

Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois (including Woodford County) APPENDIX

Updated June 2017 • Compiled by Joseph Peter Staker

GENEALOGY AND HISTORY OF 90 FAMILIES THAT CAME TO TAZEWELL AND WOODFORD COUNTIES 1830-1856

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The Voyage of the *Nimrod* in 1826

The *Nimrod* sailed from Amsterdam and arrived at New York Aug. 18, 1826.

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

Our reading of the passenger list:

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Text</i>
Michael Wyhrey/Wehrey	40	M	Farmer	
Catharine	35	F		
Maria	15	F		
Catharine	11	F		
Joseph	9	M		
Anna	6	F		
Hena	3	F		
Johannes	2	M		
Anna Kempf	25	F		
Christopher Hochstter	25	M	Physician	
Jacob Leicthy	48	M	Baker	
Elizabeth	44	F		
Sophina	17	F		
Maria	14	F		
Catharine	13	F		
Adam	9	M		
Caroline	7	F		
Christian	4	M		
George	2	M		
Peter Naftzeiger	38	M	Farmer	NAFZIGER
Barbara [maiden name Beck]	36	F		NAFZIGER
Elizabeth Naftzeiger	12	F		NAFZIGER
Jacob	10	M		NAFZIGER
Magdalena	8	F		NAFZIGER
Barbara	6	F		NAFZIGER
Jacobina	4	F		NAFIGER
Peter	2	M		NAFZIGER
Christian Naftzeiger	50	M	Farmer	ROPP AND APPENDIX,
Maria [maiden name Stalter]	45	F		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Johann	19	M		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Catharine	14	F		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Jacobina	12	F		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Christian Naftzeiger	12	M		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Johannes	9	M	Farmer	ROPP AND APPENDIX
Joseph	7	M		ROPP AND APPENDIX
Christian Steinmann	35	M		STEINMAN
Vr. [maiden name Eyer]	34	F		STEINMAN
Jacob	4	M		STEINMAN
Christian	2	M		STEINMAN
Jacob	75	M		STEINMAN
Peter Buck [Beck]	29	M		BECK
Benj. Goldschmet	26	M		GOLDSMITH
Michael Karrer	28	M	Miller	
Peter Danner	43	M	Farmer	DONNER
Barbara [maiden name Naffziger]	36	F		DONNER
Peter	7	M		DONNER
Jacob	5	M		DONNER
Christian	2	M		DONNER
Jhannas	1	M		DONNER
Seb Ohl	42	M	Brewer	
Elizabeth	38	F		
Matlena	11	F		

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

The Baltimore Voyage of 1831

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our reading of the passenger list:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Text</i>
<i>Members of the Gascho family:</i>					
111	Joseph Gacho [Gascho]	53	M		GASCHO
112	John Gacho	23	M		GASCHO
113	Joseph	22	M		GASCHO
114	Woodoline	21	F		GASCHO
115	Madaline Newhauser	26	F		GASCHO
116	Barbara	9	F		GASCHO
117	Joseph	5	M		GASCHO
118	Christiana	3	M		GASCHO
119	John	6	M		GASCHO
<i>The family of Peter Engel, including his Vercler step-children.</i>					
124	Peter Angel [Engel]	37	M		ENGEL
125	John [Vercler]	18	M		VERCLER
126	Jacob [Jacobine Vercler]	20	M		VERCLER
127	Peter [Engel]	10	M		ENGEL
128	Catherine [Catherine Ringenberg, widow of Vercler, remarried to Peter Engel]	41	F		ENGEL/VERCLER
129	Mary [Vercler]	22	F		VERCLER

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

130	Catherine Rogi [Roggy]	34	F		ROGGY
131	Madaline	7	F		ROGGY

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

132	Mary Swissie [Schweizer]	22	F		SCHWEIZER
133	Christiana	2	F		SCHWEIZER
134	John Swissi [Schweizer]	23	M		SCHWEIZER

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

140	Christophe Roshe [Rocher]	66	M	Farmer	MOSIMAN
141	Joseph	30	M		MOSIMAN
142	Mary	20	F		MOSIMAN

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

143	David Shirtz	43	M		SCHERTZ
144	Joseph	6	M		SCHERTZ
145	Peter	4	M		SCHERTZ

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

146	Joseph Bachel [Belsley]	18	M		BELSLEY
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Another odd spelling for Johannes (later John) Schrag/Schrock, subject of a Winter 2002 IMH article by Donna Birkey.

147	Jno. Jerral	30	M		SCHROCK
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More of the family of David Schertz. 'Anne Shirtz' was his wife, born Anne Rocher.

