circa 1727; her surname could not be determined.

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264 In Amish Mennonites in Germany, Hermann Guth describes Johann Georg Schantz as "probably a nephew of Michel." He may have been a son of Peter Schantz and his first wife Magdalena Ullman. Johann George married Katharina Bürki and lived at Nehwiller, Lower Alsace. Their son Christian Schantz was born at Nehwiller Oct. 28, 1762, and died at Sinzing in the
Recalling UNZICKER:

Nassau-Weilburg was a princely domain far north of Alsace. One reached it by traveling north (downstream) on the Rhine River, beyond the Upper and Lower Palatines on the west bank and Hesse-Darmstadt on the east.

In 1775 the chancellor for Prince Carl Christian of Nassau-Weilburg visited a royal property, the Münsterhof estate at Dreisen in the Palatinate. It was leased by Amish Mennonites. The chancellor was so impressed by their progressive methods that he commissioned farm manager David Holly to find families willing to come to Nassau-Weilburg. His proposal offered generous 12-year leases on princely estates, on the condition that the lessees cultivate underdeveloped acreage and share their knowledge with neighboring landowners.

Four family heads accepted the arrangement: Peter Unzicker of Wörth, Johannes Nafziger of Alsace, Peter Schantz of Alsace, and Peter Schwarzentuber/Schwarzentraub/Schwartzzaub. Peter Unzicker brought several brothers who also claimed properties. According to Guth, Holly received a 200 gulden reward from the chancellor.

In 1775 Peter and Veronika accepted David Holly’s offer of a lease on the Hofgut Merenberger at Merenberg, four miles above Weilburg. Two nearby locations were associated with Amish Mennonite Unzicker families: Gräveneck, four miles south of Weilburg, and later Heckshauzen, adjacent to Merenberg.

Nassau-Weilburg was represented at the Essingen assembly of ministers in 1779 by Peter Schantz and Johannes Nafziger. In 1780 Peter Schantz, Hans Naffziger, and Peter Unsicker were noted to be ministers from Nassau-Weilburg on the Dutch Namaanjist. In 1781 Peter Schantz was among ministers placing his signature on a minister’s manual made up from the letters of influential elder Johannes ‘Hans’ Nafziger of Essingen.

Their 12-year lease on Hofgut Merenberger expired in 1787. Then Peter and Veronika relocated to live with their son Caspar. Caspar had leased the Henrietental estate, in the village of Wördsdorf, in the township of Idstein. Idstein is 20 miles south of Merenberg; it was the center of a thriving leather trade from the late 18th century to the mid-20th.

The children of Peter Schantz and his second wife Veronika born at Lembach include:

1. Magdalena Schantz was born May 4, 1758. She married Peter Nafziger. He was born on the Ludwigsburgerhof estate at Selbach, Nassau-Weilburg circa 1748, and died there Nov. 13, 1813. His first wife had been Katharina Nafziger; they had nine children together.
2. Peter Schantz was born circa 1762, and died on the Rotherhof at Dierdorf (10 miles north of Koblenz) Jan. 22, 1830. He married Elise Unzicker. She was born circa 1762, a daughter of Peter Unzicker of Gräveneck and Katharina Holly of Mühlhofen. Their son Peter Schantz was born on the Henrietental estate Feb. 24, 1797, and died on the Hofgut Langwiesen at Montabaur (20 miles west of Weilburg) Feb. 11, 1835. He married Elizabeth Barbara’ Unzicker. She was born in 1800, and died on the Eichelscheiderhof near Waldmohr in the Palatinate April 6, 1873. On May 16, 1840 she remarried to Christian Heinemann. He was born at Gommerscheid, a neighborhood of Neuwied in 1805, and died on the Krayerhof at Andernach (next to Neuwied) in 1863, a son of Georg Heinemann and Christine Schlabach (this couple leased an estate in Gommerscheid at Neuweid on the north side of the Rhine River, then the Krayerhof at Andernach on the opposite side). The Heinemann family from the estate Langenau near Siegen became Mennonite through a marriage in 1771.
3. Caspar Schantz was born circa 1768, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein Dec. 24, 1813.

Caspar Schantz was born at Lembach circa 1768, and died on the Henriettental estate at Idstein Dec. 24, 1813. His first wife was Magdalena/Madeleine Unzicker. His second wife was Elisabeth Unzicker. She was born circa 1780, and died in 1813, a daughter of Joseph Unzicker and Katharina Güngerich.

In 1807 at Trippstadt in the Palatinate, Jakob Unzicker of Gräveneck married Elizabeth Jordy of Wilenstein. They would become the parents of Morton settler Peter Unzicker (see UNZICKER). Three witnesses were described as uncle-of-the-bride farmer Christian Imhof, 50, living at Wilenstein; farmer Jean Imhof, 46, living at Wilenstein; and farmer ‘Gaspard Schantz,’ 39, living on the Wachenhof estate at Idstein.

The children of Caspar Schantz and his first wife Magdalena/Madeleine Unzicker include:

a. Caspar Schantz was born circa 1783. He married Maria Güngerich. She was born at Hunighausen, Waldeck Oct. 19, 1788, a daughter of Peter Güngerich and Katharina Algeyer. Their son Caspar/Kasper Schantz was born circa 1804. Circa 1822 he married Elisabeth Stähl. She was born on the Obertaissa estate in 1810, a daughter of Jakob Stähly and his second wife Elizabeth Brenneman (Jakob Stähly can be recalled from NAFZIGER as a step-grandfather to

Palatinate Feb. 9, 1834. He married Marie Birki, then remarried to Anna Imhof. He is found on the Mehlingerhof estate at Bettwiler, Moselle, and on the Schoenhof estate at Rimling, Moselle. Almost all of his many children went to Bavaria.

265 Idstein was part of Nassau-Usingen from 1728 to 1806, then became part of the Duchy of Nassau. The Duchy of Nassau later became the middle portion of three parts of the state of Hesse.
Christian Schantz was born circa 1790. Schantz family notes suggest that he was the likely father of an Illinois settler born circa 1822. (Presumably Christian wins an elimination process; the children of Peter born in 1762 and Caspar born circa 1783 are documented, and Valentine born circa 1790 is thought to have died unmarried. However, genealogy assumptions like this are often wrong, when there are so many unknowns).

**Jacob Schantz** and Catherine Deissen sailed from Bremen on the Oneco Aug. 24, 1848, arriving at New Orleans Oct. 24, 1848. The passenger list shows Jacob Schantz, 23; then one name removed, Catherine Deis, 26. (The 1860 census would reflect an exact match to these ages; thus Jacob was born circa 1825, Catherine circa 1822). The Daily Picayune reported the arrival in its Oct. 25 issue, noting that the 147-foot ship carried 235 passengers in steerage.

The couple came into New Orleans at the peak of a cholera epidemic. See STEIDER for the story of a not-so-fortunate family that arrived in New Orleans only a month later, and background on the journey up the Mississippi River.

Details of the Schantz's lives can be gleaned from an inaccurate rags-to-riches sketch of their well-known son, minister Peter Schantz. History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church: "...Jacob and Catherine Deissen Schantz came from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany to America on their wedding trip. Jacob Schantz was born about 1822, Catherine Deiss 1824. They came to America in about the year 1847, and settled on a farm near Congerville."

The Schantz family is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Jacob Chaunce, 31, Germany; Catharine, 28, Germany; and Barbara, 1, Illinois. They lived next door to Michael Kinsinger (see KINSINGER) and Magdalena Naefziger in what is now Montgomery Township.

On Oct. 9, 1854 the Schantzes put in a formal claim on their land. The Illinois Public Land Database shows that 'Jacob Shantz' registered 40 acres in SESW Section 22 of Montgomery Township. The land was free because it is categorized 'RR' — in this case not 'railroad,' but 'Rock River.' The Rock Creek cut the lot evenly in half, running north to south. Their neighbors to the north were minister 'Apostle Peter' Naefziger and Barbara Beck; their neighbors to the east were Magdalena Nafari, daughter of Peter and Barbara) and her husband minister Michael Kinsinger.

The 1860 census of Montgomery shows farmer Jacob Gants, 35, Hesse; Catherine, 38, Hesse; Barbara, 11, Illinois; Peter, 7, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; and an illegible name [Elizabeth], eight months, Illinois.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church: "They lived in an old log cabin with two rooms until December 1863, when they built a new house." Jacob died that spring, in April 1864. Catherine died there in September 1866.

The 1873 Atlas of Woodford County shows that the land that had belonged to the Schantzses passed into the hands of Valentine Strubhar. Strubhar also owned 160 acres below it.

The children of Jacob Schantz and Catherine Deissen born at Congerville, Montgomery Township include:

1. Barbara Schantz was born Aug. 25, 1849, and died at Gridley, McLean County Jan. 15, 1924. On Dec. 20, 1866 in McLean County she married minister Etienne/Stephen Stahley. He was born at Combe, Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland March 30, 1842, and died at Danvers Feb. 26, 1916, a son of Christian Stähli and Helena Ramseyer. He sailed from Le Havre on the Helvetia, arriving at New York May 10, 1861. He served as a minister for the Flanagan Mennonite Church from 1885 until his death. They are buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan.

2. **Peter Schantz** was born April 14, 1853, and died at Normal, McLean County July 24, 1925.

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266 A real estate document written by Count von Weid of Runkel says that when Johannes Naefziger assumed the lease on the Horderhof near Blessenbach in 1833, "...Co-leaseholders had an interst in the estate, namely the widow of the teacher Menk of Saltzburg, jurisdiction of Rennerod: Johannes Unzicker, born on the estate Henriettental, jurisdiction of Idstein, and his wife, Barbara Naefziger; Caspar Schantz, estate owner of Lorzenbach, Duchy of Hesse; and Valentine Naefziger, leaseholder of the Schmiedhof [Schmitthof] near Kraft-Solms." Blessenbach is is adjacent to Aumenau, eight miles south of Weilburg.

267 Oneco was a character in Catherine Maria Sedgwick's romantic fiction Hope Leslie, or Early Times in the Massachusetts, published in 1827.
3. Jacob Schantz was born April 1, 1856, and died at Pekin Jan. 28, 1836. On Dec. 24, 1879 he married Anna Lorenz. She was born at Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio Dec. 17, 1861, and died at Bloomington, McLean County April 12, 1929, a daughter of Charles F. Lorenz and Sophie Ernestine Roeder. Jacob is found as a widower on the 1930 census of Bloomington. They are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery at Danvers.

4. Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Schantz was born Sept. 10, 1859, and died at Bloomington Feb. 26, 1940. On Dec. 21, 1876 in McLean County she married George Sherman. He was born at St. Louis, Missouri Feb. 29, 1852, and died March 20, 1910, a son of Adam Sherman and Magdalena Basha. They are buried in Troyer Cemetery at Carlock.

5. Louis Schantz was born Jan. 20, 1863, and died at Washington April 23, 1924. On Jan. 29, 1885 in Tazewell County he married Fannie Schick; the ceremony was performed by Peter Stuckey. She was born at Washington Jan. 18, 1864, and died Dec. 21, 1943, a daughter of Joseph Schick and Magdalene Augspurger. They are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church on Peter Schantz: "...In April 1864 Rev. Schantz's father died, and in September 1866 his mother, leaving him an orphan at the age of twelve. He was thrown upon his own resources to make his way in the life, because he was the second child in the family and so did not receive help from brothers and sisters." 268 "His school advantages were very near nil, getting only a few months of school each year. After the death of his mother he was taken into the home of Rev. Christian Imhoff until he was twenty." (Christian Imhoff was married to Barbara Ehresman; see EHRESMAN).

Peter was baptized by Rev. Joseph Stuckey in 1872, and became a member of the North Danvers Mennonite Church. On Dec. 23, 1875 in McLean County he married Anna 'Annie' Kinsinger, in a ceremony performed by minister Joseph Stuckey. She was born at Congerville March 1, 1854 (her headstone says March 3), a daughter of minister Michael Kinsinger and Magdalena Naffziger.

History of the Central Conference Mennonite Church: "After his marriage he moved on the farm of his father-in-law and lived there until 1877 when he bought the farm." "The outstanding leader of the Central Conference Mennonite Church for a quarter of a century (1896-1921) was Rev. Peter Schantz..." "...In 1882 Peter Schantz was called to the ministry in the North Danvers Church and was ordained by Bishop Joseph Stuckey. Up to this time the North Danvers Church had quite a few older men as ministers such as Rev. John Strubhar, Rev. Joseph Stuckey, Rev. John Stahley, Rev. Christian Imhoff, Rev. Joseph Stalter, Rev. Michael Miller, and Rev. Jacob Miller. By 1882 the following had died: Rev. Michael Miller, and Rev. Christian Imhoff. The rest of the ministers were getting very old, so Rev. Stuckey felt he needed younger men in the ministry. He appealed to the congregation and they elected two young men, Joash Stutzman and Peter Schantz..."

"In 1900 he was ordained as a bishop and thus had to deal more with the official matters of the church. In the later years of his ministry he devoted a great part of his time to extension work." "In the winter of 1892 he moved to the White Oak district. There he lived on a farm until August 15, 1910, when he moved to Normal, Illinois. He died at Normal at the home of his son, July 24, 1925."

Annie died at Normal June 8, 1906. Though her name and dates are inscribed on a joint headstone in Troyer Cemetery, where Peter is buried, she is actually buried in East White Oak Cemetery.

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268 Widow Catherine Deissen Schantz may have remarried in McLean County Jan. 5, 1865. An entry for Catharine Schantz and Charles Wagner is found in the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index.
Dettweiler of Diemergering

In Bernese dialect a Dätwyler was someone who lived in a Dätwil or soldier's encampment. The Heimatort or legal places of origin for this surname are Oftringen and Vorderwald in Canton Aargau, once part of Canton Bern.

This is the story of a Peoria family with an Amish Mennonite background. It involves Woodford County by taking in Barbe/Barbara Dettweiler (1814-1874), who became the wife of John Engel of Metamora; and Magdalena Bachman (1826-1881), who was living at Roanoke at the time of her marriage. And it gives us a chance to tell the story of riverboat captain Henry Detweiller, who took a wife from Woodford County. His rags-to-riches adventures made him a hero to German-speaking boys in Central Illinois.

Jakob Dettweiler was the progenitor of the Dettweiler family. Some sources say he was born at Zofingen (in a part of Canton Bern that became Canton Aargau) July 9, 1693. Others are reluctant to specify this birth because there were several Jakob Dettweilers born in the area. It is thought that his wife was named Maria.

They obtained a lease on the Steinisch estate near Langensteinbach in Baden-Durlach in 1728. His co-leaseholder was Benedikt Eyer (Sr.). Eyer became a representative of the Baden-Durlach congregations at the assembly of ministers at Essingen in 1759.

Jakob died on the Storrwoog estate near Pirmasens in the Palatinate Sept. 26, 1763. Pirmasens was situated in an 'enclave' or island of land belonging to Darmstadt.

Jacob’s son Jakob Dettweiler was born circa 1723. He married Maria Dettweiler. They leased the Haseneck estate near Pirmasens in 1750, and were living on the Ransbrunnerhof estate at Epfenbrunn in the Palatinate in 1771. Epfenbrunn is two miles above the border with the French department of Moselle.

In 1779 Jakob purchased the Stuppacherhof estate at Hornbach for 3,000 Gulden. Hornbach is located about 6 miles south of the city of Zweibrücken, on the border of the Rhineland Palatinate with Moselle, just north of Volmunster, Moselle.

In the same year Jakob attended the assembly of ministers at Essingen, representing the Zweibrücken congregation with Jakob Bachmann and Andreas Leyenberger. He became elder of the Zweibrücken Amish Mennonite congregation.

On Sept. 9, 1780 Jakob acted on behalf of Essingen elder Johannes 'Hans' Nafziger, who was involved in a dispute in the Principality of Speyer. Jakob sent a document endorsing Nafziger's good character to the ministry of the Palatinate. The ministry forwarded the endorsement with a notation describing Jakob as, "One of the most prominent Anabaptists in this region, without whom his fellow believers would undertake nothing of consequence."

Jakob died at the Spithalhof estate near Zweibrücken June 1, 1784.

Despite the apparent prosperity of the family, it was headed toward financial ruin. Jakob may have believed that others were going to join him on the Stuppacherhof estate. Over several years he had spent more than five times the value of the estate to remove old structures and construct new buildings. It is also possible that his widow made loans to friends and relatives in Alsace, where the economy was suspect. By 1787 the family was bankrupt and the Stuppacherhof estate was sold at auction.

Jakob and Maria had nine children. We believe that only two of the children had descendants who came to Tazewell County; one was Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler. He was born at Hornbach May 6, 1761, and died at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace Feb. 10, 1831. He is thought to have married a Burki before remarrying to Anna/Anne Wagler. Anna/Anne was born at Diemeringen circa 1768, and died there Sept. 11, 1810, a daughter of Johannes/Jean Wagler and Anna Bücki/Birki. Christian/Chrétien and Anna/Anne settled on the Neumatte estate at Diemeringen, Lower Alsace at about the same time the Stuppacherhof estate was auctioned.

The children of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his second wife Anna/Anne Wagler born at Diemeringen include:

1. Jacob/Jacques Dettweiler was born Nov. 15, 1787, and died at Diemeringen Feb. 2, 1824. On June 8, 1813 at Pisendorf (now Bischoff-sur-Serre, 5 miles southwest of Diemeringen) he married Madeleine Sommer. She was born Feb. 15, 1794.

269 When son Christian/Chrétien died at Dehlingen in 1831, the municipal clerk apparently misunderstood the form for a civil death entry. Rather than write the dates of the deaths of his parents, he wrote their ages at death. Father Jakob had died at age 61, and mother Maria at age 32. Thus, also knowing Jakob's date of death, we have a good idea when Jakob was born.

270 The other was a daughter whose first name could not be identified. She married Daniel Eyer of Remchingen, Baden. They were the parents of Anna Maria Eyer, who married Andreas Zimmerman. They were the parents of sons Michael and Andreas/Andrew and a daughter Verena who came to Central Illinois via Butler County, Ohio (see ZIMMERMAN).
at Pisdorf Feb. 14, 1795, and died on the Lutterbacherhof estate at Voellerdingen May 14, 1859, a daughter of Christian Sommer and Anne Madeleine Mardy [Martin].

2. Magdalena/Madeleine Dettweiler was born Aug. 5, 1789, and died at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio Sept. 19, 1871; she is buried in Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery at Smithville. On Nov. 10, 1808 at Diemeringen she married Andreas Bürki/André Bircky. He was born on the Neumattie estate at Diemeringen Nov. 25, 1784, and died there April 30, 1826, a son of Valentin Bürki/Birki and Katharina Ehrismann. As a widow she came to America with her children. See BIRKEY for a list of her children and further details.

3. Jean Christian Dettweiler/John Detweiler was born Jan. 12, 1791, and died at St. Louis in 1842. He married Madeleine Schertz. She was born at Oberstinsel, Moselle June 30, 1799, and died at Dehlingen April 5, 1822, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Barbe Schertz. On June 14, 1824 at Dehlingen he remarried to Anna Halther. She was born at Hinsbourg, Lower Alsace March 25, 1786. They sailed from Le Havre on the De Rham, remained onboard when the ship arrived at Boston, and disembarked at New York Dec. 21, 1830 (for details of the voyage see KENNEL). The passenger list shows John Detweiler, 36, France; Anna, 38; and Joseph, 2. They arrived at Peoria in 1833, where they operated the St. Croix Tavern on Water Street. 'John Detweiller' was naturalized in Peoria County Aug. 3, 1839.

4. Catherine Dettweiler was born April 16, 1792, and died in the city of Zweibrücken in 1814. On May 12, 1812 at Diemeringen she married miller Christian/Chrétien Hauter. He was born in the city of Zweibrücken Nov. 30, 1788, a son of miller Joseph Hauter and Magdalena/Madeleine Schertz. In 1814 he remarried to Catherine Gingerich. Two sons from his second marriage came to Tazewell County (see HAUTER).

5. Anne/Anna Dettweiler was born Feb. 17, 1798, and died at Ixheim, Zweibrücken in 1826. On April 22, 1823 at Dehlingen she married Joseph Hauter. He was born at Ixheim Dec. 2, 1799, and died at Zweibrücken Feb. 12, 1858, a son of Andreas Hauter and Katharina Imhof.

6. Christian Dettweiler was born April 26, 1802, and died at Peoria in 1863. On Nov. 29, 1829 at Dehlingen he married Catherine Schwartz/Katharina Schwarz. She was born at Blies-Ebers (within Moselle, on the border with the Saarland) Sept. 23, 1800, and died at Peoria in 1888, a daughter of Nicolas Schwarz/Schwartz and Marie Bertschi/Bertschy. They are found on the 1860 census of Peoria as Christian Dettwiler, 60, France; Kathrin, 59, France; Ann, 28, Illinois; and John, 8, Illinois. The 1880 census of Peoria shows Catharina Dettwiller, 79, as the mother-in-law in the household of 45-year-old Magdalena Detweiler. They are buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria as ‘Dettweiler.’

On Sept. 3, 1811 at Diemeringen Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler remarried to Katharina/Catherine Schertz. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as merchant-trader [Fr. négociant] Chrétien Dettweiler, 50, a widower with children, born at Hornbach May 6, 1761, a son of merchant-trader Jacques Dettweiler and Marie Dettweiler. The bride was described as Catherine Scherz, 29, born at Keskastel, Lower Alsace March 15, 1782, a daughter of miller Joseph Scherz and Barbe Naflizer. It was witnessed by cultivator Jean Barcky, 25, of Lorentzen. Signatures on the document included Christian Dettweiler, Joseph Schertz, and Johannes Birky.

Their son Jean Christian and his second wife Anna Halther sailed to America on the De Rham in 1830 (see KENNEL for an account of the voyage). If the remainder of the family intended to follow, their plans were disrupted by the death of the father only a few months later.

Though he did not emigrate from Europe, father Christian/Chrétien was described in The History of Peoria County, Illinois: "Mr. Dettweiler, Sr., was engaged in farming and milling, and also the transfer business, in which he amassed quite a large fortune, but meeting with reverses during the war of 1812 and 1813, from which he never recovered, he died in 1832, in straightened circumstances." Actually he lost his fortune and died a debtor at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace (four miles north of Diemeringen) Feb. 10, 1831. His civil death entry created Feb. 11 described him as a 72-year-old shopkeeper [Fr. propriétaire] from Deuxpont, Bavière [Zweibrücken, Bavaria] living on the Klappach estate at Dehlingen.

The children of Christian/Chrétien Dettweiler and his third wife Katharina/Catherine Schertz include:

7. Elisabeth Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen Oct. 3, 1812, and died at Peoria in March 1838.

8. Barbe/Barbara Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen March 26, 1814, and died at Metamora June 10, 1874. She immigrated with the Michael Belsley family in 1837. On July 16, 1839 in Tazewell County (the part that later became Woodford County) she married Jean/John Engel. He was born May 22, 1801, possibly at Lagarde, a son of Christian Engel and his second wife Barbe Brunner. See ENGEL.

9. Catherine/Catharine Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen Dec. 23, 1815, and died in 1855.

10. Joseph Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen May 28, 1817, and died there Aug. 21, 1817.

11. Joseph Dettweiler was born at Diemeringen May 23, 1818, and died at Dehlingen July 25, 1824.


13. A stillborn child was born at Diemeringen Jan. 4, 1822.

14. Henri Dettweiler or Henry Detweiller was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace July 19, 1824, and died at Peoria April 2, 1903.
Widow Catherine Schertz and children Elisabeth, Barbe/Barbara, Catherine, and Henry arrived at New York in the spring of 1837. After a 42-day journey they reunited with Jean Christian (now just 'John') at Peoria Sept. 15. He had settled at Peoria in 1833, where he was managed the St. Croix Tavern on Water Street.

Catherine Schertz died at Peoria Feb. 19, 1838.

The story of youngest son **Henri Dettweiler or Henry Detweiller** (he signed his name 'Detweiller') is told in *The History of Peoria County, Illinois*, published in 1880, and the *Old Settlers of Peoria County* souvenir booklet, published in 1897.

He was born at Dehlingen, Lower Alsace July 19, 1824. At Peoria he worked a year for his brother, John. Then he worked for the Samuel Voris & Co. clothing store, and clerked in Charles W. McClellan's shoe store on Main Street.

On April 15, 1841 he went aboard the steam boat *Frontier* for a transit from Peoria to Peru. One version of his story says that he held a position in a steam engine factory, and this gave him the idea to hire on as an apprentice pilot on steam boats. Another version says he was stocking the bar for his brother when he befriended the captain. Either way, at 3 a.m. on Sept. 2, 1842 he was piloting the boat near Little Detroit when the *Panama* crossed before him. He was forced to run the *Frontier* aground to avoid a collision. He was correct in saving the passengers, but the hull was destroyed.

Over the next six years he was second pilot on the *Chicago* and *Raritan*, and pilot on the *Gov. Briggs*, the *Domain*, and the *Danube*. In 1847 he captained the *Governor Briggs* to transport Mexican War supplies between St. Louis and Alton.

Henry married Magdalena Bachman in Woodford County Nov. 5, 1848. Their names appear on the marriage entry as Henry Detweiler and Madaline Baughman. Magdalena was born at Arnstadt, Thuringia in 1826, and lived near Little Detroit.

On May 17, 1849 Henry was on the bridge of the *Danube* when it came into St. Louis. At 9 p.m. that evening the boiler of the paddle-wheeled steamboat *White Cloud* exploded at moorage. The blast threw burning debris that lit 23 other steamboats and nine flatboats. They floated downriver, generating embers that ignited structures along the shore. By 8 a.m. the following morning, 200 homes and 230 other structures were consumed.

Later that year Henry contracted cholera at St. Louis. It took nine months to completely recover (see STEIDER for more on the St. Louis Cholera Epidemic of 1849).

During the 1850s he was captain of the *Gov. Briggs*, captain/co-owner of the *Mauvaisterre* [Badlands], and captain/owner of the *Minnesota*. On Oct. 5, 1858 he struck up an acquaintance with a prominent *Minnesota* passenger, according to an article *Speech at Pekin, Illinois*, published in the *Peoria Transcript* the following day:

"Mr. Lincoln was welcomed to Tazewell County and introduced to the audience by Judge Bush in a short and eloquently delivered speech, and when he came forward, was greeted with hearty applause.

He commenced by alluding to the many years in which he had been intimately acquainted with most of the citizens of old Tazewell county, and expressed the pleasure which it gave him to see so many of them present. He then alluded to the fact that Judge Douglas, in a speech to them on Saturday, had, as he was credibly informed, made a variety of extraordinary statements concerning him. He had known Judge Douglas for twenty-five years, and was not now to be astonished by any statement which he might make, no matter what it might be.

He was surprised, however, that his old political enemy but personal friend, Mr. John Haynes - a gentleman whom he had always respected as a person of honor and veracity - should have made such statements about him as he was said to have made in a speech introducing Mr. Douglas to a Tazewell audience only three days before. He then rehearsed those statements, the substance of which was that Mr. Lincoln, while a member of Congress, helped starve his brothers and friends in the Mexican war by voting against the bills appropriating to them money, provisions and medical attendance.

He was grieved and astonished that a man whom he had heretofore respected so highly, should have been guilty of such false statements, and he hoped Mr. Haynes was present that he might hear his denial of them. He was not a member of Congress he said, until after the return of Mr. Haynes' brothers and friends from the Mexican war to their Tazewell county homes - was not a member of Congress until after the war had practically closed.

He then went into a detailed statement of his election to Congress, and of the votes he gave, while a member of that body, having any connection with the Mexican war. He showed that upon all occasions he voted for the supply bills for the army, and appealed to the official record for a confirmation of his statement.

Mr. Lincoln then proceeded to notice, successively, the charges made against him by Douglas in relation to the Illinois Central Railroad, in relation to an attempt to Abolitionize the Whig party, and in relation to negro equality.

After finishing his allusions to the special charges brought against him by his antagonist, Mr. Lincoln branched out into one of the most powerful and telling speeches he has made during the campaign. It was the most forcible argument against Mr. Douglas' Democracy, and the best vindication of and eloquent plea for Republicanism, that we ever listened to from any man.
...He returned to Peoria on the steamer Minnesota, which had stopped at Pekin so Capt. Detweiller and crew could hear the speech. Learning that Lincoln was bound for Peoria, the captain insisted on taking him. The steamer had no sooner left the dock than Lincoln was up on the hurricane deck with him, where they had a long and pleasant chat all the way to Peoria.

In 1862 Henry became master of the federal dispatch boat Jenny Lind. It accompanied a fleet of 30 steamers with 30,000 troops onboard being transported from Island No. 10 to Pittsburg Landing in southwestern Tennessee. The Jenny Lind became the first steamboat to arrive after the surprise Confederate attack that initiated the Battle of Shiloh at Pittsburg Landing April 6-7.

For the remainder of the war he was master of the steamboat Yankee as it moved troops and supplies. To discourage would-be attackers, the Yankee occasionally traveled downriver at night disguised as a gunboat. In October 1863 the Yankee sailed from St. Louis to New Orleans with cargo valued at more than $250,000. From the end of the war until 1873 Henry was captain of the Beaver. His household at 606 Hamilton Street in Peoria appears on the 1870 census as steamboat captain Henry Detwiller, 45, France; Madaline, 40, Hesse-Darmstadt; steamboat clerk Henry, 20; Amelia, 18; Tilla, 18; Thomas, 8; William, 4; and Matty, 3; all children born in Illinois. Henry invested in the ice business in 1870. In 1874 he retired to land, establishing the Detweiller Ice Cream Company at 108 South Adams Street. He attended a Universalist church, invested in city properties, served five terms as Peoria city treasurer, belonged to the veterans organization Grand Army of the Republic, and served 13 years as president of the Old Settlers Organization.

Magdalena died at Peoria in 1888. Henry also died there April 2, 1903. None of their children married. They are buried together in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria surrounding an obelisk decorated with an anchor.

271 Their son Thomas donated Detweiller Park to the city in 1927.
Gascho: Cachot of Merlebach

This surname does not have a Swiss origin. To the French a cachot is a prison cell or dungeon keep. In 1570 the Peace of St. Germain-en-Laye concluded three years of fighting between majority French Catholics and minority Protestants influenced by John Calvin and Martin Luther. The lull came to an abrupt end Aug. 22, 1572, when someone attempted to assassinate admiral Gaspard de Coligny, a Protestant member of the king’s council. The following evening Charles IX decided to avert reprisals by closing the gates of Paris. He ordered his Swiss guards to kill at least two dozen Protestant leaders including de Coligny. Given the example of their king, the general population rose up on the day of the feast of St. Bartholomew. In Paris they killed Protestants for three days. Massacres on a smaller scale took place in a dozen other communities throughout France.

On April 13, 1598 the rights of French Protestants were formally protected from the Catholic majority by the Edict of Nantes. But in October 1685 the Edict of Fontainebleau reversed direction and declared Protestantism illegal. Many Protestants converted, but about 200,000 found havens in the Dutch Republic, Great Britain, Prussia, South Africa, Switzerland, and North America. Persecution of Protestants in France did not subside again until 1724.

A family story holds that Cachots left France in the era of Protestant persecution. The colorful and memorable ‘Gascho’ is the way a German-speaking person would write ‘Cachot.’ Freedom to worship and civil rights were not restored until the Edict of Versailles Nov. 7, 1787. Protestants gained equal rights in France in 1789 under the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. A further law passed in 1790 invited the descendants of exiled Protestants to return to France: "All persons born in a foreign country, and descending in any degree of a French man or woman expatriated for religious reasons, are declared French nationals, and will benefit from rights attached to that quality if they come back to France, establish their domicile there, and take the civic oath." Gaschos may have returned from the Palatinate after protection was restored.

By the mid-1850s the surname Gascho could be found among Amish Mennonites in Moselle, the German states, Canada, and several American states that eventually included Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Our initial impression was that this must be a family with an old Anabaptist tradition. But we found the Amish Mennonite line descending from a single couple who died before 1797.

François Gascho was born before 1750. He married Anne Chraque [Schrag]. She was likely born before 1750. They were millers at Merlebach, 7 miles northeast of St. Avold in Moselle.

A Roman road determined the northern edge of the village; it is now part of the French national border with Germany. Merlebach was a transit point for Palatine Amish Mennonites seeking to emigrate to North America. They formed groups at Kaiserslautern, then traveled southwest to Forbach, Moselle to pay border tolls. As they passed through Merlebach and Freyming they joined French travelers and continued on through Metz, Paris, and Rouen to Le Havre.

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272 'Huguenot' is a catchall description of French Protestants in this era. It was meant to be derogatory. There was no Huguenot movement or organization. The origin of the word is uncertain.

273 As an example of a nearby family using similar spellings, we found a Gachot/Gasco family at Sarre-Union, Lower Alsace, 30 miles southeast of Merlebach. Sarre-Union was created in 1794 when the villages of Bouquenom (Germ. Bockenheim) and Ville Neuve de Sarrewerden (Germ. Neu-Sarrewerden) on opposite sides of the Sarre River merged for administrative purposes. Paul Gaschot was born at Courcelles-Chaussey (10 miles west of St. Avold, now in Moselle) Sept. 14, 1685. On Nov. 25, 1710 at Diedendorf, Lower Alsace he married Anne Marie Billard. Their son Jean Paul Gachot was born at Ville Neuve de Sarrewerden circa 1732. He married Marie Ester Gangloff. They were the parents of at least four sons: Heinrich (as he signed his own name)/Henry Gascho born circa 1762; Ludwig/Louis Gascho born circa 1764; Samuel Gascho born circa 1765; and Jacob/Jacques Gascho born circa 1771. Heinrich's wife Sophie Charlotte Guhl died at Sarre-Union Aug. 6, 1817. Louis Gascho's first wife Elisabeth Klein died at Rimpsdorf (adjacent to Sarre-Union) Jan. 20, 1817. The civil death entry called him Louis Gascho, but was signed 'Ludwig Gascote.' It described him as a 53-year-old cultivator. At Rimpsdorf on Sept. 25, 1817 he remarried to Catherine Brodt. She was born at Lixheim Oct. 17, 1770, a daughter of Paul Brodt and Marie Sophie Brodt. That entry called him Louis Gaschot, and said that his father was the deceased Paul Gaschot. When Samuel married Elisabeth Behr at Sarre-Union Sept. 7, 1794, the civil entry called him Samuel Gachot, but he signed 'Samuel Gasho.' When Jacob/Jacques married Maria Elisabeth Frantz at Sarrewerden (adjacent to Sarre-Union) May 30, 1802, he signed their civil entry 'J. Gachot,' though the index spelled his surname 'Gascho.' When he remarried to Catherine/Katharina Fallima at Sarre-Union July 12, 1810, the text and index of the civil record called him Jacque Gascho, while he signed 'J. Gachot.'

274 It was administratively combined with adjacent Freyming [Ger. Freimeningen] in 1971, and is now called Freyming-Merlebach in canton Forbach, France. The present population is approximately 670.
This geography suggests that the Cachot exodus to the Palatinate may have involved a move no farther than the village of Nassweiler (now in Saarbrücken, Germany) adjacent to Merlebach. We found mentions of Cachot marriages there in the 1720s.

We strongly suspect that Anna Chraque was a daughter of Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss (see SCHROCK).²⁷⁵

François and Anne had two sons, André and Joseph, who married Zwalter sisters. The broad dispersal of their children was the outcome of the depressed economy in Moselle following the Napoleonic wars.

**ANDREAS/ANDRÉ GASCHO**

Andreas (as he signed his own name)/André Gascho was born circa 1768, and died at Imling, Moselle April 24, 1812. He was employed as a miller at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle (20 miles south of Gondrexange), then as a day laborer and domestic servant at Imling, Moselle.

Before 1794 he married Anne Zwalter, whose sister Catherine later became the wife of his older brother.²⁷⁶ She was born in 1769, and died at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 14, 1839 (where she had been living with her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Nicholas Augustin, who was minister of the congregation there circa 1829-1841).

The earliest mention of André we found in records came from the civil marriage entry of Magdalena Zwalter and Christian Neuhauser. They were married at Gondrexange April 20, 1794. He is listed as witness André Cachon, 26, brother-in-law of the bride.²⁷⁷

Andreas/André and Anne lived at Desseling in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle from 1797 to 1805 or later. The tiny village, 11 miles northwest of Gondrexange, has a present population of approximately 110. It is situated on Le Neuf Etang (‘pond nine’).

His civil death entry created at Imling April 24, 1812 described him as servant [Fr. domestique] André Cachot, 47, husband of Anne Zwalter.

Their children include:

²⁷⁵ Anne Chraque’s proposed family relationship is based on circumstance. Though there may have been other Swiss Schrags in Lorraine that we have not identified, only one branch of one family has been identified as Amish Mennonite. Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss had a son Caspar (circa 1744-1794) who married Barbe Rouvenacht and Marie Blaser. He worked as a miller at Bischwald Mill and a cultivator on Belgrade farm at Bistroff. Thus he was a business partner with the Engel family. Their son Joseph Schrag (1772-1830) was born on Belgrade farm but lived at Gondrexange. He married Marie Engel (1774-circa 1800), and they had a number of children at Gondrexange. Note that Anne’s son Joseph Cachot/Gascho also lived at Gondrexange. This is a coincidence in a tiny community (though the population has grown in two centuries to its present 490).

²⁷⁶ Note also that Joseph Cachot/Gascho’s immigration companions in 1831 included Peter Engel. If Anne was a sister to Caspar (circa 1744-1794), the only documented Amish Mennonite Schrag in her age bracket in the region, then her parents were Caspar Schrag and Elisabeth Weiss.

²⁷⁷ Zwalter is also found as Swalter and Schwalter, suggesting that it may have been a variation of Schowalter. German-speaking clerks also wrote ‘Zwalti.’

Christian Zwalter died at Gondrexange Feb. 24, 1797. His civil death entry said that he was 60, a son of Michel Swalter and Christiane Neuhauser, 29, and Jean Réchely, 27. He married Marie Risser/Riser/Reyser (also found as Richard). They had four daughters who can be identified. Of these Catherine Zwalter born in 1768 married Joseph Gascho; Anna Zwalter born in 1769 married his younger brother Andreas/André Gascho.

A third Zwalter sister, Madeleine born in 1770, married Christian Neuhauser (found as Christiane Neyhouser, 27) at Gondrexange April 20, 1794. When he died at Imling Aug. 17, 1809, she was approximately two months pregnant.

Andreas/André Gascho appeared at the office of a municipal clerk at Imling to attest to the birth. The état civil birth record created March 26, 1810 described him as “farm equipment operator [Fr. manœuvre] 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 Magdalene Zwalter of Imling; the child to be named Jean.” (A few months later Andreas/André performed the same function for another widow. On Aug. 1, 1810 at Imling he witnessed the July 30 birth of a son Christian to Suzanne Neuhauser of Imling. She asked that the child be named after the deceased father, cultivator Christian Blanck. In 1812 at Imling she remarried to Christophe Abresol.) Madeleine died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814, age 43.

And a fourth Zwalter sister, Anne Marie Zwalter born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1776, married Joseph Mosimann at Gondrexange Dec. 12, 1793. He was an uncle to Michel Mosimann, better known in Tazewell County as bishop Michael Mosiman. In October 1830 Joseph and Marie sailed from Le Havre to New Orleans aboard the Superior, accompanied by an extended family of Oyers from Niderhoff, Moselle. They went to Butler County, Ohio; several of their children later came to Tazewell and Woodford Counties (see MOSIMAN).

²⁷⁷ André signed that entry ‘Andreas Gascho.’ The bride and groom were described as Christian Neyhouser, 27, and Magdalene Swalter, 22. Another witness was Catherine Swalter, 26.
1. Marie Anne/Maria Anna Gascho was born circa 1795. Circa 1815 she married Christian Birki (1789-1866). They farmed on the von Spreti estate at Arzbach, Bavaria (see HEISER) from 1824 to 1828. Children were born there in 1818, 1823, and 1824. She also lived with him at Odenstockach (southeast of Munich). She died between the birth of her last child Jan. 16, 1837 and Christian's remarriage to a much younger Elizabeth Stalter in 1844. Christian and Elizabeth later settled at Groveland. See BIRKY/BIRKEY, THE LITTLE RED BIRKYS.

2. Christien/Christian Gascho was born circa 1796, and died May 8, 1871. He married Magdalena Gingerich, who was born Oct. 21, 1800, and died Jan. 29, 1869. They farmed on the von Spreti estate at Arzbach, Bavaria (see HEISER).

3. Joseph Gascho's birth date is found in many sources as May 16, 1793 (perhaps figuring from his obituary or headstone count), but the Karlskron Familienbuch says that he was born at Desseling. Moselle (found as ‘Dößligen im Lothringen’) Nov. 2, 1793. No civil birth entry was found there. When he died at Hay, Huron County, Ontario Jan. 17, 1882, his obituary said he was 89. In January 1824 at Arzbach he married Magdalena Ingold. Magdalena was born on the Lindenbrunnenhof estate at Annweiler Nov. 1, 1803, and died in Zurich, Hay County, Ontario Feb. 21, 1891, a daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elizabeth Bachman. Joseph and Magdalena initially settled at Probfeld in the Donaumoos or Danaube Marsh. The family's passport was annulled by the Bavarian government Feb. 19, 1851 because their son Joseph had a military obligation. Medical certificates dated March 20, 1851 and March 31, 1851 declared him fit for service. He was prohibited from emigrating by a court order. The family departed without him. They probably took a coach to Donauworth, then a new rail line from there through Leipzig to Hamburg. We could not identify a passenger list or a date for their arrival in North America, though we found a note that the ship they sailed on was the Neptune. They initially settled at East Zorra, Ontario. Note that they were in the area at the same time as Joseph's cousin Christian Gascho, who had moved up from Pennsylvania to Wilmot in 1848. Joseph and Magdalena later resettled at Zurich, Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario. On the 1881 census of Hay German Mennonite Joseph Gascho, 85, and Lanah, 77, are found in the household of their son John. Herald of Truth, March 1882: “On the 17th of Jan., in Hay, Huron Co., Ont., Joseph Gascho, aged 89 years. He left an aged companion, and four children with large families. He was for many years a faithful member of the Amish Menn. church and an early settler of the township, when the surrounding country was yet a wilderness.” Herald of Truth, March 1891: “On the 21st of Feb., 1891, in Huron Co. Ont., Lena Gascho, aged about 92 years. In the morning she was as well as usual but before night she was a corpse. She was one of the first settlers in this neighborhood and was a member of the Amish Mennonite church. Services by J. Bender and J. Gasho, from John 5: 24 - 30, and Mark 13: 33 - 37. Their children born at Probfeld, Bavaria (birth dates and early death dates drawn from the Karlskron Familienbuch) include:

a. Anna Gascho was born Nov. 8, 1824, and died at Hopedale Jan. 7, 1912. In 1849 in Ontario she married Joseph Wutherich/Wittrig [Vitrich]. He was born at Grostenquin, Moselle Jan. 18, 1816, and died at Hopedale Sept. 17, 1902, a son of Nicolas Vitrich, widow of Joseph Wittrig, died at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, C. H. Birkey, near Hopedale, Ill., Jan. 7, 1912, of pneumonia. She was taken sick on the day of the funeral of her grand-daughter, Emma Birkey, and after an illness of two weeks she also went home; aged 87 y. 6 m. She was a member of the A. M. Church since her youth and remained faithful to the end. She leaves 5 sons, 4 daughters, and a large number of grandchildren, to mourn their loss, which is her gain. She was buried Jan. 9. Funeral sermons by J. C. Birky, Simon Litwiller and Dan Nafziger, all of Hopedale, Ill.”

b. Magdalena Gascho is described in the Karlskron Familienbuch as someone who was born at Probfeld Aug. 28, 1827, and died in 1828. However, her headstone at Hopedale says she was born June 24, 1826. She may have been in Canada at least 18 months before the arrival of her parents. On Feb. 10, 1850 she married Johannes/Jean/John Egli. He was born at Eisingen, Baden (below Hochberg) June 16, 1821, and died at Minier Dec. 11, 1907, a son of Johannes/Jean Egli and Maria Geisert. In 1867 they
came to Tazewell County from Zurich, Hay County, Ontario. In 1886-88 they lived at Offerle, Kansas. Upon returning to Minier, he was a minister for the Hopedale Amish Mennonite Church until his death. Magdalena died at Minier April 8, 1902, and John at Hopedale Dec. 11, 1907. They are buried under a joint headstone in the Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. *Herald of Truth*, December 1907: "On Dec. 11, 1907, near Hopedale, Ill., Pre. John Egli, after an illness of two weeks with stomach trouble; aged 86 yrs., 5 M., 24 D. He is survived by 10 children, 76 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren. He was a minster in the Amish Mennonite church for 46 years. He was a faithful laborer in the Lord's vineyard and was ready and willing to go when the Lord called him home. Funeral was held Dec. 13 by J. E. Birk at the home. P. Sommer, S. Garber and P. D. Schertz at the A. M. church near Hopedale, Ill."

c. Joseph Gascho was born Jan. 28, 1830. According to an erroneous entry in the *Karlskron Familienbuch*, he died in 1830. His first medical certificate saying that he was fit for military service was issued March 20, 1851; it said that he was 21 years old. According to a family story, he remained in Germany for military training while the remainder of the family emigrated. We could not determine whether he emigrated later.

d. Barbara Gascho was born Aug. 4, 1831 according to an entry in the *Karlskron Familienbuch* (though her headstone count of 44 years, 10 months, and 27 days would suggest circa Dec. 20, 1830), and died at Zurich, Ontario Nov. 16, 1875. On Feb. 18, 1855 in Huron County she married John Oesch. He was born at Baden, Waterloo County, Ontario circa April 15, 1828 (his headstone gives the count 73 years, 10 months, and 8 days), and died at Hay Feb. 23, 1902, a son of Johannes/John Oesch and Barbara Schultz. They are buried in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery in Huron County.

e. Maria/Mary Gascho was born Dec. 25, 1833, and died in Lyon County, Kansas Nov. 13, 1893. She married Christian Steckley. He was born at Xouaxange, Moselle Feb. 8, 1829, and died in Nebraska Feb. 18, 1906, a son of Hans/John Steckly and his first wife Barbara Steiman. They resettled in Kansas. He is buried in West Fairview Mennonite Cemetery at Beaver Crossing, where his headstone says 'Steckley. *Herald of Truth*, December 1893: "Steckley - On the 13th of November 1893, in Lyon Co., Kansas, Sister Maria, wife of Bro. Christian Steckley, aged 60 yrs., 10 m., 19 d. Buried on the 15th in J.J. Borntriger's grave-yard. Sister Steckley was a kind and loving mother who admonished her children and directed them to Christ. Nine children attended the funeral of their beloved mother. Sister Steckley had an abiding faith in her Redeemer, and had a desire to depart and be with Christ. Funeral services by J.P. Stuckey and J.J. Borntréger from *Ps. 25 and 90 and Rev. 14:13."

f. Christian Gascho was born July 20, 1836.

g. Johannes/John Gascho was born Oct. 27, 1838, and died May 28, 1919. He married Veronica 'Fanny' Steckley. She was born at Wilmot Sept. 19, 1840, and died during childbirth Feb. 28, 1882, a daughter of Hans/John Steckly and his first wife Barbara Steiman. She is buried with the child in Lakeview Conservative Mennonite Cemetery. John remarried to Anna Baechler Schwartzentruuber. He served as a minister for the Blake Amish Mennonite Church at Zurich, Hay Township, Huron County, Ontario 1876-1908. *Gospel Herald*, July 1919: "John Gascho was born Oct. 27, 1838; died May 28, 1919; aged 80 y. 7 m. 1 d. On July 25, 1858, he was married to Fannie Steckley who preceded him on Feb. 17, 1882. This union was blessed with 12 children of whom one died in infancy, the rest still living. On June 20, 1882, he was again married to Annie Schwartzentruuber. This union was also blessed with 7 children of whom one is dead. He leaves a wife, 18 children, 34 grandchildren, and 82 great-grandchildren. He was buried on May 31. Services in church at Zurich, Ont., conducted by Bro. Jonas Snider assisted by the writer. The departed brother served in the ministry for 43 years."

h. Andreas/Andrew Gascho was born April 24, 1841, and died at Elkton, Michigan Aug. 31, 1927. In 1860 he married Lydia Gingerich. She was born Aug. 20, 1831, and died Feb. 10, 1906. They had children in Waterloo County, Ontario in the 1860s, then resettled at Elkton. They are found on the 1900 census of Elkton as farmer Andew Gascho, 59, born in Germany in April 1841 to a father from France and a mother from Germany, immigrated in 1851; Lydia, 68, born in Germany in August 1831 to German parents, immigrated 1850; and adopted daughter Mary, 11, born in Michigan in October 1888 to German parents. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery at Elkton.

4. Barbara Gascho was born at Desseling, Moselle Nov. 10, 1800 (no civil birth entry was found there), and died at Macon, Bureau County Dec. 26, 1880. She married Nicholas Augustin in Bavaria in 1822. After the death of her
husband in Bavaria in 1850, she traveled directly to Morton. She is buried in Willow Springs Mennonite Cemetery at Tiskilwa, Bureau County.281 See EIGSTI for more on this couple.

5. Andreas/André Gascho was born at Desseling, Moselle July 20, 1802, and died at Sickenhausen, Bavaria in 1858. His civil birth entry called his parents André Cachot and Anne. He was living at Sickenhausen (next to Reutlingen, 20 miles south of Stuttgart) in 1857. He did not emigrate from Europe. His son Josef moved to Moosach, where he built the neo-Renaissance Gascho Villa at 37 Pelkoevenstrasse. The villa has been preserved as a heritage site.

6. Anne Gascho was born at Desseling Dec. 22, 1805. Her civil birth entry described her parents as cultivator André Cachot, 36, and Ann Svalter; it was witnessed by 48-year-old farm equipment operator Jean Christophe Aire [Eyer?]. She died at Desseling Jan. 1, 1806.

7. Johannes/Jean/John Gascho was born in France in 1808 (according to his obituary), and died in Livingston County Sept. 7, 1870.282

8. Jacob Gascho was born at Badonviller, Meurthe-et-Moselle Nov. 5, 1809. His civil birth entry described his parents as miller André Gaschog, 43, a resident of Badonviller, and Anne Zwalter. His father signed 'Andreas Gascho.' He died as an infant.

9. Jacob/Jacques Gascho was born at Imling, Moselle Feb. 28, 1811. His civil birth entry described his parents as day laborer André Cachot, 45, living at Imling; and Anne Zwalter. His father signed 'Andreas Gascho.' We suspected that he was the Jacob Gascho who appears on *Auswanderung* lists as an émigré from Germany in 1853. However, it also seems likely that the émigré was the same person who sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York June 5, 1852. He appears on the passenger list of the *George Harlibut*: Jacob Gasho, 52; and Jacob, 19; both from Bavaria. Could the age be an error, and the older Jacob was actually 42?

**Johannes/Jean/John Gascho** was born in France circa 1808, and died in Livingston County Sept. 7, 1870. John married Magdalena von Gund. She was born Jan. 13, 1810, and died in Livingston County April 21, 1881, according to her headstone at Waldo Cemetery. The *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois* describes this couple as "the father born in France, the mother born in Bavaria, Germany."

See STAKER for an explanation of the issues that created the spurious 'Fly Whisk Incident' resulting in the French occupation of Algeria. Military conscription to support the occupation did not exempt Amish Mennonites. They arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831. The passengers included:

| 111 | Joseph Gacho | 53 | Farmer | France | Father, actually 58 years old |
| 112 | John         | 23 |        |        | Nephew to Joseph              |
| 113 | Joseph       | 22 |        |        | Son of Joseph                 |
| 114 | Woodoline    | 21 |        |        | Wife of John                  |
| 115 | Madaline Newhauser | 30 |        |        | Niece to Joseph               |
| 116 | Barbara      | 9  |        |        | Her child                     |
| 117 | Joseph       | 5  |        |        | " actually seven years old    |
| 118 | Christiana [Christian] | 3 |        |        | " actually five years old      |
| 119 | John         | 6  |        |        | " actually three years old     |

We suspect that Johannes/Jean/John Gascho was passenger 112. His wife Magdalena von Gund would have been passenger 114. His cousin Joseph Gascho was passenger 22; Joseph's father Joseph may have been passenger 111. The two Josephs would have immigrated to join their son and brother Christian, who had been in Lancaster County as early as 1825. Passenger 115 was Joseph Gascho's niece, Magdalena/Madeleine Neuhauser; she was the recent widow of Joseph Kennel.283 See THE BALTIMORE VOYAGE OF 1831 Appendix for details of their arrival.

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281 To the best of our knowledge the French genealogist Jean François Lorentz was the first person to find her civil birth entry and understand the connection.

282 Sources that say he was born in France in 1810 are relying on census reports.

283 On Dec. 14, 1820 at Imling Magdalena/Madeleine Neuhauser married Joseph Kennel. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as farm equipment operator Joseph Kaenal, 20, born at Oberstinzel Nov. 29, 1799, the illegitimate son [Fr. *fils naturel*] of Barbara Kennel, who was present and consenting and residing on the farm Misel Ban. The bride was described as Magdelaine Neuhauser, 21, born at Imling Sept. 2, 1799, a daughter of the deceased cultivator Christian Neuhauser who had died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814, and the deceased Magdelaine Zwalter, who had died at Imling Jan. 1, 1814. Witnesses included Jean Neuhauser, 43, uncle by marriage of the groom; and farm equipment operator Christiane Ebersol, 32, second cousin of the bride. Signatures included Joseph Kennel, Magdalena Nährhauser, and Christian Ebersol. Joseph died within nine months of the voyage. Magdalena/Madeleine gave birth to her fifth child in Pennsylvania, only six days after her arrival in Baltimore. Their children include:

1. Barbara Kennel was born circa 1822.
Other surnames in the immigration group included Suisse, Engel, Roggi, Schertz, Zimmerman, Salzman, Gerrard (a pseudonym for Schrock), and Bach (a pseudonym for Belsley).

The 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) shows John and Magdalena on the same page as Christian Smith, John Kennel (found as Kendle), Jacob Donner, and Joseph Belsley, indicating that they were farming at what is now Spring Bay: farmer John Cartshaw, 40, Germany; Madaline, 40, Germany; Anne, 11; Joseph, 9; John, 7; Andrew, 3; and Catharine, 2; all children born in Illinois.

The 1860 census of Worth, Woodford County shows them as farmer John Gasher, 50, France; Magdalene, 50, Bavaria; Joseph, 19; John, 16; Catherine, 12; and Barbara, 7; all children born in Illinois. John Gasho is found on an 1865 agricultural schedule of Worth, but by 1870 they were living at Waldo, Livingston County. They are found on that census as farmer John Gocho, 60, France; and Fanny, 60, France.

Herald of Truth, December 1870: "On the 7th of September, in Livingston county, Ill., John Gasho, aged 62 years. He was buried on the 8th, followed by a large concourse of friends and relatives. Funeral sermons were preached by John Egly, John P. Schmitt and Christian Schloegel [Schlegel] from 1 Cor. 15, and 1 Thess. 4:13-18. He was a pious man, beloved by all and a light in our Church. He observed daily prayer with his family, came regular to meeting and appreciated humility. He often complained about the pride prevailing among our young people. He also said before he expired that he had a desire to depart and to be with Christ. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church." He is buried in Waldo Cemetery.

Herald of Truth, August 1884: "On the 21st of April, in Livingston Co., Ill. Magdalene Gascho, aged 74 years, 3 months and 8 days. On the 23d the body was consigned to the grave, when many friends and relatives from far

2. Joseph Kennel was born at Bébing, Moselle June 17, 1823 (his obituary says June 24), and died at Atglen, Pennsylvania June 25, 1913. In 1845 in Pennsylvania he married Veronica 'Fanny' Petersheim. She was born in Lancaster County April 19, 1825, and died there Juuly 19, 1906; a daughter of John Petersheim and Elizabeth Stoltzfus. They are found on the 1850 census of Lower Leacock, Lancaster County as farmer Joseph Kennel, 26, France; Faronica L., 25, Pennsylvania; John P. Kennel, 2, Pennsylvania; laborer William Parker, 15, Pennsylvania; carpenter Samuel Kennel [Joseph's brother], 18, Pennsylvania; and Christiana Petersheim, 12, Pennsylvania. Gospel Herald, July 1913: "Joseph Kennell was born in France June 24, 1823; died June 25, 1913, from infirmities of old age; aged 90 y. 1 d. His widowed mother and 5 children emigrated to America when he was 8 years old, crossing the Atlantic in a sail boat. They landed in Philadelphia and settled in Lancaster Co., Pa., where he lived the rest of his life (except 4 1-2 years in Fauquier Co., Va.) and the last 7 years near Atglen, Chester Co., Pa., where he spent his earlier years. He united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth and remained a consistent member all his life. In 1845 he was married to Fannie Petersheim. To this union were born 3 sons, all of whom preceded him to the spirit world. His companion died 13 years ago. He leaves to mourn his departure a widowed daughter-in-law, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Funeral June 27. Services at the house by Daniel Stoltzfsus in German and John M. Stoltzfsus in English. Text, Job 14:14. At the Millwood A. M. Church by Gideon Stoltzfsus in German (Text II Tim. 4:7, 8) and by John S. Mast in English (Text, Heb. 11:9, 10). Buried in adjoining cemetery."

3. Christian Kennel was born at Dolving, Moselle March 19, 1825, and died in Baltimore County, Maryland Dec. 6, 1862. He married Anna 'Nancy' Mast. She was born in Lancaster County Dec. 20, 1832, a daughter of John Mast and Elizabeth Kurtz. Christian and his brother John purchased 33 acres at Hartley Mill in the Long Green Valley of Baltimore County, Maryland in 1851. Christian and Anna are buried in Long Green Mennonite Cemetery, where Anna's headstone is barely legible because of erosion.

4. Jean/Kennel Kennel was born at Dolving, Moselle June 7, 1827, and died in Long Green Valley, Baltimore County, Maryland Jan. 21, 1876. On Nov. 13, 1851 he married Mary Mast. She was born in Lancaster County July 2, 1827, a daughter of John Mast and Elizabeth Kurtz. Their household appears on the 1860 census of the 11th District, Baltimore County, Maryland as John Kennel, 33, France; Mary, 33, Pennsylvania; John, 10; Susanna, 7; Emma, 5; and Elizabeth; all children born in Maryland. Herald of Truth, March 1876: "Jan. 21st, in Baltimore Co., Md., of inflammatory rheumatism, John Kennel, aged 48 years, 7 months and 14 days. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss. A very affecting sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by John P. Mast from 2 Cor. 5:1."

5. Samuel Kennel was born in Pennsylvania June 11, 1831, and died in Pennsylvania Nov. 14, 1912. He married Elizabeth Riehl. She was born in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania May 22, 1830, and died in Union County, Pennsylvania June 3, 1895, a daughter of John Riehl and Levina Yoder. Samuel is found as an 18-year-old carpenter born in Pennsylvania in the household of his brother Joseph at Lower Leacock, Lancaster County in 1850. In 1851 he purchased 36 acres at Long Green Valley from Isaac Hertzler. In 1868 he purchased another 63 acres, then relocated to Union County the following year. In 1870 his household is found at East Buffalo, Union County as carpenter Samuel Kennel, 40, Pennsylvania; Elisabeth, 40, Pennsylvania; Joel, 7, Maryland; Fanny, 5, Maryland; and Dana, 1, Maryland.
and near manifested their high respects and followed her to the grave. Services were held by Daniel Steinman, Christian Schlegel, and John P. Schmidt. Sister Gascho was a true and worthy member of the Amish Mennonite Church, and much beloved by all who knew her."

The children of Johannes/ Jean/ John Gascho and Magdalena von Gund born at Spring Bay include:

1. Anna Gascho was born Nov. 28, 1839, and died Dec. 25, 1873. On March 5, 1859 in Woodford County she married John Albrecht.284 He was born Nov. 20, 1833, and died Feb. 12, 1900, a son of Jacob Albrecht and Katharina Ackerman. They farmed at Waldo, and are buried in Waldo Cemetery. On Nov. 22, 1874 John remarried to Barbara Nafziger and had eight more children. Herald of Truth, April 1, 1900: "On the 12th of February, 1900, in Livingston Co., Ill., Pre. John Albrecht passed peacefully away at the age of 66 years, 2 months and 22 days. Deceased was born in Bavaria, Germany, on the 20th of November 1833. When he was 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 Nafziger. To this second union were born four sons and three daughters, all of whom followed their father to the grave. Although the words of Psalm 128 were fulfilled to Bro. Albrecht in temporal as well as in spiritual matters his heart was not set upon earthly things. He was afflicted for some time with heart and kidney trouble and seven days before his death he was rendered helpless by a slight stroke of paralysis. He remained conscious however to the end, and suffered no pain. Although not as eloquent or fluent a speaker as some, he was honest and earnest, and a faithful counsellor, and his loss in the church as well as in the family will be deeply felt. On the 15th of Feb. his remains were laid to rest, followed by a large concourse of relatives and friends. Funeral services at the M. H. by J.P. Schmitt in German from 2 Cor. 5, and by Joseph B. Zehr in German from 2 Tim. 4:7,8 and Matt. 25:23. Daniel 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."


3. John Gascho was born Feb. 27, 1844, and died in Livingston March 18, 1883. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Livingston County he married Catherine Schlegel.285 She was born at what became Tremont on the 8th or 18th of April, 1843, and died at Washington May 5, 1916, a daughter of Christian Schlegel and Salome 'Sarah' Sommer. The 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County shows them one page apart from John's parents and brother Joseph: farmer John Gascho, 26, Illinois; Catharine, 26, Illinois; and Joseph, six months, Illinois. They can be found on the 1880 census of Chenoa, McLean County as laborer John N. Gascho, 36, Illinois; Catherine, 37, Illinois; and three children born in Illinois. Herald of Truth, April 1883: "March 18th, in Livingston Co., Ill., John Gascho, aged 39 years and 21 days. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th, followed by many relatives and friends, assembled from far and near to pay their last respects to their departed friend. Services were held in the house of Christian Schlegel by Peter Schantz, of Lee County, Iowa, who was in that vicinity on a visit. And at the meeting-house by Joseph Grieser and Peter Schantz, from 1 Cor. 15, and some words at the grave by J. Schmidt. Brother Gascho suffered much from phthisis for a number of years. Oftentimes he spent the entire night in his chair. He suffered more than ordinarily about five days. A few minutes before he died, his wife asked him whether she should send for the doctor. He replied: No one can help me: the Lord has released many, he too can release me, and so he died. He was a member of the Amish Church, and leaves a sorrowing companion and four children, the youngest being only 2 weeks old. He also leaves an aged mother who could not follow him to the grave." He is buried in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan. On Oct. 15, 1895 Catherine remarried to widower John Guth of Washington. He was born May 10, 1840, and died Oct. 8, 1896, a son of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. Despite this marriage, she is buried in Waldo Cemetery as Catherine Gascho.

4. Andrew Gascho is shown as a two-year-old on the 1850 census, but does not appear on later censuses, suggesting he died young.

5. Catherine Gascho was born July 18, 1848, and died Dec. 13, 1907. On Feb. 7, 1869 in Livingston County she married Jacob Streid. He was born at Strasbourg, Lower Alsace Oct. 2, 1842, and died Aug. 23, 1915, a son of Joseph Streid and Françoise Fordemwald. His family immigrated in 1843, settling in Holmes County, Ohio. His father farmed on 62 acres before coming to McLean County in 1864. At Chenoa he farmed 120 acres. After marriage Joseph rented land for four years, then purchased 80 acres at Pike Township; he served as Pike Township school director for 20 years. In 1894 they moved onto 160 acres in Section 8 of Chenoa, McLean County. They are buried in Pike Township Cemetery at Graymont, Livingston County.

6. Barbara Gascho was born Sept. 21, 1853, and died at Hydro, Oklahoma June 30, 1926. On Feb. 4, 1872 in Livingston County she married Joseph Schlegel.286 He was born in Tazewell County Dec. 8, 1847, and died July 12, 1914, a son of Christian Schlegel and Salome 'Sarah' Sommer. See SCHLEGEL for more on this couple including their obituaries.

284 Woodford County records list them as John Albright and Anna Gasho.
285 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as J.N. Gascho and Catharine Slagell.
286 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the groom as Joseph Slagell.
Joseph Gascho was born at Spring Bay Dec. 14, 1841, and died at Milford, Nebraska Feb. 3, 1902. He is buried in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford as Rev. Joseph Gascho.

On March 14, 1868 in Woodford County he married Mary Birky/Birkey. She was born in Illinois Dec. 28, 1850, and died Dec. 25, 1938, a daughter of Joseph Birky/Birkey and Barbara Eigsti.

They are found on the 1870 census of Waldo, Livingston County living next to his parents: farmer Joseph Gasho, 28, Illinois; Mary, 21, Illinois; and John, eight months, Illinois. In 1878 they relocated to Precinct O (now Milford), Nebraska. The 1880 census of Precinct O shows them as farmer Joseph Gascho, 38, Illinois, parents France and Germany; Mary, 30, Illinois; John, 10, Illinois; Joseph, 9, Illinois; Maggie, 7, Illinois; Christopher, 5, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Benjamin, 2, Nebraska; and Barbra, less than one year, Nebraska.

The 1900 census of Precinct J (now Milford), Seward County, Nebraska has farmer Joseph Gascho, 58, born in Illinois in December 1841 to a French father and a Bavarian mother, married 32 years; Mary, 49, born in Illinois in November 1850 to Bavarian parents; farmer Christian, 25, born in Illinois in September 1874 to parents form Illinois; farm laborer Barbara, 20, born in Nebraska in March 1880 to parents from Illinois; farm laborer William, 16, born in Nebraska in February 1884 to parents form Illinois; Lydia, 11, born in Nebraska in August 1888 to parents from Illinois; Arthur, 9, born in Nebraska in July 1890 to parents from Illinois; and Mary, 7, born in Nebraska in April 1893 to parents form Illinois.

Herald of Truth, March 1902: "Pre. Joseph Gascho was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 14, 1841, died near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., Feb. 3, 1902, aged 60 years, 1 month and 20 days. He was married in 1868 to Maria Buerky, with whom he lived in happy marriage for 33 years, 10 months and 21 days. To this union were born seven sons and five daughters, two sons preceding him in death. He united with the Amish Mennonite church, and for thirty years he served the church as a minister of the gospel. His earnest admonitions to follow Jesus will not soon be forgotten. His affliction was cancer in the face. He suffered greatly, but patiently, and when it became evident that the malady was incurable he was resigned and said, "God's will be done." When the end drew near he called to his side his beloved companion who had so loyally and lovingly ministered to his needs and who had for so many years shared with him the joys and sorrows of life, and earnestly admonished her to remain faithful unto the Lord. He also called his children, one by one and gave them loving, fatherly counsel, entreating them to be faithful and obedient to their dear mother and to follow Jesus. May the admonitions of a loving father never be forgotten. His end was peace. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Nicholas Roth, of Milford, Neb., and at the M. H., by Chr. Rediger, of Hamilton, Neb., and P. P. Hershberger and Chr. Beller, of Shickley, Neb. May the God of all comfort sustain the bereaved ones in their affliction."

After Joseph's death, Mary lived with some of her children in Precinct O (now Milford), Nebraska. The 1910 census shows Benjamin Gascho, 27, Nebraska; Mary Gascho, 66, Illinois; Christian, 34, Nebraska; Barbara, 24, Nebraska; Arthur, 19, Nebraska; Mary, 17, Nebraska; and cousin Joseph Burkey, 20, Nebraska. The 1930 census of Township O, Nebraska shows her as mother-in-law Mary, 79, in the household of her daughter Lydia, 42, and Ammon Hershberger, 44.

Gospel Herald, January 1939: "Mary Gascho, daughter of Joseph and Barbara Burkey, was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Dec. 28, 1850; died at the home of her daughter near Milford, Nebr., Dec. 25, 1938. She was united in marriage to Joseph Gascho March 14, 1868. They moved to Seward Co., Nebr., in 1877 where she lived most of her life. This union was blessed with 7 sons and 5 daughters. Her husband preceded her in death in the year 1902. Two sons, John and Jacob, and 1 daughter, Mrs. Katie Bawel of Wood River, also preceded her. She leaves 5 sons and 4 daughters: Mrs. Lena Roth, Ben, Chris, and Will Gascho and Mrs. Ammon Hershberger of Milford, Nebr.; Joseph Gascho and Mrs. Will Stutzman of Wood River, Nebr.; Arthur Gascho of Broken Bow, Nebr.; and Mrs. Peter Stutzman of Julesburg, Colo.; and also 39 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, 1 sister (Mrs. Jacob Saltzman) and 1 brother (Peter Burkey) both of Milford, Nebr.; and a host of friends and acquaintances. She accepted Christ in her youth, uniting with the Mennonite Church of which she remained a faithful member until her end. She was always a kind mother exercising a Christian spirit to all. Funeral services by Bro. J. E. Zimmerman assisted by Bro. L. O Schlegel."

The children of Joseph Gascho and Mary Birky/Birkey include:

1. John Gascho was born in Illinois Sept. 17, 1869, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 20, 1885. He is buried as Johnnie Gascho in East Fairview Cemetery at Milford, Nebraska. Herald of Truth, May 1886: "On the 22d of March, near Milford, Seward Co., Neb., John Gascho, son of Joseph and Mary Gascho, aged 16 years, 6 months and 3

287 Woodford County records call the bride Mary Burke.
2. Joseph Gascho was born near Flanagan, Livingston County Feb. 11, 1871, and died at Cairo, Nebraska Aug. 22, 1954. In 1898 he married Jacobina 'Bena' 'Phoebe' Roth. She was born March 24, 1873, and died at Wood River, Nebraska March 3, 1945, a daughter of Jacob Roth and Marie Lauber. They are buried in Wood River Mennonite Cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, April 1945: "Gascho. - Jacobina, daughter of the late Jacob and Mary Roth, was born March 24, 1873, near Wilmendingen, Germany; left our family circle to join the heavenly hosts March 3, 1945; aged 71 y. 11 m. 7 d. She arrived in New York on her sixteenth birthday, accompanied by one brother and one sister. They came directly to Milford, Nebr., to the home of relatives. She worked out until 1898, when she was married to Joe Gascho. They lived near Milford until 1908, when they moved to their present home north of Wood River, Nebr. Two sons and five daughters were born to this union. She leaves to mourn her departure her loving husband, 2 sons (Alvin, Wood River; and Harry, Beltsville, Md., C.P.S. Camp), 2 daughters (Ida and Kathryn, at home), 18 grandchildren, one daughter-in-law, one step-granddaughter, one great grandchild, one brother (Ben Roth, of Milford), and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by 3 daughters (Mary-Mrs. Abe Roth, Minnie-Mrs. Sid Beckler, and Anna-Mrs. Royden Jantzi), one granddaughter, her parents, 3 sisters, and 11 brothers. At the death of her daughter Mary in 1930, she opened her home to four of her grandchildren (Robert, Delmar, Josephine, and Irene Roth), which is still home to them. Early in life she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and united with the Mennonite Church. When she came to America she transferred her membership to the Mennonite Church, remaining faithful until her death. In her many duties as mother and grandmother she served with a steady zeal and a quiet, consistent life. Her influence for good touched many lives. The last fourteen months of her life she patiently endured her illness, due to heart trouble and complications, and spent the last week of her life in a hospital. The end came without a struggle as she was beginning to eat her breakfast. Often during her illness she quoted the Saviour's invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Funeral services were conducted March 6 at the home by Peter Kennel and at the Wood River Church by W. R. Eicher. *Text Job 21:23-26.* Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery. *Gospel Herald*, October 1954: "Gascho, Joseph, son of Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 11, 1871; passed away at his home in Cairo, Nebr., Aug. 22, 1954; aged 83 y. 6 m. 11 d. He had been in failing health, caused mainly by hardening of the arteries, for over two years and was confined to his home the last three months. He was married to Jacobina Roth in 1898. This union was blessed with 2 sons and 5 daughters. His wife preceded him in death in 1945. Three daughters also preceded him (Mrs. Mary Roth in 1930 and Mrs. Anna Jantzi and Mrs. Minnie Beckler in 1935). His parents, 3 sisters, 4 brothers and 3 granddaughters also preceded him. Surviving are 2 sons (Alvin and Harry, both of Wood River, Nebr.), 2 daughters (Ida and Katie, at home), 2 sisters (Mrs. Mary Stutzman and Mrs. Lydia Hershberger, both of Corry, Pa.), 2 brothers (Ben and Chris both of Milford, Nebr.), 21 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren. In his youth he accepted Christ as his Saviour and became a member of the Mennonite Church at Milford. Later he and his wife transferred their membership to the newly organized Wood River Mennonite Church where he willingly lent a helping hand in erecting the building and establishing the congregation. Funeral services were held at the Wood River Church by W. R. Eicher and Sam Oswald. Interment was made in the adjoining cemetery."
5. Benjamin Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska March 14, 1878, and died there Sept. 21, 1962. On Dec. 16, 1915 he married Mary Eichelberger. On Oct. 13, 1835 he remarried to Lizzie Yeackley Eichel. *Gospel Herald*, October 1963: "Gascho, Ben, son of Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born near Milford, Nebr., March 14, 1878; died at his home at Milford on Sept. 21, 1963; aged 85 y. 6 m. 7 d. On Dec. 16, 1915, he was married to Mary Eichelberger, who passed away Sept. 12, 1930. On Oct. 13, 1935, he was married to Lizzie Yeackley Eichel, who survives. Also surviving are 6 stepdaughters and one stepson (Fionie Roth, Esther Stutzman, Stella Roth, Roy Eichel, Mattie Roth, Jessie Hobson, and Doris Roth), 25 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters (Lydia-Mrs. Amnon Hershberger, and Mary-Mrs. Pete Stutzman). Preceding him in death were 6 brothers and 3 sisters."

6. Barbara Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska March 28, 1880, and died at Parnell, Iowa Aug. 5, 1945. She is buried in West Union Mennonite Cemetery at Greene Township, Iowa. On Feb. 5, 1914 she married William N. Stutzman. *Gospel Herald*, August 1945: "Stutzman, Barbara, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Gascho, was born near Milford, Nebr., March 28, 1880; passed away at her home near Parnell, Iowa, Aug. 5, 1945; aged 65 y. 4 m. 8 d. In her youth she was received into the Mennonite Church and remained a faithful member until death. On Feb. 5, 1914, she was united in marriage to William N. Stutzman. They made their home near Wood River, Nebr., until 1944 when they moved to Iowa. Surviving are 3 children (Arthur, Eda, and Wilma, at home), one stepdaughter (Mrs. Malinda Schweitzer, Cairo, Nebr.), 14 step grandchildren, 2 sisters (Mrs. Lydia Hersherberger, Union City, Pa.; and Mrs. Mary Stutzman, Spartansburg, Pa.), 4 brothers (Chris and Ben, Milford, Nebr.; Joe, Wood River, Nebr.; and Arthur, Cairo, Nebr.), and many other relatives and friends. Her father and mother, one stepdaughter, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters preceded her in death. She was in failing health for the last five months, suffering from cancer. It was her desire to be anointed and on June 26 this ordinance was observed, at which time she committed her all into the hands of the Lord. She was patient in her suffering and desired to get well, but was willing that the Lord's will might be done in her life. Funeral services were held at the Wellman Mennonite Church, in charge of W. S. Guengerich and Geo. S. Miller. Burial was made in the West Union Cemetery."

7. Catherine "Katie" Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 15, 1882, and died at Grand Island, Nebraska Feb. 26, 1929. On Feb. 27, 1902 she married John E. Bawel. *Gospel Herald*, July 1929: "Katie (Gascho) Bawel, daughter of Pre. Joseph and Mary Gascho, was born near Milford, Nebr., Aug. 15, 1882; died at the St. Francis Hospital, Grand Inland, Nebr., following an operation for appendicitis, Feb. 26, 1929; aged 46 y. 6 m. 11 d. In youth she united with the A. M. Church, remaining faithful till the end. On Feb. 27, 1902, she was united in marriage to John E. Bawel. To this union were born eight children: Emma G., Nellie G., Velma F. Beckler, Henry J., Viola D., and Bessie B. She also leaves her aged mother, 4 sisters, and 5 brothers (Ben, Christ, Mrs. Lydia Hersherberger, Mrs. Lena Roth, Joe, Arthur, Mrs. Barbara Stutzman, William, Mrs. Mary Stutzman). She left a testimony that she was ready to depart. Funeral services were held at the home of a brother, near Cairo, Nebr., by Bro. A. E. Stoltzfus and at the Wood River church by Bro. D. G. Lapp of Roseland, Nebr. Interment in the cemetery nearby."

8. William Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska in Feb. 14, 1884, and died at Albany, Oregon June 21, 1941. *Gospel Herald*, July 1941: "William Gascho, son of the late Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born Feb. 14, 1884, near Milford, Nebr.; passed to his eternal reward on June 21, 1941, near Albany, Oreg.; aged 57 y. 4 m. 7 d. He always had Milford as his home, although he was often at different places of relatives, working as a day laborer. He spent most of the last year near Willman, Iowa, with his brother-in-law, John Bawel and family. He had been in Oregon only a short while. His death came very suddenly while at work Saturday morning. He accepted Christ as His Saviour in youth, holding his membership with the East Fairview Mennonite Church near Milford. He leaves to mourn his sudden departure 4 brothers and 3 sisters (Joseph, and Barbara Stutzman, of Wood River; Ben, Chris, and Lydia Hersherberger, of Milford; Art, of Broken Bow, and Mary Stutzman of Julesburg, Colo.). He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Funeral services were held at Fairview Mennonite Church near Albany, Oregon, on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Nick Birky and Melvin Schrock. The body was then sent to Milford, Nebr., to the home of his brother Ben, where services were held Wednesday afternoon, conducted at the home by Ammon Miller, and at the East Fairview Church by Wm. R. Wicher and Jos. E. Zimmerman. Interment in adjoining cemetery."

9. Lydia Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska Aug. 20, 1888, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania Sept. 10, 1983. She married Amnon Hersherberger. He was born at Milford, Nebraska Oct. 29, 1885, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania June 5, 1968, a son of Abner Hersherberger and Sarah Stutzman. They lived at Milford, then at Union City, Pennsylvania. *Gospel Herald*, October 1963: "Hersherberger, Lydia, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born in Milford, Neb., Aug. 20, 1888; died at Corry, Pa., Sept. 10, 1983; aged 95 y. She was married to Ammon Hersherberger, who preceded her in death. Surviving are 2 daughters (Esther-Mrs. Irvin Roth and Ruth-Mrs. Clayton Troyer), 2 sons (Clyde and Willard), 20 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter (Arlene-Mrs. Cecil Reynolds). She was the oldest member of Beaverdam Mennonite Church, where funeral services were held on Sept. 13, in charge of James Hersherberger; interment in Beaverdam Cemetery."

10. Arthur Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska July 8, 1890, and died at Cairo, Nebraska Jan. 8, 1948. He is buried in Wood River Cemetery at Wood River Nebraska, where his headstone gives the dates 1891-1948. *Gospel Herald*, February 1948: "Arthur, son of the late Joseph and Mary (Burkey) Gascho, was born near Milford, Nebr., July 8, 1890; died at his home, Cairo, Nebr., Jan. 8, 1948; aged 57 y. 6 m. Death resulted from a stroke. In his youth he
10. Mary Gascho was born at Milford, Nebraska April 23, 1893, and died at Titusville, Pennsylvania Oct. 12, 1976. On Oct. 18, 1911 she married Peter Stutzman. He was born at Milford March 30, 1888, and died at Corry, Pennsylvania June 9, 1969, a son of Aaron Stutzman and Barbara Beckler. They lived at Spartansburg, Pennsylvania. *Gospel Herald*, July 1969: "Stutzman - Peter B., son of Aaron and Barbara (Beckler) Stutzman, was born at Milford, Neb., Mar. 30, 1888; died at his home near Corry, Pa., June 9, 1969; aged 81 y. 2 m. 9 d. On Oct. 18, 1911, he was married to Mary Gascho, who survives. Also surviving are 7 children (Glady's-Mrs. Lester Heliker, Frieda-Mrs. Frank Ehrhart, Dorthy-Mrs. Maynard Troyer, Frank B., Clifford L., Leonard J., and Walter C.), 20 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters (Mrs. Cora Boshart and Mrs. Barbara Stutzman). He was preceded in death by 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He was a member of the Beavardum Church, Corry, Pa., where funeral services were held June 11, with Donald D. Nofziger officiating." They are buried in Lawn Cemetery at Beavardum, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH GASCHO

**Joseph Gascho** was born circa 1773, and died in North America (likely Somerset County, Pennsylvania) after 1831. 288

On Aug. 7, 1797 at Gondrexange he married Catherine Zwalter. She was born in 1768, a daughter of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as farm hand Joseph Cachot, 24, living on *La Canardière*, a son of Francois Cachot and Anne Chraque, "who in life had been millers at Mersbach, Moselle." The bride was described as Catherine Swalter [Zwalter], 28, a daughter of Christiane Swalter and Marie Richard [Risser]. Witnesses included Jean Chartz [Schartz], 40, and Christiane Chartz, 48. It was signed 'Joseph Gascho.'

The couple lived on *La Canardière* ['the farm stock yard', Ger. *Entenhof* or *Antehof*] at Gondrexange in the Dieuze Ponds area of Moselle. (The location *La Canardière* has confused some researchers who placed the Gaschos at an estate with the same name near Strasbourg.)


Catherine Zwalter presumably died before 1831. Joseph immigrated as a 58-year-old with his son Joseph, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831 (as noted earlier). They may have reunited with his oldest son Christian, who was in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania as early as 1824.

The children of Joseph Gascho and Catherine Zwalter include:

1. Christian Gascho was born at Gondrexange April 23, 1798 (he is found on a civil birth entry as Christiane Gachot), and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Nov. 23, 1870. In 18254 in Lancaster County he married Christina Petersheim. She was born at Lippe, Germany April 19, 1806, and died in Waterloo County July 27, 1882, a daughter of George Petersheim and Christina Nissley. Her family had immigrated before 1818. In 1837 they purchased her uncle's farm in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Christian Gascho is found on the 1840 census of Somerset, Somerset County. They relocated to Wilmot Township, Ontario in 1848. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Mennonite farmer Christian Gascho, 54, Lüderinger [from Ger. *Lothringen* or Lorraine]; Christina, 45, Defermery [we viewed the script, but could not interprete this]; Magdalena, 24, Pennsylvania; John, 22, Pennsylvania; Christian, 12, Pennsylvania; David, 10, Pennsylvania; Susan, 5, Pennsylvania; and Jacob, 3, Pennsylvania. They were living next door to Christian Steinman and Veronika Eyer (see STEINMAN). They are also found on the 1861 census of Wilmot; in 1871 Christina is found as a 65-year-old widow with children David, Magdalena, and Susanah. The children of Christian Gascho and Christina Petersheim include: 290
   a. Veronica Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 9, 1825, and died there Feb. 17, 1827.

288 We found several sources that say he died at Milnig, Feb. 24, 1812, the same place and year as his brother. Though there is a civil death entry there for his brother, there was none for him.

289 Local records show Nafziger as 'Naxier', and Schertz and 'Chartz.'

290 The Christian Gascho family Bible is now held by the Mennonite Archives of Ontario at Conrad Grebel College.
b. Magdalena Gascho was born in Somerset County July 11, 1827, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Feb. 4, 1917. She is found on the 1901 census of Wellesley Township, Waterloo County as a 73-year-old Mennonite lodger born July 11, 1827, in the household of Barbara Gascho born Oct. 5, 1853 (Barbara Ramseyer, the widow of Magdalena's younger brother David Gascho). Gospel Herald, February 1917: "Magdalena Gascho was born July, 1827, near Johnstown, Pa., and died at Poole, Ont., Feb. 4, 1917, aged 89 y. 6 m. Buried Feb. 7, funeral services by Jacob Lichte and Nicholas Nafziger. Text, II Cor. 5:1-10; Luke 2:29-32."

c. Johannes/John P. Gascho was born in Somerset County Feb. 21, 1830, and died of heart failure in Waterloo County Dec. 13, 1909. On Sept. 21, 1852 in Waterloo County he married Barbara Erb. She was born in Waterloo County July 13, 1831, and died at Wilmot Aug. 6, 1876, a daughter of John Erb and Veronica Schwartzentruber. John was ordained as bishop of the Steinmann Mennonite Church at Wilmot in 1872. On Nov. 6, 1877 John remarried to Barbara Erb. She was born at Baden, Ontario Feb. 2, 1835, and died there March 23, 1931, a daughter of Christian Erb and Elizabeth Schultz. Gospel Id, May 1831: "Barbara Erb, widow of the late Bishop John Gascho, was born near Baden, Ont., Feb. 2, 1835, and died at the home of one of her step-grandchildren (Mrs. Jacob B. Jutzi, in Baden), March 23, 1931; d 96 y. 1 m. 21 d. She was the second wife of the late Bishop John Gascho who proceeded her in death a little over 21 years ago. No children were born to this union. In her early years she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and united with the Amish Mennonite Church in Wilmot, of which she was a faithful member until death. She was the last member of a family of 11 children and died of infirmities from of old age. She leaves the following children: Mrs. John Steinman, Christian, Jacob, Mrs. D.H. Steinman, David, Menno, Daniel, and many other friends and relatives. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Bro. Peter Boshart and at the Steinmann Church by Dan Lebold and Jacob R. Bender. Burial in the adjoining cemetery." They are buried in Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot.

d. Barbara Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 17, 1832, and died there in 1836.

e. Daniel Gascho was born in Somerset County March 21, 1836, and died there in 1838.

f. Christian Gascho was born in Somerset County Nov. 1, 1838, and died in Waterloo County Oct. 22, 1872. He married Mary Schwartzentruber. She was born in Ontario Oct. 22, 1840, and died there Nov. 15, 1915, a daughter of John Schwartzentruber and Catherine Blank. Despite his relative youth he was ordained as bishop of the Amish Mennonite congregation at Mornington. He is buried in the Riser-Reschly Plot at Kingwood, adjacent to the Reformed Mennonite Cemetery. After his death Mary remarried to John Erb.

g. David Gascho was born in Somerset County March 7, 1841, and died in Waterloo County Sept. 19, 1893. On Jan. 29, 1871 at Wilmot he married Barbara Ramseyer. She was born Oct. 5, 1853, and died in Waterloo County Oct. 6, 1930, a daughter of Joseph Ramseyer and Barbara Klopfenstein. They are buried in Maple View Mennonite Cemetery in Waterloo County, Ontario.

h. Samuel Gascho was born in Somerset County March 4, 1844, and died there Feb. 12, 1846.

i. Susanna Gascho was born in Somerset County June 16, 1846, and died in Waterloo County, Ontario Feb. 2, 1892.

j. Jacob Gascho was born in Waterloo County, Ontario Aug. 26, 1848, and died there Dec. 5, 1852.
Mennonite church. Daniel D. Miller. "Descendants spell their surname 'Gashow' and 'Gashaw.' Their children born in Somerset County include:

a. Moses Gashow was born Feb. 27, 1834, and died at Rock Creek Township, Carroll County, Illinois July 30, 1880. He married Susanna Kimmel. She was born in Somerset County Sept. 29, 1836, and died at Rock Creek May 6, 1886. Before 1869 they relocated to Illinois. The 1880 census of Rock Creek shows them as farmer Moses Garshaw, 46, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; Susan, 44, born in Pennsylvania to parents from Pennsylvania; and four children born in Pennsylvania. They are buried in Dutchtown Brethren Cemetery at Milledgeville, Carroll County, Illinois. His headstone says he died July 31, 1880, age 46; hers that she died May 6, 1888, age 50.

b. Anna 'Nancy' Gashow was born Jan. 13, 1836, and died at Sunnyvale, California June 2, 1923. On April 20, 1854 in Somerset County she married Joseph Hunter. He was born in Somerset County Nov. 13, 1831, and died at Des Moines, Iowa July 16, 1887, a son of Alexander Hunter and Anna 'Nancy' Trent.

c. Henry Gashow was born circa 1841. He married Lucinda Long, a daughter of Levi Long and Catherine Walker. According to the newspaper Somerset Democrat, Henry Gashaw was drafted into military service at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania March 10, 1865, and was due to report between March 27 and 31.