148	Madaline Shirtz	18	F		SCHERTZ
149	Anne	38	F		SCHERTZ
150	Catherine	16	F		SCHERTZ
151	Barbara	7	F		SCHERTZ

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

152	Catherine Jerrard	26	F		SCHROCK
153	Anna	27	F		SCHROCK
154	Madeline	19	F		SCHROCK
155	Mary	42	F		SCHROCK
156	Catherine	1	F		SCHROCK
157	Joseph	3	M		SCHROCK

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

158	Michael Salsman [Salzman]	51	M	Farmer	SALZMAN
159	Peter	31	M		SALZMAN
160	Jacob	16	M		SALZMAN
161	Michael	7	M		SALZMAN
162	Andre	2	M		SALZMAN
163	Christophe	18	M		SALZMAN
164	Madaline	35	F		SALZMAN
165	Mariah	32	F		SALZMAN
166	Barbe	12	F		SALZMAN
167	Marie	10	F		SALZMAN
168	Catherine	5	F		SALZMAN
169	Madaline	20	F		SALZMAN

The family of Peter Schrag/Schrock, who became minister to the 'hook and eye' congregation in Butler County. 'Mary Gerrard' was his first wife, Marie Zimmerman. See REDIGER for background on this couple (Peter's second wife was a Rediger).

170	Peter Jerrard	30	M	Miller	SCHROCK
	[Pierre Schrag/Schrock, whose name was distorted into 'Serach' on his marriage entry, then Jerrard here]				
171	"	3	M		SCHROCK
172	Mary	27	F		SCHROCK
173	Madaline	1	F		SCHROCK

The family of Peter Schrag/Schrock's father-in-law Jacob Zimmerman.

174	Jacob Simmerman	52	M	Farmer	SCHROCK
175	Christopher	12	M		SCHROCK
176	John	4	M		SCHROCK
177	Betsey	47	F		SCHROCK
178	Madaline	18	F		SCHROCK
179	Catherine	4	F		SCHROCK
180	Anna	2	F		SCHROCK

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

181	Christian Kemp	18	M		CAMP
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The family of André (later Andrew) Salzman, a brother of Michael Salzman.

182	Andre Salsman	35	M		SALZMAN
183	Artre	5	M		SALZMAN
184	Anton	2	M		SALZMAN
185	Barbara Salsman	3	F		SALZMAN
186	Anna	30	F		SALZMAN

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

187	Joseph Schertz	40	M	Farmer	SCHERTZ
188	Christian	22	M		SCHERTZ
201	Andre Shirtz	38	M		SCHERTZ
202	Marle	11	M		SCHERTZ

The '100 Hessian Mennonites' Voyage of 1832

JUTZI	Christian, 43, farmer; Maria/Marie Sommer, 38; Susannah, 13, born in 1819; Helena or Magdalena, 11; Emilie, 9, born in 1822; Elira or Elisabeth, 7; Maria or Marie, 5, born in 1827; and Phillipion or Jacobine, 3, born in 1829. Jacob, 20.
HEMELET	Christian, 38.
DIEPEL	Heins, 26.
SCHUTTER	Joh., 24.
JUTZI	Michael (1777-1840), 50; Peter, 23; Johannes, 28; Marie, 45; Elira, 22; Phillipine, 13.
HEMETEL	Franz, 26. [Should be Hemelet]
PERCY	Daniel, 24.
BRENNEMAN	Daniel, 26 (1804-1884); Jacob, 5; Elise or Elisabeth, 23, wife of Daniel Brenneman and daughter of Michael Jutzi; Marie, 3 (later married Jacob Hauter); Elise, 1. This family later lived in Boynton, Tazewell County.
OESCH	Marie, 20.
HOLLY	Johannes, 44, of Langsdorf; Daniel, 16; Johannes, 11; Wilhelm, 8; Peter, 5; Helena or Magdalena, 36 (her sister Maria had been Johannes' first wife); Christine, 20; Elise, 18; Maria, 14; Jacobine, 3; Catherine, 38; Peter, 40, farmer; Christian, 12; Johannes, 12; Maria, 16; Jacobine, 10; Catherine, 7; Elise, 2; Susanna, 7; Daniel, 28; Catherine, 26; Barbara, 4; Christine [Christian], 2; Maria, 1; Anna, 16.
ROSENKRAN	Maria, 36.
MANNIHAN	Hens, 27; Johann, 24.