There may have been a child Elizabeth who was born in 1843 and died before 1849.

d. Elias Gashow was born June 24, 1844, and died at Boswell, Somerset County Feb. 7, 1929. On Oct. 27, 1867 at Conemaugh, Somerset County he married Catherine 'Katie' Kaufman. She was born in Somerset County Aug. 29, 1848, and died at Jenner March 16, 1928, a daughter of Jacob Kaufman and Elizabeth Yoder. Gospel Herald, April 1928: "Catherine Kauffman Gashaw, daughter of Jacob and Lizzie Kaufman, was born Aug. 29, 1848; died in Jenner Township, Somerset Co., Pa., Mar. 16, 1928; aged 79 y. 6 m. 16 d. She was united in marriage to Eli Gashaw over 60 years ago, and soon after their marriage she and her husband united with the Mennonite Church of which she remained a faithful member until death. She is survived by her husband, four daughters, and one son. One daughter preceded her in death seven years ago. She is also survived by one brother, thirty-six grandchildren, twenty-seven great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends. Her husband has been afflicted for several years, and it was her very anxious desire to live longer than he in order to take care of him, but God saw better otherwise. Funeral services were conducted in the home by James Saylor. In the Thomas Church, L. A. Blough conducted the opening exercises, S. G. Shetler based the sermon on 'Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory' and James Saylor added some fitting remarks. A large concourse of people were assembled for the occasion. The remains were laid away in the Thomas cemetery."

e. John Gashow was born March 2, 1847, and died in Somerset County Dec. 7, 1935. He married Mary Keim. She was born in Somerset County June 6, 1846, and died there Sept. 9, 1911. They are found on the 1880 census of Jenner. John remarried to Elizabeth Zimmerman. She was born Jan. 16, 1846, and died in Somerset County March 2, 1934, a daughter of Henry Zimmerman and Sarah Foust.

f. Elizabet Gashow, 11, is found on the 1860 census of Somerset Township.

There is a family story that the youngest child was named Valentin Gascho. Could he be the 'Gasho' who carried pocket knives to Lancaster County in 1834? According to Volume 19, Number 3 of Nafzger Heritage News, Daniel Gungertich (married to Elisabeth Schwartzentruber) of Freinsheim, Germany (12 miles southwest of Worms) sent a letter dated March 24, 1834 to Jacobina Nafziger in America. It was addressed care of John Lapp of Paradise, Lancaster County. It stated that "...three of Imhoff's children are coming over." 291 It added that they were bringing eight pocket knives, and "...Gasho also took along seven pocket knives for you." We can only guess that this was the elusive Valentin Gascho, whose father and two older brothers were already in Pennsylvania.

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291 The "three" were likely children of Johannes Imhoff and Anna Maria Schwartzentruber. They lived on the Ormsheimer Hof near Frankenthal, seven miles east of Freinsheim.
Pennsylvania and Indiana Gaschos

Everything we found pointed to all Amish Mennonites in Lorraine, the German states, Canada, and the United States being descendants of François Gascho and Anne Chraque [Schrag]. However, we also knew that there were and are many Mennonite Gaschos in the state of Indiana who we could not account for.

One source says that this family was descended from Huguenots who had fled from France and settled at Worms in the Palatinate. Johannes Gasho was born circa 1725. Circa 1765 he died at Dirmstein, about 9 miles southwest of Worms (the location Dirmstein has confused some researchers who found Darmstein, and assumed it meant Darmstadt).

His son Henry Gasho was born at Dirmstein July 15, 1752. Henry had one sister, Barbara. After the death of father Johannes, their mother remarried to a Kraemer who had two daughters. Henry retained his birth surname.

In the fall of 1766 the combined family sailed on a 14-week voyage from Amsterdam or Rotterdam to Philadelphia. Henry's stepfather Kraemer died at sea.

Upon arrival Henry became a redemptioner. His services as an indentured servant or farmhand were auctioned off to John Kaufman of Lancaster County. Henry completed the term of indenture there, then made a living as a farmer and weaver.

One record shows that in 1777 Henry 'Gasha' served as a private in Capt. Conrad Korer's Company, Eighth Battalion, of the Lancaster County Militia. Another record shows that he served again in 1782 as a private in the Fourth Company, Fourth Battalion. He also appears on the Proprietary and State Tax List of Lancaster County for 1779.

On May 25, 1782 in Manor Township, Lancaster County Henry married Barbara Schenk. She was born in Manor Township March 7, 1760, a daughter of John Schenk and Barbara Gingerich. They had three children who lived to adulthood: John (born 1784), Barbara (born 1787), and Henry Jr. (born 1796).

John's household is found on the 1830 census of Manor Township.

Henry (Sr.) created a will in 1835 that was witnessed by neighbors Abraham Landes and Christian Habecker. He died in 1839 or 1840, and was buried on his farm on the east side of Charleston Road in Manor Township. His headstone was eventually plowed over. Years later it was found and set up in a nearby Mennonite cemetery. Barbara Schenk died in Lancaster County Oct. 11 or 16, 1844.

Henry (Sr.) had not been a Mennonite – he had taken up arms in the war of independence — but his children may have been influenced by their mother or neighbors. All three migrated farther west to the Noblesville area of Hamilton County, Indiana. There they practiced the Mennonite faith, and over time took on the German spelling of their surname: Gascho.
Orendorff: Orndorf of Freudenberg

The farm Hof Ohrndorf was situated in the hamlet Büschergrunds, adjoining the northern outskirts of Freudenberg in the district of Arnsberg, now in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Halmenhof three days after her husband. The descendants of the younger son led to Daniel Orendorf, the Amish Mennonite immigrant of 1826.

The older son of Hermann and Margaretha was Johannes Henrik Ohrendorf. He was born at Halmenhof April 2, 1661, and baptized at Freudenberg 13 days later. On Aug. 2, 1698 Rorich Waschenbach of Eichen complained to the local authorities that Agnes and his wife Maria were fighting. The struggle had ended up with his wife in a fish pond. Both were restricted to their own homes for a few days. Agnes had to be warned not to continue her feud. Their children would later marry. Johannes Henrik Ohrendorf died at Eichen, and was buried at Freudenberg Jan. 2, 1708.

Their son Christian Ohrendorf was born at Eichen Aug. 15, 1693, and baptized at Freudenberg Aug. 20 (his uncle Christian born in 1672 was godfather). On Jan. 29, 1714 at Freudenberg he married Agnes Waschenbach. She was born Oct. 19, 1697, and died circa 1751, a daughter of Rorich Waschenbach and Maria. They farmed at Kieselberg (a nearby hamlet that no longer exists).

Christian and Agnes, their son Johann Christian, daughter Louisa, and son-in-law Philip Musse sailed from Rotterdam via Cowes on the St. Mark, and arrived at Philadelphia Sept. 26, 1741. According to the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, ‘Approximately seventy percent of German-speaking immigrants to Great Britain’s American colonies came to Pennsylvania... Between 1727 and 1775, more than 70,000 arrived... The Commonwealth required an Oath of Allegiance to be administered to the non-British immigrants beginning in 1727. The Oaths of Fidelity and Abjuration were begun in 1729; the first specifically required the oath-taker to disavow any ties to other monarchs and embrace the British ruler; and the second to abjure, or renounce, any previous connection to the Pope....The Governor and the council required all foreign males age sixteen and over to take an oath of allegiance to the King of Great Britain, a requirement that remained in force until the end of the colonial period in 1776.” The two lists describe ‘Christian Orrentorff’ or ‘Christian Ohrendorf,’ and his son as ‘Johann Ohrendorf,’ ‘Philip Mee’s’ [Musse] is also found.

Circa 1746 they settled on Tulpehocken Creek in the Lebanon Valley of Lancaster County. There Agnes died.

292 The Reformed Church was introduced into German territory by Elector Frederick III. It spread outward from his capital, Heidelberg in the Palatinate. The elector sponsored the creation of a catechism that was published as a book. In 1566 he was called before the Diet of Germany at Augsburg to defend it. His personal presentation May 14, 1566 was accepted. In Germany today the Evangelical Reformed Church [Ger. Evangelische Reformierte Kirche] is a combination of the beliefs and practices of this older church with Lutheran beliefs and practices.

293 The 1741 immigrant Christian Ohrendorf also had a third cousin who came to Pennsylvania 12 years later. Like Christian, Philip Heinrich Ohrndorf was a great-great-grandson of Henne zu Orndorf. He was baptized in the Reformed Church at Burbach (7 miles southeast of Siegen) Dec. 6, 1716, and married Anna Elizabeth Wuhl at Burbach Feb. 12, 1743. They sailed from Rotterdam on the Edinburgh with four children, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 2, 1753. He appears on the passenger list as Philip Heinrich Arndorff. Philip Heinrich died at Vincent, Chester County, Pennsylvania May 31, 1777. Their descendants make up an ‘Orndorff’ branch.

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In 1749 widower Christian was living at Fredericksburg, Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County in the Swatara valley (between the Second and Blue Mountains). He is found on the Heidelberg tax list in 1753. 'There he joined a Moravian congregation. Their records called him Christian, and showed that he was from 'Kiselberg in Freudenberg.' His son-in-law Philip Musse is also found in their records. Christian remarried to Elizabeth Von Müller/Miller from the Moravian congregation.

The 1753 Assessment List of Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County shows Christian Orendorff as a taxable person. He was naturalized in 1758. Christian died at Fredericksburg April 16, 1772, and may have been buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Bethel Township.

Johann Christian Orendorff/Christian Orendorff was born near Freudenberg Nov. 15, 1726. On April 2, 1749 in Lancaster County he married Elizabeth Ann Hoffman. She was born in 1732.

In America he was known simply as Christian Orendorff. A National Register of Historic Places nomination form describes, "Orendorff's Mill or Mumma's Mill...at Mount Pleasant located just north of Maryland Route 34 west of the Antietam Creek between Sharpsburg and Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland...a two-story three-bay log dwelling set on very low stone foundations...Accounts of the Orendorff family indicate that Christian Orendorff established a mill on the Antietam [Creek] shortly after he purchased 503 acres from James Smith for 654 pounds on Nov. 17, 1762...The Mount Pleasant property is also important for its association with significant military events in United States history. Several members of the Orendorff family were officers of the Maryland Militia. According to family history, the Orendorff house, during the Revolution, was the scene of many military and policy-making conferences hosted by Christian Orendorff, member of the Maryland Committee of Safety. General Horatio Gates is said to have been one of many military officers who stayed in the Orendorff home."

Other accounts say Johann Christian purchased 292 acres on the Antietam Creek and 11 acres on the Potomac River at Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland Dec. 9, 1762, and moved his family there.

On July 18, 1776 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Maryland Militia. Records describe him as a lieutenant in the 'Maryland Flying Camp' in 1776. The entire grouping was led by Brigadier General Rezin Beall; 'Christian Orendorf' is found in First Battalion under Colonel Charles G. Griffith.

He was captured circa November of 1776; we know this because he had been a prisoner for two-and-one-half years in May of 1779.

Brigadier General Rezin Beall (1723-1809) was elected captain of the First Independent Maryland Company by the Convention of Maryland Jan. 2, 1776. As a captain, he was struck in the shoulder by a rifle shot and in the hip by a cannon shot during an engagement at St. George's Island July 16, 1776. He was then elected brigadier general of the 'Flying Camp' of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, and served with them until Dec. 1, 1776. He only participated in two battles in this time frame. The Battle of Long Island Aug. 26, 1776 was a disaster for the Continental Army, but in the end, General Washington managed to evacuate everyone without a single loss.

Thus the most likely event for the capture of Johann Christian was the Battle of Fort Washington Nov. 16, 1776. Fort Washington was at the northern end of Manhattan Island. It was across the Hudson River from Fort Lee, New Jersey, named for General Charles Lee before he fell into disfavor.

This was a decisive British victory. After 59 troops were killed, another 2,837 from the garrison of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York were confined by the British.

The King of England did not recognize captured American patriots as prisoners of war. Many officers were held on old hulks in Wallabout Bay in the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn (now the location of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Williamsburg Bridge). Prisoners who could write were encouraged to correspond with their old officers or families, to request money for food and clothing. Nevertheless between 10,000 and 11,500 died of neglect.

A record survives of Johann Christian's correspondence with General Horatio Gates regarding a planned exchange of prisoners. Despite the Long Island address, he may have been in Wallabout Bay. A portion of the Battle of Long Island was fought in that vicinity, and Wallabout Bay was downriver from Fort Washington.

Christian Orendorff to Gates
Sir: Long Island, May 20, 1779

294 This location has caused some confusion for descendants. Fredericksburg is above the town of Lebanon, and just below Swatara State Park. It is now in Lebanon County, but at the time he lived there it was in Lancaster County. Lebanon County was not established until 1813.

295 Fort Washington was at the northern end of Manhattan Island. It was across the Hudson River from Fort Lee, New Jersey, named for General Charles Lee before he fell into disfavor.
From my former acquaintance with your excellency, I am induced to request your interest in my behalf, as it is believed a partial exchange is about to take place. My confinement here for upwards of two years and half, out of the line of serving myself or country, tenders time disagreeable. As it is natural for every officer to feel for another in a state of captivity, can I convince you to exert yourself on my behalf, which will be gratefully remembered. By your excellency, most obliged, Lieut. Christian Orendorff, 6th Maryland Regiment

His name appears as 'Christian Orendorff' on a list of prisoners exchanged Oct. 25, 1780. Of the 2,837 prisoners taken from Fort Washington, only 800 survived.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois, Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois erroneously embellished, "...Christian served in the Revolution, was taken prisoner, and while a captive fell in love with the daughter of an English officer, who he afterward married."

In Records of the Revolutionary War, Johann Christian is again found as 'Christian Orendorff' in retirement:

Hon. Secretary of War

Sir:

Lieutenant Christian Orendorff, of the sixth Maryland regiment, has made application at this office to know whether there is any charge against him on the books of the Treasury. I have examined the records of the Department, and cannot find that any settlement has taken place with him. He alludes to an arrearage of pay and rations due to him while he was a prisoner. If you can point out any particular reference which may be obtained in this office that will show light on the nature of his claim, it shall be attended to. Your obedient servant, Joseph Dawson

A number of family sources call him a major, and say that he returned to active service in the 'Indian wars.'

THE BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBERS

The Battle of Fallen Timbers climaxed the Northwest Indian War. It took place to settle the question of settlement rights in the Northwest Territory. This was bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, on the south by the Ohio River, and in the northeast by the Great Lakes. It effectively ended hostilities for another 16 years.

The federal government felt its citizens had a right to settle in the region because of concessions in the Treaty of Paris. Their nearsightedness denied civil rights to the only population that actually resided there.

In 1792 President George Washington ordered General 'Mad' Anthony Wayne to create a new army, the Legion of the United States, to crush resistance to settlement. In 1794 his force of 4,600 men marched west.

Blue Jacket had chosen the site of present day Maumee, Ohio as his battlefield. There a stand of trees had been blown down by a recent storm. He positioned 1,500 of his warriors and a company of Canadian militia in among the timbers, considering this his best chance to offset Wayne's cavalry. (A modern strategist would have suggested that he not mass his warriors at all, and simply wait for winter, when the federal troops would have abandoned their mission for lack of shelter).

On Aug. 20, 1794 Wayne's men charged among the timbers with bayonets. The outnumbered defenders tried to escape, but were easily outflanked in the open by horsemen. Blue Jacket retreated to a fort held by Canadians. But the Canadian commander was unwilling to take on Wayne, and locked him out. Wayne freely burned crops and villages in the area and retreated. The remaining supporters of Blue Jacket dispersed.

Very few men were actually killed in the skirmishing — Blue Jacket may have lost 40, Wayne may have lost 33 — but the point was made. The Treaty of Greenville was signed at Fort Greenville, Ohio Aug. 3, 1795. In exchange for goods valued at $20,000 ($368,000 in modern buying power), the assembled tribal representatives signed away land reaching from Ohio to a site that became Chicago.

Johann Christian Orendorff/Christian Orendorff died at Sharpsburg, Maryland Dec. 10, 1796. On April 10, 1810 his heirs sold their farm and the adjoining graveyard where he was buried to Jacob Mumma. His widow Elizabeth Ann died at Hagerstown, Maryland July 19, 1829, and was buried beside him. During the Civil War the area became the site of the Battle of Antietam, and Mumma Graveyard is now incorporated into the Antietam National Battlefield Park.

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296 Some sources have erroneously taken his will, created Dec. 28, 1795, as evidence that he died in that year.

297 The Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, was fought Sept. 17, 1862. It was the culmination of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, the first invasion of the north by General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The twelve hours of fighting by 100,000 troops marked the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. By the end of the day the Army of Northern Virginia had lost over 15,000 dead or wounded, and the Union Army had lost 8,000. The following day Lee retreated back across the Potomac River.
Johann Christian/Christian Orendorf and Mary had a son Christian Orendorff who was also an officer in the Revolutionary War. He was born in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County (in a part that became Lebanon County in 1813), and baptized in the Trinity Tulpehocken Reformed Church at Millardsville Oct. 15, 1752.

On March 21, 1775 in Washington County he married Mary Thomas. She was born in Frederick County (adjacent to Washington County) in 1754, a daughter of Hans Michael Thomas and Barbara Klotter.

On April 1, 1778 'Christian Orendorff' was commissioned as a captain in the First Regiment, Maryland Continental Line, under Colonel Otho H. Williams.

SORTING HISTORY

_Historic Shepherdstown_ published in 1910 stated: "...Capt. Christian Orndorff distinguished himself in the battles of Bennington and Skeenborough. He lived at Sharpsburg, Md., and did not move to the neighborhood of Shepherdstown until after the Revolution. He had a very beautiful daughter whom, it is said, General Horatio Gates wanted to marry. She refused him, and married Jonathan Hagar, who named his town Elizabeth Town in her honor. Afterwards the name was changed to Hagerstown."

Skeenborough is also found as Skeensborough or Skenesborough on the Hudson River (now Whitehall, New York). Before Benedict Arnold's arrest for treason, he was a Continental officer who built boats at Skenesborough for his surprise attack on Fort Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen. The Battle of Valcour Island resulted in the surrender of the fort.

The Battle of Bennington took place at Walloonsac, N.Y., about 10 miles from Bennington, Vermont, Aug. 16, 1777. It pitted militia against a detachment sent out by British General John Burgoyne. Burgoyne's army was reduced by 1,000 troops, a factor in his later loss at Saratoga. This success may have been a factor in Christian's commissioning seven months later.

The "beautiful daughter" Elizabeth was actually a daughter of Johann Christian Orndorff and a sister to Christian Orendorff. Mary Magdalena Orendorff was born at Sharpsburg Oct. 20, 1767, and died June 8, 1845. On Nov. 17, 1783 at what is now Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland the 16-year-old married a much older Jonathan Hager. He was born there Dec. 13, 1755, and died in December 1798, a son of the Hessian couple Jonathan Hager and Anna Elizabeth Kirschner. They are buried in Zion Reformed United Church of Christ Cemetery at Hagerstown, where Mary Magdalena's surname is spelled 'Ohrendorff.'

General Horatio Gates would have been astonished to know that his name would be linked in history with Mary Magdalena. When she was born in 1767, she was a married 39-year-old. Her father did know Gates, and when Gates's first wife died in the summer of 1783, he would have known Mary Magdalena. He would have been 56 years old. Perhaps the association with Gates grew out of humorous observations about the older man she would marry later that year, Jonathan Hager.

An affidavit for the pension application of Thomas Watson Sr., 79, was signed at Chariton County, Missouri Nov. 20, 1833. Though Christian Orendorff is mentioned only once, that portion gives an idea of his later service:

"...Again in the month of January 1778 into the service of the United States in Shepperds Town in Virginia by enlistment in the Continental Army of the United States, I enlisted for the term of five years with eight other persons, the names of some of whom I now recollect, to wit: George Waynes, Philip Sloan, John Houle, John Shepherd & George Wills. I enlisted under Captain Christian Orenduff under the command of the aforesaid William Darke, who had now a commission in the Continental Army of the United States. From Shepperdstown we marched to little York in Pennsylvania, and remained there about three months, and were then ordered to Fort Pitt [now Pittsburgh] where we arrived shortly after, and remained there and in the neighborhood until my time expired, and was discharged having served five years."

We have revised some of the writing below for the sake of clarity. It is a deposition taken in June 1781, from *Letters to the Governor and Council of Maryland*, regarding a conspiracy in Washington and Frederick Counties—written from the viewpoint of the recording clerk.

DEPOSITION OF CHRISTIAN ORENDOFF

About a Fortnight ago, Henry Newcomer of Washington County came to him [Orendorff] in Shaftsbury [Sharpsburg], and called him out of his Father's House, and asked what he thought of these Times. He answered, "The Times were very bad & precarious."

He [Newcomer] then asked if he thought the King would overcome this Country. He [Orendorff] answered he thought he might. [Newcomer replied] "I'm sure he will overcome the Country, and Orendorff, if you will keep it a secret, I lead you into a Matter of great Importance. [When Orendorff replied that he would keep it in confidence] he said, "We

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298 This church is now called the Tulpehocken Trinity Church, United Church of Christ.

*Portrait and Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois* (1894) erroneously stated that he was born Nov. 23, 1752.
have raised a Body of Men for the Service of the King, and we thought proper to make application to you to go to New York for a Fleet." [To pick up arms and powder].

And asked how many Men they had raised, [Newcomer] said: "Upwards of 6,000." Asked who was the Commanding officer of the Party, [Newcomer] answered "one Fritchy of Fredericktown, a Dutch Man, don't know his Christian Name." [Newcomer] ordered Orndorf to go to his House, and he would shew him the Man. [Orendorff] went to his House and rode with him to Fredericktown, but did not go to Fritchys House. Newcomer informed him Fritch would not see him in Town, but would meet him ten Miles from Town.

He [Fritch] met him, and then took him aside and said he understood Orndorf was let in to a Matter that was carrying on now. Orendorf said to him, "I understood you are the commanding Officer," Fritch said he was, and told Orndorf the Name of the Man in Virginia from whom he received Instructions to recruit, but [Orendorff] has forgot the name.

Asked why they picked him, [Orendorff] said, because he had been in New York so long they thought he was the fittest Person if he would undertake it—though they were not quite ready for a Thing of that sort. Orndorf desired him to get the Names of all the Officers which he promised to do. Before they parted, Fritch told him not to disclose what he had communicated. Orndorf replied he would sooner sacrifice his Life than do it.

Orndorf told him to get ready as soon as he could, and let him know it [the list of names], and he said he would & as soon as he was [in possession of the list] Orndorf should be informed of it—and then he said some of his officers were so violent for it that he was afraid it would be made public. Asked who they were, he [Newcomer] said: one Kelly a Lawyer & an Irishman who lives in the mountains about twelve or fourteen miles from Fredericktown. [Orendorff] had no further Conversation with Fritch.

After Orndorf rode four or five miles along the main Road, Newcomer said, "Orndorf you look so dead I'm afraid you ruin the matter; answered not at all Sir. [Newcomer] says, "Keep it a Secret whatever you do, for we will soon give these Fellows a damn Thrashing. [Newcomer] said as we are not ready, I must send my Boy up to the South Mountain and let them know We are not ready yet. Our Boys are so violent we can hardly keep them in. [Newcomer] said he sent an Express last week to Lancaster to hush them a little while longer.

He slapped Orndorf on the shoulder and said, "I am so glad, as if I had 10,000, [because] we have got you, Orndorf, for they could not get one so proper for the Expedition as you are. [Newcomer] said: "we have consulted one another a great while, and were afraid to mention the Matter on your Father's Account, as we knew him to be a violent Rebel" And then they parted, and Newcomer went towards Hagers Town. Newcomer lives within five or six Miles of Hager's Town.

Two or three Days after Orndorf got Home, Bleacher, one of the Captains, came to him and called him out aside and said: "I understand you are let into a Secret that is going on now." [Orendorff] answered he was, and said, "I suppose you are one of the Officers?" Bleacher said he was. Orndorf asked him what Rank he was. He answered, "A Captain." Orndorf asked how many men he had recruited; he said he had fifty men. Orndorf asked him to let him look at his Warrant. He said he had it not about him, and made it a Rule not to carry it about him. Orndorf asked him to put it in his pocket and bring it to his House and shew it to him. He said he would. And then Orndorf asked him how he managed to make known his Doings to those he wanted to join him. He said he had applied to twenty that had refused him, and asked Orndorf how he thought he must have felt after being refused.

He said to Orndorf, "You are acquainted with our Secrets, and if you expose them you must abide by the Consequences." Orndorf asked him how he thought they would do if he went & brought the Fleet to George Town, for you have no arms. Bleacher said they would mount on Horses and ride down there, and receive their arms, for the Troops in the State could not hinder them. And further said he could take the Magazine in Fredericktown with their Men. And then they parted.

Orndorf was at one Tinkles (who lives nigh to Kelly), who told him Jacob Young was informed of the Matter. [Orendorff] asked, "Why is Jacob Young informed of the Matter?" [Tinkles] said he was. Orndorf said: "Why Jacob Young will certainly expose the Matter for he is a Magistrate". He [Tinkles] said he would not.

At about this time Christian's father sent a letter to General Horatio Gates. The illegibility of his handwriting makes it difficult to interprete, but it is clear that he was aware of the conspiracy.

June 17, 1781
Sharpsburgh

Dear General:

General Lee was home last night. He is gone today to Hagers Town. He is strongly suspected by us for his friendships. We have caught six in Sharpsburgh today. [Illegible number] are suspected, which I hope by tomorrow evening to have. You will therefore keep yourself in readiness at a moment's warning, that is, you must be ready. I am much confused and in haste, therefore you will excuse me; and believe me, General, to be your sincere and humble friend.

Christian Orndorff

GENERAL CHARLES LEE

General Charles Lee was a mercenary soldier who came to the Colonies in 1773. He purchased an estate that he renamed Prato Rio in a part of Virginia that is now Leetown, West Virginia (13 miles southwest of Sharpsburg, 9 miles southwest of Shepherdstown).
When the Revolutionary War became imminent, he expected to be nominated as commander-in-chief. George Washington got the position, and Lee became a resentful major general. After losses in the early winter of 1776 (including Fort Washington) he lost faith in Washington and began to obstruct his efforts with delay. About this time one of his personal letters criticizing Washington was opened and read by Washington.

On Dec. 13, 1776, Lee was arrested by British troops in his dressing gown in White's Tavern at Basking Ridge, New Jersey, three miles from his own troops. 80 years later evidence turned up that while under arrest he was collaborating with his British captors. After providing them with a proposed plan of attack, he was returned to service with the Continental Army in a prisoner exchange.

At the Battle of Monmouth Lee declined an order to advance, and instead retreated. His troops ran back into General Washington's troops. Subsequently the two generals exchanged some choice words. Lee was later court-martialed and relieved of command. His appeal to the Continental Congress was turned down, and he began a letter-writing campaign against Washington. He was challenged to several duels by Washington's supporters, and was wounded in one. He was released from duty Jan. 10, 1780, and died at Philadelphia Oct. 2, 1782.

THE TORY CONSPIRATORS

Henry Newcomer came from a German Mennonite family, originally from Eggwil in Canton Bern. He was apparently wealthy, because in 1775 he and a brother had purchased 692 acres in Washington County, Maryland for 5,000 pounds (comparable to $678,000 in modern buying power). As a result of the deposition, he was tried for "...enticing and persuading to return to and acknowledge dependence on the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain."

On July 6, 1781 Newcomer was convicted on two counts of treason. He spent two years in the Fredericktown jail. He apparently hid his money or divied it out among relatives; after pleading poverty his 1,000-pound fine was reduced to 75. His prosperity returned soon after his release, and he continued to construct mills and be an influential businessman in the community.

Seven men were sentenced to death. The three that actually had their sentences carried out included Caspar Fritchie. Judge Alexander Contee Harrison pronounced sentence July 25, 1781: "You shall be carried to the goal of Fredericktown, and be hanged therein; you shall be cut down to the earth alive, and your entrails shall be taken out and burnt while you are yet alive, your heads shall be cut off, your body shall be divided into four parts, and your heads and quarters shall be placed where his Excellency the Governor shall appoint."

Communication of news in the colonies was achingly slow, and the Tories engaged in this conspiracy were obviously unaware that the war was going disastrously for their side. Fighting would end with General Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown only four months later, in October 1781.

Christian resigned his commission May 15, 1782. The Revolutionary War technically ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris Sept. 3, 1783.

Sometime after the war Christian and Mary farmed at Shepherds Town, a community southwest of Sharpsburg, 4 miles down the Sharpsburg Road. At the time it was in Virginia; it is now Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

In 1805 they resettled at Adairville, Logan County, Kentucky. Christian died at Russellville (the county seat) Sept. 14, 1823; his widow Mary Thomas died there 10 days later on Oct. 4, 1823. They are buried in Hummer Cemetery at Adairville. Christian's original stone says, "To the memory of Christopher Orendorff" with illegible dates. A modern headstone says, "Lt. Christopher Orndorff, a descendant of Christian Orendorf of Pennsylvania and Germany, and of Major Christian Orendorf of Maryland, bought land on this site in 1795. In 1805 he brought his family from Maryland, built a home at a nearby spring, and a mill on Red River. Orndorff Mills served Logan County for over one hundred years. He, his wife, and five of eleven children are buried on this site. — J.K. Orndorff, 1990." The other side of this stone says, "Christopher Orndorff, 1752-1923, In God alone do put your trust when you build a mill. — C.O."

Descendants in Logan County spell their surname 'Orndorff.' But four of their children born at Sharpsburg, Maryland came to Tazewell County:

- Aaron Orendorff was born Feb. 6, 1784, and died at what became Hopedale Feb. 18, 1846. On Sept. 2, 1813 at Adairville, Kentucky he married Martha McDowell. She was born at Cowpens, North Carolina Jan. 29, 1790, and died at Adair, Kentucky June 27, 1849. They are buried in Orendorff Cemetery at Hopedale.

- Absalom Orendorff was born Jan. 13, 1786, and died unmarried at what became Hopedale April 15, 1838. His headstone in Orendorff Cemetery at Hopedale reads, "Mr. Orndorf selected the site for this cemetery soon after coming to this country in 1827, and was afterwards the first person buried here. He gave as his reason for choosing this spot was that it was the highest point near the timber in this vicinity and a large and tall oak tree standing here at that time was a conspicuous land mark that could be seen for miles from any direction on the surrounding prairie."

- Esau Orendorff was born Jan. 17, 1790, and died in Tazewell County May 8, 1877. On May 18, 1815 in Logan County, Kentucky he married Mary Polly Milliken. She was born in Guilford County, N.C. June 29, 1796, and died in Tazewell County Feb. 4, 1872.
Enoch Thomas Orendorff was born Nov. 29, 1799. On Dec. 6, 1827 in Tazewell County he married Rosanna Orendorff. She was born at Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1806, a daughter of Christopher Orendorff and Elizabeth Phillips. Enoch T. Orendorff is found on the 1830 census of Mackinaw, and Enoch J. Orendorff is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County. They appear on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Enoch T. Orendorff, 51, Pennsylvania; Romania, 42, South Carolina; Quintius, 21, Illinois; Charles, 17, Illinois; John, 15, Illinois; and Eliza, 12, Illinois. Enoch is last found in Tazewell County on the 1855 state census of Illinois, and may have died before 1860.

Aaron Orendorff was a civil engineer. He and his brother Enoch Orendorff came to Tazewell County to scout land in the fall of 1826. They returned to Kentucky, but Aaron came back to Illinois with his family in 1827. Aaaron/Aron Orendorff is listed in the database Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales. We found 39 purchases beginning on Oct. 27, 1829. He eventually owned 6,000 acres. He built the first brick house in Tazewell County, and was later acknowledged as the first settler of what later became Hopedale. His son Thomas Hogg Orendorff (mayor) in 1855 and served terms as supervisor (mayor) in 1855 and 1863.

Enoch. Absolom, and Esau Orendorff also settled in Tazewell County. Enoch is found with 14 land purchases under his name beginning Oct. 27, 1829. On May 18, 1835 Absolom purchased 40 acres. We found 11 purchases under Esau's name beginning Oct. 18, 1833. All of these purchases were public land selling for $1.25 per acre.

The Spring Bay Branch
(Reformed, Amish Mennonite, and Mennonite)

Christian Ohrendorf was the younger son of Hermann 'Mannus' Ohrndorf and Margaretha Dicke. He was born at the hamlet Helmenhof Dec. 4, 1672, and baptized at Freudenberg Aug. 20, 1672.

He farmed in the vicinity of Siegen, a town 18 miles northwest of the university town of Giessen, Hesse.

In 1731 Hermann 'Mannus' Bender leased the Homrighausen estate near Berleburg (now Bad Berleburg, 30 miles northeast of Siegen). After a number of disputes with underlings of Count Casimir of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg in 1737, he secretly departed from the estate with all his family members, servants, and possessions (see Hermann Guth's Amish Mennonites in Germany for more on the dispute). The two sons of Christian Ohrendorf took up the lease on the Homrighausen estate:

1. Johannes Ohrendorf. By 1749 he was a co-leaseholder of the Casimirthal estate at Wittgenstein (18 miles northeast of Siegen) with 'Mennes' Bender (thought to have been the son of Hermann 'Mannus' Bender) and Conrad Kniep.
2. Johann Heinrich Ohrendorf was born between 1693 and 1702. Just as Christian's older brother Johann Heinrich named a son after him, he named this son after Johann Heinrich.

Johann Heinrich Ohrendorf was born between 1693 and 1702. After his shared lease on the Homrighausen estate expired, he went to live on the Lohe estate at Ferndorf (9 miles north of Siegen) with a daughter Maria Barbara and her husband Michael Jutzi. He was there in 1749.

Maria Barbara Ohrendorf was born at Freudenberg (12 miles northwest of Siegen) Sept. 30, 1723, and died in the hamlet of Sensenstein (near Escherode east of Kassel, Hesse, it no longer exists) Dec. 13, 1798. Her husband Michael Jutzi was born circa 1722, and died at Giflitz (adjacent to Edertal, then in the Principality of Waldeck) Dec. 11, 1772. Their descendants are tracked in Neil Ann Stuckey Levine's Transplanted German Farmer, a narrative translation of the diaries of Butler County. Ohio settler Christian Iutzi. Michael and Maria Barbara were the progenitors of Jutzis/Lutzis who came to Butler County.

We suspect a missing link here — a brother to Maria Barbara who would have been the father of Johannes Ohrendorf. He married Anna Risser and held a lease on the Merzhausen estate at Rosenthal (33 miles north of the university town of Giessen). In 1803 Johannes and Anna had a son Daniel Ohrendorf on Grübenbach farm at Burg-Gemünden. Burg-Gemünden is in the valley of the Ohm River, 20 miles northeast of the university town of Giessen. In 1803 it was

299 These four brothers also had a cousin who arrived in Central Illinois as early as 1817 — Christopher Orendorff married to Elizabeth Phillips. When he died Dec. 18, 1829, his will was the first to be probated in Tazewell County (in a part that is now McLean County). Although he was known as Christopher, his will was signed 'Christian Orendorff.' Though he lived in Tazewell County, in a part that became Logan County, he is beyond our scope.
part of the Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt. According to Hermann Guth, another tenant on Grübenbach farm was Peter Güngerrich/Jüngerich; a Bender family lived on Hof Sorge at Burg-Gemünden at the same time.300

Daniel Orndorff, 23' appears in a National Archives Abstract of passengers who arrived at Baltimore March 12, 1826. Other passengers on the same page include Peter Unzicker and Elisabeth [Elisabeth Schönbeck]; Daniel Brenneman and Maria [Bender] with their eight children; Christian Schwarztraub, 20; and John Schonbeck, 28.301

From Baltimore Daniel may have made his way to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. There he would have met ministers who made arrangements for him to continue on to Wilmot, Ontario. Its unique appeal to Amish Mennonite immigrants was its affordability. It was possible to claim a lot with no money out of pocket. He is found on the 1830 surveyor's plat map of Wilmot as the claimant on Lot 11 on the north side of Erb Road.

His traveling companions Peter Unzicker and Elisabeth Schönbeck may have accompanied him to Ontario. They appear on censuses of Waterloo Township (adjacent to Wilmot) from 1829 to 1831.

Daniel may have moved south to Butler county, Ohio in 1831-32 with others including Brennemans, Danner/Donners, Farni/Farnys, Goldschmidt/Goldsmiths, Naffzigers, Ropps, and Unzickers. The issues that led these families to leave Wilmot are explained in ROPP.

We could not determine whether Daniel lived in Butler County, or when he may have flat-boated down the Ohio River to the Illinois River. It was natural for someone approaching Tazewell County from the river to settle near the shore at Spring Bay on land that later became part of Woodford County. He is found there by 1844.

Katharina Albrecht was born in Bavaria July 8, 1815, and died at Spring Bay in 1859, a daughter of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel (see ENGEL). She had married a Heimer in Germany and had one son. They likely came to Spring Bay in 1836, at the remainder of her family arrived. They had one son together, John born circa 1835. When Heimer died there, Katharina remarried to Daniel Orendorf.

Their household is found on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Daniel Orendoff, 49, Germany; Catharine, 40, Germany; Eliza, 6, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; Daniel, 1, Illinois; and John Orndoff, 15, Germany (the son of Heimer).

The 1860 census of Spring Bay was so wildly inaccurate that it may have shown a completely different family: farmer Daniel Orendorf, 50, Bavaria; Barbara, 16, Bavaria; Peter, 14, Bavaria; William, 12, Illinois; Margaret, 10, Illinois; and John, 8, Illinois. This was exceptional, even in a census that was notorious for its purposeful inaccuracies.

Daniel is found on the 1870 census of Morton: Daniel Orendorff, 70, Hesse-Darmstadt; farm laborer Joseph, 18, Illinois; and farm laborer Christian, 13, Illinois. They were living in the household of daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Christian Eigsti.

On July 27, 1872 Daniel died at Morton, where he had been living with his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Christian Eigsti. His headstone in Landes Mennonite Cemetery calls him 'Daniel Orendorf,' the way he was known most of his life, and does not give a date of birth.

WHEN DID HE KNOW?

Daniel's surname was spelled 'Orendorff' on the 1870 census. This was the spelling used by the Hopedale family of early settlers. All of Daniel's children subsequently adopted the spelling as well.

When did Daniel realize that he was related to the Hopedale branch? When he arrived at Baltimore in 1826, did he realize that another branch of his family had arrived at Philadelphia in 1741, and had lived in Maryland since 1762? When he chose to settle at Spring Bay, was he aware that Orendorffs were living 30 miles to the south?

He may have been aware as early as 1858. On July 1, 1858 in Tazewell County Enoch Thomas Orendorff, a son of Esau Orendorff and Mary 'Polly' Milliken, married Helene (also known as Helen C.) Brenneman. She was born at Turtle Creek, Ohio March 21, 1836, and died at Whiting, Iowa Feb. 2, 1915, a daughter of Daniel Brenneman and Elizabeth Jutzi (see BRENNEMAN). Enoch Thomas was born in Logan County, Kentucky Aug. 19, 1835, and died at Fergus Falls.

300 The Landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt became the Grand Duchy of Hesse after the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. In 1971 Burg-Gemünden was administratively consolidated with six other villages into the community of Gemünden. The six villages were Ehringenhausen, Elpenrod, Hainbach, Nieder-Gemünden, Otterbach, and Rülfenrod. They lay on the rivers Felda and Ohm. In the 18th and early 19th centuries Rülfenrod was the site of a noble property where Amish Mennonite services were held. Gemünden would now be described as a community in the district of Fulda, in the state of Hesse.

301 Daniel Brenneman was born at Braunshardt (6 miles northwest of the city of Darmstadt) Sept. 10, 1769, though he is listed as 50 (thus born circa 1776) on the National Archives Abstract, and died at New Germany, Allegany County, Maryland May 16, 1842. He was a son of Nikolaus Brenneman and his first wife Barbara Kurtz. On Feb. 20, 1803 he married Maria Bender. She was born at Bodenhausen in Waldeck in 1782, and died at New Germany after 1860. Their modern joint headstone in the Brenneman Family Cemetery at New Germany calls her 'Maria his wife, died 1856,' but she is listed as Mary Brinneman, 76, in the household of her son Jacob on the 1860 census of Allegany County. New Germany is about 8 miles south of Salisbury, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where some of their children were married; it became part of Garrett County, Maryland in 1876.
The children of Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf and Katharina Albrecht born at Spring Bay include:

1. Elizabeth ‘Lizzie’ Orendorf was born July 21, 1844, and died of typhoid fever June 26, 1881. On Feb. 5, 1863 at Eureka, Woodford County she married Christian Eigsti. He was born at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 15, 1832, and died at Morton March 5, 1903, a son of Nicholas Augustin and Barbara Gascho. They are listed on the 1870 census of Morton as ‘Christian Eigstein,’ a 35-year-old farmer from Bern; Elizabeth, 26, born in Illinois; and four children. Elizabeth’s 70-year-old father Daniel Orendorf of Hesse-Darmstadt and two younger brothers were living with them. They are listed on the 1880 census of Morton (at the same address) as ‘Christ Eigstern,’ 45, and Elizabeth, 36, with seven children. Elizabeth is buried at Landes Mennonite Cemetery, where her stone in the Eigsti grouping says, “Lizzie wife of C. died June 27, 1881 at 36 years, 11 months, nine days.” For a list of their children and details of Christian’s other marriages see EIGSTI.

2. Jacob Orendorf was born June 19, 1846 (though the 1900 census erroneously reported July 1847), and died at Chenoa, McLean County Nov. 4, 1925. On March 19, 1872 he married Elizabeth Sommer in McLean County; the ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Yates, McLean County as farmer Jacob Orendoff, 35, born in Illinois to a father from Hesse-Darmstadt and a mother from Bavaria; Catharine [Elizabeth], 33, born in France to French parents; Mary E., 7; Jacob E., 4; and Anna, 2; all children born in Illinois to a father from Illinois and a mother from France; and farm laborer Miky Hassanfratz, 24, France. They appear on the 1900 census of Yates as farmer Jacob Orendorf, 52, born in Illinois in July 1847 to German parents; Eliza B. [Sommer], 52, born in France in December 1847 to French parents; Mary Ella, 25, born in Illinois in May 1875 to parents from Illinois and France; Edward J., 23, born in Illinois in July 1876 to parents from Illinois and France; and Matilda, 20, born in Illinois in November 1879 to parents from Illinois and France. Eliza B. [Sommer] Orendorf is buried in Chenoa Cemetery at Chenoa, McLean County as Eliza B. Orendorf, 1845-1917. Jacob is buried in there as Jacob Orendorf, 1846-1925.

3. Daniel Orendorf was born Nov. 8, 1848, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 14, 1918.

4. Joseph Orendorf was born Bay July 4, 1852, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County June 25, 1884. On Feb. 28, 1876 in Livingston County he married Barbara Steinman. She was born Sept. 22, 1857, and died at Flanagan March 19, 1937, a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Katharina/Catherine Birky. For the details of her second and third marriages to Joseph Yoder and Daniel Eigsti and her obituary see STEINMAN, Herald of Truth, August 1884: “On the 25th of June, in Livingston Co., Ill., of consumption, Joseph Orendorf, aged 32 years, less 10 days. Funeral services were held by Christian Schlegel, Joseph Gascho, and John P. Schmidt. Many friends and acquaintances near by and from a distance attended the funeral to follow him to the grave. He was a faithful member of the Amish Mennonite Church. His seat in the church was seldom vacant so long as he was able to attend the church services.” They are buried under a joint headstone in Waldo Cemetery at Flanagan, Livingston County.

5. Christian Orendorf was born at Spring Bay Oct. 22, 1856, and died at Wayland, Iowa April 30, 1943. On Sept. 19, 1878 at Flanagan he married Magdalena Lena Steinman. She was born at Tremont Feb. 27, 1861, and died at Wayland, Iowa Jan. 29, 1898, a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Katharina/Catherine Birky. They are found on the 1900 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer Christ Orrendorf, 43, born in Illinois in October 1856 to German parents; Lena, 40, born in Illinois in February 1860 to German parents; Liddy, 16, born in Illinois in February 1884 to parents from Illinois; John, 14, born in Illinois in September 1895 to parents from Illinois; and Alice, 4, born in Illinois in July 1895 to parents from Illinois. They lived next door to Joseph Yoder, 77, and Barbara [Barbara Steinman who had been married to Joseph Orendorf], 42; they had one child Joseph Orendorf, 12, and one Ida Yoder, 10. Christian and Magdalena relocated to Jefferson, Iowa in 1902, where they appear on the 1910 census. 

\[302\] Woodford County records list them as Christian Eigstn and Elizabeth Orendorf.
Daniel Orendorff was born at Spring Bay Nov. 8, 1848, and died at Flanagan, Livingston County Jan. 14, 1918. On Feb. 15, 1872 at Roanoke, Woodford County he married Mary Yordy. She was born at Elm Grove Oct. 19, 1849, and died at Flanagan Feb. 8, 1823, a daughter of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. They are found on the 1880 census of Nebraska, Livingston County.

He was ordained as a minister in 1890, and served the Waldo Mennonite Church until his death. They are shown on the 1800 census of Nebraska Township; then on the 1900 census of Flanagan Village, Nebraska Township, Livingston County as farmer Daniel Orendorff, 51, born in Illinois in November 1848 to German parents; Mary, 50, born in Illinois in October 1849 to German parents; Ada, 10, born in Illinois in 1890 to parents from Illinois; and Katie, 25, born in Illinois in June 1874 to parents from Illinois. They lived next door to Daniel Steinman.

Gospel Herald, January 1918: "Daniel Orendorff was born near Spring Bay, Ill., Nov. 8, 1848; died at his late home near Flanagan, Ill., Jan. 14, 1918, where he resided since 1873; aged 69y. 2m. 6d. He united with the A.M. Church in his youth. He served as Sunday school superintendent for a number of years, and in June, 1890, was ordained to the ministry. He performed his duties faithfully. He was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mary Yordy near Roanoke, Ill., Feb 15, 1872. They lived together happily for nearly 46 years. To this union were born 5 daughters and two sons. One daughter, 2 sons and 1 grandson preceded him to the spirit world. He leaves his faithful companion, 4 daughters (Lizzie Roeschley, Katie Conrad, Emma Conrad, and Ada), 2 brothers (Jacob and Christian), 27 grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed by the family, neighbors, and by the whole congregation, where his seat was seldom vacant. He was on time and with a kind word and smile for everyone. Funeral services at the house by A.H. Leaman and at the church by D.W. Slagell, A.H. Leaman, and Geo. Summer. He chose his own funeral text, II Tim. 4:7,8. Buried at Waldo Cemetery. Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord, from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

An excerpt from the Flanagan Home Times: "The following are those from out of town who were at the obsequies: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Orendorff, Mrs. P. H. Conrad, Mrs. Lydia Roth and Mr. Daniel Orendorff, Wayland, Iowa; Mr. Ray Zehr and Misses Olive and Ella Zehr, Manson, Iowa; Mrs. Fannie Yeackley, Milford, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Jake Eigsti, Mr. John Eigsti, Mr. Joe Eigsti, Mrs. Jonas Litwiller, Mr. Alvin Bachman, Morton, Ill.; Mr. Henry V. Albrecht, Mr. Chris Albrecht, Mr. J. J. Albrecht, Mrs. Nafzinger and Mss Hoffart, Tiskilwa, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burcky and Mr. John Schrock, Fisher, Ill.; Miss Anna Yordy, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yordy and Mr. Aaron Yordy, Secor, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Jake Yordy, Eureka, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Yordy, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Yordy, Roanoke, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bachman, Cazenovia, Ill."

Gospel Herald, March 1923: "Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., Oct. 19, 1848; died at her home near Flanagan, Ill., Feb. 8, 1923; aged 73 y. 3 m. 20 d. She was united in matrimony with Daniel Orendorff, Feb. 15, 1872. He preceded her to the life beyond, Jan. 14, 1918. To this union were born 7 children, 5 daughters and 2 sons. Two sons and 3 grandchildren preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her loss 4 daughters (Mrs. C. M. Conrad and Mrs. J. D. Conrad of Sterling, Ill.; Mrs. J. D. Roeschley and Miss Ada Orendorff of Flanagan, Ill.), 25 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and many relatives and friends. Bro. and Sister Orendorff moved to their late home in 1872, at which place they resided until the Lord was pleased to call them to their long home. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until death. Sister Orendorff was a kind and loving wife, mother, and neighbor and was loved and respected by all who knew her. Short services were held at the home Feb. 11, by Bro. D. W. Slagel (Text, Psa. 16), and at the church by Bros. J. D. Hartzler and Samuel Gerber. Texts, I Cor. 15:35-38; Phil 1:21. Interment in the Waldo cemetery."
Schlegel of Grandvillars

As Schlegel is a blacksmith. The surname Schlegel originates from several locations in Switzerland, notably Riggisberg, Guggisberg, and Grindelwald. 303

We found only one mention of an Anabaptist Schlegel in Canton Bern. Paul Hostetller's About the Anabaptists in the Land of Schwarzenburg 1580-1750 was published at Bern in 1996. It contains a list of residents at Winterkraut, Bern in 1715. They include Lisbeth Schlegel, the widow of Anabaptist minister Peter Hostetller. 

Winterkraut is a hamlet just above Rüschegg-Graben, and west of Riggisberg in the parish of Muhlethurnen. According to family lore (we could not identify the original source) Niglaus 'Nigi' Schlegel was born at Breiten April 2, 1750. The village of Breiten is located in Dannemarie parish of the eastern Sundgau Region, at the southern end of Upper Alsace bordering Switzerland.

He signed his name 'Niglaus' (pronounced Niklows), but 'Nicolas' describes him on French documents. Among friends he would have been known as 'Nigi' (pronounced Nikky). The German and English form 'Nicholas' only appears in this family after descendants migrated from Europe to North America.

In the area of Nigi's birth, Anabaptist meetings were led by Niglaus Engel of Montreux [Ger. Müntserol, about seven miles south of Breiten] and Michel Müller of Chavanatte (about 10 miles south). 304

Gratz: "Meetings of the Anabaptists of this region were first held in the Montreux community as far as is known...About 1750 the Montreux church divided into two groups because of the great distance that many had to travel to go to meetings. The northern group formed what was known as the La Maie church [Ger. Lamaenergemeinde], named after the main farm where they met near Belfort, and the other called the Florimont church, or in German Blumbergerwald. 305 Meetings of the latter group were most frequently held at the farms of Chalembert [in the commune of Grandvillars] and Beuchat in the commune of Boron, some four kilometers away from the Normanvillars settlement."

On May 24, 1768 Nigi Schlegel married Madeleine Ummel on Chalembert farm. 306 The bride and groom were both 18 years of age. Her birthday had taken place only four days earlier.

Madeleine was born at Reppe, a village on the route between Breiten and Montreux, on May 20, 1750. She was a daughter of Christ Ummel. Her mother's name is found on Madeleine's death entry as 'Elisabethe Hoescheleiker,' but was likely Hochstettler/Hostetller. 307

MADELEINE UMMEL'S RELATIONS

Jost Yoder and Anna Trachsel were married at Steffisburg, Bern Oct. 14, 1642. Jost served on the Steffisburg Reformed Church Chorgericht, a court that tried morals cases. In 1690 he asked to be excused from his position when it became known that four of his offspring were baptized as adults. Their youngest daughter was Cathrin Joder, who married 'Hans Ropp der Jüng' (see ROPP).

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303 The surname Schlegel is generally associated with the village of Guggisberg. Rüschegg-Graben was once part of Guggisberg. We could not determine whether or not Winterkraut was part of Guggisberg or its parish as well, but it is usually associated with nearby Schwarzenburg.

The surname Schlegel appears once in the early Ropp generations. Christian/Chrétien Ropp was likely a great-grand-uncle to Andreas Ropp. He married Anna/Anne Schlegel (found as 'Schlaigle'). See ROPP.

Grindelwald is also a Heimatort for the surname Schlegel. It is located about 11 miles southeast of Lake Thun, and 3,390 feet above sea level, at the foot of the Eiger in the Alps. Gratz associates it with the families Aeschlimann, Gfeller, Osch, Ribi, Schünegger, Stoller [later Stoll], and Wyss. We found a number of Schlegel immigrants to North America from Grindelwald in the 1700s.

304 Montreux is now Montreux-Château [castle], Montreux-Vieux [old], and Montreux-Jeune [young]. We found one mention of 'Glaus Engel' specifically from 'Montreux aux Gouttes' – from the drop, cliff, or waterfall at Montreux. The Cassini map shows 'La Grand Goutte' just south of Montreux-Château.

305 The notion that the meetings on Chalembert and Beuchat farms formed a 'Florimont Church' is misleading. The Amish Mennonite families Kauffman and Lugimbühl did live in Florimont, and did travel to these meetings to keep their ties intact. However, most of the Anabaptist families at Florimont were from the Reist (Mennonite) faction. These included the Amstutz, Bösiger/Basinger, Hilti, Steiner, and Thüler families.

306 Some confusion has been caused by a typed transcript of Montbéliard records that mistakenly says Niklaus married Madeleine Kennel rather than Madeleine Ummel (FHL microfilm 1809847). This was a misreading of very difficult handwriting.

307 Reppe was a village of less than 400 people in 1800. Reppe was also known by the German name 'Riesbach,' or its variant 'Riespach'; this made it easy to confuse with the Alsatian village Riespach (about 20 miles southeast of Reppe). It is also easily confused with Roppe, a village that is only 3 miles northeast of the town of Belfort.
The oldest son of Jost and Anna was **Hans Joder**. He was baptized at Steffisburg Reformed Church April 21, 1644. In 1671 he married Catarina/Kathrin Rüsser, who was born at Steffisburg Dec. 7, 1645. Their son **Jost Joder** was baptized at Steffisburg Reformed Church Sept. 19, 1675. He married Magdalena Gerber, a daughter of Hans Gerber and Salome Joder. 308 Before 1715 Jost and his family resettled at Vernoy (nine miles west of Frédéric-Fontaine/Clairegoutte/Étobon, and 22 miles west of the town of Belfort). This village was called Le Magny Vernoy by the mid-1700s, and is now Magny-Vernois.

Jost had three sons who appear in church records at Montbéliard:

1. Christian Jodter was born in 1707, and died in 1795. He married Anna Hochstetter. They lived at Brognard (between Montbéliard and Grandvillars).

2. **Johannes/Hans/Jean Jodter** was born circa 1714.

3. Jost Jodter was born in 1717, and died at Étobon April 14, 1793. He married Anneli Kropp. Jost was selected as a deacon at Montbéliard Oct. 19, 1766, and was ordained as a minister at Montbéliard April 11, 1787.

**Johannes/Hans/Jean Jodter** was born circa 1714. He may have had an unidentified first wife. In 1759 his wife was Frena Zimmerman. She brought one child named Christ Ummel to the marriage, presumably from an earlier marriage.

They lived at Grand Charmont (on the north side of Montbéliard). 309 Johannes/Hans/Jean Jodter died there Nov. 11, 1762. Frena Zimmerman died at Grandvillars Nov. 13, 1770.

Their children include:

- Christ Ummel, brought to the marriage by Frena Zimmerman. He may have been born as early as 1729 (assuming he was at least 21 years old at the birth of his daughter Magdalena circa 1751). Christ Ummel and Elisabeth Hoeschelicker [as found, but likely Hochstetter/Hostetler] lived at Reppe, and were the parents of Madeleine Ummel.

1. Jacob Jodter was given adult baptism at Grand Charmont March 20, 1768, and died unmarried on Matten farm at Grandvillars June 26, 1778. A Montbéliard church record noted his death and listed his heirs by age: his half-brother Christ Ummel (Magdalena's father), his brother Joseph Jodter, and his sister Freni, wife of Peter Kropfenstein.

2. Joseph Jodter was born circa 1750, and died at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace April 1, 1825. On July 12, 1778 he married Marie Stucki. She was born circa 1758, a daughter of Christ Stucki and Anna Roth living on Schetzen farm at Grandvillars.


4. Freni Jodter was born at Grand Charmont circa 1759, and died at Grandvillars Feb. 23, 1813. On Jan. 4, 1778 at Montbéliard she married Peter Kropfenstein. He was born in 1755, and died at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1819, a son of elder Peter Kropfenstein and Marie Engel. Freni's death entry described her husband as a laborer at Grand Charmont.

Before the French Revolution of 1789, foreign nationals or stateless persons could not purchase French land. A family had to prove two previous generations on French soil to begin the naturalization process. Anabaptists generally felt that this was unnecessary and undesirable, because citizenship came with an obligation for military service. They leased properties, often for many decades. Nigi and Madeleine may have had numerous addresses over the years. However, their activities seem to have revolved around Chalember farm, where Madeleine had relatives (see MADELEINE UMMEL'S RELATIONS). 310

Grandvillars is 10 miles south of Reppe. Both communities are in the Territoire de Belfort (this translates to 'district of Belfort'). The Territoire de Belfort centers on the fortified town of Belfort at the Belfort Gap. The gap is a passage between the French Vosges Mountains on the north and the Swiss Jura Mountains on the south. The Territoire de Belfort became a possession of France under the Treaty of Westphalia that ended the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). It is now the smallest département in France, located in the Franche-Comté Region, with the town of Belfort as its capital.

A 1779 census of Grandvillars shows 559 residents, including 22 Anabaptists from five families living on Chalember farm. By 1804 there were 40 Anabaptists there. Families included Ernst, Joder, Kropfenstein, Luginbühl, Schad, Stucki, and Wyse/Weiss.

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308 Some genealogy notes maintain that Jost has a second wife named Madeleine Reiss. This may be so, or simply confusion over the surnames of his mother and wife.

309 They are found in Montbéliard church records as 'Hans Jodter' and 'Freni Jumena.' Entries clarify that this is the same couple that lived at Grand Charmont.

310 Grandvillars has also been spelled 'Grandvillart' by French speakers, and 'Grandweiler' by German speakers. This has been a point of confusion for family genealogists who could not locate a modern day Grandweiler. They have often settled for 'Belfort,' the district, and further confused that with the town.

In present day a hiker can leave Grandvillars and walk only 3 miles south across fields to reach the Swiss border.
Some time in the 1780s the tolerant congregations east of Belfort fell into disagreement with their parent congregation at Montbéliard. This has been seen as a natural rivalry between two families from the same Bernese village – the Richen and Klopfenstein families of Frutigen. Montbéliard elder and prosperous farmer Hans Richen (1730-1798) had been ordained as a minister in 1760. He may have felt that his authority was being challenged by prosperous farmer Peter Klopfenstein (1733-1801), who was ordained as a minister at Montbéliard in 1777.311

Johannes ‘Hans’ Nafziger of Essingen, Germany was the leading elder of his day (see EHRESMAN). He visited many of the European congregations, traveling as far as Holland to advise on doctrine and participate in the ordination of new ministers and deacons. In 1787 or 1788 he wrote a letter to his friend Christian Schowalter of Earl, Pennsylvania describing recent events: "...In southern Alsace they have had great unrest for years; the ministers of Montbéliard and Belfort have come into great disunity with each other, so much so that they called for help, and when we had made several trips to them and could not bring them to peace, we also came into disunity with them because both parties had a following, so much so that for a while we feared a division. The congregations in the Basel district and in Weltschneuberg [Neuchâtel] also got involved in it. Finally the ministers from Markirch interceded and sought to settle the matter but with distress of mind and much deliberation." He later recollected, "...I went often to southern Alsace to Hans Rychen [Montbéliard] and Peter Klopfenstein [Territoire de Belfort] because of their disunity, yet we hope for improvement..."

An entry in the congregational record of Montbéliard created Jan. 6, 1788 mentions events "in der Blumbärger Gemeinde." Montbéliard minister Hans Richen had baptized three persons at the Stauffer residence on Chalembert farm. An additional note on the visit says that "Nicolas Schlegel a été réadmis par Hans Roth" – Nigi Schlegel was readmitted by Montbéliard minister Hans Roth. Apparently Nigi had been placed under the ban, then retracted or corrected his transgression to the satisfaction of the ministers.

The next note in the register may pertain to Nigi's transgression. As it appears in Pierre Widmer's typewritten transcript: "So hat man such den Beschluss mit samt Dienner und der versammelten Bruderschaft gemacht von wágen denen Bartshärf, wann sie das nit wollen untersagen lassen und der Bart lassen wachsen wie uns Gott erschaffen hat nach seinem äbenbilt so sollen sie mit dem Bann gestaft wärdten als ungehorsame widter steinige münschten nach lutt Gottes Wordt unde seiner heiligen Ordnung ohmne alsächten der Persohn ich Hans Richen bezügen." “Thus, the decision has been made with the agreement of the servants/servers [the ministers] and the assembled brotherhood [congregation] concerning those who cut their beards, because they [the congregation] want to forbid this and let their beards grow the way God created us, after His image. They [those who trim their beards] should be punished with the ban as disobedient or obstinate persons according to the word of God and his holy order, regardless of the person involved. I, Hans Richen, witness in agreement.”

Three political changes between 1789 and 1792 meant that Anabaptists in the Territoire de Belfort would not avoid the effects of the Napoleonic wars:

► Montbéliard was taken from Württemberg and absorbed into France. General uncertainty over this event led 36 families to leave Montbéliard and the Territoire de Belfort and migrate to what is now Poland. Those that remained petitioned the new government over the issue of military training. They obtained a temporary exemption from service in the French National Guard that was superceded in 1798 by the Jourdan Law. This law mandated universal conscription but conceded that Anabaptists could serve in noncombatant roles.

► The Territoire de Belfort became part of Upper Alsace [Fr. Haut Rhin]. It would remain in Upper Alsace until the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), when the older portion of the department was annexed by Germany.

► A third change took away of political refuge. In 1792 the principality/bishopric of Basel became part of the Republic of France as Département Mont Terrible. An Anabaptist petition requesting exemption from military training was denied there.

After Napoleon became emperor in 1804, he reformed the tax system. The welfare of the average farmer gradually improved. But the Schlegel family may not have shared in this relative prosperity.

Nigi and Madeleine had 10 children between 1769 and 1792. Their son Joseph was born in 1782. A civil judgment at Belfort Nov. 22, 1805 cited Joseph for being a 'conscrit réfractaire’ – a military conscript who refused military service in the French National Guard that was superceded in 1798 by the Jourdan Law. This law mandated universal conscription but conceded that Anabaptists could serve in noncombatant roles.
to perform service. He was in violation of the Jourdan Law of 1798, which made every single and childless male on French territory between the ages 20-25 liable for military service. The 2,000-10,000 franc cost of a substitute was out of reach for anyone but the upper classes.

Joseph was subject to arrest. His name and those of his parents, 'Nicolas Schlegel et Magdaleine Homel,' were placed on a public list with draft evaders and deserters. It was posted in the communities of the Territoire de Belfort throughout the war years.312

A typical annual income for a servant, laborer, or farmer was 1,000 francs. A conscrit réfractaire and his parents were obligated to share a fine of up to 1,500 francs. Administrators also punished relatives of insubordinates and deserters with the garnisjuven system. The relatives became responsible for the expenses of one soldier. In some cases on the frontiers they were required to actually billet a soldier in their home.

We do not know how the situation was ultimately resolved. Joseph may have served a term of imprisonment before his death at Reppe in 1829. Nigi did not survive a siege of the fortress of Belfort in 1814. The hardship and ill feelings from these events may explain the dispersal of the next generation into neighboring areas and abroad.

Most of the communities already mentioned were to the east or southeast of the town and fortress of Belfort. The fortress was built to protect the main road leading west. Thus the Schlegels' living places were in the path of armies allied against France as they approached the fortress.

**THE FIRST SIEGE OF BELFORT, 1813-14**

On Dec. 23, 1813, an infantry column, 600 cavalrymen, and 16 cannon from the 1st Bavarian Division reached Belfort. The fortress protected the only road that was passable for heavy supply wagons and artillery caissons.

The following morning the commandant of the fortress was offered surrender terms. He declined.

The French not only held back the initial attack, but sent out sortees to harass small detachments that had bypassed them.

A prolonged artillery bombardment took place on the night of Dec. 29. However, on the following day an allied commander heard rumors that the French were about to receive relief troops. A number of Bavarian troops were diverted to patrol lines of approach. As weeks went by, Bavarian soldiers outside the gate gave way to Austrian soldiers, and they gave way to Russian soldiers and snow.

The French defense tied up Allied resources until an armistice finally came March 24. The French commandant refused to open the gates until the last Russian soldier had withdrawn. Finally, on April 12, he yielded to the requests of hungry troops and villagers and re-opened the city.

We do not know if the family was permitted to take refuge in the fortress, and suffered from the intermittent bombardments, or if they remained outside and died from typhus, starvation, or harassment. Typhus was carried by the flea and lice-infested uniforms of troops. Farmers who chose to flee south into the Jura Mountains abandoned their property to hungry looters, both friend and foe. The contents of root cellars were confiscated in mid-winter.

Some sources say that Nigi Schlegel died March 14, 1814, age 63. At the time the area was occupied by Russian troops attempting to storm the fortress. Records of the Montbéliard congregation signed by minister Hans Lugbüll [Luginbüll] say that 'Nigi Slnghl' was buried in the Burgerwald forest at Montbéliard March 23, 1814.313 The armistice came the following day.

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312 A copy of the list was found by Philippe Tovena of Belfort in Dossier 2 R 39 at the departmental archives of the Territoire de Belfort. He was also kind enough to direct us to information on the French system of military conscription.

Another conscrit réfractaire was Joseph Schad of Grandvillars. On Dec. 29, 1814 an Extract Mortuaire report stated that 'Joseph Schaad' had been brought to a military hospital from Montaigue prison in Paris, where he had been incarcerated as a deserter. He entered the hospital July 5, 1813, and died there July 19. He was 21 at the time of his death. We believe but cannot prove that he was a son of Christ Schad who was born circa 1758 and died at Grandvillars Feb. 13, 1814 (during the siege of the fortress at Belfort) and Elizabeth/Barbe Joder, who was born at Morvillars circa 1756 and died at Grandvillars May 27, 1820, a daughter of Christe Joder and Anne Gerig. Elizabeth/Barbe was a sister to Jost Joder, husband of Barbe Ernst, who appears as the witness on many Ernst family État Civil entries.

313 When Anabaptists were expelled from Alsace in 1712, Duke Leopold-Eberhard invited numerous families to settle on his properties near Montbéliard, located 7 miles west of Grandvillars. They joined others who had resettled from the Jura Mountains or the Bishopric of Basel.

From 1397 to 1796 the city was not French, but was the capital of the gravure of Montbéliard, a political island/enclave possessed by Württemberg. It was once a principality, but passed into the hands of descendants who did not bear that title, becoming a gravure. Amish Mennonites in Montbéliard began to keep a congregational register in 1750. This may have been the first place in Europe where Anabaptists felt safe to keep written records.

Anabaptists were buried in the Burgerwald forest after 1760, in an area that is now the Mont Chevis Cemetery. The Rue du Mont Chevis is on the northwest outskirts of the city.
THE SECOND SIEGE OF BELFORT, 1815

In the 1790s Claude Jacques Lecourbe led a French division in the occupation of the Swiss cantons. He attained the rank of general, but in 1805 he resigned his commission over a political argument.

When Napoleon abdicated, the restored royal family rewarded Lecourbe by making him a count and restoring his commission.

Napoleon returned from exile on Elba March 15, 1815. Surprisingly, General Lecourbe offered his services and took command of the Army of the Jura. Perhaps he knew he was approaching the end of his life.

Lecourbe took a different view of the fortress at Belfort than his predecessors. They had simply withdrawn to the fortress and returned artillery fire. Instead of waiting for an enemy to set up cannons below the walls of the fortress, Lecourbe prepared for their return by arranging mobile batteries of cannons outside the fortress walls. His placements overlooked approach roads. The idea was to use the walled area as an 'entrenched encampment,' providing support to an outer ring.

On June 18 Napoleon was forced to retreat from the battlefield at Waterloo. About a week later 40,000 Austrian troops arrived in the Territoire de Belfort to press an attack on the fortress.

Lecourbe's 8,000 troops put up a stiff resistance. The allies were naturally reluctant to march down a main road into a funnel of crossfire, and moved forward cautiously.

The effects of occupation were felt by local farm families. On July 1, Austrian soldiers pillaged the area around La Maie farm, burning two homes at Menoncourt, 60 of 64 homes at Phaffans, 94 of 114 homes at Bessonecourt, and 39 of 53 homes at Denney.

On July 8 King Louis XVIII arrived in Paris to usher in the Second Restoration. Napoleon's return has lasted just 111 days. On July 11 Lecourbe and Von Colloredo-Mansfeld agreed to a ceasefire, after 15 days of fighting.

Lecourbe retired from the Army. He remained at Belfort and died only a few months later, on Oct. 22, 1815.

A formal peace came with the second Treaty of Paris Nov. 20, 1815. The French National Guard at Belfort was released to return home in July 1816, and the cavalry dispersed in November 1816.

Widow Madeleine Ummel died at Reppe Feb. 16, 1827, age 76. The death entry names her deceased husband as 'Nicolas Schegel,' and her parents as the deceased Christ Ummel and 'Elisabethe Hoescheleikler.'

The children of Niglaus 'Nigi' Schlegel and Madeleine Ummel include:

1. Elisabeth/Lisbeth/Lisi Schlegel was born at Grand Charmont (eight miles west of Grandvillars, above Montbéliard) April 10, 1769, and died in the Territoire de Belfort July 9, 1807. On April 8, 1792 she married Isaac Conrad. He was born near the town of Belfort circa 1765. Their marriage was entered in records of the Montbéliard congregation April 17, 1792, where he was described as Isaac Kunradt, the son of the deceased Rudy Kunradt. Isaac was accidentally killed when a wall of stacked bricks fell at a brick kiln at Belfort July 29, 1798. The same accident killed his brother-in-law Pierre Schlegel. The death entries gave their residences as the street Faubourg des Barres at Belfort.  
   a. Barbe Conrad was born at Belfort circa 1793, and died there Aug. 25, 1804. Her death entry gave her age as ten-and-one-half years, and described her parents as the deceased Isaac Conrad, who in life had been a cultivator at Belfort, and Elisabeth Schlägel, 36, living at Belfort. The death was reported by Elisabeth.
   b. Freini/Véronique Conrad was born at Belfort March 5, 1794. Her birth entry named her parents as Isaac Conrad and 23-year-old 'Lisi Schelagre.' She is thought to have married her cousin Michel Schlegel at Largitzen Nov. 4, 1827, though no civil entry is found.
   c. Jean Conrad was born at Belfort Jan. 3, 1795. On March 12 or 15, 1821 at Pfaltz (a suburb of Mulhouse) he married Véronique Kauffman. She was born at Ferrette in 1795, a daughter of Nicholas Kauffman and Barbe Kauffman. They lived at Pfaltz.
   d. Catherine Conrad was born in the Territoire de Belfort Feb. 2, 1797, and died at Wellesley, Ontario Oct. 3, 1869. On Sept. 6, 1823 at Luemschwiller she married Joseph Boshart. He was born circa 1790, and died at Wellesley Nov. 6, 1866, a son of Jean Boshart and Anne Marie Muller of Wittenheim (above Mulhouse, which is above Altkirch). Witnesses included brother-of-the-groom and farmer Jean Boshard (found as Bosard), 35; and cousin-of-the-bride Jean Schlegel, 50. The groom's older brother was Christian Boshart (1786-1850), who married Catherine Litwiller (daughter of Jacob/Jacques Litwiller and Anne Marie/Anna Maria Maurer) and migrated to Ontario. The two brothers were close friends of the

After 1796 the congregations had the same language disputes as those in America, as the older generations struggled to maintain the German language against the wishes of the younger, more assimilated French-speaking generations.

Montbéliard is now best known as the home of the Peugeot Motor Company.  

Magdalena Ummel's nearly illegible death entry appears to say that she was 72 years old in 1827, giving the impression that she was born in 1755 and was only 14 when she had her first child Elizabeth in 1769. In fact Magdalena was born at Reppe May 20, 1750, and was 77 at her death.

This was a street on an elevation at the edge of town. It was reconstructed as Les Barres Fort 1865-70.
Joder was born at Belfort and was a son of Jacob/Jacques Joder and the deceased Anna/Anne Graber. Witnesses on that occasion

Marie Conrad was born at Belfort Feb. 7, 1799. On the birth entry her parent was described as Elisabeth Schlegue, 30, wife of the deceased Isaac Conrad. Witnesses included Elisabeth’s aunt Barbe Schlegue (mistakenly described as Elisabeth Schlegue, 26) and Barbe’s husband Christian Wagner (described as Christian Vagler, 36). On June 27, 1822 at Pfaffalt Marie married Johannes/Jean Joder. He was born at Steinbach (12 miles northwest of Mulhouse) March 11, 1795, and died at Hartford, Indiana April 28, 1878, a son of Joseph Joder and Marie Stucky. They lived on the communal farm Barthel Hutte (the March 26, 1828 birth entry of their son Jacob calls it ‘Barthlyhütten’) at Largitzen, a location described in ROPP. Marie died on their Transatlantic crossing June 1, 1845. He became a Defenseless Mennonite in America, and is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Hartford.

Barbe Schlegel was born at Grandvillars Nov. 12, 1773 (also found as Jan. 13, 1772). She died at Reppe Sept. 5, 1845. On April 27, 1792 at Hericourt (five miles southwest of the town of Belfort) she married Jacob Bocler. The marriage entry described her as a 20-year-old resident of Grandvillars and a daughter of ‘Nicolas Schlegel’ and ‘Madeleine Hummel.’ The groom was born at Diessbach, Bern Dec. 12, 1749, and living at Belfort, a son of Jean Bocler and Laeticia Schwartz. The bride and groom were illiterate. Barbe likely remarried to Christian Wagner before 1798, the year their first child was born. Christian was born circa 1762, and died at Reppe Feb. 17, 1827, a son of Jean Wagner and Elisabeth Murry. Christian died one day after his mother-in-law, Madeleine Ummel.

a. Barbara Wagner was born at Belfort Sept. 13, 1798. On Sept. 26, 1826 at Reppe she married George Bairet. He was born at Reppe July 26, 1802, a son of Joseph Bairet and Marie Cousin. This legitimized a son Pierre born at Reppe March 1, 1824, and his birth entry was amended.

b. Joseph Wagner was born at Belfort Oct. 29, 1800, and died there May 26, 1801.

c. Joseph Wagner was born at Belfort March 26, 1802. On May 23, 1830 at Reppe he married Elisabeth/Elisabeth Röschli. She was born at Mussig, Lower Alsace July 19, 1807, a daughter of Hans Roschli and Elisabeth Wagler. At the time of the marriage she was a cultivator at Markolsheim. The ceremony was witnessed by brother-of-the-groom Jean Wagler, 26; Jacques Wagler of Markolsheim, 23, brother-in-law of the bride (he was later a neighbor of Barbe’s younger brother Christian Schlegel at Washington, Tazewell County; see WAGLER); and the groom’s brother-in-law George Bairet. Joseph and Elisabeth sailed from Le Havre on the Mercury, arriving at New York May 20, 1854. They appear on passenger list as Joseph Wagner, 54, and his wife Elisabeth Röschli, 46, with their children Joseph, 18; Anna, 17; Barbe, 17; and Elis., 4. Their children include:

1) Joseph Wagner was born near Markolsheim, Lower Alsace May 31, 1835, and died in Woodford County Feb. 7, 1894. On May 2, 1859 in Woodford County he married Magdalena Schertz. She was born Sept. 2, 1836, and died Nov. 2, 1899, a daughter of David Schertz and Catherine Schrag. Joseph was ordained as a minister for the Mackinaw congregation in 1866, and served the Roanoke congregation after 1873. He attended the assemblies of ministers in 1871, 1875, and 1878.

2) Anna Wagner was born circa 1837.

3) Barbe Wagner was born circa 1847.

4) Elisabeth Wagner was born circa 1850.

d. Jean Wagner was born at Belfort April 11, 1804, and died at Reppe May 29, 1868.

e. Pierre Wagner was born at Belfort April 18, 1806. On Aug. 12, 1834 at Reppe he married couventier Marie Rosine Nidelisse. She was born at Reppe Sept. 6, 1806, a daughter of day laborers Jacques Nidelisse and Jeanne Marie Petit.

f. Christ Wagner was born at Belfort Sept. 2, 1808.

g. Jacob/Jacques Wagner was born at Belfort April 16, 1811, and died at Bourgogne Oct. 4, 1855. Circa 1837 he married Barbe Eicher. She was born at Aspach, Upper Alsace March 14, 1814, and died at Cedar Valley, Wayne County, Ohio Nov. 14, 1904, a daughter of Jacob/Jacques Eicher and Catherine Klopfenstein. She is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery there.

h. Nicolas Wagner was born at Belfort Jan. 13, 1813.

3. Peter/Pierre Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort circa 1774. He was accidentally killed by falling bricks with his brother-in-law Isaac Conrad at Belfort July 29, 1798. The death entry called him ‘Pierre Schligue,’ son of ‘Nicolas Schlegue.’

4. Johannes/Hans/Jean Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort June 8, 1776. He married Anne Marie Müller. On Sept. 6, 1823 at Luemschwiller Joseph Boshart married Catherine Conrad, Hans’s niece. Hans Schlegel appears on the marriage entry as witness Jean Schlägel, 50. The ceremony was almost certainly attended by the Ropps of Luemschwiller. Unfortunately, it is difficult to discern the later lives of this generation. The father Hans was literate enough to sign his name on many entries – not always the same, and often ‘Johannes Schlégue.’

316 Joseph Boshart’s older sister Catherine Boshart had remarried to Christ Joder at Luemschwiller April 19, 1824. Christ Joder was born at Belfort and was a son of Jacob/Jacques Joder and the deceased Anna/Anne Graber. Witnesses on that occasion
1. Michel Schlegel was born at Walheim, Upper Alsace (next to Altkirch) in 1795, and died at Reiningue, Upper Alsace (five miles above Froeningen) June 1, 1860. He is thought to have married his cousin Freni/Véronique Conrad at Largitten Nov. 4, 1827, though no civil entry is found.
2. Jean Schlegel was born at Vézélois (seven miles northwest of Grandvillars) Sept. 24, 1798 as 'Jean Schlegel.'
3. Elisabeth Schlegel was born at Vézélois April 5, 1801 as 'Elizabeth Schelegue,' and died there Aug. 13, 1801. A death entry created at Belfort described the father as a domestic living at Belfort. It was signed by grandfather Niklaus Schlegel, age 53.
4. Christian Schlegel was born at Belfort Feb. 8, 1805. The birth entry described his father as a 36-year-old domestic servant living at Belfort. One witness was cultivator Christ Wagner, 29.
5. Jean Schlegel was born at Belfort Oct. 26, 1807.
6. Anne Marie Schlegel was born in the Territoire de Belfort in 1809, and died at Reiningue Feb. 11, 1860.
7. Nicolas Schlegel was born at Froeningen, Upper Alsace (a suburb of Mulhouse) June 13, 1810.
8. Jacques Schlegel was born at Froeningen July 22, 1811.
9. Barbara Schlegel was born at Burg, Canton Aargau May 15, 1814, and died Oct. 9, 1856. On March 16, 1838 at Lutterbach, Upper Alsace (six miles below Froeningen) she married Michel Kaufmann.

Joseph Schlegel was born on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars circa 1779 (the location and age 50 are indicated on his death entry), and died at Reppe April 23, 1829. He was considered to be a disobedient or resistant military conscript in a civil judgment in 1806.

Maria/Marie Schlegel was born in the town of Belfort Jan. 8, 1780. On Oct. 28, 1807 at Couthenans (10 miles northwest of the town of Belfort) she married Jean/Johannes Drösch/Trasch. He was born at Frédéric-Fontaine in 1777, and died Nov. 15, 1840, a son of Hans Jacob Troscht and Catherine Hochstetter. The marriage entry described Marie as a 28-year-old. Her parents were present and consenting, and were named in the entry as Nicolas Schlegel, 57, and Catherine Humler, 56, of Belfort. The groom Jean Trech was described as a native of Frédéric-Fontaine who was living at Couthenans. Witnesses included cousin-of-the-groom Pierre Graber, 56, of Couthenans; cousin-of-the-bride Jean Stauffer (found as 'Jean Chetaoufre'), a 38-year-old resident of Belfort (his relationship will be explained later); and brother-of-the-bride Michel Schlegel, 23.

Magdalena/Madlena/Madeleine Schlegel was born in the town of Belfort March 2, 1783 according to her marriage entry (the date is also found as April 16, 1781). On April 24, 1803 at Couthenans she married Daniel Drösch/Trasch. He was born at Frédéric-Fontaine April 30, 1773, a son of Hans Jacob Troscht and Catherine Hochstetter. The marriage entry described Daniel Teuch as a laborer living at Couthenans but native to Frédéric-Fontaine. Witnesses included cousin-of-the-groom Jean Fluckinger, 36, a cultivator; brother-of-the-bride Nicolas Schlegel, 22; and brother-of-the-bride Michel Schlegel. The parents of the 20-year-old bride were described as consenting but absent.

Christoph Treusch was born March 26, 1804 and died at Belfort April 14, 1804. The death entry created at Belfort described his father as Daniel Tresch, day laborer at Montbéliard, and his mother as Madelaine Schlegel. It was signed by grandfather-of-the-deceased Nilglaus Schlegel, age 54, day laborer at Belfort.

Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

included Jean Ropp and Joseph Ropp of Luemschwiller, sons of Joseph Ropp and Elisabeth Maurer and cousins to Andreas Ropp.

317 Catherine Hochstetter was descended from Christ Hochstetter and Elisabeth Ulrich who came to Clairegoutte before 1723.
318 Montbéliard records say that Jacob Troscht and Catherine Hochstetter were married im Schwabhof Nov. 29, 1762. The death of the father Hans Jacob Troscht of Neudorf is noted in Montbéliard congregation records. He died at Magny d'Amignon (now called Magny-Danigon) adjacent to Frédéric-Fontaine and Clairegoutte Dec. 18, 1779, and the register noted that he left three sons. All three sons were members of this congregation and their marriages were recorded.
319 The entry described the absent father of the bride as Nicolas Schlegel, 'Suisse,' and the mother mistakenly as Elisabeth Stauffer, 54, of Belfort.
b. 'Elisabeth Treusch' was born at Belfort April 10, 1805. The birth entry was witnessed by Jacques Joder, 47.

c. 'Christophe Treusch' was born at Belfort Sept. 12, 1807.

d. 'Anne Treuche' was born at Belfort April 16, 1814.

e. 'Pierre Treuche' was born at Belfort March 6, 1816. His birth entry was witnessed by his uncle, cultivator Christ Wagner, 54.

f. 'Nicolas Treusch' was born at Belfort March 20, 1820.

8. Nicolas Schlegel was born April 20, 1783. When he married at Pfastatt (near Mulhouse) April 24, 1803, the entry described him as 22-year-old 'Nicolas Schlegel, domestique,' born at Rougemont April 20, 1783 to Nicolas Schlegel and Madeleine Aurier [Ummel] living at Belfort. Nicolas was 22-year-old Madeleine Amel [Ummel], born at Grandvillars [other sources say she was born at Florimont] Oct. 19, 1783, a resident of Pfastatt and daughter of the deceased Chrétien Homel [Ummel] and Madeleine Stuky [Stucki] of Pologne [Poland]. Witnesses were cultivator Chrétien Ummel, 29, brother of the bride; farmer Daniel Frutiger, brother-in-law of the bride and employer of the groom; Christian Brechbühl, 47, cousin of the bride; and Jacques Hochstetter, 38, propriétaire and uncle of the bride. Nicolas died at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace April 4, 1842, and Magdalena died there Aug. 17, 1849.

a. Madeleine Schlegel was born at Froeningen Jan. 22, 1807, and died the following day.

b. Nicolas Schlegel was born at Froeningen Jan. 17, 1808, and died at East Zorra, Ontario June 10, 1877. In 1828 in the vicinity of Mulhouse, Upper Alsace he married Barbara Roth. She was born at Dormach Nov. 7, 1804, and died at East Zorra, Ontario Dec. 5, 1877, a daughter of Nicolas Roth and Anna Schantz. They became early members of the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Church. Nicolas purchased 128 acres Aug. 5, 1843. The farm is still held by Schlegel descendants (see Mennonite Family History, July 1994, The Amish Schlegel Immigrants).

c. Joseph Schlegel was born at Froeningen April 30, 1809, and died in Davis County, Iowa. On Nov. 26, 1830 at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine, Upper Alsace he married Madeleine Peter Schmitt. She was born at Ste. Croix-en-Plaine May 17, 1814, and died in Davis County, a daughter of François Joseph Peter Schmitt and Magdalena Bücher. They settled in Ontario, then Iowa. One of their children became an elder/bishop with responsibilities in the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, and Colorado."

320 It is a tossup whether or not Nicolas was actually born at Rougemont. It seems more likely that he was born at Grandvillars. Because Nicolas was born before the establishment of the État Civil system of record keeping, a statement from a reliable source was required to prove where and when he was born. Note the later case of his younger brother Christian Schlegel (born in 1792, married 1816) where Michel Klopfenstein of Rougemont provided a statement to his village mayor, which was then sent to the official at the site of the marriage. The statement said only that Christian was born in Belfort (town or district).

In 1893 Rougemont and some smaller localities were merged to become Rougemont-le-Château.

321 Christian Brechbühl was born May 28, 1759, a son of Martin Brechbühl and Anna Bachman. He married Elizabeth Roup, becoming an uncle to Andreas Ropp. Christian and Elizabeth lived at Soulzt, 12 miles north of Pfastatt. See ROPP.

Daniel Frutiger is mentioned in EYMANN.

322 Joseph Schlegel was born at Mulhouse, Upper Alsace Nov. 11, 1837, and died at Milford, Nebraska on Christmas Day 1913. According to his obituary, "While a youth he moved with his parents to Ontario, Canada, lived there a few years, then with his parents moved to Davis Co., Iowa." On Aug. 25, 1864 at Davis, Iowa he married Marie/Mary Miller. She was born at New Hamburg, Ontario Feb. 14, 1847, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 25, 1923, a daughter of Peter Miller and Margaret 'Annie' Mason.

Joseph was ordained a minister at Wayland, Iowa in 1867. In 1868 he was asked to take on the duties of elder/bishop Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith (see STAKER). They moved to Milford, Nebraska in 1879. They are found on the 1880 census of Precinct O, Seward County, Nebraska (now Milford, Grover/East Milford, West Mill, and Camden) as farmer Joseph Schlagle, 42, born in Prussia to Prussian parents (Alsace was occupied after the Franco-Prussian War); Mary 33, born in Canada to Prussian parents; seven children born in Iowa, and one 4-month-old born in Nebraska.

Joseph traveled widely by train. He was moderator or assistant moderator of the Western District Amish Mennonite Conference 10 times between 1890 and 1904. The recollections of Christian E. Martin of Hopedale, from the August 1974 issue of Mennonite Heritage: "In the afternoon the old moderator [Joseph Schlegel] of the Conference had M.S. Steiner give a report of the mission work in Chicago which was something very new in the Mennonite church. I don't think the Mission had been going over three or four years. He started giving the report in English. The moderator, old Joe Schlegel from Nebraska, had a voice like a bear, and he says, 'Swiss Deutsch!' It means speak German. M.S. Steiner got a big smile on his face. He said, 'Brother Schlegel has got the gift to bestow the gift of tongues on me,' and then he started talking German... .Joe Schlegel was an outstanding leader in his day. Now he wouldn't rate very high. He was a big man with a big voice and a dominating personality and he was a good administrator. Then the other one was Sebastian Gerig of Nebraska. They took turn about. They were the two men in the Western AM [Conference] as far as administration were concerned."

Gospel Herald, January 1914; "Bish, Joseph Schlegel was born Nov. 11, 1837, near Mulhausen, Alsace, Germany; died of cirrhosis of the liver and arterial sclerosis, near Milford, Neb., Dec. 25, 1913; aged 76 y. 1 m. 14 d. While a youth he moved with his parents to Ontario, Canada, lived there a few years, then with his parents moved to Davis Co., Iowa. He was married to Mary Miller, Aug. 25, 1863, lived in matrimony 50 y. 4 m. To this union were born 13 children, 8 sons and 5 daughters. Two
9. Michael/Michel Schlegel was born in the town of Belfort Sept. 12, 1785. He was a witness at the weddings of his sisters Magdalena (Couthenans 1803) and Maria (Couthenans 1807).

10. Christian Schlegel was born in the town of Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. He died in Tazewell County in 1863 or later.

**Christian Schlegel** was born in the town of Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. His birth was not recorded in the *État Civil* system of record keeping because the system was not instituted until Sept. 20. This created a problem when Christian requested the civil marriage required by law after 1792.

In 1816 Christian was farming at Chavanatte. A ban posted at Froidefontaine and Chavanatte June 22, 1816 announced that he had visited the mayor's office at Chavanatte to request marriage to Catherine Ernst. The ceremony would take place at Froidefontaine July 3, 1816.