OSWALD	Michael, 25; Johann (1812-1890), 24, who moved to Morton, Tazewell County, in 1849; Wilhelm, 20.
GINGRICH	Catherine, 30; Elise, 13; Cath, 2; Phillipine, 1; Peter, 40; Christian, 10; Jacob, 8.
BENDER	Johann, 46; Jacob, 11; Daniel, 9; Maria, 40; Maria, 13; Anna, 17 (born 1815 in Wohra); Helena, 16; Jacobine, 7; Elise, 5. Johann and Maria were married March. 20, 1814 in Wohra, and lived in Zesten and Schmitthoff.
DREBEIN	Christian, 24; Marie, 3.
BERTY (Birki)	Jacob, 25.

The Voyage of the *Mercury* in 1854

The *Mercury* was the largest ship in Havre second line of packet ships, and the fastest. It was constructed in 1851, and carried passengers from Le Havre to New York until at least 1869. Its crossings averaged 33 days.

The *Mercury* departed Le Havre circa April 17, 1854, and arrived at New York May 20, 1854 carrying 569 passengers. Among them were Waglers, Röschlis, and Wagners traveling to Central Illinois.

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

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Text</i>
353	Jean Maurer	37	M	
354	Anna	34	F	
355	Joseph	10	M	
356	Hans	7	M	
357	Anna	5	F	
358	Christ	3	M	
359	Barba.	9 months	F	
360	Hch. Goldschmitt	37	M	
361	Anna Muller	24	F	
362	David Schlabach	15	M	
365	Jac. Wagner [Jacob Wagler]	48	M	WAGLER
366	Mag.	49	F	WAGLER
367	"	23	F	WAGLER
368	Barbe	21	F	WAGLER
369	Marie	19	F	WAGLER
370	Elis.	17	F	WAGLER
371	Cath.	15	F	WAGLER
372	Anna	13	F	WAGLER
373	Reg	9	F	WAGLER
374	Joh.	9	M	WAGLER
375	Jacob Maurer	28	M	
377	Barbe Roschle	44	F	ROESCHLEY
378	Joseph Wagner	54	M	WAGNER
379	Elis.	46	F	WAGNER, ROESCHLEY
380	Joseph	18	M	WAGNER
381	Anna	17	F	WAGNER
382	Barbe	8	F	WAGNER
383	Elisab.	4	F	WAGNER
386	John. Roschil [Röschli]	43	M	ROESCHLEY
387	Jacob Salzmann	19	M	BELLER
395	André Maurer	31	M	
396	Anna	25	F	
397	John.	4 or 7 or 8	M	
398	Christ	9 months	M	
403	Joseph Wagner	18	M	Redundant, WAGNER
404	---- Wagler ¹	41	M	

¹ This family is thought to be that of Christian Wagler and Elizabeth Maurer, who are buried in North Pulaski Cemetery in Iowa. Christian was born circa September 1815, and died at Pulaski March 17, 1905. Elizabeth was born circa 1816, and died at Pulaski April 26, 1904.

405	Elisab.	41	F
406	Joseph	10	M
407	Barbe	8	F
408	Elisab.	6	F
409	Jean	3	M
410	Anna	9 months	F

Steiger

In BECK we told the story of two children of Christian Beck and Barbara Danner: Barbara Beck who married 'Apostle Peter' Naffziger, and Magdalena Beck who married Johannes/John Steiger. And in NAFZIGER we told how a son of the first couple (Valentine F. Naffziger born 1828) married a cousin, a daughter of the second couple (Elizabeth Steiger born 1837).

In addition to Elizabeth Steiger (born 1837), at least two other children of Johannes/John Steiger and Magdalena Beck came to Tazewell County.

The first was Jakobina/Phebe/Bena Steiger, who was born in Ohio in 1841. She is found as boarder Bena Steiger in the household of her widowed sister Elizabeth Steiger on the 1900 census of Boynton.

The second was Mary Steiger, who was born in Kentucky July 6, 1846, and died at Delavan Jan. 29, 1919. On March 5, 1871 in Tazewell County she married her second cousin John Steiger. He was born in 1844, a son of Johannes/John Steiger (born in 1816) and Mary. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery.

How did her second cousin come to Tazewell County? The explanation starts in Hesse-Darmstadt.

Johann Peter Steiger was born at Birkert April 6, 1753, and died there Dec. 8, 1817. He married Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich.

Their son Johann Philipp Steiger was born at Birkert Dec. 26, 1773, and died at Rimhorn (five miles northeast of Birkert) April 13, 1843. He married Maria Hoffman.

As noted earlier, they became the parents of Johannes/John Steiger. He was born at Rimhorn in 1803 and married Magdalena Beck (see BECK for background on this couple).

Another son of Johann Peter Steiger and Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich was **Johann Adam Steiger**. He was born at Birkert March 26, 1777.² He married Maria Katharina Friedrich.

They became the parents of **Johannes/John Steiger**, who was born at Rimhorn Sept. 27, 1816. He married Mary (1825-1919) in Germany.

They were the parents of **John Steiger**. He was born in Pendleton County, Kentucky Jan. 6, 1844, and died at Peoria May 26, 1828.

Thus Mary (born 1846, a daughter of Johannes/John born in 1803) and John (born 1844, a son of Johannes/John born in 1816) shared Johann Peter Steiger and Elisabeth Margaretha Friedrich as great-grandparents.

A Steiger grouping departed from Le Havre, and arrived at New York on the packet ship *Ville de Lyon* July 9, 1841. The passenger list reads:

Adam Steiger [Johann Adam Steiger], 64
--
Johannes [overwritten as John] Steiger, 37 [nephew of Johann Adam Steiger]
Magd. [Magdalena Beck], 35
Elisab., 12
John, 6
Lisette, 3
--
Joh. Steiger {son of Johann Adam Steiger, cousin to Johannes/John}, 24
Mary, 23

Like John and Magdalena, John and Mary may have initially settled in Butler County, Ohio; they certainly settled near them in Pendleton County, Kentucky.

The Pendleton County Court Order Book, Volume J, says that, "John Steiger, of Hesse Darmstadt, who made declaration of intention in Campbell County court, was made a citizen Nov. 6, 1848." They are found on the 1880

² Some sources say Johann Adam Steiger died at Rimhorn June 5, 1854. However, since he immigrated with his son and nephew in 1841, we suspect he died in America.

census of Sandsuck, Pendleton County as farmer John Steiger, 64, Germany; Mary, 55, Germany; George, 19, Kentucky; Carolina, 18, Kentucky; and Mary, 16, Kentucky.

Johannes/ John and Mary came to Delavan after 1880. They are buried in Prairie Rest Cemetery. His headstone says he died June 16, 1887, aged 70 years and 10 months; hers says she died June 5, 1901, aged 76 years, three months, and 22 days.

Zwalter of Gondrexange

Though the Amish Mennonite Zwalter family of Gondrexange had no sons to come to Central Illinois, it was well-represented by numerous descendants.

Zwalter is also found as Swalter, Svalter, and Schwalter, suggesting that it may have been a variation of Schowalter. German-speaking clerks also wrote 'Zwalti.'

The names of parents **Michel Swalter** and Elisabeth Naxier [Nafziger] are found on the civil death entry of their son.

Their son **Christian Zwalter** was born circa 1737, and died at Gondrexange Feb. 24, 1797. He was an Amish Mennonite minister and elder.

Christian married Marie Risser before 1766. Marie is also found as 'Marie Richard' on the marriage entries of two daughters. Other sources give 'Riser' or 'Reyser.' She was born circa 1735, and died at Gondrexange Oct. 4, 1800.

Christian's civil death entry said that he was 60. It named his wife as Marie Richard, and identified his parents. It was witnessed by cultivators Christiane Neyhauser [his son-in-law], 29, and Jean Réchely, 27. The *Tables Decennale* index of death entries describes him as Christianne Zvalteur, 60, husband of M. Richard.

Marie's civil death entry describes her as Marie Riseur, 65, wife of Christianne Zvalteur. It was reported by her son-in-law, Jean Perquy [Birki], 23.

According to a letter from David Petersheim dated Dec. 10, 1986 they had eight daughters. The known children of Christian Zwalter and Marie Risser include:

- 1 Barbe Zwalter was born circa 1766. She married Jean Abresol of Rhodes, Moselle. He was born there circa 1762. See PLANK for background on their son Christian (later found as Ebersol and Ebersoll), who was born at Rhodes March 1, 1788, and died at Wilmot, Ontario March 25, 1862. Their daughter Marie Abresol was born at Imling May 24, 1792, and died Sept. 23, 1881. On May 27, 1814 at Verdental, Meurthe-et-Moselle she married Joseph Schertz. Their daughter Barbara Schertz immigrated and married Christian Imhoff and Joseph Hodler (see SCHERTZ, SCHERTZ OF OBERSTINZEL).
- 2 Catherine Zwalter was born in 1768, and died before 1831. On Aug. 7, 1797 at Gondrexange she married Joseph Gascho. He was born circa 1773, and immigrated in 1831. See GASCHO for more on their family.
- 3 Anne/Anna Zwalter was born in 1769, and died at Pellheim, Bavaria Feb. 5, 1839. Before 1794 she married Andreas/André Gascho, a brother to Joseph Gascho ('before 1794' because he was described as a brother-in-law on the marriage entry of Magdalena/Madeleine). He was born circa 1768, and died at Imling, Moselle April 24, 1812. Their son Johannes/Jean/John Gascho immigrated in 1831, and settled Spring Bay, Woodford County. See GASCHO for more on this family.
- 4 Magdalena/Madeleine Zwalter was born Dec. 1, 1772, and died at Imling, Moselle Jan. 1, 1814. On April 20, 1794 at Gondrexange she married Christian Neuhauser (found as Christiane Neyhouser, 27). Witnesses included brother-in-law of the bride André Cacho [Gasco], 26; and sister of the bride Catherine Zwalter, 25. When he died at Imling Aug. 17, 1809, Madeleine was approximately two months pregnant. Andreas/André Gascho appeared at the office of a municipal clerk at Imling to attest to the birth of her child. The *état civil* birth record created March 26, 1810 described him as "farm equipment operator [Fr. *manoeuvre*] André Cachot, 43, brother-in-law of the mother of the child, a resident of Badonviller, presenting an infant born at Imling March 25, the son of the deceased cultivator Christian Neuhauser and Magdaleine Zwalter of Imling; the child to be named Jean."
- 5 Anne Marie Zwalter was born at Gondrexange Sept. 10, 1776. On Dec. 12, 1793 at Gondrexange she married Joseph Mosimann. See MOSIMAN for more on this family.
- 6 Freni Zwalter was born circa 1777, and died in Putnam County before the 1850 census. On March 5, 1798 at Gondrexange she married Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey. He was born circa 1776, and likely died in Putnam County between 1850 and 1860. They immigrated in 1836. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this family.
 - According to the notes of Jean Sears, "David Petersheim's records indicate another daughter married a Burkey."
 - An eighth daughter could not be identified.

Another Zwalter found in Part One may have been related to this family, perhaps as another child of Michel Swalter and Elisabeth Naxier [Nafziger]. Catherine Zwalter was born circa 1752, and died at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges May 25, 1823. In 1783 she became the second wife of Rudolf/Rodolphe/Rudolphe Bältzli. He was born in the hamlet of Freistett at Fribourg circa 1743. He tended livestock on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes. See BELSLEY.

Yoder of the Oley Valley

The *Francis and Elizabeth* immigrants of 1742 were not the first Yoders in Pennsylvania. They followed Yoders who were not Amish Mennonite. Thanks to amazing research published in the *Yoder Newsletter*, we can identify someone who sailed from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, and set a precedent for emigration from Steffisburg to the Oley Valley of Pennsylvania.

The first Yoder known to have settled in North America was Hans Joder/Yoder. Though he traveled from the Pfalz in 1709, he was born at Steffisburg. His story makes indirect connections between Steffisburg, the Königs at Steffisburg, and the Oley Valley. The coincidence of the Steffisburg-Oley connection suggests that his correspondence played a part in bringing others to his new home. Because he may have arrived as a Lutheran and joined the Reformed Church, his influence on later migration is often overlooked.

Niclaüs Joder was baptized at Steffisburg March 25, 1609. On Oct. 14, 1642 he married Anna Trachsel (in a double ceremony with his brother Jost and a cousin also named Anna Trachsel, who became paternal great-great-grandparents of the *Francis and Elizabeth* immigrants). They lived on the Ortbühl farm in the northwest corner of Steffisburg.

Their son **Adam Joder** was baptized at Steffisburg July 22, 1650. On Jan. 9, 1671 at Steffisburg he married Barbli Ochsenbein. Adam operated a fulling mill on the Schnittweierbad farm above Steffisburg. On April 9, 1675 Samuel König was one of three witnesses to the baptism of their daughter Barbara Joder in the Reformed Church at Steffisburg. Other witnesses were Anna Wytttenbach and Magdalena Zimmerman.

Among their five children were two sons, **Hans Yoder and Yost Yoder**, who were born on the Ortbühl farm at Steffisburg. Hans was baptized in the Reformed Church at Steffisburg March 10, 1672. Yost was baptized there Nov. 5, 1679.

Adam Joder and Barbli Ochsenbein left Steffisburg with their children after 1683, and went to the Pfalz. There they lived at Lachen-Speyerdorf, in the district of Mussbach (Mussbach is located 3.5 miles to the northwest). Hans and Yost later lived at Schwetzingen, between Mannheim and Heidelberg, which is now in the northwest corner of Baden-Württemberg. Schwetzingen was the summer home of the Elector of the Pfalz, and they may have been employed on his estate. Hans married Veronica Aeschliman.

A church register from Schwetzingen says that Hans and Veronica departed for 'the island of Pennsylvania' March 1, 1709. Don Yoder has discovered that Hans was in London May 6, 1709. His name appears on a list of Palatine travelers, age 38, occupation husbandman (farmer), religion Reformed Church. He was accompanied by his wife; sons 9 and 4; a 1-year-old daughter; the family of Philip Kuhlewein; and the family of John LeDee.