He had no record of his birth, which was required by marriage laws. Fortunately, a document from the mayor of Rougemont dated June 14, 1816 was sent to the officials who would preside. The Rougemont mayor attested that Michel Klopfenstein (1740-1817), an 'anna à Baptiste,' was born at Rougemont and still living there. Michel was the elder who led the congregation at Lamaie farm. He vouched that 'Christ Sleglere,' son of 'Nicolas Sleglere' and 'Madeleine Hommele,' was born at Belfort in 1792 in the presence of David Stholle [Stoll] and Jacques Joder, residents of Belfort.

The marriage entry created at Froidefontaine stated that 'Christ Schelegue' was born at Belfort Aug. 9, 1792. His father was 'Nicolas Schelegue.' The entry did not mention that Nigi had died two years earlier— that would have required a copy of a civil death record (we could not find one in local civil records, perhaps because the family was still at odds with civil authorities). His mother was 'Magdalena Ommel' [Ummel], described as a day laborer at Chavanatte. The bride was 'Catherine Ernest' [Ernst] born at Boron Sept. 8, 1794, daughter of 44-year-old-teacher 'Simon Ernest' and 'Catherine Rod' [Catherine Roth] living at Froidefontaine (see ERNST). Witnesses included Jean Joder, 53, a weaver from Froidefontaine. He was a half-brother to Christian Schlegel's maternal grandfather Christ Ummel. The entry was signed 'Hans Joder,' and it was indicated that the groom, bride, and bride's father were illiterate.

At the time of the marriage Catherine Ernst was seven months pregnant with their first child.

The first few years of their married lives must have been extremely arduous. While the farmers of the region tried to recover and amend damage caused by the occupations of the Napoleonic wars, they suffered from an extended natural disaster that affected all of Europe.

**ROPP** told the story of European weather changes resulting from the explosion of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia and other atmospheric disturbances. They caused three successive extended winters in 1816, 1817, and 1819, later called a 'Little Ice Age.' Although the weather changes slowed travel throughout Europe, and emigration as well, the seed was created that led to later emigration.

Anabaptists in the *Territoire de Belfort* were encouraged to emigrate. Many followed the example of an Anabaptist exodus from the Münstertervalley in the Jura Mountains to Wayne County, Ohio.

**A VOYAGE OF 1817: Bendicht Schrag**

On July 14, 1817, four families from the Münstertervalley arrived at Strasbourg to board a boat on the Rhine River. Heads of household included Bendicht Schrag, Hans Nussbaum, Christian Brand, and Johannes Augspurger.

The boat followed the Rhine River to Amsterdam, where the families boarded the *Francis.* Among their traveling companions was Christian Augspurger, embarking to scout land at Butler County, Ohio (the first of his two trips described daughters, 13 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild preceded him to the spirit-world. He leaves to mourn his departure his beloved companion, 8 sons, 3 daughters, 34 grandchildren, and many friends and neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ. ... He could say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at the day."

Funeral services were held on the 28th at the East Fairview Church, conducted by the bishop and ministers, Peter Kennel, Jake and Joseph Birkey, Fred Gingerich, Christian Rediger, Joseph Zimmerman. Texts, *II Tim. 4:6-8; John 5: 28,29; Heb. 9:27."

**Gospel Herald, May 1923:** "Mary Miller was born Feb. 14, 1847, near New Hamburg, Ont.; died April 25, 1923, at the home of her daughter, Lena Kremer, Milford, Neb.; aged 76 y. 2 m. 11 d. At the age of 9 years she with her parents immigrated to Davis County, Iowa, at which place she accepted Christ. She joined the Amish Mennonite Church and remained a loyal and faithful member until she peacefully fell asleep in Jesus. On Aug. 25, 1863, she was married to the late Bishop Joseph Schlegel. To this union of 50 years, were born 13 children, 8 sons and 5 daughters. Her husband and 2 daughters preceded her in death. She is survived by 8 sons, 3 daughters, 37 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, one brother, Mike Miller of Pulaski, Iowa, and a host of other relatives and friends."

323 Jacob/Jacques Joder was born at Brevilliers Sept. 16, 1761, and died at St. Ulrich Oct. 21, 1838, a son of Christ Joder and Anne Hochstetter. He married Anneli Graber and Marie Ann Guemann.

David Stoll was born in 1746, and died at Grandvilliers Oct. 6, 1820, a son of Jacques Stoll and Marie Schad. On Jan. 24, 1779 he married Jacob/Jacques Joder's sister Barbara 'Babi' Joder. She was born in 1753, and died at Danjoutin April 22, 1822.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

The ship sailed on July 25, and arrived at Philadelphia Oct. 10. 'B. Schrag' appears immediately below 'C. Augsburger et famille' on the passenger list turned in to the Philadelphia Customs Office.

Schrag and Nussbaum went to Ohio and purchased land at Smithville, Wayne County. According to The History of the Sonnenberg Church, they both wrote long letters home that detailed their journeys. These became models for later letters providing more travel information. One letter from Nussbaum survives and is quoted extensively in Gratz's Bernese Anabaptists.

When Christian and Catherine chose to emigrate in 1825, they followed the path of Catherine's aunt Anna Ernst, whose husband had once lived in the Münstertal valley.

A VOYAGE OF 1823: Michel Neuenschwander and Anna Ernst

Michel Neuenschwander was born at Boron March 9, 1778. When he was six weeks old his family relocated to the Münstertal valley. However, in 1798 Michel returned to French territory to work as a cooper.

On July 17, 1809 at Florimont in the Territoire de Belfort Michel Neuenschwander married Anna Ernst. In 1823 the couple decided to emigrate. On May 15 a pregnant Anna, Michel, and three children left their home at Faverois. They passed through Montbéliard, and spent the night in Paris May 30. The following morning they headed north to the port of Le Havre.

The family arrived at the port June 5. They purchased passage on the ship Aeolus, and moved aboard to prepare for the journey. On June 11 Anna gave birth to a son onboard the Aeolus.


The Neuenschwanders disembarked at Perth Amboy and traveled 18 miles overland to New York City. From there they began their journey west. A 6-year-old son contracted dysentery and died at Pittsburgh Sept. 16. On Oct. 4 the remaining family arrived at Green, Wayne County, Ohio.

On March 29, 1823, less than six months after arriving in Wayne County, the Neuenschwander family spent $90.55 to purchase 74.75 acres at Green. The seller was Jacob Schrag, a son of Bendicht Schrag.

In 1833 they resettled near Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio, becoming the 'pioneer family' there. Anna died there in 1846. Michel, now known as Michael, died there in 1852.

Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst boarded the Superior at Le Havre in the spring of 1825. Their traveling companions included Johannes Neuenschwander, a cousin to Michel Neuenschwander. Their collective luggage consisted of "1 bag bed & bedding." From the passenger list:

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The Superior arrived at New York City June 18. While Johannes Neuenschwander traveled directly to Ohio, the Schlegels remained in New York City. Why did the family 'drop out' of the westward migration?

The Schlegels were certainly aware that Michel Neuenschwander and Anna Ernst had lost a child on the arduous overland journey from New York to Wayne County, Ohio. And in the summer of 1825 handbills advertised the impending opening of a water route to Ohio – the Erie Canal from Albany on the Hudson River to Buffalo on

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324 This was the same ship that would take Oyers and Mosimans to New Orleans in 1830 under the same master, Benjamin F. Harrod (see OYER).
325 Johannes Neuenschwander (found on the passenger list as 'Jean Neuschander' origin Langnau) was born at Soubiez in the Münstertal valley of the Jura Mountains April 7 or 8, 1776, a son of Benedikt Neuenschwander and Elisabeth Lehmann. On Dec. 2, 1806 he married Katharine Furimann of Rohrbach. They went to Holmes County and then Wayne County, Ohio. In 1836 they resettled near Bluffton to live near Anna Ernst and Michel Neuenschwander.
326 "One bag, bed, and bedding." A family bed often meant an 8-by-16 foot sheet of canvas. Half was covered with straw. The other half was then folded over it, providing a relatively flea-free surface that was insulated from the cold deck. A bag was a sea bag full of clothing and personal items. The bedding consisted of linens and quilts. Metal cooking utensils were not inventoried because they were not considered salable items.
Lake Erie. A formal opening would take place Oct. 26. We can only speculate that the Schlegel family chose to wait out winter ice. They may have remained in the city because of the poor health of a child or the relative prosperity they found there.

In 1825 the most famous Frenchman in America was the Marquis de Lafayette. The 67-year-old Revolutionary War hero had been invited by President James Monroe to tour all 21 states as a celebration of the approaching 50th anniversary of the founding of the country. The Marquis left France on a merchant vessel and arrived at New York City in August 1824. By the time of the Schlegel arrival he had completed his tour and was back in New York State, anticipating a September departure. Christian Schlegel would later describe seeing the Marquis in the city.

For nine years the Schlegels lived on the Lower East Side of the borough of Manhattan. 'Christian Slagle' can be found in the Manhattan New York City Directory of 1829-30. He was described as a milkman living at 81 Sheriff Street. Later, in Illinois, the Schlegels would recall seeing the top-hatted mayor of New York City traveling to work each day in his carriage. It is probable that they were describing Cornelius Van Wyck Lawrence, who was in office at the time of their departure.

In the summer of 1835 the Schlegels resettled at Ten Mile Creek in Tazewell County. They may have made the trip with André/Andrew Burkey and Catherine Ackerman, who arrived at New York that year, and whose son Joseph Burcky married their daughter Catherine 'Katie' Schlegel that year.

Lydia Slagel Smith wrote:

They had a long, tiresome journey, partly by boat and partly by wagon pulled with oxen. They were in peril of robbers, and had to keep a close watch over their possessions. They came through Fort Dearborn (Chicago) when there were only five houses there.

A grandson thought they came to Illinois after a 'stopover in Canada,' so it is probable that they spent some time in Waterloo County, Ontario, where they had relatives. They may have intended to locate there, deciding later to go on to Illinois as many others did."

In retrospect their move was fortunately timed. On Dec. 16-17, 1835, during two nights of below-zero temperatures, the Great New York Fire destroyed 600 buildings on 17 blocks of the Lower East Side.

On Nov. 26, 1840 'Christian Slagle' purchased 40 acres of public land on Ten Mile Creek at $1.25 per acre. In Early History of Washington, Ill. and Vicinity, resident Simon Thomas recalled, "The Slagles worshipped with the Partridge Creek congregation. This congregation was created around elder Christian Engel in 1833 (see ENGEL). It met in homes until 1854, and later evolved into the Metamora Mennonite Church.

'Christopher Slagel' appears on the 1845 census of Tazewell County. The entry shows one adult male, one adult female, and two sons. The family can be found on the 1850 census of unincorporated Tazewell County as Christian Slagel, 59, born in France; Catharina, 60, born in France; Nicolas, 21, born in New York; and Benjamin, 19, born in New York. Head of household Christian Schlegel is listed at Washington on a state census of 1855.

The place and date of Catherine Ernst's death is entirely unknown. It is often cited as Sept. 5, 1816, died in 1894, and is buried at Flanagan, Livingston County. In 1835 she married Joseph Burcky. He was born at Söcking, Bavaria in March 1810, a son of Joseph Burcky and Catherine Ackerman. Joseph sailed from Hamburg with his older brother John on the
brig Montano, arriving at New York Sept. 5, 1833. The passenger list identified the brothers as distillers; gave Joseph's age as 23 years, 3 months, 29 years, 2 months; and said they were coming from 'Seking' in Bavaria bound for Kentucky. Joseph then returned to Europe, and sailed again with his parents and younger sister in 1835. In the same year Joseph married Katie, either in New York or Illinois. The household of Joseph and Katie appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Joseph Berkley, 40, Germany; Catharine, 34, France; and Joseph, 13, Illinois. They appear on the 1870 census of Roanoke as farmer Joseph Burkie; 60; Catharine, 54; Theodor, 26; John, 19; Andrew, 16; and Peter, 12; all stated to be born in Bavaria.

2. Christian Schlegel (Jr.) was born Jan. 17, 1819, and died in Livingston County Nov. 26, 1884. The 1880 census gave his birthplace as Switzerland.

3. Barbara Schlegel was born at Fridesfontaine Aug. 2, 1820. The Superior passenger list gives her age as 4 in 1825.

4. Elisabeth Schlegel was born at Bourgogne Jan. 13, 1823, and died March 21, 1901 (also found as March 17, 1902). Her parents were described as 'Christe Schlegle,' 30, valet and laborer living at Bourgogne, and 'Catherine Herste.' On June 10, 1842 at Washington she married Jacob Ropp, a son of Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann (see ROPP). The European connection between the two families: Andreas Ropp and Elisabeth Eymann came to North America in 1826 from the communal farm Barthel Hutte at Largetzen, Upper Alsace. They shared that farm with the couple Jean/Johannes Joder and Marie Conrad. Marie was a niece to Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst.

5. Pierre Schlegel was born at Bourgogne Sept. 12, 1824. His birth entry names his parents as 'Crétien Schlegle,' 37 [he was 32], a valet and laborer living at Bourgogne, and 'Catherine Hernest.' Pierre appears on the Superior passenger list from 1825 as a 1-year-old.

6. Nicholas Schlegel/Slagle was born in New York City June 10, 1828, and died Feb. 15, 1908. On Feb. 12, 1851 he married Sophia Trimmer. She was born Sept. 7, 1832, and died in 1916. They are found on the 1870 census of Fond du Lac as miller Nicholas Slagel, 42, born in New York; Sophia, 38, born in Germany; and four children born in Illinois: Julia, 12; Charles, 11; George, 2; and Henry, 2. Nicholas served two terms as supervisor of Fond du Lac and was the first mayor of East Peoria.

7. Benjamin Schlegel/Slagle was born in New York City in May of 1831, and died Feb. 14, 1906. On April 20, 1852 in Tazewell County he married Marie Anne Klopfenstein. She was born in the Territoire de Belfort May 11, 1831, and died Nov. 7, 1875; a daughter of Jean/Johannes/Klopfenstein and Catherine Klopfenstein. Benjamin appears on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as farmer 'Benjiman Slagle,' a 49-year-old widower born in New York to parents from France, with six children born in Illinois: John, 22; Josephine, 18; Lena, 17; Mary, 13; Emanuel, 10; and Anna, 6.

**Christian Schlegel (Jr.)** was born Jan. 17, 1819.

On May 16, 1842 in Tazewell County he married Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer. She was born on Sommerhof at Neuville-la-Roche, Lower Alsace July 1, 1819, a daughter of Ulrich Sommer and Barbe Görg/Guerich. See SOMMER for the story of her family.

After marriage the couple settled at what are now Elm Grove and Tremont; villages that were established in 1849-50. They worshipped with the Dillon Creek meeting, a group that met in homes and evolved into the Pleasant Grove congregation (the 'Ropp church').

Their household is shown on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer Christian Slagel Jr., 35, France; Sally, 30, France; Eliza, 8; Catharine, 7; Christian, 5; Madaline, 4; Joseph, 3; Nicholas, 1; all children born in Illinois. The 1855 state census of Tazewell County shows the household of 'Christ Slagel': one male 30-40 years of age, one male 10-19, one male 30-39, one female under 10, two females 10-19, and one female 30-39. They must have been living along Allentown Road at Elm Grove near the Gerber farms, as their neighbors include Peter Ropp, John Ropp, P. Gerber, and John Forney.

Christian was ordained as a minister in 1855. According to Harry F. Weber's *Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929*, 'Christ Slagel' began to minister at Hopedale in 1857. This later became known as the Delavan Prairie Church.

They appear on the 1860 census of Tremont as farmer Christian Slagele, 41, Germany; Sarah, 41, Germany; Catharine, 17; Christian, 15; Madgalene, 14; Joseph, 12; Nicholas, 10; Benj., 9; Sarah, 5; and Mary, 2; all children born in Illinois. The family moved onto a farm at Pike, Livingston County in 1863.

*Centennial History of the Mennonites of Illinois 1829-1929* lists Christ Schlegel as an attendee at the Diener Versammlung assembly of ministers hosted by the Rock Creek congregation at Danvers in 1866.

In 1867 the Waldo Mennonite Church was constructed four miles south of Flanagan.

329 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index transcribed their marriage entry as Jack Roup and Elizabeth Slagle.

330 It is odd that an Amish Mennonite chose to name his child after the Biblical Salomé, the temptress who asked Herod for the head of John the Baptist. In Catholic France it was more common to find Marie Salomé, who witnessed the crucifixion and discovered the rock rolled away from the tomb of Christ. Ulrich signed his daughter's birth entry Ulric Sümmer.
In 1870 the family appears on the census of Pike as farmer Chris Slagle, 57, France; Sarah, 57, France; Benjamin, 19, Illinois; Sarah, 14, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; Lydia, 9, Illinois; and Daniel, 6, Illinois. They appear again on the 1880 census of Pike as farmer Christian Slagel, 61, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents; Sara, 61, born in France to French parents; Lydia, 19, Illinois; and farm laborer Daniel, 16, Illinois.

Christian died at Pike Nov. 26, 1884, and Salomé died there July 20, 1890. They are buried in Waldorf Cemetery.

_Herald of Truth_, December 1884: “On the 26th of November, in Livingston Co., Ill., of cancer of the stomach, Bishop Christian Schlegel, aged 65 years and 9 months. The funeral was very largely attended. Services were held by Joseph Griester, Andrew Rhodes of Tazewell Co., John P. Schmitt and Christian Rhodes. Bro. Schlegel bore his sufferings with much patience. He leaves a widow and eleven children to mourn his departure. The deceased was a bishop in the Amish Mennonite Church. He administered with the gift he had received from God.”

_Herald of Truth_, August 1890: “On the 20th of July, in Livingston Co., Ill., of infirmities, Salome, widow of the late Bish. Christian Schlegel, aged 71 years, 1 month and 3 days. Buried on the 22d. A large number of friends and acquaintances from near and far assembled at her burial. Services at the house of her son-in-law, August Albrecht, where she had spent the last days of her life, by Daniel Orendorff from _Psa._ 90, and at the meetinghouse by Joseph Ackermann, Daniel Orendorff and John P. Schmitt from _1 Cor._ 15: 120. In the last week of her life Sister Schlegel became weaker and weaker in body and mind, and at last the Lord took her home, thus fulfilling a wish she had often expressed. At the close of the funeral services the beautiful hymn was sung, 'I'm going home to die no more.' She was a faithful member of the Old Amish Mennonite church, and leaves 11 children, 46 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren. Four children preceded her.”

Their children include:

1. Elizabeth 'Eliza' Schlegel was born at Ten Mile Creek/Washington March 7, 1842, and died at Eureka, Woodford County June 8, 1925. On April 5, 1870 she married Joseph H. King, in a ceremony conducted by elder Joseph Stuckey. (The _Illinois Statewide Marriage Index_ lists her as ‘Elizabeth Slagel’). He was born in Ohio circa 1842, and may have died in 1898. A marker for Joseph H. King in the East Bend Mennonite Cemetery at Fisher, Champaign County gives only his age, 56. They appear on the 1870 census of Pike as carpenter Joseph King, 27, Ohio; Elizabeth, 28, Illinois; and farm laborer Nicholas Slagel, 21, Illinois (Elizabeth's younger brother). They can be found on the 1880 census of Gridley, McLean County as carpenter Joseph H. King, 38, born in Ohio to parents from Württemberg; Elizabeth, 38, born in Illinois to parents from France; five children born in Illinois; and Peter Kauffman, 25, born in Illinois to parents from Anhalt and Illinois.331 _Gospel Herald_, June 1925: “Elizabeth King (nee Slagle) was born near Washington, Ill., March 7, 1842; died at the Home for the Aged near Eureka, Ill., June 6, 1925; aged 83 y. 2 m. 29 d. In her youth she moved with her parents to near Meadows, Ill. There she was married to Jos. H. King. To this union were born six children, of whom five are living. Her husband died while they were living on a farm in Champaign Co., Ill., after which she went to live with her children in Minnesota [Heron Lake], where she remained until she came to the Home at Eureka, Aug. 8, 1922, where she resided until death. Funeral services at the Home in charge of Brethren Ezra Yordy, Samuel Gerber, and A. A. Schrock. Her death was due to old age. She leaves five children, one brother, and two sisters.”

2. Catherine Schlegel was born at what became Tremont on the 8th or 10th or 18th of April, 1843, and died at Washington May 5, 1916. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Livingston County she married John Gascho. (The _Illinois Statewide Marriage Index_ lists them as ‘J.N. Gascho’ and ‘Catharine Slagell’). He was born at Spring Bay, Woodford County Feb. 27, 1844, and died in Livingston County March 18, 1883, a son of Johannes/John Gascho and Magdalena Gundy. See GASCHO for his obituary. On Oct. 15, 1895 Catherine remarried to widower John Guth of Washington. He was born May 10, 1840, and died Oct. 8, 1896, a son of Peter Guth and Susanna/Susan Oyer. He married his first wife Maria/Mary Ehresman May 5, 1861. She was born in Ohio Nov. 10, 1839, and died at Washington May 8, 1894 (see EHRESMAN). John Guth and his first wife are buried in Glendale Cemetery at Washington.

3. Christian Schlegel/Slagell (Jr.) was born at what became Tremont Dec. 8, 1844, and died at Normal, McLean County Feb. 26, 1913. He is buried as ‘Christian S. Slagell’ in Gridley Cemetery. On Feb. 8, 1869 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena Turk. (The _Illinois Statewide Marriage Index_ lists him as ‘C.S. Slagell’). She was born in France in January 1845, a daughter of Peter Turk and his wife Anna living at Morton. They lived at Gridley, McLean County. She is also buried there as ‘Magdalena Slagell 1845-1922.’ _Gospel Herald_, April 1913: “Christian S. Slagell was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., on Dec. 8, 1845, married to Magdalena Turk on Feb. 8, 1869. To this union

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331 There may be a clue in this. Their next door neighbor at Gridley was Jacob Augspurger, a 32-year-old farmer from Ohio, and his wife Lena [Zehr], 32, born in Anhalt; her father George Zehr, 74, lived with them. Jacob was a son of David Augspurger and his first wife Magdalena Unzicker (David later remarried to Elizabeth Schertz). The Augspurgers came from St. Clair, Butler County, Ohio to McLean County (David Augspurger can be found on the 1850 census of Madison and the 1860 census of St. Clair). Jacob Augspurger and Magdalena ‘Lena’ Zehr were married in McLean County Jan. 8, 1871. Did Joseph H. King, born in Ohio circa 1842, also come from St. Clair?
was born 1 daughter. He died at Brokaw Hospital in Normal, Ill., where he underwent an operation for stone in the bladder Feb. 27, 1913. Short services were held at his home in Gridley, from which place they took him to the Ness Amish Church of which he was a member. He leaves besides his wife, 1 daughter and 10 grandchildren. Buried at the cemetery nearby.

4. Magdalena 'Malinda' Schlegel/Slegell was born at what became Tremont May 3, 1846, and died July 3, 1921. On Feb. 26, 1865 at Gridley she married minister Peter Zimmerman (the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Malinda Slagel'); Christian Ropp performed the ceremony. He was born in Ohio Dec. 15, 1842 or 1844, and died at Garden City, Missouri May 5, 1931, a son of Michael Zimmerman and his second wife Magdalena Erb (see ZIMMERMAN for his obituary). They can be found on the 1870 census of Pike, Livingston County living next door to Magdalena's parents as farmer Peter Zimmerman, 28; Ohio; Melinda, 24, Illinois; and three young children born in Illinois. Peter was ordained as a minister of the Roanoke Church in 1878. In 1886 they moved to Larned, Kansas. He was later elder/bishop of the Shellbyville, Illinois congregation. Gospel Herald, August 1921: "Zimmerman--Magdalena, daughter of Christian and Salome Slagel, was born in Tazewell County, Ill., May 3, 1846, where she resided with her parents until her marriage with Peter Zimmerman which occurred on February 26, 1865. To this union were born four children: William of Carthage, Ill.; Edward of Garden City, Mo.; Jonathan of Colume, S. Dak., and Mrs. Lydia Helmuth of Roanoke. All were present with the bereaved husband and father when she passed to her reward on July 3 at her home in Roanoke, aged 75 y. and 2 m. Deceased united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful and consistent member until her death. She leaves to mourn her loss besides her husband and children, nineteen grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two brothers: Benjamin of Wayland, Iowa, and Daniel of Flanagan, Ill.; three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth King of Heron Lake, Minn., Mrs. Salome Yordy of Roanoke, and Mrs. Lydia Smith of Flanagan. The funeral was held July 5 from the Harmony Mennonite Church. Bro. Joseph Reber of Shellyville and Bro. Peter Gerber of Cazenvio conducted the services. Interment was made in the Metamora township Mennonite cemetery five miles west and two miles north of Roanoke."

5. Joseph Schlegel was born at what became Tremont Dec. 8, 1847, and died at Long Bow, Oklahoma July 12, 1914. On Feb. 14, 1862 in Livingston County he married Barbara Gascho (the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as 'Joseph Slagell'). She was born near Spring Bay Sept. 21, 1853, and died at Hydro, Oklahoma June 30, 1926, a daughter of Johannes/John Gascho and Magdalena Guden. They can be found on the 1900 census of Jackson, Lyon County, Kansas; and on the 1910 census of Long Bow, Blaine County, Oklahoma. Gospel Herald, July 1914: "Joseph Slagell was the son of Bishop Christian and Saloma Slagell. He was born Dec. 8, 1847, in Tazewell Co., Ill.; died July 12, 1914, near Hydro, Okla; aged 64 y. 7 m. 4 d. He was married to Barbara Gascho, Feb. 4, 1872. This union was blessed with 12 children, 2 of whom preceded him to the spirit world. The living are: Saloma Rich, Katie Detweiler, Anna Smith, Chris P., Joe. G., Ben, Dan, John, and Barbara. He also leaves 2 brothers and 5 sisters, 8 of the family preceding him to the spirit world. At the age of 18 he united with the A. M. Church, was ordained to the ministry in 1889, ordained bishop in 1891. He had been sick with a complication of diseases, suffering much in the last few months, but expressed himself ready and willing to go if it was the Lord's will. Funeral services at the house conducted by Brethren Eyster, Gish, Yoder, and Johns. Text, Amos 4:12 (utter clause) and Matt. 24:44. Peace to his ashes." Gospel Herald, July 1926: "Barbara Schlegel, daughter of John and Magdalena Gascho, was born near Spring Bay, Ill., Sept. 21, 1853; died at her home north of Hydro, Okla., June 30, 1926; aged 72 y. 10 m. 28 d. She accepted Christ and united with the Amish Mennonite Church in her youth and remained a faithful member to the end. She was married to Joseph Schlegel near Chenoa, Ill., Feb. 14, 1872, where they lived for 17 years. They then moved to Thurman, Colo., at which place Bro. Schlegel was ordained a minister and later ordained bishop. They remained here 7 years, when they moved to Lyon Co., Ills., and remained there until they moved to their present home, where Bro. Schlegel preceded her almost 12 years ago. To this union were born twelve children, ten of whom are living: (Lena Swartzendruber, Salome Rich, Katie Detweiler, Annie Smith, Christian, Joseph, Benjamin, Daniel, John, and Barbara Stutzman). She also leaves 44 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Sister Schlegel was in her usual health, took sick after ten o'clock Tuesday night, suffered only several hours where she peacefully fell asleep at 2 a.m. "They are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery at Hydro."

6. Nicholas Schlegel/Slegell /Slagell was born at what became Tremont (the village was established later that year) in 1849, and died at Flanagan June 28, 1913. He is found on the 1870 census of Pike as a farm laborer in the household of his brother-in-law Joseph H. King and sister Elizabeth Schlagen. On Sept. 7, 1873 in Livingston County he married Mary Steinman ('the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists him as 'N.H. Slagells'). She was born at Tremont Dec. 13, 1855, and died at Flanagan Oct. 23, 1932; a daughter of Daniel Steinman and Catherine Birkey. They lived at Pike in 1880; at Brown, Champaign County in 1910; and at Nebraska Township, Livingston County in 1920. Gospel Herald, July 1913: "Nicholas H. Slagell was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., April 22, 1849; moved with his parents to Livingston Co. in 1863; united with the Amish Mennonite Church in his youth and remained faithful to the end. He was married to Mary Steinman, Sept. 7, 1873. To this union were born 5 sons and 3 daughters. In January, 1913, he moved from near Fisher, Ill., to near Flanagan, Ill., at which place he died of cancer of the stomach
6. Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 21, 1938; aged 82 y. 5 m. 16 d. In her girlhood her parents moved to north of Chenoa, Ill. She had 7 daughters (Amos, Joel, Salome Woodward, Leah Armstrong, Laura Bryant, and Lizzie). All were children were born to them, of whom 4 died in infancy. He leaves his sorrowing companion, 2 sons, and 4 grandchildren. In her youth she united with the Mennonite Church and remained a consistent member. She also leaves 1 brother, 4 sisters, and 1 step-sister. She was always much concerned about her family, always willing to do everything and sacrificing for them in many ways. Her children should indeed arise and call her blessed. May they follow her peaceful example. Funeral services were conducted by J. D. Hartzler and J. W. Davis at the Waldo Church.

7. Benjamin Franklin Schlegel/Slagell/Slagel was born at Tremont Feb. 8, 1851, and died at Wayland, Iowa Nov. 10, 1922. On Aug. 31, 1876 at Flanagan he married Catherine Steinman. She was born at Tremont Feb. 23, 1859, and died at Wayland, Iowa Sept. 18, 1923; aged 64 y. 6 m. 25 d. She accepted Christ as her Savior while in her teens, uniting with the Amish Mennonite Church, and was a devoted and loyal member until called by death. On Aug. 31, 1876, she was married to Catharina Steinman. This union was blest with nine children, four sons and five daughters. One son preceded him in death. Some six years ago it was discovered that he was afflicted with diabetes. For a time he seemed to battle with the disease successfully but a few weeks ago his condition became worse and in spite of all that loving hands could do he passed away. While he still had full control of his mind he realized that his end was near, and gave instructions for the funeral and admonitions and warnings to the immediate members of his family. He leaves his wife, 3 sons, 5 daughters, 1 brother, 3 sisters, 19 grandchildren, and a large concourse of relatives, friends and neighbors to mourn his loss. The funeral was held at the Sugar Creek Church near Wayland, Iowa, on Sunday afternoon conducted by the home minister. Text, I Sam. 20:18 the latter clause. Interment in the cemetery nearby.

8. Catharena (Steinman) Slagel was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Feb. 23, 1859; died at her home near Wayland, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1923, aged 64 y. 6 m. 25 d. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior when a young man, uniting with the Amish Mennonite Church. Her husband, who died Nov. 10, 1922, and one son preceded her in death. She leaves five daughters, three sons, eighteen grandchildren, two foster children and 2 great-grandchildren. In their loss. The funeral was held on Thursday afternoon at the Sugar Creek church near Wayland, Iowa, conducted by the home ministers. Texts used, II Tim. 4:7, 8; II Cor. 4:16, 17. Interment in the cemetery nearby.

9. Simon Schlegel was born at Tremont Jan. 5, 1853, and died May 3, 1854.

10. Salome 'Sally' Schlegel was born at Tremont Sept. 6, 1855, and died at Roanoke, Woodford County Feb. 21, 1938. On Oct. 15, 1874 at Livingston County she married Christian Yordy. (The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as 'Christopher Yorty' and 'Sally Slagel'). He was born July 29, 1848, and died at Roanoke July 10, 1922, a son of Peter Yordy and Mary Birkey. Gospel Herald, October 1922: "Christian Yordy, son of Peter and Mary Yordy was born near Pekin, Ill., July 29, 1848; died at his home near Roanoke, Ill., July 10, 1922; aged 73 y. 11 m. 11 d. Oct. 4, 1874, he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony to Salome Slagel of Livingston Co., Ill. Ten children were born to them, of whom 4 died in infancy. He leaves his sorrowing companion, 2 sons, and 4 daughters (Amos, Joel, Salome Woodward, Leah Armstrong, Laura Bryant, and Lizzie). All were present at his death except Salome. He also leaves 18 grandchildren, 2 brothers, 3 sisters and many nieces and nephews. At the age of 19 he united with the A. M. Church and remained faithful to the end. In his younger years he was active in church work. Funeral services were held at the home by Bro. Peter Garber and at the Roanoke Church by Bros. C. S. Shertz and A. A. Schrock. Interment in the cemetery nearby. Gospel Herald, March 1938: "Yordy, - Salome, daughter of Christian and Salome (Somer) Slagel, was born Sept. 6, 1855, near Pekin, Ill.; died at her home east of Roanoke, Ill., Feb. 21, 1938; aged 82 y. 5 m. 16 d. In her girlhood her parents moved to north of Chenoa, Ill. She
united with the Mennonite Church, 1870, in which faith she remained until death. Oct. 4, 1874, she was married to Christian Yordy. To this union were born 10 children, 4 dying in infancy and Laura Bryant on June 1, 1929. Those living are Salome Burchey, Tiskilwa; Leah Armstrong, Secor; Joel of Heyworth; Amos of Roanoke; and Lizzie at home. There are 24 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 brother (D. W. Slagel, Flanagan, Ill.), 1 sister (Lydia Smith, Goshen, Ind.), many nephews and nieces and friends to mourn her death. Funeral services were held at the home and at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, conducted by John L. Harnish and Ezra B. Yordy. Text, Job 14:14. Interment in the adjoining cemetery.

11. Mary Schlegel was born at Tremont June 18, 1857, and died at East Peoria June 27, 1911. On Nov. 6, 1875 in Livingston County she married Joseph R. King. (The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists her as 'Mary Slagle'.) He was born at Hudson, McLean County May 25, 1854, and died at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 18, 1943, a son of Christian King and Marie Bechler. Gospel Herald, July 1911: "King. - Mary A. Slagel was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., June 18, 1857; died at East Peoria, Ill., June 27, 1911; aged 54 y. 9 d. On Nov. 7, 1895, she was united in marriage with Joseph King, which union was blessed with 12 children; 4 of whom preceding their mother to the spirit world. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, 5 sons, 3 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 5 brothers and 5 sisters. Funeral services were held at the Free Methodist Church by Bro. Val Stubbar. Her remains were laid to rest in the East Peoria cemetery."

12. Jacob Schlegel/Slegell was born at Tremont Sept. 16, 1858. He died before the 1860 census.

13. Lydia Schlegel was born at Tremont Sept. 25, 1860, and died at Goshen, Indiana Oct. 20, 1941. However, she is buried with her first husband in Waldo Cemetery as 'Lydia Slagell Smith.' On Jan. 13, 1887 she married August Albrecht. He was born at Waldo June 16, 1861, and died Feb. 16, 1892, a son of John Albrecht and Anna Gascho. She remarried to widower John Smith in Nov. 16, 1899. He was born at Metamora Nov. 27, 1843, and died there July 6, 1906, a son of Christian Smith and Catherine Bechler (see SMITH for his obituary). Gospel Herald, November 1941: "Smith. - Lydia H., daughter of Christian and Salome Slagel, born Sept. 25, 1860, in Tazewell Co., Ill., the thirteenth in a family of fifteen children, peacefully fell asleep at her home near Goshen, Ind., Oct. 20, 1941; aged 81 y. 25 d. On Jan. 13, 1887, she was united in marriage to August Albrecht. To this union one daughter, Agnes, was born. Four years later he departed this life, after which she made her home with her brother Dan until her marriage to Bishop John Smith of Metamora, Ill., Nov. 1899. After living together six and one-half years, he was suddenly called to his reward. In 1912 she moved with her daughter, Mrs. C. J. Gunden at Flanagan, Ill., where she lived for eighteen years, after which she moved with the family to Goshen, Ind. She leaves to mourn her departure her daughter, Mrs. Agnes Gunden of Goshen; also J. D. and S. E. Smith and Mrs. Ella Oyer of Eureka, Ill., Mrs. Emma Schertz of Goshen, C. Henry Smith of Bluffton, Ohio, 30 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, a brother, Dan, of Flanagan, a host of nieces and nephews, and many more relatives and friends. At an early age she united with the Mennonite Church to which she remained faithful until death. She was much interested in the work of the Church and one of her greatest pleasures was that of giving to a needy cause. She taught in the Sunday school for a period of about fifty years, having been one of the first teachers at the Waldo Church near Flanagan. In the last number of years she often expressed her desire to be at home with her Lord. All of her family was able to be present at the services with the exception of a granddaughter, Lois Gunden, who sailed for France on Oct. 4 to do relief work. Funeral services, conducted by Bro. S. C. Yoder, were held at the home where she stayed at Goshen, Ind., and at the Waldo Mennonite Church near Gridley, Ill., conducted by Bro. Ezra Yordy of Eureka, Ill., and Bro. J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill. Burial took place in the cemetery near by."

14. Daniel Webster Schlegel/Slegell/Slagel was born at Pike March 26, 1864, and died at Flanagan Jan. 1947, the last of his generation. On Feb. 2, 1888 he married Mary Catherine Roeschley. She was born at Eureka, Woodford County Aug. 9, 1869, and died at Bloomington, McLean County Oct. 19, 1928, a daughter of John Roeschley and his wife Elizabeth. They lived at Nebraska Township, Livingston County. Gospel Herald, November 1928: "Mary Roeschley Slagel, youngest daughter of John and Elizabeth Roeschley, was born in Eureka, Ill., Aug. 9, 1869; died Oct. 19, 1928 at the Mennonite Hospital, Bloomington, Ill.; aged 59 y. 2 m. 10 d. At the age of 15 she united with the Mennonite Church and maintained this fellowship until the time of her death. In 1888 she was united in marriage to D. W. Slagel, and since then for a little over 40 years they have lived in the vicinity of Flanagan, Ill. She is survived by her husband, 7 sons (Arthur, Amos, George, Willis, Edwin, Gilbert, Milton), 4 daughters, Alma, Emma, Edna, Irene), 15 grandchildren, 1 brother (John, Flanagan, Ill.), 1 sister (Mrs. Joe. Yordy, Eureka, Ill.), 1 daughter, Mrs. John Nenhauser, preceded her to the spirit world in 1923. About two weeks previous to her death, she underwent an operation which seemed to be successful. She was getting along well and expected to go home soon. On the evening of her death after eating supper and going to bed as usual, she suddenly felt faint. Her daughter Edna, a senior nurse at the hospital, was called from duty. Mother told her she was dying and asked that the rest of the family be sent for, but death came very shortly afterward, the immediate cause being a blood clot in the blood stream. Funeral services were held at the Waldo Mennonite Church on Oct. 22, 1928, conducted by Bros. A. C. Good of Sterling, Ill., and J. D. Hartzler of Gridley, Ill. Interment in the Waldo Cemetery. Among the things for which she will be remembered by those who loved her and knew her best are her patience, even temper and sympathy, her trust in an abiding Heavenly Father, her confidence in those about her, and her sacrifices for others." Gospel Herald, January 1947: "Slagel, Daniel W., youngest son of the late Christian and Salome Slagel, was born near Meadows, Ill., March 26, 1864; passed away at the home of his daughter (Mrs. Edward Eigsti), Flanagan, Ill., after several years of failing health, Jan. 4, 1947; aged 82 y. 9 m. 9 d. In 1888 he was married to Mary Roeschley, Eureka, Ill., who
preceded him in death on Oct. 19, 1928. One son (Arthur), 2 daughters (Laura and Emma), and one grandson also predeceased him. Surviving are 6 sons (Amos, La Belle, Mo.; George, Willis, Edwin, and Gilbert of Flanagan; and Milton, Chicago, Ill.); 3 daughters (Alma-Mrs. Edward Eigsti, of Flanagan; Edna-Mrs. Ray Dillman, Fisher, Ill.; and Irene-Mrs. Elmer Byler, Freeport, Ill.); 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. In his youth he became a member of the Mennonite Church and on July 3, 1909 he was ordained to the ministry, in which capacity he served faithfully as long as his health permitted. Funeral services were held Jan. 6 at the Waldo Mennonite Church, Flanagan, in charge of A. H. Leaman, of Chicago. Text: II Tim. 4:6, 7. Interment was made in the Waldo Cemetery."

15. Sophia Schlegel was born at Pike Dec. 4, 1865, and died 10 days later.
Ernst of Bois Lachat

Whether it was illiteracy, or the way it refused to roll off the French tongue, or simply the disinterest of municipal clerks, it is readily apparent that the surname 'Ernst' suffered under the État Civil system of record keeping. Civil entries in the Territoire de Belfort show Ernst as Aistre, Haistre, Hernst, Herst, Haiste, Hernert, Herneste, Harneste, Hernets, Hernetz, and even Hairnchets.

Our account of the family of Tazewell County settler Catherine Ernst starts with two Anabaptist brothers, thought to have been born in 1731 and circa 1734.

OLDER BROTHER CHRISTIAN ERNST

Christian Ernst was born at Rougemont circa Dec. 16, 1731, and died on La Maie farm at Menoncourt Aug. 16, 1811. His death entry created at Eguenigue described him as 'Christe Hernste,' an Anabaptist cultivator on La Maie Farm at Menoncourt and the widower of 'Babely Nafsere.' He was 79 years, 9 months old. The entry was witnessed by his son-in-law Joseph Gerig.

Christian married Barbara Nafziger. She was born at Wangen June 4, 1737, and died on La Maie farm (possibly on May 25, 1800, though it is not found in civil records). She was a daughter of Christ Nafziger and Barbara Hochstettler.

Two of their children have been identified:

1. Barbe Ernst was born circa 1757, and died at Grandvillars Aug. 5, 1841, age 84. Circa 1776 she married Jost/Juste Joder. He was born at Fontaine (next to Reppe) circa 1755, and died at Grandvillars Oct. 5, 1852, a son of Christ Joder and Anne Gerig. Barbe's death was reported by her husband, who was 86. It named her as 'Barbe Hertz,' and listed her parents as 'Christian Hernzt' and 'Barbe Nafgre.' It also stated that she had been a cultivator at Phaffans (next to Menoncourt). It gave her birthplace as 'Pettonvillers,' but may have meant Béthonyvillers near Menoncourt. Jost's death entry exaggerated his age as 106, and stated that his parents were inconnu (unknown), but did mention that he was born at Fontaine (between Reppe and Menoncourt) and that he was the widower of 'Barbe Hernzt.' His death was reported by Christ Joder, 31.

   a. Christ Joder was born at Morvillars Aug. 4, 1782. On June 8, 1799 at Grandvillars he married Elisabeth Klopfenstein. She was born at Rougemont Jan. 26, 1781, a daughter of Christian Klopfenstein and Marie Anne Wenger. The entry names his parents as 'Juste Joder' and 'Elisabeth Hernste.' (This information is second hand. We found the marriage of 'Christ Hjoder' and 'Elizabeth Klobstein,' 20 Prairial 7, listed in the Grandvillars index; but not the actual entry. Marriage entries for the Republican calendar years 7 and 8 — roughly 1799 and 1800 — were missing from the FHL microfilm series).

   b. Johannes/Hans/Jean Joder was born at Morvillars circa 1785, and died at Bourogne (adjacent to Morvillars) March 19, 1834. On June 10, 1809 at Bourogne he married Marie Klopfenstein, who was born there circa 1791, and died at Florimont March 20, 1864, a daughter of Nicolaus Klopfenstein and Elisabeth Joder living at Bourogne. Jean's parents were described on the marriage entry as 'Juste Joder' and 'Barbe Hernst,' cultivators at Grandvillars, and Jost signed the entry. The groom signed 'Johannes Joder.' Both sets of parents were 'present and consenting.' Jean's death entry gave his age as 49, and described him as someone who was born at Morvillars but resided in Grandvillars.

2. Marie Anne Ernst was born on La Maie farm at Menoncourt Jan. 11, 1758, and died there April 10, 1830. On April 20, 1782 at Courtelevant (on the east side of Florimont) she married Joseph Gerig. He was born at Sevenans (five miles below the town of Belfort) Aug. 15, 1758, and died at Eguenigue Dec. 28, 1813. Her death entry created at Eguenique described her as the widow of Joseph Gérige, and a daughter of 'Christe Ernst' and 'Barbe Anflaret' who died on La Maie farm. It was witnessed by son Christe Gérigue, 36, and son-in-law Christe Klopfenstein, 44. All three were residents of La Maie farm.

YOUNGER BROTHER JACOB/JACQUES ERNST

Jacob/Jacques Ernst was born circa 1734. He married Catherine Lemann [the same surname as the German form 'Lehman'], who was born circa 1749. They were laborers in the forest of Normanvillars at Florimont, then farmers and weavers at Boron.