Hans purchased land at London, Chester County Jan. 14, 1711. His wife Veronica must have died on the transatlantic voyage or soon after. On April 29, 1711 at Whitemarsh, Bucks County he remarried to Anna Rosina LeDee. The ceremony was conducted by controversial minister Paulus van Vlecq.³

On March 25, 1714 Hans received a warrant for land along the Manatawny Creek at Oley.

Oley is on the east side of the Schuylkill River, and at the time it was in Philadelphia County. The first German-speaking people who took part in William Penn's 'Holy Experiment' had settled there in 1712.

The Indians of Berks County, Pa. states that in this period "...there were only three counties in Pennsylvania, viz.: Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks. All of Berks County west of the Schuylkill was in Chester County, and all east of it was in Philadelphia County. In 1730 Lancaster County was formed from Chester County by a line running

³ Paulus van Vlecq arrived in the colonies in 1702 and initially served as a schoolmaster at Kinderhook, N.Y. In New York he was forbidden to preach unless he returned to the Dutch Republic for ordination in the Dutch Reformed Church. He may have been ordained in secret by a minister friend. When he moved to Pennsylvania in 1710 he was not recognized by the Dutch Reformed Church at Philadelphia. He became a minister under the authority of the Presbyterian Church for immigrants in Bucks County (north of Philadelphia). In 1712 he was accused of bigamy. The evidence against him included a letter from his own mother. He left the area. His records were kept in a journal that is now held by the Dutch Reformed Church at Churchville, Bucks County. Hans Yoder is described in the journal as 'Johannes Jodder, widower of Fronica Iselmyn.'

from a place in the vicinity of Birdsboro to Octorara Creek, emptying into the Susquehanna. From this time until 1752 that part of Berks County east of the Schuylkill was in Philadelphia County, Union and part of Robeson and Caernarvon were in Chester County, and the rest of the county was in Lancaster. Berks County was not organized until 1752. The term Berks, however, was used to denote the territory which forms the county at present."

The area around Hans's farm became known as *Yotterschdettle* or Yodertown, and is now the unincorporated community of Pleasantville in Oley Township, at the junction of Covered Bridge Road and Route 73. Hans built a number of mills, and the family attended the Oley Reformed Church. Hans died in 1742 and was buried in a family cemetery on his property.

Hans's younger brother Yost arrived at Oley by 1714. He married Elizabeth Kuhlwein, and made his living as a fur trapper. His will was written May 29, 1741, and executed Jan. 14, 1742.

Military Acquaintances

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

Corporal Abraham Reust

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

John Engel will be recalled from ENGEL as a son of prominent Amish Mennonite elder Christian Engel. John walked from Butler County, Ohio through the midwest in 1830; returned to Butler County; then returned to purchase 160 acres in what became Woodford County with his half-brother Peter in 1831. He also served as a volunteer teamster in the Black Hawk Indian War.

Late in life John and his wife Barbara Dettweiler relocated from Metamora to an 80-acre farm in Section 2 of Panola, near their daughter Barbara Engel and her husband Christian H. Ruvenacht. The 1873 plat map of Panola shows J. Engel next door to C. Ruvenacht and 'A. Reust' (Abraham Reust).

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

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

The element of coincidence is heightened by the relative smallness of Steffisburg. The present population of Steffisburg is approximately 15,500; it was presumably less than 8,000 in Christian's birth year.⁴

Was there more than a remarkable coincidence? Was Christian Reüst/Reust aware that he might find Steffisburg descendants in an Amish Mennonite settlement in Central Illinois? Or, for some long-forgotten reason, did John Engel and his daughter relocate to Panola because of the presence of Abraham?

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

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

⁴ Over 40 percent of Steffisburg land is still used for agriculture, and more than 25 percent is still forested.

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

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

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

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

Christian Reüst/Reust was born at Steffisburg March 31, 1806, and christened there April 6. He sailed from Le Havre on the *Plato*, and arrived at New York Oct. 17, 1833. The passenger list stated his age as 27 and his nationality as Swiss, and grouped him on a page with travelers headed to Ohio; his possessions included 'one bed, one trunk.'