Jacob died on Beuchat farm at Boron May 14, 1794. The Boron death entry of 'Jochit Aistre' (Jacob Ernst) was witnessed by his son 'Simon Aistre,' 24, and 'Christe Chalbairt,' 50, of the dairy on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars. It said that Jacob died in his home on Beuchat farm, age 60. Catherine died at Froidefontaine July 3, 1809, age 60. Her death was reported by 'Jean Jodre anabaptiste,' a 50-year-old weaver.

Their children include:

1. Simon Ernst was born circa 1772.
2. Anna Ernst was born in 1780 (according to her headstone), and died at Bluffton, Ohio Feb. 13, 1846. She is buried in the Old Swiss Cemetery of the Reformed Mennonite Church, between Pandora and Bluffton on the Putnam County–Allen County line. On July 17, 1809 at Florimont she married Michael/Michel Neuenschwander. Michael was born at Boron March 9, 1778, and died at Bluffton, Ohio March 10, 1852, a son of Michel Neuenschwander and Barbe Steiner. Their marriage entry says that he was born at Langnau, Bern (his family's Heimatort, but not his actual birthplace). It described 'Anne Hernst' as a 30-year-old servant at Montigny, Sonnenberg (now Montignez, on the opposite side of the French-Swiss border from Florimont). It also noted that her mother had died only two days earlier. One witness was Anna's younger brother Jean Hernest,' who was described as a 28-year-old weaver living at Froidefontaine. Both Anna and Jean signed the entry with a mark, indicating that they were illiterate. In his diary, Michel Neuenschwander described his wife's family as 'Sigmund [the German equivalent of 'Simon'], Anna my wife, Marie, Hans, and Verena who was the youngest.'

3. Marie Ernst was born circa 1782. Because of a number of coincidences – name, range of birth year, family connections, geography – it is likely that she is the Maria Ernst who had an illegitimate child named Anna Ernst Oct. 13, 1806.
   a. Anna Ernst was born Oct. 13, 1806, and died at Wilmot, Ontario Aug. 12, 1871. She presumably accompanied one of her cousins Jean/John or Christe/Christian when they sailed to New York in 1827 and 1828. The brothers went to Ontario in 1828, where they claimed lots at Wilmot. She married Nicholas Leichty/Lichti at Wilmot Nov. 2, 1832, and died there Aug. 12, 1871. Nicholas was born at Hirtzbach, Upper Alsace June 5, 1811, and died at Wilmot Jan. 28, 1907, a son of Johannes Lichty and Magdalena Joder. Nicholas can be found as a 13-year-old on the passenger list of the Elizabeth as it sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York July 9, 1825 with passengers named Neuenschwander, Steiner, Luginbühl, and Amstutz. Nicholas and Anna can be found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as Nicholas Lichti, 41, France, Amish yeoman; Anna, 48, France, Amish; with seven children born in Canada and mother-in-law Magdalena (Joder) Lichti, 79, France, Amish.

Marie later married a Schmidt and had three more daughters. 332 Diane Beller has identified the two youngest daughters:
   b. Unidentified.
   c. Barbara Schmidt was born circa 1813, and died at North Easthope, Ontario June 2, 1897. Circa 1834 at Wilmot she married Christian Kuepfer. He was born at Valangin, Neuchâtel June 12, 1791, and died in August or September 1842.
   d. Magdalena Schmidt was born circa 1816, and died Aug. 27, 1869. She married Peter Kuepfer. He was born in Switzerland June 29, 1803, and died in August 1855.

4. Johannes/Hans/Jean Ernst was born on Chalembert farm Aug. 26, 1783, and died at the nearby farm Les Grabeussets at Boron Jan. 12, 1860. On Feb. 18, 1810 at Grandvillars he married Anneli/Anne Klopfenstein. She was born on Chalembert farm Oct. 17, 1785, and died at Grandvillars Feb. 12, 1819, a daughter of Peter Klopfenstein and Freni Jodter. The marriage entry called them 'Jean Haimchez' (a second generation embellishment on the misspelling 'Hernetz') and 'Anne Klopstein.'
   a. Freni Ernst was born at Grandvillars Dec. 22, 1810. Her birth entry described her as 'Fresne,' and her parents as day laborer 'Jean Hairneste' and Anne Klopfenstein.
   b. Anne Ernst was born at Grandvillars Sept. 13, 1812, and died at Boron Aug. 21, 1871. Her birth entry described her as 'Jacques Herneste' and 'Anabaptiste' laborer. Her death entry described her as 'Marie Ann Ernst,' giving her residence as Grandvillars, and was signed by brother Jean, 49.

On Aug. 16, 1820 at Boron Hans remarried to Anna Hochstettler. She was born at Chagey Sept. 14, 1798, and died on Beuchat farm at Boron April 7, 1865, a daughter of Pierre Hochstettler and Marguerite Parrot. 333 Their marriage entry described Jean as the widower of Anne Klopfenstein, and a weaver living at Boron, a son of the deceased 'Jacques Herneste' and 'Catharina Leiman.' It stated that Anna's father had died July 16, 1811, but that her mother was 'present and consenting.' Anna's death entry calls her 'Anne Hochztedler,' age 67. One witness to her death was her son Jean Ernst, 44, living on Beuchat farm. At least two of their children emigrated:
   c. Jean Ernst was born at Boron Aug. 4, 1821. The entry names his father 'Jean Hernets,' 38, weaver at Boron, and his mother 'Catherine Hastanteler.' He was a 38-year-old witness on his father's death entry in 1860. He was living on Beuchat farm in 1865.

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332 The Kuepfers were sons of Johann Peter Kuepfer of Le Locle, Neuchâtel and Barbara Streit of Lauterbrunnen, Bern (5 miles south of Lake Thun). They were married at Sennwald Feb. 26, 1786. Descendants spell the surname 'Kifer.' Another Kuepfer son, Jacob Kuepfer, was born in Switzerland May 3, 1798, and died at Wilmot Aug. 23, 1862. On July 22, 1827 at Wilmot he married Maria Liechty/Lichti, a sister of Nicholas Liechty/Lichti.

333 Anna's birth entry actually calls her 'Jeanne Hostelter.' Peter/Pierre Hochsteter was born in 1769, and died at Coin du Bois in 1811. He was a farmer at Chagey. His parents were Peter Hochsteter (born at Clairegoutte in 1722 and died at Chagey Feb. 18, 1798, age 76) and Anna Roth. Peter was a son of Christ Hochsteter and Elisabeth Ulrich, who came from Ste. Marie-aux-Mines to live at Clairegoutte by 1723. Christ Hochsteter was born in 1673, and died at Magny d'Anignon (adjacent to Clairegoutte) Jan. 11, 1759.
d. Christian/Criste Ernst was born on Beuchat farm at Boron Aug. 30, 1823 (civil entry; headstone Aug. 31), and died at Noble, Iowa April 5, 1891. His birth entry names his parents as Jean Hernst, a 40-year-old weaver, and 'Anne Hostenteleur.' He applied for a passport at Florimont Oct. 5, 1846. The application described him as 23-year-old weaver Christ Ernst of Boron, and gave his destination as New York. He sailed from Le Havre on the Art Union, arriving at New York May 5, 1854. Circa 1858 in Washington County, Iowa he married Magdalene Wenger. She was born in Ontario Jan. 24, 1842, and died at Noble April 24, 1883, a daughter of Christian Wenger and Anna Marie/Mary Roth. *Herald of Truth*, May 1883: "On the 24th of April, in Noble, Washington Co., Iowa, of liver complaint, Magdalene, wife of Christian Ernst, maiden name Wenger, aged 41 years and 2 months. She lived in a firm trust in Jesus, and a hope of an eternal home in heaven. Three children went before her to the eternal world. Funeral services were held by S. Gehrig and Benj. Eicher." *Herald of Truth*, May 1891: "On the 5th of April, 1891, near Noble, Washington Co., Iowa, Bro. Christian Ernst, aged 67 years, 8 months and 4 days. Buried on the 7th, in the Sommer graveyard in the presence of many friends and relatives, who wished to show the last tribute of respect to the departed brother. Eight children remain to mourn the loss of a beloved father. Services by S. Gerig and Benj. Eicher, from Ps.39:5-9."

e. Elisabeth Ernst was born at Boron Oct. 20, 1825.

f. Pierre Ernst was born at Boron July 7, 1828.

g. Catherine Ernst was born at Boron Nov. 3, 1830.

h. Marie/Mary Ernst was born at Boron June 25, 1833. The entry named her 'Marie Ertz,' and described her parents as 'Jean Ertz,' a 50-year-old weaver from Boron, and Anne Hosteren, 36. She married Jean Wenger, born in 1832, an older brother of Magdalena Wenger. Their household appears on the 1880 census of New Philadelphia, Ohio as wagon maker John Wenger, 49, Switzerland; Mary, 48, Switzerland; and five children ages 11-21 born in Ohio.

5. Verena 'Freni' Ernst was born circa 1783, and died at Grandvillars Jan. 6, 1814, during a siege of the fortress. Her death entry clearly names her parents as Jacques Ernst and Catherine Lemann, and describes them as laborers in the forest of Normanvillars. It described her as a farm operator [*Fr. manoeuvre*], and was signed by her cousin Jost Joder.

   a. Catherine Ernst. On May 21, 1810 Freni gave birth to an illegitimate daughter Catherine on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars. The entry described the mother as 'Freny Hairneste,' day laborer and native of Boron. Catherine Ernst married Pierre Mueller at Belfort May 31, 1837. He was born March 20, 1790, a son of Michael Mueller and Barbara Rich. On March 30, 1815 at Rougemont he had married Elizabeth Barbara Klopfenstein, a daughter of Jacques Klopfenstein and Anna Becher. She died Dec. 2, 1835, leaving 11 children below the age of 18. Pierre and Catherine had four more children between 1838 and 1848.

**Simon Ernst** was born circa 1772. He signed his father's death entry with an 'x', indicating that he was illiterate.

Simon married Catherine Roth at Boron Jan. 7, 1794. Simon and Catherine were weavers. They lived in the Bois Lachat – the forest west and north of Grandvillars.

Their children include:

1. Catherine Ernst was born at Boron Sept. 8, 1794. She married Christian Schlegel at Froidefontaine July 3, 1816, and they emigrated in 1825. See SCHLELEGEL.

2. Marie Ernst was born at Boron March 10, 1796. Her birth entry named her parents as 'Simon Haisitre' and 'Catherine Rote.' She was 20 when she married her 52-year-old grand-uncle Jean 'Hans' Joder at Froidefontaine Feb. 2, 1816. Jean was born at Morvillars in 1764, a son of Christ Joder and 'Anne Hosteter' (as found on the entry). One of the odd documents that survives from the event is the marriage petition. To obtain a civil ceremony, Jean had to request exemption from in article of law intended to prevent incest. His deceased first wife had been Elizabeth Lemann, a sister to Catherine Lemann who was the grandmother of his intended bride. Elizabeth had died at Froidefontaine Nov. 16, 1814. Thus he was Marie's great-uncle. The marriage entry named Marie's father 'Simon Erneste' as a 44-year-old witness, though Simon was illiterate and could not sign. Jean served as a witness at the marriage of Christian Schlegel and his sister-in-law Catherine Ernst. On that entry, he was described as a 53-year-old weaver from Froidefontaine, and signed 'Hans Joder.'

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334 Two versions of indexes made by the Boron municipal clerk are shown on FHL microfilm, but the actual entry is not given. The first index page gives only the name of the bride and groom and the date, but every item is lined out. The date is Jan. 7, 1794. One wonders what the actual entry looked like, because the index is incorrect. The name of the groom is given as 'Simon Hernest,' and the date under the Republican calendar was '18 Nivose an 2.' But the bride was named as 'Cathrine Lemans' – the name of the groom's mother. The index page was rewritten, this time with the incorrect date '18 Nivose 3' (Jan. 7, 1795) and the groom as 'Hersint Simon' and the bride as 'Catherine Lement.'

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3. Marie-Anne Ernst was born circa 1798, and died at Grandvillars May 19, 1809. Her death entry described her parents as 'Simon Hairnchetz' and 'Catherine Rode,' weavers living at Grandvillars, and stated that Marie-Anne was 11 years old. Though the Ernst were living at Boron in 1798, no birth entry was found there. It is possible that Marie-Anne was adopted into this family. Only one Marie-Anne was born at Boron in 1798: Marie-Anne Doriant, a daughter of farm equipment operator François Doriant and Marie Bermon. François Doriant died at Boron Nov. 5, 1808.

4. Christe Ernst was born at Boron Jan. 11, 1799. We found an État Civil birth entry, but none for his death, though he presumably died before December 1800.

5. Christian/Christe Ernst was born at Boron Dec. 10, 1800, according to an État Civil birth entry. The barely legible entry names him 'Criste Herute.'

6. Anne Ernst was born at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1805, and died at Froidefontaine July 31, 1810. Her birth entry names her parents as 'Simon Ernst anabaptiste' and Catherine Rodt tisserant '[weaver], living in the Bois Lachat. The witness was 'Juste Joder,' 50, a cultivator and Anabaptist living at Grandvillars. Her death entry described her father as 'Simon Hernetz,' 42.

7. Johannes/John Ernst was born at Grandvillars Dec. 4, 1806, and died at New Hamburg, Ontario Feb. 1, 1886. He married Maria Lugebiehl [Luginbühl]. She was born at Grandvillars Feb. 7, 1805, an illegitimate daughter of 'Catherine Luqueebl,' and died at Wilmot Sept. 28, 1840. John Ernst appears on the Feb. 11, 1830 report of surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot as someone who purchased a lot on the south side of Bleam Street "under the terms of Christian Naaffziger." The document Wilmot Township Land Registry Records held in the Archives of Ontario notes a transaction where John Ernst acted as a go-between for German and French speakers. There is also a letter to Pierre Robinson in French written by 'Jean Ernst de Wilmot' with the note 'says he cannot write in English.'

He became the first postmaster of Petersburg in 1840; chairman of the Wilmot Township Board of Commissioners in 1843; councilor with the Wellington District Council 1842-50; Township Deputy Reeve in 1850; and Township Reeve (administrator) in 1851-53 and 1857-59. On June 17, 1841 he remarried to Juliana Zöger/Zeoge. She was born in Sinsheim (now in Baden-Württemberg) March 10, 1823, and died at Petersburg, Ontario Oct. 21, 1869, a daughter of Leonard Zöger and Margaretha Schmitt. In 1848 he established the Blue Moon, an inn that is now on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Its brick shell was not completed until 1855. When a new railroad line diverted traffic, Ernst sold it and moved on to other business interests. The inn is still operating as the Blue Moon Restaurant. It is located at 1677 Snyder's Road, in the village of Petersburg in the township of Wilmot. John's household appears on the 1851 census of Wilmot (the township that included Petersburg) as John Ernst, 45, French, Protestant merchant; Juliane, German, Protestant; Christian, 19; Marie, 17; Peter, 16; Katherine, 9; Barbara, 7; Henry, 5; all children born in Ontario. The 1861 census of Wilmot shows John Ernst, 53, and Julia, 38. The 1871 census of Wilmot shows John as a widower, 64. The 1881 census of Wilmot shows John Ernst, 74, France, Lutheran, no profession. He was living in the household of Frederick Holwell, the man who purchased the Blue Moon Inn from him. John, Maria, and Juliana are buried in the Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery at Petersburg. New Hamburg Independent, Feb. 11, 1886. 'John Ernst, Sr., who died at New Hamburg on the 1st inst., was born at Grand Village, near Belford, Lorraine, France, on the 4th of Dec., 1807[1806]. He emigrated to America in the year 1827, landing in New York in the same year, where he remained but one year, long enough to enable him to learn the English language somewhat. He came to Wilmot township in 1828 where he took up land, cleared his lot, and remained on the same for a long time. During his time there (1837) the cholera broke out, and while the sad epidemic lasted he helped to bury many of his neighbours, even making coffins from rough lumber and taking them to the burying ground with his ox team, and attending to the burial all by himself. After that he removed to Petersburg, where he engaged in the general store business and hotel keeping. Some time after that he owned and ran the New Dundee mills, also the tannery at Petersburg. He was a man of good judgment, and a man on whose word you could rely. Any appointment he made was sure to fulfill; he was a man of temperate habits although a hotel keeper for over 40 years. Some years ago he withdrew from actual business pursuits, but was always ready to enter into conversation on the topics of the day, as well as render any assistance where needed if at all in his power to do so. About six weeks ago he was attacked with bronchitis, then heart trouble set in from which he never rallied. Although far advanced in years he bore his sufferings with Christian fortitude and was prepared to meet his Maker. In years gone by he held different municipal offices, was Justice of the Peace and also issuer of marriage licences. He was postmaster at Petersburg for 44 years, and was one of the first postmasters in the County of Waterloo. In politics he was a staunch Conservative, and was ever ready to do a good turn for his party. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and was an old member of that body. His remains were taken to Petersburg, for interment on Wednesday Feb. 3rd. He leaves one daughter and three sons to mourn his loss; his wife preceded him some fifteen years ago.' The children of Jean/Johann/John Ernst and his first wife Maria Luquebil/Lugebiehl [Luginbühl] include:


335 The mother lived with her brother 'Christ Luquebil' on Chalenbert farm at Grandvillars. She was described as an Anabaptist servant, a daughter of the deceased 'Christ Luquebil.' The birth was witnessed by Jost/Juste Joder, 50, Anabaptist cultivator, who signed 'Jost Joder.'
village [Wilmot] contains a tannery, established in 1844, with thirty vats, owned by John Ernst, junior, who employs six hands, and turns out about twelve thousand dollars worth of leather per annum.” The 1881 census of New Hamburg shows widow Sophia Ernst, 51, Lutheran, ethnic origin German and born in Germany, with seven children between the ages 7-21 all born in Ontario. John and Sophia are buried in Riverside Cemetery at New Hamburg.

b. Christian Ernst was born at Wilmot circa 1832. His household appears on the 1881 census of New Hamburg as Christian Ernst, 49, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, hardware merchant, Lutheran; Catharine, 46, ethnic origin German, born in Ontario, Lutheran; John B. Ernst, 19, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, deputy post master, Lutheran; Henry Allan Ernst, 12, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario; and Caroline Horn, 25, ethnic origin 25, born in Ontario, servant, Lutheran. They are found in the same location in 1891 as postmaster Christian Ernst, 58, France, ethnic origin Swiss; Catherine 55, Germany; and grocer Henry Ernst, 22, born in Ontario, Lutheran. The Cemetery Index for Riverside Cemetery lists a Christian Ernst born in 1832, who died May 3, 1898.

c. Marie Ernst was born at Wilmot Dec. 28, 1834, and died at Preston, Ontario March 3, 1861. Circa 1852 she married furniture manufacturer Friedrich/Frederick Guggisberg. He was born at Uetendorf, Bern Sept. 19, 1818, and died at Preston Feb. 29, 1888, a son of Christian Guggisberg and Magdalena Mosher. On Oct. 4, 1880 he remarried to Veronika Anna Maria Hagenbuch.

d. Peter Ernst was born at Wilmot Sept. 11, 1836. On May 24, 1862 in Waterloo County he married Elisabeth Schaefer. She was born in Germany Jan. 14, 1842. Peter was alive in 1886, according to his father's obituary.

The children of Johannes/Jean/John Ernst and his second wife Juliane Zöger include:

e. Catherine Ernst was born at Petersburg circa 1841. On Oct. 25, 1861 at Wellesley in 1861 she married John William Walden, a son of William Walden and Susannah Rudd. He was 24, she was 19; the ceremony was performed by a Presbyterian minister. They are found on the 1881 census of Waterloo as physician John W. Walden, 43, ethnic origin English, Presbyterian; Catherine, 38, ethnic origin French, Presbyterian; and five children, with the entire family born in Ontario.

f. Barbara Ernst was born at Petersburg circa 1844, and appears on the 1851 census. She died before 1886.

g. Henry Ernst was born at Petersburg Sept. 14, 1846, and died Dec. 6, 1895. On May 22, 1873 at New Hamburg he married Yetta Merner. She was born in Waterloo County Nov. 24, 1853, and died June 29, 1927. The 1881 census of New Hamburg shows their household as Henry Ernst, 34, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario, book keeper, Lutheran; Jedidah, 24, ethnic origin Swiss, born in Ontario, Evangelical Association; Louisa Henrietta Ernst, 6, ethnic origin French, born in Ontario; and Herbert Walter Ernst, 4, born in Ontario. Henry and Yetta are buried in Riverside Cemetery at New Hamburg.

On Oct. 4, 1821 at Grandvillars Christian/Christe Ernst married Madeleine Jebach [only two generations earlier this surname was the Bernese 'Schlabach']. The marriage entry described 'Christe Hernets' as a weaver born at Boron, living at Grandvillars, age 20 years, nine months, and 24 days. His parents were identified as 'Simon Hernets,' weaver, and 'Catherine Roote.'

Madeleine was described as 28 years, three months, and four days old, suggesting a rough birth date of July 31, 1793. She was a daughter of the deceased Christian Jebach, who died at Le Vermont Sept. 16, 1801, and the deceased Elizabeth Hertigre [Hertig], who died at Le Vermont Sept. 16, 1802. Later entries for the births of her children call her 'Chepach'; the family Bible of her son Christian calls her 'Magdalena Chepas,'.336 She was two months pregnant at the time of her marriage.

In the spring of 1828 Christian/Christe and a very pregnant Madeleine (possibly accompanied by his cousin Anna/Anne Ernst) embarked on a journey to North America. A clue to their path is found in the État Civil index of births for Foulaine, Haut Marne – about 100 miles west of Belfort. 'Christian Harnest' and 'Madeleine Chepas' had a son Christian born there April 11, 1828.

In New York Christian and Madeleine may have reunited with his younger brother Johannes/Jean/John, who had arrived there a year earlier. He may have stayed with his older sister Catherine Ernst and her husband Christian Schlegel, who had lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan since 1825. His obituary says that he arrived at New York in 1827, and did not settle in Ontario until the following year. So it is probable that the two brothers traveled together to the German Block at Wilmot, Ontario.

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336 Le Vermont in the département of Vosges, 90 miles north of Grandvillars. There were no entries there for the 1801 and 1802 deaths. Information from other sources suggests that 'Elisabeth Hertigue' was a daughter or niece of Christian Hertig and Marie Stibi. It is also probable that 'Christian Jebach' was a son of Ulrich Schlabach of La Petite Fosse (born circa 1744) and Marie Adam (born circa 1743, widow of Christer Müller), who were married at Urbeis, Lower Alsace in 1769 and lived in the Le Hang basin near Bourg-Bruche. Ulrich Schlabach was a son of Jean Schlabach, born at Urbeis in 1711, and Catherine Reber, born at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines circa 1715.
The following is taken from ROPP, where more information on this Amish Mennonite settlement may be found.

"Christian Nafziger's agreement provided 50 acres of land for each settler. The stakeholder could apply for free ownership rights after seven years, provided a substantial dwelling was constructed and adjacent roads were cleared. Every 50-acre parcel had a 150-acre parcel behind it; many settlers assumed they would later purchase the 150 acres at discounted prices.

But the progress of settlement in Waterloo County was upset in 1828. The Canadian government gave all of the 150-acre parcels in the German Block to King's College (now the University of Toronto). The school offered to sell the parcels of land, but only at a price that was roughly double what the settlers had expected. Many settlers felt betrayed. They bided their time, hoping to meet the settling requirements, receive title to their 50-acre portions, and then profit from the sale of their lots."

At Wilmot the Ernst brothers claimed lots on adjacent parallel streets. Among their neighbors were many other figures from these genealogies, such as Andreas Ropp, Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith, Peter Donner, Christian Farny, Peter Farny, and Peter Naffziger.

On the 1830 survey map of Wilmot 'Christian Ernst' is found as the claimant on a lot on the north side of Snyder Street. His family is also found on the 1851 census of Wellesley (eight miles northwest of Wilmot) as Christian Ernst, 53, France, Mennonite farmer; Magdalene, 60, France, Mennonite; John, 24, France, Mennonite laborer; Barbara, 18, Canada, Mennonite; and Joseph, 14, Canada, Mennonite.

And there we might conclude, except for an odd twist. In later life Christe/Christian Ernst resided with a son and a daughter in central Illinois.

At the time of his death he was living at Pike, Livingston County with his daughter Barbara and son-in-law Joseph Ingold. They were neighbors to Christe/Christian's nephew Christian Schlegel (Jr.) and Salomé 'Sarah' Sommer.

_Herald of Truth_, June 1874: "April 25th, in Livingston Co., Ill., Christian Ernst, aged 73 years. Five years ago he had a stroke of the palsy, since which time he has not been able to help himself, and most of the time he spent in the chair. Yet with patience the aged brother bore his Cross, until death released him from his trials. Sermon by Noah Augspurger, and Christian Nafziger, from 1 Cor. 15."

The children of Christe/Christian Ernst and Madelaine Chepach [Schlabach] include:

1. Catherine Ernst was born at Grandvillars May 14, 1822, and died there Dec. 22, 1823. The birth entry names her parents as 'Christ Hernets' and 'Madelaine Chopolak.'
2. Catherine Ernst was born at Grandvillars Aug. 21, 1824, and died in Perth County, Ontario July 8, 1886. Her birth entry describes her parents as weaver 'Christ Hernetz,' 24, and 'Madeleine Chepach.' Circa 1843 she married Peter Brunk. He was born in 1811, and died in Perth County in 1895 They are found on the 1851 census of Wellesley as farmer Peter Brunk, 37, France. Roman Catholic; Catherine, 24, Canada, Mennonite; Christian, 7; Ellen, 6; Barbara, 5; Catherine, 3; and Margaret, 2; all children born in Canada and Mennonite.
3. Jean/John Ernst was born at Grandvillars May 15, 1826. His birth entry incorrectly names his uncle Jean Ernst as his father, but correctly names his mother as 'Madelaine Chepach' (fortunately uncle Jean had a son John in 1830, removing all doubt on this point).
4. Christian E. Ernst was born at Foulaine, Haut Marne April 11, 1828, and died at Shields, Holt County, Nebraska Nov. 9, 1900. On Feb. 21, 1854 at Wellesley, Ontario he married Susanna Kennel. She was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle Jan. 14, 1833, and died at Shields May 3, 1906, a daughter of Christophe Kennel and Madelalena

337 Another Mennonite Ernst came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Waterloo County in May 1826. According to Ezra Eby's _A Biographical History of Waterloo Township_, "John Reist was born July 18th, 1763 [and died near Kossuth Dec. 2, 1843]. On Dec. 28th, 1790, he was married to Susanna Huber who was born May 21st, 1771, and died September 15th, 1850. In May, 1826, they with their large family moved to Canada and settled in Waterloo Township, near the village of Bridgeport...To them were born twelve children..." Their daughter Susannah Reist was born at Warwick Township, Lancaster County Jan. 4, 1799, and died March 3, 1873. She may have married Henry Ernst before her family's migration to Canada. Henry was born in Pennsylvania Nov. 24, 1803, and died Nov. 20, 1878. No more is known about him than is given by Eby, and some descendants suggest the issue has been confused by alternate spellings such as 'Earnest.' However, the surname Ernst appears on a 1759 tax list for Warwick Township. They had seven children. With birth years and mates: 1. John Ernst, 1826, Sophia Rank (this John is buried in Schantz Mennonite Cemetery at Wilmot). 2. Henry Ernst, 1828. 3. Joseph Ernst, 1831, Mary Bechtel. 4. Jacob Ernst, 1835, Rebecca Hagey. 5. David Ernst, 1836, Magdalena Bechtel and Susanna Gingrich. 6. Nancy Ernst, 1838, Jacob Miller. 7. Samuel Ernst, 1841, Rebecca Bricker. Henry and Susannah appear on the 1851 census of Woolwich, Waterloo Township, Ontario.

338 Schmidtsville was surveyed in 1842, 7 miles northwest of Wilmot. It was renamed Wellesley Township with the census of 1851, and incorporated in 1852. Waterloo County was established in 1852, and took in both Wellesley and Wilmot.
Jantzi. They appear on the 1861 census of Wellesley, Ontario as Christian Arnst, 33, France, Mennonite carpenter; Susan, 28, France, Mennonite; and John, 1, Ontario, Mennonite. They are also found at Wellesley in 1871 and 1881. The 1900 census of Smithers shows them as Christian E. Ernst, born in Germany in April 1828, and Susanna, born in Germany in January 1832, both naturalized in 1884. (In 1900 Susanna's birthplace was occupied by Germany, but Christian's was not). They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska.

5. Barbara Ernst was born at Wilmot, Ontario circa 1833, and died in Livingston County Dec. 8, 1887. She is found on the 1851 census of Wellesley. On Jan. 14, 1872 in Tazewell County she married widower Joseph Ingold. He was born in Bavaria Jan. 24, 1826, an illegitimate child of Barbara Ingold (who later married Daniel Zehr, see ZEHR). His first wife was Barbara Unzicker (1844-1871), who he married in Tazewell County Nov. 8, 1863. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the first marriage as Joseph Ingold and Barbara 'Unsinger,' and the second as Joseph 'Siegold' and Barbara Ernst. The 1880 census of Pike, Livingston County shows them as Joseph Ingold, 55, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; Barbara, 44, born in Canada to French parents; Henry, 16, born in Illinois; Joseph, 13, born in Illinois; and David, 10, born in Illinois. On that census, six households later, we find minister Christian Schlegel (Jr.) and Salome' Sarah' Sommer. Herald of Truth, January 1888: "On the 8th of December in Livingston county, Ill., of dropsy, Sister Barbara Ernst, second wife of Joseph Ingold, aged 53 years. She was buried on the 11th. Services by Daniel Grieser, Chr. Zehr and John P. Schmitt. She leaves her husband and three stepsons to mourn her death."

6. Joseph Ernst was born at Petersburg/Wilmot, Ontario circa 1837. He is found on the 1851 census of Wellesley.

The 1861 census of Ellice, Perth County, Ontario (14 miles southwest of Wellesley or 14 miles west of New Hamburg) shows Christian's son John Ernest, 35, a laborer from France; Catherine, 27, from France; and Joseph, 5, Ontario.

However, another odd turn finds John in the wooded land south of Allentown Road at Elm Grove. On the 1870 census of Elm Grove, the next door neighbors of Moses Ropp and Lydia Garber appear as John Ernst, 44, laborer, France; Catherine, 38, France; and Joseph, 14, Canada. The 1880 census of Elm Grove shows farmer John Arnst, 54, France, and his wife Kathrena, 46, France. Their neighbors still included Moses Ropp, who would leave within a few years to re-establish his saw mill business in Kentucky.

We could not find dates of death or burial places for John and Magdalena, but these may turn up when his father Christian's place of burial in Livingston County is determined.

**Joseph Ernst** was born in Ontario May 26, 1856, and died June 16, 1933. He married Ella Berry in Tazewell County Dec. 22, 1875. She was born Aug. 31, 1858, and died March 13, 1913. They are buried in Highland Cemetery, Ottawa, Franklin County, Kansas.

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339 Christophe Kennel and Magdalena Jantzi are shown on the 1861 census of Wilmot as Christian Kennel, 62, France, Mennonite yeoman; Magdalena, 60, Mennonite; Joseph, 17, Ontario; Veronica, 16, Ontario; and Daniel, 13, Ontario. Christian was born at Sotzeling, Moselle March 16, 1800, and died at Wilmot May 12, 1871, who he married in Tazewell County she married widower Joseph Ingold. He was born in Bavaria Jan. 24, 1826, an illegitimate child of Barbara Ingold (who later married Daniel Zehr, see ZEHR). His first wife was Barbara Unzicker (1844-1871), who he married in Tazewell County Nov. 8, 1863. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the first marriage as Joseph Ingold and Barbara 'Unsinger,' and the second as Joseph 'Siegold' and Barbara Ernst. The 1880 census of Pike, Livingston County shows them as Joseph Ingold, 55, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; Barbara, 44, born in Canada to French parents; Henry, 16, born in Illinois; Joseph, 13, born in Illinois; and David, 10, born in Illinois. On that census, six households later, we find minister Christian Schlegel (Jr.) and Salome' Sarah' Sommer. Herald of Truth, January 1888: "On the 8th of December in Livingston county, Ill., of dropsy, Sister Barbara Ernst, second wife of Joseph Ingold, aged 53 years. She was buried on the 11th. Services by Daniel Grieser, Chr. Zehr and John P. Schmitt. She leaves her husband and three stepsons to mourn her departure."

340 The Gospel Herald, November 1909: "Joseph Ingold was born in Bavaria, Germany Jan. 24, 1826; died Nov. 5, 1909, at the home of his son Joseph, near Flanagan, Ill., where he spent the last eighteen years of his life; aged 83 y. 9 m. 11 d. In his early youth he united with the A. M. Church, and was faithful to the end. In 1863 he was united in holy matrimony with Barbara Unzicker. To this union were born three sons. In 1871 his wife departed to the spirit world. In 1872 he was married to Barbara Ernst. She preceded him to the spirit world in 1887. He leaves to mourn his departure three sons, twenty-one grandchildren and many friends. Funeral services were held at the Waldo A. M. Church, conducted by the brethren, John Birky and D. W. Slagel. Interment in the cemetery nearby. Peace to his ashes."

341 Joseph Ernst was born at Petersburg/Wilmot, Ontario circa 1837. He is found on the 1851 census of Wellesley.
Their household is found on the 1880 federal census of Spring Hill, Kansas, and on the 1895 state census of Appanoose, Kansas. At Appanoose they appear as Joseph Ernst, 38, born in Canada; Ellen, 36, born in Illinois; Blanche, 15; Maggie E., 13; J.A. (male), 11; Clara W., 9; Anna V., 7; Benjamin E., 5; Bessie A., 3 (all children born in Kansas); and mother-in-law Nancy Berry, 61, born in Kentucky.

342 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index identifies him as Joseph Ernest. Ella's family is found on the 1860 census of Downs, McLean County as William Berry, 37, Virginia; Nancy, 30, Kentucky; Albert, 4, Illinois; and Ellen, 2, Illinois. Albert and his family were living with Joseph and Ella/Ellen on the 1880 census.
Klopfenstein of Frutigen

**SCHLEGEL** gives historical background on the Territoire de Belfort, particularly on the two sieges of the fort there.

In Canton Bern a *Klopfenstein* is a stone mason or quarryman.

**Hans Klopfenstein** was baptized at Frutigen, Canton Bern Jan. 11, 1682 or 1683. Frutigen is a mountain pass village 10 miles south of Spiez, a village on the southwest shore of Lake Thun. On Feb. 2, 1701 or 1702 he married Elizabeth Schmid. She was baptized at Frutigen Nov. 6, 1681, a daughter of Peter Schmid and Verene Graber.

**Peter/Pierre Klopfenstein** was baptized at Frutigen, Bern Jan. 11, 1703, and died on the grounds of St. Nicolas chapel at Rougemont in the Territoire de Belfort Aug. 14, 1766. 343

According to historian Robert Baecher, Peter/Pierre migrated from Frutigen to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, and found work with Christ Kropf on his farm Waldner de Freunstein at Haute Broque. There he chose adult baptism. At Belverne (10 miles west of Belfort) in 1727 he married Anna Luginbühl. She was born in 1701, and died on St. Nicholas Feb. 25, 1756, a daughter of Christ Luginbühl and Anna Gilgen.

According to historian Robert Baecher, the following year a Kauffman family at Guewenheim (adjacent to Bourbach-le-Bas) informed Peter/Pierre that a farm called Niederwil had become available. It was located on the slope between Bourbach-le-Bas (the lower) and Bourbach-le-Haut (the upper), Upper Alsace. In 1830 the farm was leased by the abbey of Masevaux to Adam Bürer. Bürer took on Peter/Pierre as a manager.

The Klopfenstein family tended cattle and produced cheese and butter. Following Anna's death in 1756, Peter/Pierre remarried to Marie Wiederkehr. The children of Peter/Pierre and his first wife Anna Luginbühl born on Niederwil farm include:

1. **Jean Klopfenstein** was born Sept. 8, 1729, and died at Belfort Oct. 29, 1796.
2. Anne Klopfenstein was born March 13, 1731, and died at Belfort Aug. 23, 1804. On Jan. 30, 1757 at Rougemont she married Christian Muller. He was born at Florimont March 30, 1736, and died at Rougemont March 3, 1817.
3. Madeleine Klopfenstein was born April 15, 1732, and died at Meroux (four miles southeast of Belfort) Oct. 25, 1800. On Nov. 10, 1747 she married Nicholas Planck. He was born at Meroux Jan. 15, 1723 or 1724, a son of Joseph Plank and Barbara Rich.
4. Pierre Klopfenstein was born Dec. 2, 1733, and died at Bourogne (9 miles southeast of Belfort) Jan. 13, 1801. On Nov. 30, 1753 at Bourogne he married Marie Engel. She was born at Bourgone May 10, 1734, and died there Feb. 10, 1814, a daughter of elder Nicolas Engel and Barbara Balsiger. Peter/Pierre was ordained as a minister in 1777, and followed Nicolas Engel as elder of the Münsterol/Blumbergerwald congregation. Peter Klopfenstein and Michel Müller represented the congregation at assemblies of ministers of Essingen in 1759 and 1779.
5. Christen/Christian Klopfenstein was born March 15, 1736, and died on the grounds of St. Nicolas chapel at Rougemont Feb. 28, 1757. On Nov. 15, 1756 he married Barbara Rich. She was born circa 1735, a daughter of Jean Rich and Barbara Richard.
6. Marie Klopfenstein was born May 15, 1738, and died at Montbéiali, Doubs Feb. 8, 1804. On Dec. 12, 1756 on Niederwil farm she married Jacob Eicher. He was born circa 1736, and died at Montbéiali April 8, 1799, a son of Jacob Eicher and Katharina/Catherine Graber. Their descendants came to Elm Grove in 1867 (see EICHER).
7. Michel Klopfenstein was born Sept. 30, 1740, and died at Rougemont Jan. 25, 1817. On April 19, 1763 at Montbéiali he married Anne Marie Richard. She was born there Sept. 28, 1742, and died at Rougemont May 23, 1817, a daughter of Michel Richard and Catherine Schindler. When they co-leased La Maie farm at Menoncourt with older brother Jean in 1793, Michael/Michel became minister/elder of the congregation there. Michel attested to the birth of future Illinois settler Christian Schlegel for administrative purposes related to his marriage.
8. Catherine Klopfenstein was born Nov. 15, 1743, and died at Rougemont May 4, 1782. On April 19, 1763 at Rougemont she married Christian Rich. He was born there circa 1738, and died in 1799, a son of Jean Rich and Barbara Richard.

**Jean Klopfenstein** was born on Niederwil farm at Bourbach-le-Haut, Upper Alsace Sept. 8, 1729, and died at Belfort in the Territoire de Belfort (28 miles southwest of Niederwil farm) Oct. 30, 1796. On April 20, 1750 he married Anna Graber. She was born June 14, 1730, and died at Belfort Oct. 26, 1796, a daughter of Daniel Graber and Catherine Eicher.

They leased the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont (7 miles southwest of Niederwil farm) with Jean's younger brother Michel.

343 In 1893 Rougemont and some smaller localities were merged to become Rougemont-le-Château.
As noted in SCHLEGEL, some time in the 1780s the tolerant congregations east of Belfort fell into disagreement with their parent congregation at Montbéliard. This has been seen as a natural rivalry between two families from the same Bernese village – the Richen and Kloenstein families of Frutigen.

The property at Rougemont was nationalized during the French Revolution. In 1793 the Klopfenstein family relocated onto La Maie farm at Menoncourt, a place where Mennonites had held meetings since 1780. Jean co-leased the farm with younger brother Michel, who became minister/elder of the congregation there.

Their children born on the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont include:

1. Catherine Klopfenstein was born March 28, 1753, and died at Belfort Jan. 10, 1802. She married Jean Joder.
2. Jean Klopfenstein was born Feb. 28, 1755, and died at Belfort Sept. 8, 1840. He married Catherine Richard.
3. Christian Klopfenstein was born June 25, 1758, and died at Rougemont Oct. 7, 1834. He married Anne Marie Wenger.
4. Michel Klopfenstein was born Oct. 6, 1762, and died at Belfort Feb. 10, 1830. He married Catherine Kauffman and Elisabeth Stauffer.
5. Jacques Klopfenstein was born May 12, 1764, and died at Belfort Sept. 23, 1843. He married Anna Baecher. They developed La Maie farm into an exemplary agricultural system. They restored over-cultivated soil, varied his crops, and experimented with fruit tree hybrids. On Sept. 30, 1810 a representative of the Society of Agriculture in Paris came to La Maie to present Jacques with the l’Étoile de Or (star of gold) national award for civilian accomplishment. The ceremony for Jacques was attended by his uncle, elder Michel Klopfenstein. The representative toasted all Anabaptists on behalf of the Emperor, the Empress, and the Minister of the Interior. This further entitled Jacques to take a seat as a Bonapartist member of the Belfort municipal council, a position he held until the Restoration five years later. In 1812 Jacques published the first of several yearly almanacs called l’Anabaptiste ou le cultivateur par expérience, or The Anabaptist or Experienced Farmer. The last edition was published by his son in 1841. The almanacs helped to introduce French farmers to crop rotation, methods of drainage, and the use of manure as a fertilizer. Jacques Klopfenstein died at the town of Belfort Sept. 23, 1843.
6. Daniel Klopfenstein was born June 12, 1766, and died at Sevenans (two miles south of Belfort) April 15, 1830. He married Anne Marie Reis.
7. Joseph Klopfenstein was born Feb. 16, 1772, and died at Belfort July 14, 1939.

Joseph Klopfenstein was born on the grounds of the chapel St. Nicolas at Rougemont Feb. 16, 1772, and died at Belfort July 14, 1939.

On June 12, 1792 on Chalembert farm at Grandvillars (13 miles southeast of Belfort) he married Madeleine Reis. She died at Belfort Feb. 6, 1798. They had one daughter, Madeleine.

On April 11, 1799 at Belfort he remarried to Marie Anne Stauffer. She was born at Schlambé, Masevaux, Upper Alsace April 15, 1781, a daughter of Christian Stauffer and Anne Nafziger. Their civil marriage entry was witnessed by Michel Klopfenstein, 37, and Jacques Klopfenstein, 35 (brothers of the groom); Jean Stauffer, 26 (brother of the bride); and Jacques Joder, 35 (uncle of the bride); all four witnesses lived at Belfort.

Their children born at Belfort include:

1. Jean/Johannes/John Klopfenstein was born Feb. 19, 1802, and died in Woodford County March 15, 1865.
2. Christoph Klopfenstein was born Feb. 22, 1804.
3. Elisabeth Klopfenstein was born Dec. 5, 1806.
4. Marie Klopfenstein was born Jan. 25, 1809, and died at Rougemont March 7, 1814.
5. Joseph Klopfenstein was born April 8, 1812. On Sept. 14, 1833 he married his cousin Anne Klopfenstein. She was born Nov. 18, 1812, a daughter of Michel Klopfenstein and his first wife Catherine Kauffman.
6. Pierre Klopfenstein was born Aug. 17, 1818, and died at Vesoul March 28, 1861. He married Catherine Stoll.
7. Michael Klopfenstein was born June 20, 1820.
8. Marie Anne Klopfenstein was born Sept. 20, 1825. On July 5, 1845 at Belfort she married her cousin-once-removed Joseph Muller/Miller. He was born at Belfort Feb. 9, 1822, a son of Pierre Muller and Elisabeth Barbara Klopfenstein (Elisabeth Barbara was a daughter of Jacques Klopfenstein and Anna Baecher).

Oldest son Jean/Johannes/John Klopfenstein was born at Belfort Feb. 19, 1802.

On Aug. 21, 1828 at Belfort he married his cousin Catherine Klopfenstein. She was born at Belfort Jan. 6, 1811, a daughter of Michel Klopfenstein and Catherine Kauffman. Their civil marriage entry stated that they were 26 and 18 years of age, and the groom was a cultivator like his father.

They had three children on the street Faubourg de France in the town of Belfort 1829-32; then two children while living in the Normanvillars forest at Florimont (20 miles southeast of Belfort) in 1834 and 1837; then one at Beaucourt (14 miles south of Belfort) in 1840; and two in their old neighborhood at Belfort in 1843 and 1846.
Dominique Dreyer's *Emigrants Haut-Rhinois en Amérique 1800-1870* states that 53-year-old farmer Jean Klopfenstein of Florimont applied for a passport for himself and his family at Boron in the *Territoire de Belfort* April 14, 1841. He gave his destination as New York.

They immigrated after March 30, 1846 (the birthdate of daughter Magdalena), in 1846 (per the obituary of daughter Catherine) or 1847 (per the obituary of son Joseph). They initially settled in Stark County, Ohio, the home of John's cousin Christian Klopfenstein.

**STARK COUNTY**

In 1822 Michael Schlunegger (1792-1879) purchased land in Washington Township. Other families followed, and Schlunegger erected a log house on his farm to serve as a meeting house.

Schlunegger, who was born in the city of Bern, was married to Barbara Conrad (1788-1876) of Montandon, Doubs. Montandon is adjacent to Maiche, the birthplace of the Ramseyers noted in the next portion of text.

John had a cousin who settled in Stark County well before his arrival and became a permanent resident.

The civil records of Rougemont show a marriage entry dated Feb. 9, 1808. The groom was described as cultivator Christe Klopfenstein, 23, a son of Rougemont residents cultivator Christe Klopfenstein, 54, and Marie Wenger. The bride was described as Elisabeth Müller, 17, a daughter of St. Nicolas. Rougemont residents cultivator Michel Müller, 52, and Elisabethe Richert. Witnesses included the fathers of the bride and groom; cultivator Jean Klopfenstein, 55, uncle of the groom; and shopkeeper [Fr. *proprietaire*] Michel Klopfenstein, 67; all from Rougemont. The groom signed his name 'Christe Klopfenstein;' and the bride signed her name 'Barbara Müller'; the groom's father signed 'Christen Klopfenstein.'

The 1840 census of Nimishillen shows the household of Christian Klopfenstein. The 1850 census shows Christ Kloppenstein, 70, Fr.; Barbaray, 62, Fr.; Catharine, 24, Fr.; Mary, 17, O.; and Fanny, 16, O. The Amish Cemetery at Louisville, Stark County has headstones for Christian Klopfinston, who died Nov. 2, 1858, age 87 years, three months, and eight days (thus born circa Aug. 25, 1870, which disagrees with the age stated on his marriage entry; his longevity may have been calculated using the age found on the 1850 census), and Barbara Klopfinstein, who died Feb. 5, 1853 (thus born circa Nov. 12, 1791).

Christian also had a neighbor who had been his brother-in-law. The civil records of Rougemont hold a marriage entry dated June 23, 1807. The groom is described as André Bacher, 18, a son of Jean Bacher and Catherine Guery [Görig] of Clmont, Lower Alsace. The bride was Christian's sister, described as Anne Klopfenstein, 24, a daughter of cultivator Chris Klopfenstein and Marie Venguer [Wenger] of Rougemont. Witnesses included Christ Klopfenstein, 52, father of the bride; Christ Klopfenstein, 21, brother of the bride; uncle Jean Klopfenstein, 54; and Michel Klopfenstein, 69. The groom signed 'Andreas Bächer.'

However, Anne Klopfenstein died Oct. 14, 1824. André remarried to Barbara Elizabeth Frey April 11, 1826, and this was the wife who accompanied him to Ohio. In Ohio he would be known as Andrew; his headstone in the Amish Cemetery at Stark County says he died April 10, 1862.

Andrew/André/Andrew Bächer/Baecher/Becher and his first wife Anne Klopfenstein had a son André who was born at Rougemont April 29, 1808 (his headstone says 1810), and died in Stark County March 9, 1845. He would be known in Ohio as Andrew Becher. On Dec. 15, 1835 in Stark County he married Maria/Mary Ramseyer. She was born April 10, 1812 (her headstone gives the birthdate 1813), and died in Stark County Jan. 21, 1846; a daughter of Johannes Ramseyer/Ramseyer and Barbara Kaufman. Thus she was a sister to Nicholas Ramseyer, who passed through Stark County before resettling in Woodford County (see RAMSEYER). They are buried in Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County.

According to *Mennonites of the Ohio and Eastern Conference*, "The prominent family names of the early years were Conrad, Schöneuger, King, Miller, Sommers, Schmucker, Becher, Krabill, Ramseyer, Graber, Klopfenstein, Linder, and Maurer. These families came directly from Alsace-Lorraine territory in France, and from the Canton of Bern in Switzerland. Their chief reason for coming to the United States was to avoid the military draft during the post-Napoleonic era in Europe."

In the spring of 1850 Jean/Johannes/John Klopfenstein and his wife Catherine Klopfenstein resettled in Woodford County. They are shown on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer John Klopfenstein, 48; Catharine, 40; Joseph, 21; Michael, 16; Nancy, 15; Peter, 14; John, 11; Catharine, 8; and Magdalene, 5; all born in France. (We suspect that Nancy was a neighbor, Nancy Gingery). The family of Nicholas Ramseyer is found on the same census page.

They appear on the 1860 census of Greene, Woodford County as farmer John Klopfenstein, 60, Bavaria; Catherine, 50, Bavaria; farm laborer Peter, 23, Bavaria; farm laborer John, 19, Bavaria; Catherine, 16, Bavaria; Lana, 14, Bavaria; and Mary, 4, Illinois.

Jean/Johannes/John died in Woodford County March 15, 1865. He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery as 'Johannes Klopfenstein.'

The 1880 census of Olio, Woodford County shows Catherine as a 70-year-old widow born in France, living with daughter Maria, 24. She died Dec. 17, 1884, and was buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland.
Their children include:

1. **Joseph Klopfenstein** was born at Belfort July 31, 1829, and died at Eureka Nov. 12, 1909. His civil birth entry said his parents were ages 27 and 18½; it was witnessed by grandfather Joseph Klopfenstein, 57, and Pierre Muller, 39.

2. Marie Anne Klopfenstein was born at Belfort May 10, 1831, and died Nov. 7, 1875. Her civil birth entry created the following day was witnessed by grandfather Joseph Klopfenstein, 60, and Antoine Widemann, 37. On April 20, 1852 in Tazewell County she married Benjamin Schlegel/Slagle. He was born in New York City in May of 1831, and died Feb. 14, 1906, a son of Christian Schlegel and Catherine Ernst. See SCHLEGEI for more on this couple.

3. Christophe Klopfenstein was born at Belfort July 20, 1832, and died there Nov. 23, 1842. His civil birth entry was witnessed by Joseph Klopfenstein, 21, and Antoine Widemann, 38.

4. Michel/Michael Klopfenstein was born in the Normanvillars forest at Florimont July 4, 1834, and died the same day. His civil birth entry describes his parents as cultivator Jean Klopfenstein dit le gros, 32, and cultivtor Catherine Klopfenstein. 23. It was witnessed by Joseph Stauff fils [Joseph Stauffer Junior], 31.

5. Pierre/Peter Klopfenstein was born at Florimont April 30, 1837, and died Dec. 28, 1863. His civil birth entry describes his parents as farmer Jean Klopfenstein dit le grand, 35, and Catherine Klopfenstein 26, living in the forest of Normanvillars at Florimont. One witness was Joseph Stauff fils, 35. On Jan. 28, 1862 in Woodford County he married Mary Sommer. She was born at Montgomery Township July 28, 1842, and died Dec. 1, 1929, a daughter of Peter Sommer and Catherine Schertz. He is buried in Slabtown Cemetery, where his headstone says he died Dec. 28, 1863 at 26 years, 8 months. She is buried at Gridley.

6. Jean/John Klopfenstein was born at Beaucourt Sept. 11, 1840, and died at Gibson City, Ford County July 20, 1916. His civil birth entry describes his parents as farmer Jean Klopfenstein, 38, and Catherine Klopfenstein, 29, residents of Beaucourt. On Jan. 24, 1867 in Tazewell County he married Elizabeth Burkey. She was born in Tazewell County Dec. 3, 1846, and died at Gibson City Feb. 12, 1938, a daughter of Christian Burkey and Marie/Mary Stalter. They are buried in Drummer Cemetery at Gibson City.

7. Catherine Klopfenstein was born at Belfort Jan. 9, 1843, and died March 5, 1917. Her civil birth entry describes her parents as Jean Klopfenstein, 41, and Catherine Klopfenstein, 32, living on the street Fauburg de france at belfort; one witness was Pierre Muller, 53. On March 22, 1866 at Eureka, Woodford County she married Christian Burkey. He was born at Memphis, Tennessee Feb. 2, 1843, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 4, 1929, a son of Christian Burkey and Marie/Mary Stalter. His obituary: "Christian Burkey was born February 2, 1843, at Memphis, Tenn., and was called from time to eternity at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., near Milford, Nebraska, March 4, 1929. He was privileged to go beyond the 86th milestone, having reached the age of 86 years, 1 month and 2 days. While only an infant he went with his parents to Tremont, Illinois where they located after they completed their immigration journey from Germany. Here he grew to young manhood. On March 22, 1866, he was united in marriage to Catherine Klopfenstein at Eureka, Illinois. In the year 1880, they moved to Washington, Ill. where they made their home until 1893, at which time they came to Nebraska, locating on a farm near Milford. Later he made his home in Milford until the death of his companion March 5, 1917. Since that time he has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., one mile northeast of Milford. For about fifteen years his health has been failing and at times he has suffered considerably, but he always took it patiently with his faith centered upon God, the Father. He often expressed the desire to be with his Lord in that eternal home. Mr. Burkey was converted when a young man and united with the Defenseless Mennonite Church of which communion he was a faithful member until his death. His Christian faith manifested itself in external acts and loyalty to his church. In the early days when churches were scattered he with his family often drove the distance of twenty miles on the Lord's Day to attend the worship services. This faithfulness on the part of the father also had its effect on the family in leading them to accept Christ and to render Christian service. Three daughters became missionaries to China and one son a minister of the Gospel. Two of the daughters who were missionaries went to their eternal reward while in China. Also one son preceded him in death. Those who remain to mourn his departure are: Five children, Rev. Samuel D., Pasaden,a Calif., Mrs. J. C. Ritkey, Moses K., Mrs. Joseph Rediger, Jr., and Benjamin E. all of Milford. Three brothers, Valentine of Washington, Illinois, Henry of Yukon, Okla. and John W. of Milford; three sisters, Elizabeth Klopfenstein, Fanny Blume and Barbara Neimyer, all of Illinois; fifteen grandchildren, three great grandchildren, many other relatives and a host of friends. Funeral at M.B.C. church by Rev. N.E.Duskee and Rev. Wm. O.Rembelt. Interment at Fairview Cemetery." Milford, Nebraska obituary: "Mrs. Catherine Burkey, wife of Christian Burkey, born in Belfort, France on Jan. 9, 1843, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Klopfenstein and with her parents came to America in the year 1846. After living in Ohio for a few years, they came to Eureka, Illinois, where she grew to young womanhood, and in the year 1866, was united in marriage to Christian Burkey. To this union were born eight children, four sons and four daughters, Samuel D. of Peoria, Illinois, Amelia of Sunlinkow, China; Moses K. and Benjamin E. and Mrs. Emma Rediger of this vicinity. Katie and Lydia had gone to China as missionaries and both died in the year 1903. Joseph died in his youth at the age of 13. Father and Mother Burkey came to Nebraska in 1893, where they lived a peaceful life until the day of her death, March 5, 1917. Her age was 74 years, one month and 18 days. Besides her bereaved husband and children, she leaves 14 grandchildren and many friends to mourn her departure. She became identified with the Defenseless Mennonite Church in 1863, and was a faithful member until her death."

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8. Magdalena/Madeleine/Lana Klopfenstein was born at Belfort March 30, 1846, and died at Phoenix, Arizona Dec. 14, 1914. On Feb. 21, 1864 in Woodford County she married Andreas/Andrew Sutter. He was born on the Forsthof estate at Bergen, Germany May 14, 1842, and died at Phoenix, Arizona Feb. 8, 1921, a son of Johannes Sutter and Barbara Oesch. They are found on the 1870 census of Fairbury, Livingston County as farmer Andrew Sutter, 27, Bavaria; Magdalena, 24, France; John, 4, Illinois; Jospeh, 2, Illinois; William, five months, Illinois; and farm laborer Dan Unzicker, 19, Ohio. They are buried in Good Hope Cemetery in Woods County, Oklahoma.

9. Maria/Mary E. Klopfenstein was born at Greene, Montgomery Township, Woodford County Oct. 16, 1856, and died at Nickerson, Kansas Feb. 4, 1900. On June 26, 1885 in Tazewell County she became the second wife of John D. Yaggy. He was born at Canton, Stark County, Ohio Aug. 11, 1853, and died at Nickerson Sept. 20, 1905, a son of John Yaggy and Anna Schlunegger. His first wife had been Mary Gerig. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Sterling, Kansas.

Joseph Klopfenstein was born in the town of Belfort in the Territoire de Belfort July 31, 1829. On Feb. 26, 1856 in Woodford County he married Maria/Mary Yotty. She was born in Bavaria April 3, 1836, a daughter of Katharina/Catherine Stalter and stepdaughter of Chrétien Jordi/Christian Yotty. They ran a butcher shop at Farnisville or Slabtown (on opposite banks of the Mackinaw River at the center of Montgomery Township). History of Woodford County: "Joseph Klopfenstein opened a butcher shop there in 1858 and also had a grocery in connection with it. He came to Eureka twice a week, and supplied that vicinity with meat. It appears strange to the reader of the present day that Eureka should have at one time depended on the meat market of Slabtown for its meat. He was frequently able to supply his customers with venison that Samuel Finley had procured for him. Mr. Klopfenstein made this trip for two years."

In 1864 they relocated at Eureka, where Joseph became a butcher and hotel keeper. The 1870 census of Eureka shows butcher Joseph Clepinetine, 40, France; Mary, 34, Baden; Catharine, 13; Mary, 1; Joseph, 1; and Julia, two months; all children born in Illinois. They can also be found on the 1880 census of Eureka as hotel keeper Jos. Klopfenstein, 50, born in France to French parents; Mary, 44, born in Bavaria to Bavarian parents; and four children, all born in Illinois. Although they lived at Peoria for two years (1885-87), they returned to Eureka. Joseph died at Eureka Nov. 12, 1909.

Gospel Herald, December 1909: "Joseph Klopfenstein was born in Upper Alsace, City of Belfort, France, on July 31, 1829; died on July 31, 1909; aged 80 y. 4 m. 8 d. In 1847 he emigrated with his parents to America, settling in Stark Co., O. In 1850 he came to Illinois, locating in Woodford Co. On Feb 26, 1856, he was united in marriage to Mary Yotty/Yordy. In 1864 they moved to Eureka, where, with the exception of two years spent in Peoria, he has since lived and conducted a butcher shop until of late years. He was the father of five children, Kate, Annie, and Christian preceded him to the great beyond. His daughter, Josephine Carney of Chicago, and son Joseph of Eureka, remain to mourn his departure with their mother. He united with the Mennonite Church at the age of fourteen years and has lived an upright, honest life. Funeral services were held at the Methodist church in Eureka, on Dec. 11, by Bro Andrew Schrock, using as his text, Heb. 9:27, 28."

Maria/Mary Yotty died at Eureka Jan. 24, 1926.

Woodford County Journal, Jan. 28, 1926: "Another one of the earliest pioneer women, and, though born in a foreign land, was probably the oldest person in point of time spent in Woodford county at the time of her death, was called to her reward last Sunday morning about two o'clock – Mrs. Mary Yotty Klopfenstein, being at the time of her death almost ninety years of age. Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Yotty, was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 3, 1836. When she was two years of age with her parent, one sister and four brothers, she came to the United States [in 1838 she had only one older brother] and they settled on a farm in Germantown, west of Metamora in 1838, known then as Black Partridge. There the subject of this sketch grew to young womanhood, and was married to Joseph Klopfenstein in 1856, in a little brick church west of Metamora, long since torn down. Soon after their marriage Mr. Klopfenstein opened a butcher shop in Farnesville, known to later generations as Slabtown [actually Farnisville was on the south bank, Slabtown was the north bank of the Mackinaw River], on the Mackinaw river near the present home of Senator Lantz... 'Grandma' says the timber lands along the Mackinaw abounded with wolves at that time, and one morning when she went to the horse stable to get some cobs there was a large wolf lying in the horse manger. Not many years later they moved to Eureka, which has since been her home, with exception of two years (1885-87) spent in Peoria...At the age of twelve Mrs. Klopfenstein joined the Mennonite church and has remained a faithful member. She was always a very active and happy woman, and one to whom people gave their trust and confidence. She was always willing to help and could be relied upon – a real friend in time of need or distress. Her many kind and thoughtful acts will long be remembered. In the early days the calling of a physician was of the simple stepping to a telephone that it is today, and to many families Grandma Klopfenstein was assistant.

344 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as Andrew Suder and Magdalene Klopfenstein.
345 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the bride as Mary Joder.
physician, nurse, helper and friend. Of late years she has not been able to go out so much, but her heart was always with the afflicted. About two years ago she suffered an attack of heart trouble, from which she never fully recovered, although in her last illness she was bedfast only about two weeks. Realizing that her earthly career was fast drawing to a close, she made her own funeral arrangements, choosing the minister, the pallbearers and the songs to be used. The funeral service was held at the M.E. church in Eureka on Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Ezra Yordy of the Mennonite church assisted by Rev. Andrew Schrock and Rev. W.L. Barnes. A quartet composed of Mesers Lester Smith, Ed Smith, Walter Yordy and Walter Zook, rendered the hymns she had chosen. The pallbearers were Henry Sauder, David Ulrich, Jacob Garber, Chris Garber, Joseph Waggoner and John R. Resser. Burial was in Olio Cemetery, where her loved ones gone on before are awaiting the resurrection.” Gospel Herald, March 1926: "Mary Yotty was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 3, 1836; died Jan. 24, 1926, at her home in Eureka, Ill. She came to America with her parents at the age of 2 years, locating in Woodford Co., Ill. Feb. 26, 1856, she was united in marriage with Joseph Klopfenstein. In 1864 they moved to Eureka, Ill. To this union were born 5 children (Joseph, Josephine — still living — and Katie, Anna, and an infant preceding their mother in death). Her husband preceded her in death December, 1909. She became a Christian in youth and united with the Mennonite Church. Before answering her summons she gave testimony that her desire was to go home and be with the Lord. She lived to a ripe old age, and while among us her usefulness was appreciated. Funeral conducted in the home by J. L. Harnish; at the church by W. S. Barnes and Ezra B. Yordy.”

They are buried under a joint headstone in Olio Township Cemetery at Eureka.

**Eicher of Diessbach**

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.

Ordinarily this family would be outside our parameters — they arrived after 1855 — but this information is included to answer the specific questions of a descendant. **Jacob Eicher** was born in Canton Bern circa 1693, and died before 1755. 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** is thought to have been born at Diessbach, Bern (just above Steffisburg) circa 1736, and died at Montbéliard April 9, 1799. On Dec. 12, 1756 he married Marie Klopfenstein (her dates were noted earlier).

Their son **Christian Eicher** was born circa 1765-1772, and died at Aux Gouttes, Montbéliard Dec. 16, 1811. On April 24, 1798 on Grange la Dame he married Anneli Riche. Anneli was born March 10, 1774, and died Nov. 11, 1845, a daughter of Jacob Riche and Marie Weiss. Grange la Dame is a farm at Grand Charmont, which touches the northeast corner of Montbéliard. Anneli remarried to David Marchand at Montbéliard Aug. 20, 1816.

Christian and Anneli’s son **Pierre/Peter Eicher** 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) include:

1. Christian Eicher was born Sept. 8, 1833, 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 she married Joseph Springer at Ellice, Ontario (now Ward in Perth East). 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 there July 31, 1842.

Their son **Pierre/Peter Eicher** was born at Willer, Upper Alsace (three miles southwest of Jettingen) March 27, 1837.

On May 28, 1860 at Réchésy he married Véronique Stocki/Veronica Stucky. She was born at Waldighofen, Upper Alsace (three miles below Willer) March 26 or 27, 1837, a daughter of Christian/Chrétien Stucky and Anna Maria Aeschliman.
Peter and Veronica had one child in France, Catherine/Katharine, born at Réchésy July 6, 1860. Réchésy 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 "rejoins son frère 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, 7 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 Pettay. She was born at Mackinaw June 13, 1877, and died at Peoria June 6, 1972, a daughter of William Pettay and Elizabeth Stout.

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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.
Ramseys: Ramseier of Eggiwil

In Canton Bern a Ramsei was a raven's meadow. *Heimatort* or legal points of origin of this surname include Eggiwil, Bowil, Lauaperswil, Rüderswil, and Trub. Ulrich Ramseier and Barbara Stauffer were the parents of Christen Ramseier. He was born at Mühleberg near Eggiwil Sept. 22, 1700, and died in 1768. He married Edith Balsinger. She was born at Signau, Canton Bern circa 1718.

Their son Isaak Ramseier was born at Eggiwil circa 1747. On Jan. 4, 1744 he married Anna Augspurger. She was born at Grosshochstetten, Canton Bern in 1754, and died June 5, 1818.

Johannes Ramseier/Ramseyer was born at Eggiwil April 3, 1780, and died July 4, 1853. On March 30, 1800 at Les Ponts-de-Martel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, he married Barbara Kauffman. She was born at Florimont in the Territoire de Belfort in 1777, and died in Stark County, Ohio in 1844, a daughter of Peter Kauffman and Barbara Klopfenstein.

Maiche is an isolated community in the administrative district [Fr. *arrondissement*] of Montbéliard, in Doubs department, in the Franche-Comté region of eastern France. It is surrounded by pine forest. Their children born at Maiche include:

1. Johannes Ramseyer was born May 28, 1801, and died at Mooslargue, Upper Alsace Dec. 10, 1839. On Oct. 12, 1822 at Mooslargue he married Maria Anna Klopfenstein. She was born April 29, 1800, a daughter of Christian Klopfenstein and Catherine Rich. They farmed at Mooslargue.

2. Elizabeth Ramseyer was born June 15, 1803, and died in Allen County, Indiana in 1860. On Nov. 24, 1844 in Stark County, Ohio she married Michael Zehr (a double ceremony with her younger brother Peter). He was born at Robertsau near Strasbourg June 15, 1803, and died in Adams County, Indiana Sept. 5, 1855, a son of Michael Zehr and Barbara Bachmann. In 1858 she remarried to Joseph Schwartz, who was born at St. Hippolite (adjacent to Maiche) May 8, 1813, a son of Johannes Schwartz and Maria Ramseyer.

3. Anna Ramseyer was born May 1, 1804, and died at Berne, Adams County, Indiana July 25, 1872. On Feb. 20, 1827 at Belfort she married Hans Schwartz. He was born at Mancenans (20 miles southwest of Montbéliard) Nov. 11, 1798, and died in Adams County, Indiana Dec. 30, 1883. They farmed on Soyere farm near St. Hippolyte (20 miles south of Montbéliard, adjacent to Maiche). Hans was deacon of the congregation there. Their sons Hans and Joseph sailed from Le Havre on the *Trembul*, and arrived at New York Feb. 2, 1852. Their son Christian sailed from Le Havre on the *Trenton*, and arrived at New York April 10, 1852. That year their parents and siblings immigrated. By fall they were reunited in Allen County, Indiana.

4. Barbara Ramseyer was born Feb. 6, 1806, and died in Marshall County, Iowa in February 1874. She married Joseph Rich. He was born in Canton Bern June 6, 1800, and died there in 1853.

5. Marguerite Ramseyer was born March 2, 1808.

6. Catherine Ramseyer was born Feb. 19, 1810, and died in Stark County, Ohio circa 1852. On Nov. 3, 1829 in France she married Jacob Schwartz. He was born in Upper Alsace Dec. 27, 1808.

7. Maria/Mary Ramseyer was born April 10, 1812 (her headstone gives the birthdate 1813), and died in Stark County, Ohio Jan. 21, 1846. On Dec. 15, 1835 in Stark County she married André/Andrew Baecher (the entry called her Mary Ramsey). He was born as 'André Bächer' at Rougemont, *Territoire de Belfort* April 29, 1809 (his headstone says 1810), and died in Stark County March 9, 1845, a son of Andreas/André/Andrew Bächer and his first wife Anne Klopfenstein (see KLOPFENSTEIN for more on this couple). They are buried in Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County.

8. Joseph Ramseyer was born June 12, 1814, and died at Zurich, Ontario Feb. 1, 1890. He married Anne Marie Sommer. She was born at Montbéliard July 25, 1814, and died at Elkton, Michigan Jan. 22, 1902, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Magdalena Kropf. They are found on the 1850 census of Washington, Stark County.

9. Nicholas Ramseyer was born March 28, 1821, and died in Harper County, Kansas Aug. 29, 1895.

10. Pierre/Peter Ramseyer was born Nov. 5 or Oct. 5 (headstone), 1822, and died in Stark County, Ohio May 24, 1880. On Nov. 24, 1844 in Stark County he married Barbara Rich (a double ceremony with his older sister Elizabeth). She was born at Maximo, Stark County, Ohio June 24, 1826, and died in Stark County Oct. 2 or 3, 1894. They are buried in Old Beech Cemetery in Stark County.

Nicholas Ramseyer was born at Maiche, Doubs March 28, 1821 (though his headstone says March 12, 1820), and died at Harper, Harper County, Kansas Aug. 29, 1895. On Jan. 8, 1843 in Stark County, Ohio, Nicholas married Barbara Sommer.346 She was born on the Zellerhof farm at Dossenheim, Lower Alsace March 14, 1823, a daughter of Joseph Sommer and Anne Marie/Mary Göeirig/Guérich (see SOMMER). Barbara's family was living at Paris, Stark County in 1840.

346 The Ohio marriage record calls her Barbara Summers.
Barbara already had three brothers and a sister in Central Illinois, and the couple took their three children to Woodford County in 1849. The 1850 census of Woodford County shows Nicholas Ramsire, 29, wagonmaker, Switzerland; Barbara, 28, Germany; Magdelene, 7, Ohio; Peter, 5, Ohio; John, 3, Ohio; and Joseph, three months, Illinois. The families of John Klopfenstein is found on the same census page.

The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Nicholas Rumsyre, 40, France; Barbara, 37, France; Magdalene, 16, Ohio; Peter, 15, Ohio; John, 14, Ohio; Joseph, 11, Ohio [he was born in Illinois]; Anna, 7, Illinois; Jacob, 4, Illinois; David, 3, Illinois; and Elizabeth, newborn, Illinois.

An 1865 federal tax assessment dated June 18, 1865 says that Nicholas Ramseyer of Montgomery paid $8.50 on income.

According to the Illinois Public Land Sales Database, on April 30, 1869 Nicholas Ramseyer purchased 40 acres of land on the Rock River in the SENE portion of Section 8, Township 25N (Montgomery Township). He paid $11 per acre.

We could not identify Nicholas on the 1870 federal census. In 1880 he was living at Fairbury, Livingston County with a new wife: Nicholas Umseyer, 60, born in France to a Swiss father and French mother; and Christine, 52, born in Baden to parents form Baden.

After 1880 they relocated to Harper, Harper County, Kansas with their son Joseph and daughter Elizabeth. The son passed away in 1893. A state census of Harper City taken March 1, 1895 shows wagonmaker Nicholas Ramsayer, 74, born in France and a former resident of Illinois; his wife Christine, 67, born in Germany and a former resident of Illinois; and Elizabeth, 34, born in Illinois.

Nicholas died there Aug. 29, 1895. He is buried near Joseph in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper as 'N. Ramseyer.'

The children of Nicholas Ramseyer and Barbara Sommer include:

1. Magdalena Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio circa 1843. On Sept. 11, 1864 in Woodford County she married Joseph Sommer. He was born at St. Louis, Missouri in 1836, a son of Christian Sommer and Marie Sommer.

2. Peter Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio Oct. 7, 1845, and died Sept. 20, 1920. On June 28, 1868 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Funk. She was born May 30, 1839, and died Jan. 5, 1914, a daughter of George Funk and Elizabeth Hoerr. They are found on the 1870 census of Cropsey, McLean County as farmer Peter Ramsayer, 24, Ohio; Elizabeth, 30, Baden G.; Samuel, 1, Illinois; and farm hand Nick Hinegar, 18, Switzerland. They are buried in Harper Cemetery at Harper, Kansas.

3. John Ramseyer was born in Stark County, Ohio Nov. 21, 1847 (Nov. 1 on his death entry), and died at Morton April 17, 1919. On Oct. 19, 1873 in Woodford County he married Barbara Zimmerman. She was born May 23, 1849, and died Jan. 29, 1834, a daughter of Michael Zimmerman and Katharina/Catherine Nafziger. The 1880 census of Montgomery shows them as farmer John Ramseger, 32, born in Ohio to a father from France and a mother from Switzerland; Barbara, 31, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother born at sea; A. Lydia, 5, Illinois; laborer David Ramseyer, 22, born in Illinois to a father from France and a mother from Switzerland; and laborer Gottlieb Kinsey, 14, born in Switzerland to Swiss parents. They are found on the 1910 census of Kawkawlin, Michigan as John Ramger, 62, born in Ohio to a French father and a Swiss mother; Barbara, 60, born in Illinois to a German father and a mother born at sea; and an adopted son Otto Ramger, born in Kansas to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

4. Joseph Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township Aug. 28, 1850, and died at Harper, Harper County, Kansas Nov. 18, 1893. On Feb. 17, 1858 at Gridley, McLean County he married Jacobena Hermann.347 She was born in Woodford County in November 1858, and died at Cisna Park, Iroquois County March 28, 1853, a daughter of Joel Hermann and Verena Gerber. Joseph is buried in the Christian Apostolic Cemetery at Harper, Kansas.

5. Anna Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township April 2, 1853, and died July 28, 1909. On Oct. 27, 1877 she married Christian Kisling. He was born in Switzerland April 8, 1851, and died June 9, 1934, a son of Christian Kisling and Lena. Anna is buried as Anna Kisling in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Harper, Kansas. On July 12, 1914 at Richland, Ohio Kisling remarried to Mary Marks.

6. Jacob S. Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township Sept. 25, 1855, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 10, 1900. On Dec. 6, 1880 in Livingston County he married Mary Ann Steidinger.348 She was born June 24, 1858, and died at Fairbury Nov. 4, 1914. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County.

7. David Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township circa 1857. He is found as a 22-year-old laborer in the household of his older brother John on the 1880 census of Montgomery. On Nov. 8, 1886 he married Euphena Ida Raymond in Harper County, Kansas. They are found on the 1900 census of Thomasville, Colorado as David M. Ramseyer, 40, born in Illinois in September 1859 to a French father and German mother, profession silver mines;

347 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the bride as Jaconim Hermann.
348 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as J.S. Ramseyer and Mary Studinger.
Euphena, 28, born in Kansas in October 1871 to a father from New York and mother from Indiana; and three children born in Colorado between 1889 and 1895. They are also found on the 1920 census at the same location.

8. Elizabeth Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township April 1, 1860, and died at Peoria March 2, 1939. She married Henry Kuhn. She is found on the 1920 and 1930 censuses of Morton. She is buried as Elizabeth Kuhn in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Morton.

9. Samuel Ramseyer was born at Montgomery Township March 22, 1862, and died at Peoria June 5, 1922. 'Samuel Ramseier' is found on the 1880 agricultural schedule of Partridge, Woodford County, suggesting that he was already tending a farm at age 18. His household is shown on the 1920 census of Peoria as Samuel W. Ramseyer, 58, Illinois; and Wilhelmina, 54, Germany. His death entry said he was a carpenter living at Peoria with a wife named Minnie. She was born in 1855, and died in 1950; she is buried in Springdale Cemetery at Peoria.

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349 Death entries say Elizabeth and Samuel were born at Mackinaw. Rather, they were born near the Mackinaw River in Montgomery Township.
Zook: Zaugg of Basel

In the Bernese dialect a Zaugg is a cynical person. The surname is also found as Zaug, Zuck, Zug, Sook, and Zook. Heimatort or legal points of origin for this surname include Grindelwald, Habkern, Krauchthal, and Rohrbach.

Bartholom Zaugg/Bartholomew Zook was born March 21, 1788. The only clue we have to his birthplace comes from the 1870 census. It is given as 'Swerenberg, Germany,' then partially lined out. Because the entry was created in 1870, the year that Prussia occupied Alsace, it is also possible that 'Swerenberg' was located in Alsace; that it was meant to be Württemberg; or, it is even possible that 'Swerenberg' describes a mountain rather than a community.

Bartholomew lived 'near Basel.' The city of Basel is on the Swiss border with Upper Alsace and Baden.

He and his first wife had four children. She died circa 1830, and he remarried to Barbara Neuhauser. She was born Nov. 1, 1800, a daughter of Jacob Neuhauser and Catherine Sommer.

Barbara Neuhauser is also someone born 'near Basel.' We found the 1796 birth entry of her brother Pierre/Peter at Hégenheim, Upper Alsace (he also came to Tazewell County, see PETERSMITH AND SMITH). Hégenheim is adjacent to Basel; their boundary is now the national boundary between France and Switzerland.

Catherine Sommer Neuhauser is thought to have immigrated via New Orleans after the death of her husband in 1833. Bartholomew and Barbara are thought to have been included in the party with her widowed mother and brothers. From there they went to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where the first of Barbara's four children was born in 1835. They were in Butler County, Ohio by September 1837.

‘Bartholomew Zug’ signed a Declaration of Intent for naturalization at Hamilton, Butler County in September 1840. It described him as a 53-year-old native of Switzerland, noting sons Bartholomew, Christian, and Joseph.

He appears as 'Bartholomew Zugg' on the 1840 census of Ross, Butler County. The family can be found on the 1850 census of St. Clair, Butler County as Bartly Zook, 60, Germany; Barbaray, 50, Germany; Bartly, 23, Germany; Christian, 15, Pennsylvania; Barbaray, 13, Ohio; Jos., 11, Ohio; John, 10, Ohio; Ann, 27, Germany; and Jacob Crouse, 22, Germany.

They are thought to have resettled at Elm Grove in 1854. The 1860 census of Elm Grove shows Bartholomew Luck, 72, Switzerland; Barbara, 60, Switzerland; Joseph, 11, Ohio; and John, 9, Ohio.

According to the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, on Dec. 31, 1868 Bartholomew Zook purchased 40 acres in SESE, Section 10, township 28N, Livingston County for $14 per acre, a total sale of $560. The land had formerly been set aside for the railroad.

The 1870 census of Nebraska, Livingston County shows a combined household: farmer Bartholomew Zook, 82, Swerenberg, Germany; Barbara, 69, Germany; D.H. King, 36, Ohio; Barbara, 32, Ohio; Mary, 10, Illinois; Saml. B., 8, Illinois; Emanuel J., 7, Illinois; David S., Illinois; Joseph H., 2, Illinois; servant Phebe Kauffman, 17, Illinois; and Elizabeth Summer, 4, Illinois.

Bartholomew died at Nebraska Township, Livingston County Sept. 18, 1871. Herald of Truth, January 1872: "On the 22nd of September, in Livingston County, Ill., of dropsy and old age, Bartholomew Zook, aged 83 years, 6 months and 1 day. He was buried on the 24th. Funeral discourses were delivered by Christian Ropp of McLean County, Christian Schlegel and John P. Schmitt, from 1 Cor. 15."

Barbara died at Nebraska Township, Livingston County June 5, 1880. Herald of Truth, July 1880: “On the 5th of June, in Livingston Co., Ill. of the infirmities of age, Barbara Zug, at the age of 79 years and 7 months. Buried the 7th, in the presence of many friends and relatives. Funeral services were held by Christian Ropp, from I Thess. 4:13-18, and by John Schrag of Dakota from 2 Tim. 4:6-8, and further remarks by Chr. Schloegel and J. P. Schmitt. The maiden name of the deceased was Newhauser; she was the second wife of Bartholomew Zug, deceased, both of whom were faithful members of the Amish Mennonite church.”

They are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Planagan, Livingston County.

The children of Bartholomew Zook and his unidentified first wife include:

1. Michael Zook was born in France Nov. 7, 1820, and died at Larned, Kansas Dec. 1, 1887. He married Barbara Otto. She was born in Hesse Feb. 19, 1819, and died at Larned Oct. 25, 1896. They are found on the 1870 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County on the same page as his parents and younger brother John: farmer Michael Zouk, 49, France; Barbara, 57, Hesse Gcr.; Michael, 13, Illinois; Daniel, 10, Illinois; and Elizabeth, 8, Illinois. The 1880 census of Nebraska shows farmer Michel Zoon, 59, born in France to a Swiss father and French mother; Barbara, 61, born in Germany to German parents; Pheba, 28, Ohio; laborer Daniel E., 21, Illinois; Lizzie, 18, Illinois; Kate Rich (indicated as a daughter), 26, Illinois; Joseph W. Rich, 3, Illinois; Barbara H. Rich, 1, Illinois; and uncle Joel Zimmerman, 17, Illinois. Herald of Truth, January 1888: "On the 1st of December, east of Larned,
Pawnee county, Kansas, Bro. Michael Zook, aged 67 years and 24 days. He leaves a widow, seven children and twenty-one grandchildren to mourn their loss. He was born in Germany, emigrating from there with his parents at the age of thirteen. He became a member of the Amish Mennonite Church in youth and remained faithful to the end. He was buried on the 4th, followed to the grave by many neighbors, friends and relatives. Services by Peter Zimmerman, John Egli and Simon Hetrick from I Pet. 1:22-24 and James 1:27." They are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery at Larned.

2. Anna Zook was born in 1822, and died before 1865. On March 6, 1851 in Butler County, Ohio she married Christian Kaufman. The marriage was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger; his list was transcribed into History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio as 'Christian Hoffman and Anna Cuke.' Christian was born at Gindelwald, Canton Bern Jan. 25, 1825, and died at Minier Dec. 26, 1908, a son of Joseph Kaufmann and Barbara Wenger. Gindelwald is a remote village at the foot of the Eiger, about 10 miles southeast of Lake Thun. They can be found on the 1860 census of Elm Grove as Christian Kofman, 37, Switzerland; Ann [Zook], 39, Switzerland; Iacobena, 7, Illinois; Annie, 3, Illinois; and Christian, 1, Illinois; they are found on the census page immediately before the one that shows Anna's parents. On March 12, 1865 in Tazewell County Christian remarried to Catherine Oyer, the widow of John Schrock. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff June 10, 1796; she is buried in the Old Apostolic Cemetery at Morton as 'Katharina Kaufman.' Christian is buried in Mennonite Cemetery at Hopedale. We could not determine where Anna is buried.

3. Jacobina 'Phoebe' Zook was born Dec. 8, 1824, and died in Woodford County June 25, 1894. She married Jacob Bachman/Baughman. He was born as Jakob Bachmann at Arnstadt, Thuringia Dec. 6, 1827, and died in Woodford County March 27, 1895. See BACHMAN, BACHMANN OF ARNSTADT for more on this couple.

4. Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook (Jr.) was born in France April 9, 1827, and died at Deer Creek Feb. 23, 1883.

The children of Bartholomew Zook and his second wife Barbara Neuhauer include:

5. Christian W. Zook was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvannia Aug. 28, 1835, and died at Groveland May 19, 1911. On Nov. 6, 1864 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena/Madeleine Augsburger. She was born at Paradise, Lancaster County Oct. 2, 1848, and died Jan. 5, 1925, a daughter of Jacob Augsburger and Barbara Steinman. They are found on the 1870 census of Groveland as butcher Christian Zug, 33, Pennsylvania; Magdalena, 21, Pennsylvania; William, 2, Illinois; and Edward, eight months, Illinois. Christian is buried in the Evangelical Mennonite Cemetery at Groveland as 'C.W. Zook, 1836-1911.'

6. Barbara Zook was born in Butler County Sept. 21, 1837, and died at Larned, Kansas Sept. 3, 1891. On April 3, 1859 in Tazewell County she married David Henry King. He was born at Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio April 18 or 28, 1834, and died at Newton, Kansas Nov. 20, 1926, a son of Samuel King and his first wife Magdalena Kurtz. For more on this couple see KING.

7. Joseph Zook was born in Butler County Feb. 14, 1839, and died at Manson, Iowa Oct. 7, 1928. On Oct. 26, 1869 in McLean County he married Barbara Birkey. She was born Aug. 24, 1849, and died March 19, 1920, a daughter of Valentine Birky and Magdalena Naflziger. They are found on the 1870 census of Groveland as miller Joseph Zug, 31, Ohio; Barbara, 22, Illinois; and mill engineer Joseph Auer [Oyer], 19, Illinois. Gospel Herald, October 1928: "Joseph Zook was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1839; died from pneumonia at his home in Manson, Ia., Oct. 7, 1928; aged 89 y. 7 m. 23 d. In early life he moved with his parents to Pekin, Ill., where he grew to manhood. In 1869 he was married to Barbara Birkey, near Bloomington, Ill. Twelve children were born to them, six of whom with their mother preceded him in death. In 1896 he moved with his family to Calhoun Co., Illa., living on a farm for several years, after which he moved to Manson, at which place he died. He expressed a readiness to go and spoke much of the mansions the Lord has prepared for His children. He was the last one of his father's family. As a young man he united with the Mennonite Church in which faith he died. He helped to organize the first Mennonite Sunday school and Church in the vicinity of Manson. During his long and active life he was called upon to endure many hardships, griefs, and disappointments, but he met them all with courage and an unfaltering trust in God. He was a true man of God, a rock of strength to his family, and a man of the world. We direct the reader to the obituary for further information about his life and work. Interment was made in Rose Hill Cemetery.

8. John B. Zook was born in Butler County Dec. 3, 1849, and died in Kansas Feb. 22, 1912. On Feb. 26, 1865 in Tazewell County he married Catherine Salzman. She was born in Butler County July 27, 1842, and died at Larned, Kansas Sept. 16, 1913, a daughter of Christian/Christophe Salzman and Marie Imhof. They are found on the 1870 census of Nebraska Township, Livingston County on the same page as John's older brother Michael: farmer John B. Zook, 29, Ohio; Saltzman, 27, Ohio; Dan W., 4, Illinois; Aaron, 3, Illinois; John H., 1, Illinois; and Susan Summer, 9, Illinois. According to the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, on Oct. 30, 1869 John B. Zook purchased 40 acres in NESE, Section 10 (the same section where his parents had purchased land a year earlier).

350 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists them as C.W. Zook and Magdalena Augsberger.
351 The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the bride as Barbara Burckey.
Bartholomew 'Bartley' Zook (Jr.) was born in France May 9, 1827. On Aug. 3, 1851 in Butler County, Ohio he married Barbe Stecker/Barbara Staker. She was born at Bistroff, Moselle July 7, 1829, a daughter of Christian Farny/Stecker/Staker and Magdalina Gabriel. The ceremony was performed by minister Nicholas Augspurger. *History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio* lists the marriage between 'Bortle Cuke' and 'Barbara Stuker.'

They resettled in Illinois by 1857; perhaps as early as 1854, like their parents. The 1860 census of Montgomery Township, Woodford County shows farmer Bartholomew Zook, 33, France; Barbary, 40, and Eli, 21, Bavaria; and Magdalena Zook was born in Butler County, Ohio circa 1853.

The 1870 census of Danvers, McLean County lists farmer Bartholomew Zook, 44, born in France; Barbary, 40, born in France; Magdaline, 17, Ohio; Susan, 15, Ohio; Joseph, 14, Illinois; John, 12, Illinois; Christian, 8, Illinois; Benjamin, 5, Illinois; and Eli, 2, Illinois. The birthdates and places of the children indicate that the family had moved from Ohio to Illinois in 1855-56.

The 1880 census of Deer Creek, Montgomery Township, Woodford County (Deer Creek straddles the county line) lists farmer Bartholomew Zook, 53; Barbara, 50; Joseph, 24, Illinois; Christ, 17, Illinois; Benjamin, 14, Illinois; and Eli, 12, Illinois.

Bartholomew Zook Jr. died at Deer Creek Feb. 23, 1883. He is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers. Barbara is found on the 1910 census of Danvers as in the Wick household: Edward H. Wick, 28, born in Illinois to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois; Anna M. [Rupp] Wick, 30, born in Illinois to parents from Ohio; Melvin H., 3, Illinois; Claud M., six months, Illinois; widowed mother-in-law Susan [Zook] Rupp, 56, born in Ohio to a Swiss father and French mother; and widowed grandmother Barbara [Neuhauser] Zook, 82, born in France to French parents, immigrated 1844 [though it is thought that she came with her mother in 1847].