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

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

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

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

The farm became part of Panola when the township system was adopted by the county in 1851.⁵

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

The children of Christian Reüst/Reust and Anna Margarete/Margaret Harre include:⁶

1. Maria/Mary Reust was born in New York circa 1835, and likely died before September 1858. On March 27, 1852 in Woodford County she married Henry Mohr. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Aug. 8, 1828, and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Nov. 23, 1905, a son of Johann Georg/John G. Mohr and Katharina/Catherine Wholleber. On Sept. 23, 1858 in Woodford County Henry remarried to Anna Maria Mohr (found as Anna Mohr on the county entry).⁷

⁵ The nonsensical name Panola was arbitrarily chosen by a land commissioner of the Illinois Central Railroad.

⁶ Some sources give them a daughter Anna Reust, born at Steffisburg Aug. 24, 1824, who married Friedrich Samuel Tanner. The *Reust Genealogy* says she was a daughter of Christian Reust (1791-1844) and Elisabeth Luginbuhl.

⁷ A number of sources say that Maria/Mary Reust lived beyond 1858. We suspect she has been confused with Henry's second wife. Because of this, we have provided a little extra information.

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

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

On Sept. 23, 1858 in Woodford County Henry remarried to Anna Maria Mohr (found as Anna Mohr on the county entry). She was born in Germany in March 1838; her name suggests that she could have been a relative or the widow of a relative. They are found on the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana. The 1887 *Directory of Carroll County* shows

2. Christian Reust (Jr.) was born in McLean County July 11, 1837, and died at Frankfort, Kansas Feb. 3, 1919. On March 25, 1858 in Woodford County he married Matilda Welte. She was born at Erlaheim, Baden-Württemberg May 16, 1840, and died at Frankfort, Kansas April 3, 1921, a daughter of Vinzenz Welte and Alphonsa Straub. She immigrated with her widowed father in 1855. They appear on the 1860 census of Greene, Woodford County as farmer Christian Reust, 22, Illinois; Matilda, 21, Wurttemberg; and Abraham, 1, Illinois. They are found on the 1870 census of Rook's Creek, Livingston County as farmer Christian Reust, 32, Germany; Matilda, 29, Wurttemberg; Salome, 9; Cornelius, 6; Samuel, 4; and Mary, 1; all children born in Illinois. They appear on the same census page as Christian's younger sister Margaret and her husband J.B. In 1880 they were living at Vermillion, Kansas with six children. They are buried in Willow Hill Cemetery at Frankfort, Kansas.
3. Margaret A. 'Martha' Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Nov. 14, 1838, and died at Council Grove, Kansas Sept. 28, 1898. On Jan. 28, 1858 in Woodford County she married John B. Grove. He was born in Illinois circa 1836, and died Sept. 10, 1921, a son of Jacob Grove and Margaret Hoover. They are found on the 1870 census of Rook's Creek, Livingston County as farmer J.B. Grove, 33; Margaret, 32; Sarah, 12; Atwood, 10; Lucinda, 8; Juanitta, 5; all born in Illinois. They appear on the same census page as Margaret's older brother Christian (Jr.) and his wife Matilda. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Council Grove.
4. Samuel Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Nov. 18, 1840, and died at Salem, Oregon June 15, 1926. He is buried in Salem Pioneer Cemetery/City View Cemetery at Salem. On the 1860 census of Olio, Woodford County he is found as an 18-year-old farm laborer with his brother Abraham in the household of William Finley, living next door to Christian Yotty; on the same census he is found again with his sister Hannah as a 19-year-old farm laborer in the household of William Dixon of Eureka. On Feb. 20, 1862 in Tazewell County he married Mary Ann Grove.⁸ She was born in Tazewell County July 29, 1843 (headstone), and died at Frankfort, Marshall County, Kansas Nov. 10, 1912, a daughter of Jacob Grove and Margaret Hoover. The *Illinois Public Land Tract SalesDatabase* shows Samuel's purchase of 40 acres of land at \$13 per acre on June 17, 1870. The parcel was located in SESE Section 8 of Township 27N. The 1873 plat map of Panola shows S. Reust on 120 acres spanning southeast Section 8 and southwest Section 9. Samuel was listed as a Panola taxpayer in 1878. They relocated to Frankfort circa 1885. They are found on the 1900 census of Rock, Marshall County, Kansas as farmer Samuel Reust, 59, born in Illinois in November 1840 to Swiss parents; Mary A., 56, born in Illinois in July 1843 to parents from Virginia; with three children born in Illinois, and one born in Kansas. *Frankfort Area News*, November 1912: "Mrs. Samuel Reust died at the family home, eight miles northwest of Frankfort, Sunday evening, November 10, at 7:30 o'clock, after a illness lasting six weeks. The funeral was held from the Free Methodist Church in Frankfort, Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. Postlewait, interment in Morrison cemetery near Frankfort. Deceased has been a resident of Marshall county some thirty years, she is survived by her husband and eight children." Mary Ann is buried in Marshall Cemetery at Vliets, Kansas (five miles east of Frankfort). On April 12, 1916 at Salem, Oregon Samuel remarried to twice widowed Mary Josephine. She was born in 1843, and died at Salem in 1933. She had married a Miller, then remarried in Fulton County, Ohio in 1882 as the second wife of Civil War veteran Joshua H. Gray (1837-1911, who is also buried in City View Cemetery).
5. **Abraham/Abram Reust** was born at what is now Panola, Woodford County April 6, 1844, and died at Topeka, Kansas Jan. 3, 1914.
6. Hannah Reust was born in what is now Panola, Woodford County Dec. 8, 1847, and died at Vermillion, Marshall County, Kansas May 12, 1933. She is found as a 12-year-old with her older brother Samuel in the household of William Dixon on the 1860 census of Eureka. On Dec. 15, 1864 at Secor, Woodford County she married Civil War veteran John T. Potter. He was born in Indiana March 8, 1841, and died at Vermillion, Kansas May 12, 1933. He served as a private in Companies B and D of the 8th Missouri Infantry (his headstone notes only Company D). The regiment was organized at St. Louis Aug. 14, 1861. It engaged in the capture of Fort Donelson; the battles of Shiloh, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Bentonville; the sieges of Corinth, Vicksburg, and Atlanta; Sherman's March to the Sea; the surrender of Johnston's army; and the celebratory Grand Review in Washington, D.C. He mustered out Aug. 14, 1865. During the course of the Civil War his regiment lost 78 enlisted men to battle, and 124 enlisted men to disease. They are buried as Hannah Potter and John Potter in Vermillion Cemetery at Vermillion.