Their children include:

1. Magdalena Zook was born in Butler County, Ohio circa 1853. On March 14, 1871 at Danvers she married Peter D. Nafziger. The ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. He was born on the Diessburgerhof estate (a location now in the Eifel National Park of Germany) April 22, 1842, and died in Fulton County, Ohio in 1920, a son of Johannes/John D. Nafziger and Philippine Siegel. They are found on the 1880 census of Archbold, Fulton County, Ohio; and on the 1900 and 1910 censuses of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio.

2. Susan/Susanna Zook was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1854, and died at Danvers June 26, 1919. On Feb. 1, 1872 at Danvers she married Michael Rupp. The ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. He was born at Madison, Butler County, Ohio in 1844, and died at Danvers May 1, 1888, a son of Christian Rupp and Jacobina Raber. See ROPP, *THE UNFORTUNATE RUPP FAMILY OF DANVERS* for more on Michael and Susan.

3. Joseph E. Zook was born at Deer Creek Dec. 12, 1856, and died at Limestone, Peoria May 31, 1945. On Feb. 15, 1881 at Danvers he married Malinda Kauffman. The ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. She was born in 1863, and died at White Oak, McLean County Jan. 9, 1926, a daughter of Johathan Kauffman and Catherine Gertrude Sharp. His death entry described him as a farmer at East Peoria. They are buried under a joint marker in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers as 'father Joseph E. Zook, 1855-1945,' and 'mother Malinda S. Zook, 1863-1926.'

4. John D. Zook was born at Groveland Nov. 29, 1857, and died at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township Sept. 17, 1936. On March 3, 1891 at Danvers he married Anna Leah Kauffman. The ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. She was born Oct. 24, 1870, and died in McLean County July 7, 1949, a daughter of Jonathan Kauffman.

[352] His will was probated in McLean County.

[353] The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Peter D. Nofziger and Magdalie Zook.

[354] The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* listed the birde as Ida L. Kauffman.
and Catherine Gertrude Sharp. His death entry described him as a retired farmer living at Congerville with his wife Anna. They are buried under a joint marker in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers.

5. Christian E. Zook was born in Illinois circa 1862. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers as ‘C.E. Zook, died 1883.’

6. Benjamin D. Zook was born at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township Feb. 5, 1865, and died at Bloomington March 27, 1940. On Feb. 26, 1896 at Bloomington he married Agnes L. Heidervald. She was a daughter of William Heidervald and Louise Becker. His death entry described him as a gardener living at White Oak, Mclean County with his wife Agnes. He is buried in Stout's Grove Cemetery at Danvers.

7. Eli D. Zook was born at Deer Creek, Montgomery Township in 1869, and died there Jan. 17, 1944. On March 4, 1897 at Danvers he married Cora M. Wick. She was a daughter of Henry Wick and Helen Zimmerman. He is buried in Imhoff Cemetery at Danvers as ‘Eli D. Zook.’
Neuhauser of Lützelflühl

Peter Neuhauser was baptized at Lützelflühl, Canton Bern (13 miles northeast of the city of Bern) March 3, 1639. On July 13, 1661 at Lützelflühl he married Magdalena Hertig. She was baptized at Lützelflühl Oct. 27, 1644, a daughter of Hans Hertig and Verena Neuenschwander.

Their son Peter Neuhauser was baptized at Lützelflühl Nov. 5, 1665. In 1693 he married Anna Moser. She was baptized in 1668, a daughter of Michel Moser and Marie Brand.

Peter/Pierre Neuhauser was baptized at Lützelflühl, Canton Bern (13 miles northeast of the city of Bern) Feb. 8, 1705, and died at La Broque, Salm May 2, 1797. On Oct. 12, 1731 he married Verena Brand. She was born at Trachselwald (adjacent to Lützelflühl) in 1709.

Jean Neuhauser was born in the Principality of Salm circa 1730, and died at La Broque, Salm before December 1793. Circa 1760 he married Suzanne Zender. She was born at La Broque circa 1731, and died there June 28, 1811, a daughter of Benedict Zender and Magdalena Stück. After Jean's death she remarried to Peter Gerber/Pierre Kerbre. 355

Their son Jacob Neuhauser was born circa 1770, and died before 1833. In 1793 he married Catherine Sommer. She was born circa 1774, and died in Butler County, Ohio in 1840.

Like the Ropps and Ulrichs, they migrated south from Salm to the Sundgau Region of Upper Alsace. Their children include:356

2. Barbara Neuhauser was born 'near Basel' Nov. 1, 1800, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County June 5, 1880. Circa 1832 she married Bartholom Zaugg/Bartholomew Zook. He was born 'near Basel' March 21, 1788, and died at Nebraska, Livingston County Sept. 18, 1871. See ZOOK for more on this couple.

Peter Neuhauser was born 'near Basel' Feb. 20, 1796, and died at Morton July 23, 1889.

According to his obituary, he immigrated in the spring of 1831. His father died before 1833, and in that year his widowed mother and sister Barbara immigrated via New Orleans.

On Jan. 23, 1835 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Peter married Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt. She was born at Ruederbach, Upper Alsace July 22, 1807, and died at Waldo Township, Livingston County Feb. 2, 1884, a daughter of Jacob Petter Schmid and Barbara Lauber. The diaries of Christian Iutzi call Peter Neuhauser 'my neighbor' in December of 1836; Iutzi's Middelhof farm was located in Madison Township.

Peter Newhouser is found on the 1840 census of Lemon, Butler County: one male in the 40-49 age range; one male under 5; one female 30-39; and one female under 5.

Peter submitted a Declaration of Intent to be naturalized at Hamilton, Butler County in 1847.

They resettled in Tazewell County in the spring of 1852.

In 1860 involuntary conscription for military service some time in the not-to-distant future was a real possibility. Past experience with European census takers made residents wary. As we have shown several times, some residents took chances by purposely misleading them. It was felt that any inconsistency might delay the process. One trick was to feign an inability to speak English, and hope that the census taker would not know the correct spelling of a name. Another was to present the misspellings on travel documents. Errors occurred on this census that had not occurred before and would not occur again. The Neuhauser family living at Washington rose to the occasion: they appear as John Nihouser, 60, Germany; Sarah, 55, Germany; laborer Peter, 22, Illinois; Jacob, 20, Illinois; domestic Barbara, 18, Illinois; laborer Christian, 16, Illinois; Mary, 13, Illinois; John, 10, Illinois; and laborer Jacob Konsinger [Kinsinger], 16, Illinois. 357 Though the names of the parents are wrong, and all the children were actually born in Ohio, and the ages of Jacob and Barbara are reversed, at least the names of all six children are correct.

355 Suzanne's civil death entry described her as Suzanne Zentery, 80, widow of the deceased Pierre Kerbre [Gerber], daughter of Benoit Zentery and Magdelaine Stequery. The witness Christian Neuhauser, 50, was described as her son.
356 Some sources give Catherine up to four more children. We could not find birthdates or places, or any evidence that they immigrated with her. There will be more to learn when we can identify civil records from the residence community of Jacob and Catherine.
357 Jacob Kinsinger was born at Congerville July 5, 1844, and died in McLean County Nov. 21, 1914, a son of Michael Kinsinger (minister of the South Danvers Hessian congregation and a passenger on the '100 Hession Mennonites' voyage of 1832) and Magdalena Naffziger (a daughter of 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger and Barbara Beck and a Nimrod passenger).
They appear on the 1870 census of Morton: Peter Nihauser, 74, France; Meary, 64, France; Christ, 26, Ohio; Mary, 22, Ohio; and John, 20, Ohio. And on the 1880 census of Morton: Christ Newhauser, 35, Ohio, farmer, parents from Alsace: Peter Newhouser, 84, Alsace; Mary Sann, domestic [Christ’s future wife], 30, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Mary Newhouser, 73, Alsace.

_Herald of Truth_, March 1884: “On the 2d of February, in Waldo Twp., Livingston Co., III., Sister Mary Newhauser (maiden name Schmidt), wife of Peter Newhauser of bronchial affection, aged 76 years, 6 months and 10 days. On the 4th she was buried in the Waldo twp grave-yard, followed by a large concourse of friends. Services by Daniel Steinman and Joseph P. Schmidt and Chr. Schlegel. She was a faithful member of the Amish Church. She leaves a husband 88 years of age, and two sons to mourn their loss, but they need not mourn as those who have no hope. She had a desire to go and be with Jesus, she remarked a few days before her death, ‘For me to live is Christ, for me to die is gain.’ Oh let us all be in earnest to work for the glory that awaits us beyond.”

_Herald of Truth_, May 1890: “On the 23d of July 1889, in Tazewell county, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Peter Neuhauser, aged 93 years, 5 months and 3 days. He was born on the 20th of Feb. 1796 in Upper Alsace, near the city of Basle, Switzerland. In the spring of 1831 he emigrated to America, settling in Lancaster Co., Pa. Here he was married on the 23d of Jan. 1835 to Mary P. Schmidt. In the fall of the same year they moved to Butler county, Ohio, and in the spring of 1852 to Illinois, settling in Tazewell county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Sister Neuhauser died several years ago. Their union was blessed with 7 children, of whom two sons survive the parents. Bro. Neuhauser leaves many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He retained his mental faculties to the last. He was a faithful, peace-loving member of the old Amish Mennonite church. Funeral services by Daniel Roth and Peter Ropp.” He is buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.

The children of Peter Neuhauser and Anne Marie/Mary Peter Schmidt born in Butler County, Ohio include:

1. Peter Neuhauser (Jr.) was born July 8, 1838, and died Aug. 26, 1864. On Oct. 21, 1860 in Tazewell County he married Magdalena ‘Malinda’ Smith. She was born at what is now Congerville May 11, 1841, and died at Harper, Kansas April 14, 1916, a daughter of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. On Oct. 11, 1866 at Bloomington, McLean County she remarried to Valentine Maninger. For more on this couple see SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING.

2. Barbara Neuhauser was born Feb. 21, 1840, and died in Livingston County March 24, 1881. On Feb. 3, 1861 in Tazewell County she married Peter Smith. He was born in Butler County June 20, 1837, and died in Livingston County Nov. 17, 1875, a son of Christophe Schmitt/Christian Smith and Magdalena Schrag/Schrock. For more on this couple see SMITH, THE SCHMITTS OF BISPING.

3. Jacob Neuhauser was born July 1, 1842, and died ‘near Peoria’ Aug. 7, 1872. On Nov. 7, 1869 in Woodford County he married Anna Eichelberger. She was born in Nancy, France June 8, 1851, and died at Liberty, Nebraska June 8, 1929. Their household is found on the 1870 census of Morton as farmer Jacob Neuhauser, 28, Ohio; Ann, 19, France; and farmer Rudolph Rettaga, 25, Switzerland. Descendants of their son Emanuel, born at Metamora Jan. 6, 1872, are Newhousers.

4. Christian Neuhauser was born June 20, 1844, and died at Oakwood County Nov. 14, 1921.

5. Mary A. Neuhauser was born Jan. 9, 1847, and died in Livingston County April 25 or 30, 1883. In 1872 in Livingston county she became the second wife of John H. Dierberger. He was born at Neudingen, Baden May 10, 1840, and died at Milford, Nebraska Sept. 22, 1919, a son of Valentine Dierberger and Veronika Kammerer. His first wife had been Regina Wagler of Marckolsheim, Lower Alsace, who he had married in Livingston County April 22, 1866; she died in Livingston County Aug. 13, 1871. They are found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as John Derberger, 40, Baden; Mary 33, born in Ohio to parents from Baden; and six children born in Illinois.

6. John W. Neuhauser was born Dec. 2, 1849, and died at Royal Park, Michigan July 9, 1942. On Feb. 28, 1878 in McLean County he married his second cousin Fanny Gunden. She was born in Butler County. Her Buckeye Cemetery headstone says Oct. 25, 1847, but other sources give Oct. 26, 1849, which is closer to her census age. She died April 26, 1888, a daughter of John von Gunden and Catherine Peter Schmidt/Smith. They can be found on the 1880 census of Waldo, Livingston County as John Neuhauser, 30, born in Ohio to a father from Baden and a mother from France; Fannie, 30, born in Ohio to French parents: Peter, 1, Illinois; and William, three months. On Jan. 5, 1890 in Tazewell County John remarried to Anna Eichelberger. She was born in Tazewell County March 29, 1858, and died at Manson, Iowa Nov. 16, 1916, a daughter of George Eichelberger and Veronika Stalter. _Gospel Herald_, December 1916: "Anna Eichelberger was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., Mar. 29, 1858; died Nov. 10, 1916, near Manson, Iowa. She had been an invalid for 20 years, but the direct cause of her death was tonsilitis and erysipelas. She united with the Mennonite Church in her youth, and whenever health permitted filled her place during services, she remained faithful to the end. Jan. 5, 1890, she united in marriage with Bro. J. W. Neuhauser, they made their home near Flanagan, Ill., for 26 years, moving to Manson, Ia., in the spring of 1916, making their home with Bro. and Sister John Webb. Those left to mourn her departure are her husband, 4 step children, Peter, William, John, and Katie; 4 sisters, Magdalena Burkey, Mary Good, Katie Jansen, Phoebe Marshall also 4 brothers, Cris, Peter, Joe, and George, besides a large circle of friends. Sister Neuhauser requested that Psal. 91 be read and that hymns, "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Jesus Lover of My Soul" be sung at the funeral, which was held in the Mennonite Church in
Manson, Ia., Bro. D. D. Zehr in charge, took for his text Prov. 16:25, Jno. 14:6, interment in Rose Hill Cemetery. May God comfort the bereaved ones." Gospel Herald, July 1942: "John W., son of Peter and Mary Neuhauser, was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Dec. 2, 1849; died at the home of his daughter Katie (Mrs. John Webb, Royal Oak, Mich.), June 9, 1942; aged 92 y. 6 m. 7 d. At the age of two he moved with his parents to Tazewell Co., Ill., where he grew to manhood. At an early age he accepted Christ as his Saviour and was an active member of the Mennonite Church until his death. On Feb. 28, 1878, he was married to Fanny Gunden of Wayland, Iowa. To this union were born six children (Peter of Pompeii, Mich.; William of Pigeon, Mich.; John of Royal Oak, Mich.; and Katie, Mrs. John Webb, of Royal Oak, Mich.; Lydia, who preceded him in death; and also an infant daughter). His wife (Fanny) died April 20, 1888. Jan. 5, 1890 he married Anna Eichelberger of Hopedale, Ill. She passed away in November, 1916 at Manson, Iowa. In 1918 he moved with his daughter Katie to Michigan. He made his home with her until death. He was much interested in the work of the Lord, always being willing to do his part in the Sunday school or wherever he was needed; always faithful in attending services, being in Sunday school and teaching his class May 30, just a few days before his death. Besides his sons and daughter, he leaves 17 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and numerous relatives and friends. Funeral services were held in the home at Royal Oak, and then the body was taken to Pigeon, Mich., where services were held at the Pigeon River Mennonite Church and burial was in the adjoining cemetery."

Christian Neuhauser was born in Butler County, Ohio June 20, 1844, and died at Olio, Woodford County Nov. 14, 1921. 

As noted earlier, the 1880 census of Morton shows Christ Newhouser, 35, Ohio, farmer, parents from Alsace; Peter Newhouser, 84, Alsace; Mary Sann, domestic [Christ's future wife], 30, born in Illinois to parents from Germany; and Mary Newhouser, 73, Alsace.

On Feb. 1, 1881 in Tazewell County Christian married Mary Sann. She was born at Chenoa, McLean County March 23, 1850, and died in Tazewell County Dec. 9, 1889, a daughter of Jacob Sann and his first wife Jakobine Stalter.

Christian's household appears on the 1900 census of Deer Creek as farmer Christ Newhauser, 55, born in Ohio in June 1844 to German parents; Edwin H., 18, born in Illinois in February 1882 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; Amos E., 16, born in Illinois in September 1883 to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois; and John E., 13, born in Illinois to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois.

In 1910 he and his son John were living in the household of son Amos (with a wife and three children) at Olio, Woodford County.

Gospel Herald, November 1921: "Christian Newhauser was born near Hamilton, Ohio, June 20, 1844; died at the home of his son Amos, near Metamora, Ill., Nov. 14, 1921. He died instantly of heart trouble. He attended church on Sunday, ate breakfast on Monday morning, took a short walk from the house, and fell down without another word. He had been a widower for 32 years. There are three sons (Edwin H., Amos E. and John C.), one brother (John), and seven grandchildren who mourn his departure. He will be missed by home, church, and community. He was ready to die; he expressed the desire to die suddenly. He was an affectionate, thoughtful, loyal, and earnest member of the Mennonite Church from his youth. Surely another pillar has fallen. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Samuel Gerber and Clayton F. Derstine. Text, II Tim.4:7, 8."

Christian and Mary are buried in Buckeye Cemetery at Morton.
Householder: Haushalter of Oberbetschdorf

In Switzerland and Germany *Haushalter or Haushäuser* is an occupation, describing the steward or administrator of an estate.

The villages of Oberbetschdorf and Niederbetschdorf were located eight miles northeast of Hagenaus, Lower Alsace. Haushalter entries are found in local Protestant church records well before our beginning point. Sebastian Haushalter, a juror of the court who died at Niederbetschdorf May 28, 1691, had at least wight children with Elisabeth Weber. Thus by the early 1800s the family lines in the area were well represented and extremely convoluted. We counted 51 Haushalter births between 1813 and 1822.

The Haushalter family were Lutherans, but would have been exposed to the presence of nearby Anabaptists. Oberbetschdorf was adjacent to Kutzenhausen, home of the Gerbers.

**Hans Adam Haushalter** is described in the church records of Oberbetschdorf as a *Burger und Zimmermann*, a landowner and a carpenter. A number of the family appear to have been carpenters, though the main local industry in their area was the manufacture of pottery. Adam married Maria Margaretha Ketterer.

Their son laborer **George Frédéric Haushalter** (the spelling on his civil death entry; Georg Friederich Haushalter is found on his baptism entry) was born at Oberbetschdorf Aug. 16, 1765, and baptized Aug. 18. On Jan. 24, 1786 at Oberbetschdorf he married Anne Barbe Ketterer. She was born at Oberbetschdorf Jan. 11, 1763, a daughter of Jean George Ketterer and Marie Catherine Sturm.

Anne Barbe died at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 20, 1820, and George Frédéric died there Nov. 4, 1829. His civil death entry described him as a laborer, the widower of Barbe Ketterer, and a son of the deceased Adam Haushalter and Catherine Ketterer. Witnesses included oldest son Frédéric Haushalter, 44.

The children of George Frédéric Haushalter and Anne Barbe Ketterer born at Oberbetschdorf include:

1. Georg Freidrich/Georges Frédéric Haushalter was born Nov. 27, 1786. He was a carpenter. On Jan. 20, 1818 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Margueritte Holzmann. She was born July 20, 1794, a daughter of Thiebaut Holzmann and Anne Catherine Haushalter. Their daughter Salomé came to America on the packet ship *Charles Carroll* in 1837.

2. Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter was born Oct. 6, 1788. He was baptized in the Lutheran church, where the record calls him Theobald Haushalter. The godfather/witness signed 'Diebolt Wolf.'

3. Eve Margaretha/Eve Margueritte Haushalter was born Dec. 8, 1789.

4. Johann Jakob/Jean Jacques Haushalter was born May 29, 1791. On Dec. 26, 1815 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Dorothe Wagner. She was born Jan. 29, 1797, a daughter of Philippe Jacques Wagner and Marie Catherine Wolff.

5. Anna Barbara/Anne Barbe Haushalter was born March 8, 1794. On Nov. 19, 1822 at Oberbetschdorf she married Jacques Dangler, the widower of Catherine Wolff. He was born Jan. 28, 1798, a son of Jacques Dangler and Eve Dorothe Heinemann.

6. Philipp Heinrich/Philippe Henri Haushalter was born July 22, 1799.

7. Margaretha Dorothea/Margueritte Dorothee Haushalter was born Feb. 13, 1802. On June 29, 1830 at Oberbetschdorf she married Philippe Henri Ketterer. He was born March 16, 1800, a son of Jean Jacques Ketterer and Margueritte Dorothe Haushalter.

8. Johann Georg/Jeann George Haushalter was born April 23, 1806.

**Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter** was born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 6, 1788.

On April 9, 1813 at Oberbetschdorf he married Eve Dorothe Greiner. The civil marriage entry described the groom as a cultivator and a son of Frédéric Haushalter and Barbe Ketterer, who were present and consenting. The bride was described as Eve Dorothe Greiner, born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 30, 1791, a daughter of the deceased Georges Henry Greiner and Anne Catherine Greiner. Anne Catherine had remarried to Jean Claus and was present and consenting. The groom signed his name 'Deibold Haushalter.'

They had children at Oberbetschdorf in 1814 and 1815; birth entries 1820-29 say they were living in house number 57 at Niederbetschdorf.

An exodus of Haushalter families from both villages began in 1830, coinciding with the threat of renewed military conscription for the French occupation of Algeria. Their son Thiebaut/Debold emigrated from Europe in 1835. They followed less than two years later.

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359 In 1971 the two villages merged to form the community of Betschdorf.

359 The first Haushalter emigrants we found were onboard the packet ship *Charles Carroll* as it sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York May 29, 1830. Its passenger list shows Jaques Haushalter, 37; Catherine, 37; Dorotea, 6; Magdalene, 5; James, 3; Philip, 1; and Frederic Hausholder, an adult whose age is illegible. 'Jaques' was Jean Jacques Haushalter, who was
They sailed from Le Havre March 24, 1837 on the packet ship Charles Carroll (this was the same ship that had taken Haushalters in 1830). They arrived at New York May 3. The passenger list shows farmer Therbold Houshold, 48; Dorothy, 45; Fred.k [Frédéric], 19; Dorothy, 23; Salma [Salomé], 19; Madeleine, 16; Caroline, 11; and Henry, 8. Salomé was a niece to Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter and Eve Dorothé Greiner; Frédéric was a distant relative.60

They settled at New Sewickley, Beaver County, Pennsylvania (25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh). History of New Sewickley Township (1904) describes the first church built there less than two years earlier: "In 1835 about thirty Germans, who had immigrated from the old country during the previous years, in connection with a few of the older settlers, resolved to build a church for their own use. One acre of land was bought from Mr. F. Burry, upon which the church, a log structure, was built in the fall of 1835, and from this transaction the church derived the name Burry's Church."

The 1840 census of New Sewickley shows Detwit Housholder as the head of a household: one male 60-69 years of age; one male 20-29; one male 10-14; one female 40-49; and two females 15-19. They appear on the 1850 census of New Sewickley as farmer Debold Housholder, 63, Germany; Dorothy, 59, Germany; and Henry, 21, Germany.61 Henry is described as 'deaf and dumb'

Three family groupings appear on a single page of the 1860 census of New Sewickley. The first consists of farmer D. Housholder, 72, France; Dorothy [Greiner], 69, France, and Henry, 30, designated as 'deaf.' The second grouping is farmer Fred. Housholder, 55, France; Anna [Warmuth], Bavaria; Fred., 21; Mary, 14; Lena, 9; Catherine, 7; Dorothy, 3; Henry, 1; and Dorothy, 79; all children born in Pennsylvania.62 The third grouping is H. Housholder, 43, France; Salome, 41, France; Rica, 11, Pennsylvania; and Catherine, 8, Pennsylvania.63

Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter died at New Sewickley April 3, 1866. Eve Dorothé Greiner died in her daughter Caroline's home near Portersville, Butler County, Pennsylvania Aug. 30, 1873. The cemetery where they are buried is on the site of the old Burry's church at New Sewickley, and is now maintained by a United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Burry's Congregation.

Their children include:

1. Eve Dorothé Haushalter/Eva Dorothea Householder was born at Oberbetschdorf Jan. 12, 1814. On May 11, 1840 in Burry's Church at New Sewickley she married Peter Buchler or Buehler.
2. Thiebaut Haushalter/Debold Housholder was born at Oberbetschdorf Nov. 12, 1815, and died at Roanoke Township, Woodford County Jan. 14, 1886.
3. Eve Madeleine Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Sept. 27, 1820.
4. Caroline Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Aug. 2, 1825, and died at Prospect, Butler County, Pennsylvania Feb. 15, 1919. Her civil birth entry described her parents as day laborer Thiebaut Haushholder, 37, and Eve Doroth Greiner. One witness was carpenter Jean George Haushalter, 37. The father signed 'Diebold Haûßhalter.' On Aug. 26, 1848 in Burry's Church at New Sewickley she married Henry Spithaler. He was born at Oberbetschdorf Feb. 18, 1827, and died at Prospect, Butler County, Pennsylvania April 12, 1898, a son of Martin Spithaler and Salomé Heckendurn. Their household is found next door to their parents on the 1850 census of New Sewickley as farmer Henry Spitanber, 23, Germany; Caroline, 26, Germany; and Henry, 1, Pennsylvania. During the Civil War Henry served with the 101st Pennsylvania Infantry. His regimental history notes, "Spithaler, Henry. Probably born at Niederbetschdorf March 13, 1792, with his wife Christine Hermann, who was born there May 14, 1793. They were married at Niederbetschdorf Nov. 3, 1829.

50 Salomé Haushalter was born at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 6, 1818, and died at Marion circa 1871, a daughter of Georg Friedich/George Frédéric Haushalter and Eve Margueritte Holzmann. Thus she was a niece to Deibold/Thiebaut Haushalter and Eve Dorothé Greiner. Her father had died at Oberbetschdorf Nov. 4, 1824. Circa 1840 she married George Jacob Pflug. He was born at Oberbetschdorf May 23, 1817, a son of George Jacob Pflug and Eve Dorothé Marzolf.

Frédéric Haushalter was born at Oberbetschdorf Feb. 18, 1819, and died at Marion, Butler County, Pennsylvania Sept. 26, 1905. His civil birth entry shows his parents as Philippe Jacques Haushalter and Barbe Haushalter [Anne Barbe Haushalter, his first wife]; witnesses were Jean George Haushalter, 34, and George Haushalter, 37. His mother died, and his father remarried to Eve Dorothé Haushalter at Oberbetschdorf Oct. 1, 1822; then his father died before 1835, and his stepmother immigrated in 1835 and settled at New Sewickley. Thus she was there to greet him when he arrived. On April 1, 1836 in St. Paul's German Lutheran and Reformed Church at Zelienople, Butler County he married Mary Eve Pflug. She was born at Oberbetschdorf March 13, 1820, a daughter of George Jacob Pflug and Eve Dorothé Marzolf.

Even more Haushalter family groupings came from Oberbetschdorf the following year. The packet ship Silvie de Grasse sailed from Le Havre and arrived at New York May 16, 1838.

60 We also found Martzalf [Marzolf] and Cattery [Ketterer] families, familiar from Oberbetschdorf civil records.

61 Frédéric/Frederick Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Jan. 4, 1809, and died at New Sewickley Feb. 2, 1891, a son of George Frédéric Haushalter and Eve Dorothé Sommer.

62 This may have been Georg Henri Haushalter, who was born at Niederbetschdorf June 27, 1817, a son of Dorothé Haushalter and an unknown father. His birth was reported by a midwife.
misidentified as Henry Spitler. He immigrated to America around the age of 18 by himself as a stowaway on a transport ship from Germany. Mustered in 10 March '65. Married Carolyn Householder (also a German immigrant) and had 9 children, all of whom survived. He died in 1898, and is buried with his wife in Evans City Cemetery, Butler Co., PA. *Connossquesting Valley News*, Feb. 20, 1919: "Very Aged Lady Died at Butler. Mrs. Henry Spithaler, nee Catherine [Caroline] Householder, died Saturday February 15th, 1919, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Milleman of Butler, where she had made her home for the past eighteen years. She was born August 25th, 1825, in Lorraine, Germany and had reached the age of 94 years, 6 months, 17 days. Her married life was spent near Portersville [five miles west of Prospect]. Mrs. Spithaler is survived by the following children, Mrs. Fred Milleman of Butler, Mrs. John Schott of Beaver County, Mrs. A. Wehr, Harmony, Frederick Spithaler of Zelienople, Henry Spithaler of Pittsburgh, Charles, Daniel, Martin and Jacob Spithaler of Evans City. There are fifty-one grand children, forty-seven great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. A funeral service was held at the home of Mrs. Milleman on Monday morning at nine o'clock, being conducted by Rev. C.E. Cronewith the Butler Lutheran church, and the remains were then brought to the Reformed church of Evans City where a brief service was held by Rev. L.J. Laufer at 11:30 o'clock and burial followed at the Evans City cemetery."

5. George Henry Haushalter was born at Niederbetschdorf Feb. 22, 1829. The civil entry described his parents as laborer Thiebaud Haushalter, 40, and Eve Dorothe Greiner, 37, living at house number 57. The 1850 census of New Sewickley described him as 'deaf and dumb.'

**Thiebaut Haushalter/Debold Householder** was born at Oberbetschdorf, Lower Alsace Nov. 12, 1815, and died at Eureka, Woodford County Jan. 14, 1886.

The packet ship *Havre* sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York June 10, 1835. The passenger list of the *Havre* shows Thiebald Housholder, 18; Eva Dorotela Householder, 35; Frederic, 16; Dorotela, 11; and Lewis, 4. Despite misinterpretations in a number of sources, this was not Thiebaut (Jr.) with his mother and siblings — his mother was born in 1791, would have been almost 44, and immigrated with his father in 1837. He was actually traveling with a widowed aunt and three cousins. The 35-year-old was Eve Dorothe Haushalter, the widow of Philippe Jacques Haushalter. At the close of the passenger list is a barely legible addendum with additional Haushalters. Other passengers included a Clauss, Ketterers, Sturms, and Wolffs from Oberbetschdorf.

On May 8, 1838 in the log structure called Burry's Church at New Sewickley he married Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr. She was born in Lorrain Sept. 25, 1816, and died at Eureka June 28, 1896, a daughter of Joseph Zehr and Anne Verly.

Thiebaut/Debold found employment at Louisville, Kentucky helping to build a hospital. Presumably this was the Marine Hospital, which built two new wings between 1836 and 1840 and became the Louisville City Hospital. Louisville is approximately 380 miles downstream from Pittsburgh on the Ohio River. The move would have been accomplished by loading household goods onto a flatboat.

Their household appears on the 1840 census of Louisville as D. Housholder: one male 20-29 years of age; one female 20-29; and one male under 5.

The online Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database contains three entries for purchases in Woodford County by a 'David Householder' beginning in 1842. These may have been transcribed from handwritten documents that actually said 'D. Householder.' All three purchases were made in Township 27N, which corresponds to Worth. The first purchase was for 40 acres in Section 15 on July 19, 1842. The next purchase was for 40 acres in Section 11 on Sept. 3, 1842. The final purchase was for 40 acres in Section 15 on Dec. 11, 1845. All three parcels sold for $1.25 an acre, or $50 apiece, and all three were designated 'FD' for federal land.

The family appears on the 1850 census of District 56 (Woodford County) as farmer Debolt Householder, 35, France; Mary, 34, France; Henry, 10, Pennsylvania; Frederic, 8, Kentucky; Anne, 6, Illinois; and Mary, 4, Illinois. The 1860 census of Worth shows Debolt Householder, 46, France; Mary, 43, France; Henry, 19; Frederick, 17; Anna, 16; Mary, 14; Joseph, 7; Lena, 6; and Debolt, 2; all children born in Illinois. The 1865 state census shows the household of Deabolt Householde at Worth. The garbled 1870 census of Worth has John [Thiebaut/Debold] Householer, 50, Bavaria; Margaret [Maria/Marie/Mary], 45, Bavaria; Joseph, 16; Lena, 14; Albert [Debolt], 12; and Doree [Dora], 10; all children born in Illinois.

The 1873 plat map of Worth shows two properties in the name of 'D. Haushalter': 34 acres in Section 23, and 80 acres in Section 26.

They appear on the 1880 census of Roanoke, Woodford County as farmer Diebold Householder, 64, France; Cher. [Zehr?], 64, France; Deeboldt Jr., 21, Illinois; and Dorothe, 19, Illinois. *Herald of Truth*, February 1886: "On the 14th of January, in Eureka, Woodford Co., Ill., Debold Haushalter, aged 69 years, 2 months and 4 days. He was the father of eight children, thirty-four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He was born in Alsace, Lorraine, in 1816. On the 8th of May, 1838, he was married to Maria Zehr, with whom he lived forty-eight years to the time of his death. He enjoyed good health until the last year of his life.
On the 14th of January, as he was about to rise, he fell back and died in fifteen minutes. He was highly respected. Funeral services were held by Christian Reeser, P. Zimmerman and others.

His headstone in Roanoke Mennonite Cemetery calls him 'Debold Householder.' Marie/Maria/Mary is buried there as 'Mary, frau von Debold Householder.'

_Herald of Truth_, August 1896: "Househalter. Maria Zehr was born on the 25th of September 1816, in Lorraine, France, was married on the 8th of May 1838, to Theobald Househalter. The union was blessed with eleven children, of whom eight survive, also fifty-six grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren, who with many other relatives and friends mourn their loss. She died on the 28th of June 1896, near Eureka, Woodford Co., Ill., and her remains were laid away on the 30th in the Roanoke graveyard. Appropriate services were held by Valentine Strubhar at the house and by Michael Kinsinger, Emanuel Hartman and John Schmitt at the meeting house. She was a faithful member of the Amish branch of our church and bore her afflictions with fortitude, longing for her release."

Thiebaut Haushalter /Debold Householder and Marie/Maria/Mary Zehr had 11 children. Four were born before the move to Woodford County, and seven after. Three children died as infants, and are not found on censuses. Of these three, two died from cholera. Taken altogether, these pieces suggest that their children include:

- A male child under age 5 appears on the 1840 census, and died before the 1850 census.
- Frederick Householter was born in Louisville, Kentucky Feb. 22, 1842, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County Dec. 6, 1929. On Jan. 12, 1869 in Woodford County he married Katharina 'Kate' Imhoff. She was born in Butler County, Ohio circa Feb. 28, 1845, and died at Fairbury Dec. 29, 1871, a daughter of Johann Imhoff and Maria Katharina Wagner. They are found on the 1870 census of Indian Grove, Livingston County as farmer Frdk. Householder, 26, Kentucky; Catharine, 24, Kentucky; George, seven months (Dec.), Illinois; and an illegible farm worker. _Herald of Truth_, February 1872: "On the 29th of December, in Fairbury, Livingston county, Ill. of consumption, Catharine Houshalter, aged 26 years, 9 months and 29 days. She was sick nine months, and confined to her bed 10 weeks, yet she bore her affliction with patience." She is buried as 'Catrina Householder' in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury. On March 7, 1873 in McLean County Frederick remarried to Katharina's younger sister Mary Imhoff; the ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey. Their father had died in 1852, and they had been living with their widowed mother at Cazenovia. Mary is buried in Graceland Cemetery as Mary Householder, born March 6, 1849, died Dec. 1, 187-[illegible]. She was also born in Butler County, Ohio. Circa 1879 he remarried to Ann 'Annie' Reeser. She was born in Woodford County March 27, 1860, and died Sept. 9, 1955, a daughter of John Reeser and Catherine Zimmerman. They are found on the 1880 census of Fairbury as teamster Frederick Householter, 35, born in Kentucky to French parents; Annie, 22, born in Illinois to parents from France and Germany; Albert, 9, Illinois; and Louis, 6, Illinois. They also appear on the 1920 census of Indian Grove, Fairbury Township. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury, Livingston County.
- A second child died as an infant before the move to Woodford County, and does not appear on any census.
- A third child died after the move to Woodford County, and does not appear on any census.
- Anna/Annie Householder was born in Woodford County April 10, 1844, and died at Eureka April 30, 1939. She married Joseph Camp. He was born at Worth Sept. 7, 1842, and died at Eureka Dec. 7, 1928, a son of Joseph Kemp/Kemp/Camp and Magdalena Engel. See CAMP for more on this couple.
- Marie/Mary Householder was born at Worth July 26, 1846, and died at Eureka, Woodford County May 24, 1930. On March 1, 1866 she married Peter J. Kennell. He was born at Metamora Oct. 7, 1845, and died at Peoria Feb. 18, 1932, a son of Magdalena Engel and her second husband Christian Kennel (the first was Joseph Kemp/Kemp/Camp). They can be found on the 1900 census of Eureka. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Roanoke.
- Joseph Householder was born at Worth Nov. 22, 1853, and died at Fairbury, Livingston County April 1, 1938. On Jan. 14, 1875 he married Caroline Greiner; the ceremony was performed by bishop Joseph Stuckey (according to the records of the Central Conference Mennonite Church). A second ceremony may have taken place Feb. 7, 1875 at Washington (according to family passdown and the _Illinois Statewide Marriage Index_). She was born in Illinois.
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

Sept. 7, 1852, and died at Fairbury Jan. 14, 1933, a daughter of Michael Greiner and Louise Schuck. They relocated to Fairbury in 1883. They are buried in Graceland Cemetery at Fairbury.

6. Magdalena 'Lena' Householder was born at Worth June 13, 1855, and died at Washington May 4, 1933. On Feb. 13, 1879 in Woodford County she married Andrew Schertz. He was born at Washington Feb. 25, 1854, and died there Oct. 31, 1928, a son of Christian Schertz and Catherine Engel. See SCHERTZ for more on this couple.

7. 

Debold Householter was born at Worth Aug. 21, 1858, and died Jan. 30, 1954.

8. Dora Householder was born at Worth Feb. 6, 1861, and died at Eureka April 10, 1935. On Jan. 24, 1884 at Eureka she married Christian B. Reeser. He was born at Eureka March 7, 1859, and died Oct. 28, 1940, a son of Christian Reeser and Barbara Zimmerman. See RISSER for more on this couple.

Debold Householter was born at Worth Aug. 21, 1858, and died Jan. 30, 1954.

On Jan. 25, 1883 he married Anna Schertz. She was born June 16, 1863, and died at Olio Township, Woodford County Sept. 23, 1847, a daughter of Christian Schertz and Catherine Engel.

They are found on the 1900 census of Eureka, Olio Township as farmer Debold Householder, 48, born in Illinois in August 1852 to German parents [Alsace and Lorraine were occupied by Germany from 1870 to 1918]; Anna, 35, born in Illinois in June 1864 to German parents; Katie, 16, born in Illinois in May 1884; Peter, 13, born in Illinois in May 1886; Mary, 8, born in Illinois in February 1892; Ida, 4, born in Illinois in June 1895; and Emma, 3, born in Illinois in June 1896. They also appear on the 1920 census of Washington.

Gospel Herald, November 1947: "Householter. Anna, daughter of Christian and Katherine (Engle) Schertz, was born in Tazewell Co., Ill., June 16, 1863; died at her home near Eureka, Ill., Sept. 23, 1947; aged 84 y. 3 m. 7 d. During the last seven years she suffered from the effects of a stroke. On Jan. 25, 1883, she was united in marriage to Debolt Householter, who survives. Also surviving are 5 children (Katherina - Mrs. Amos Neuhauser, Peter, Mary-Mrs. John Neuhauser, all of Eureka; Ida-Mrs. Austin Roth, Morton, Ill.; and Emma-Mrs. Wilbur Roth, Gibson City, Ill.), 17 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren. As a young girl she accepted Christ as her Saviour and united with the Metamora, Ill. Mennonite Church, of which she was a member at the time of her death. A home-loving woman, she filled a large place in the home, community, and church. Funeral services were conducted Sept. 25 by Ezra B.Yordy at the home, and by Ben Esch and Henry R. Schertz, nephews of the deceased, at the Roanoke Church. Services at the cemetery were in charge of John L. Harnish."

Gospel Herald, March 1954: "Householter, Debold, the last survivor of eleven children born to Debold and Mary Zehr Householter, was born Aug. 21, 1858, in Woodford Co., Ill.; passed away quietly in his sleep Jan. 30, 1954; aged 95 y. 5 m. 9 d. He was married to Anna Schertz on Jan. 25, 1883. To this union were born one son and four daughters. Surviving him are a son (Peter, Eureka, Ill.), 3 daughters (Mrs. Amos Neuhauser and Mrs. John Neuhauser, both of Eureka, and Mrs. Austin D. Roth, Morton, Ill.), 17 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Preceding him in death were his wife and one daughter (Emma- Mrs. Wilbur Roth). He accepted Christ as his Saviour in his youth and was a member of the Metamora Mennonite Church. His passing marks the close of an era. From his birth, in a two-room log cabin to the settlement and development of his surrounding community is a pioneering accomplishment little recognized today. Funeral services were held at the Roanoke Mennonite Church, Feb. 2, with Ezra Yordy, LeRoy Kennel, and Ben Eash in charge. Burial was made in the cemetery nearby."
Appendix

Throughout the text we have noted numerous Amish Mennonite families who had acquaintances with military figures: the families such as the Engels who leased farms from Baron Charles Louis 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 Captain Louis Alexandre de Guibert at Partridge, and Baron Ludwik Chlopicki at Pekin (in a part that later became Elm Grove) and El Paso.

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 Francois 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 Therese Delacour; Pierre was a merchant-trader [Fr. négociant] for the Duc d'Orelans.

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

History 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.”

The Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois: "Louis A. Guibert came from France to the United States in 1833, and settled in Partridge Township. He was a soldier of the Republic and of the First Empire, and participated in many of the terrific battles of those stirring times, among them, Austerlitz, Jena, and Wagram: and, as a reward for his bravery, was made Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, on the battlefield by Napoleon himself."

Capt. Guibert was born in January, 1784, in the province of Maine, and his childhood was passed in the stormy times of the Revolution, 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 comparative 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.

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.

The de Guibert home was destroyed by fire in January 1944. His sword and other French possessions were lost.

240
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 governors in 1830. He did not think the uprising would succeed, but he accepted the position Dec. 5, 1830, and 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. 'Klopsi' 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 Ludwik 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 passengers were each given $40 before they disembarked April 2. They had been prosperous and were well-educated, but did not speak English and were unaccustomed to manual labor.

On April 9, 1834 a committee sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to request land grants. A congressional act was signed by President Andrew Jackson June 30, 1834. It 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. He then acted as an agent for the others. But the others lacked money to travel and purchase tools and seed, and there were already homesteaders on some of the allocations. After a number of legal disputes he resigned his position, and all of 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 as 'Louis Chlopicki.'

'Lewis Chlepeski' is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County. Though the enumerations were not sorted by towns (boundaries were 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. 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.'

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

366 The exact location of the Garber home is marked 'E. Garber' on the 1864 plat map, above that of 'J.S. Young,' and next door to brother-in-law Peter Ringenberger, Railroad Schoolhouse, and the Peter Gerber farm. The southwest corner of the 'Neukirk corner' intersection is now the location of Bethel Mennonite Church. The Ringenberger and Garber farms could later be described as the west 80 acres and east 80 acres of the Sommer Seed Corn Farm.
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 gave 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 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 him on the floor of his restaurant, dead. 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 undertaker's for two days before someone stepped forward to donate a burial place. All expenses for the 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 Clopsika, 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."
Acknowledgements

The idea of creating a genealogy for 75 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 fill in family history 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 the marriage ceremony of my parents James Staker and Virginia Osterhoudt.

Our information was collected from May 1999 to February 2013. 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 also 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 Hochstädtler, 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 second cousin Mary Staker Bowers, who had put together her own Staker Family History. 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 Staker 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 Metamora, 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
Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois

family. Sheila Aranyos 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 Steve 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 Malzéville, Moselle 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 'crack' 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.

And recently 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.

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), Helmut Funck (Gern), Rose Oyer Gauthier (Oyer), Helmut Gingerich (Augsburger), Marilyn Gottwald (Roberts), Lou Ann Gray (Farny), Hermann Hage (Eigsti), Julie Hedrick (Farny), Leigh Ann Hofferth, Herbert Holly (Holly and Augsburger), Tina Jantzi (Jantzi), Linda Heiser Jones (Belsley), 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), Heidi Plien (Maria Gern), Rob Raeside (Hilterfingen and Riggisberg flags), Jan Roggy (Roggy and Albrecht), Jane Sheridan (Householder), Frederick Schwink (Montbéiard register translation), Karen Stickler (Ehresman), Terry Tabb (Part Three cover photo), Philippe Toven (Schlegel), Ruth Unzicker (Unzicker), Carolyn Wenger (King), Edward Widrick (Lewis County), Elaine Yeackley Wampler (Yordy), and Russell Yordy (Eigsti and Yordy).
Webmaster Mike Dickson of the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society has patiently posted more than a dozen versions of the text as it inched forward over the years. And 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 opportunities to visit the Family History Library of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City. Their microfilm collection has been our single greatest source of material.

So now, after 14 years and almost 800 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