Abraham/Abram Reust was born at what is now Panola, Woodford County April 6, 1844, and died at Topeka, Kansas Jan. 8, 1914.

Henry Mohr as a contractor and builder living at the corner of Front and Washington Streets in South Delphi. The 1900 census shows Henry Mohr, 71, born in Pennsylvania in August 1828 to a father from Germany and a mother from Pennsylvania; and Mary A., 62, born in Germany in March 1838.

We could not identify a death entry or burial. Henry's will registered in Carroll County was created Dec. 22, 1903, and probated Nov. 22, 1905. It named his wife as Anna M. Mohr, a son Nathaniel Mohr, and daughters Adeline 'Addie' L. Mohr Gough and Fannie B. Mohr Crane.

⁸ The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists him as Samnuel Renst.

The 1860 census of Olio, Woodford County shows 15-year-old Abraham and 18-year-old Samuel as farm laborers born in Illinois, in the household of 32-year-old William Finley.

On Aug. 2, 1862 at Pontiac he enlisted as private Abraham Reust in Company A of the 129th Illinois Infantry. His entry documents describe him as a 19-year-old single native of Green, Woodford County living at Nebraska, Livingston County; 5-foot 5-inches tall, light hair, blue eyes, fair complexion; occupation farmer. He mustered in Sept. 8.

His company participated in the battles of Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Bentonville; the siege of Atlanta; and Sherman's March to the Sea. Abraham rose to the rank of corporal, and was discharged for disability March 13, 1865. During the course of the war his regiment lost 50 enlisted men to wounds or death in battle, and 128 to disease.

On March 25, 1869 in Woodford County Abraham married Caroline Parsons. She was born at Oxfordshire, England April 12, 1851, and died at Topeka July 23, 1941, a daughter of Shadrack Parsons and Elizabeth Walden. She had immigrated with her parents in 1853.

The *Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database* shows that in 1871 Abraham Reust purchased four parcels in Iroquois County. They encompassed 320 acres at \$7 per acre, the entire lower half of Section 22 in Township 28N. However, he remained a resident of Panola.

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

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

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

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

Artilleryman John Brickler

John Brickler was born in France circa 1760. Past and Present of Woodford County (1878) said that "Peter Engle, Sr., the Verklers, who were step-sons, and John Brickler came from the province of Lorraine in 1831."⁹ Recall from RICH:

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

The Past and present of Woodford Count: "John Brickler, a native of Lorraine, France, and one of the early settlers near the present town of Metamora, and who died a few years ago, on the place where his daughter, Mrs. Farver, now lives, was a soldier in the Grand Army of France in its ill-fated expedition into Russia, under the First Napoleon, and shared in the privations and miseries of the disastrous retreat from Moscow - an event in which there is probably embodied more of 'glory and of gloom' than anything of its kind in the annals of man. Many of his old acquaintances are yet familiar with the stories he used to tell, of that awful retreat and its accompaniment of horrors, when his starving, freezing comrades, after struggling through the storm all the long dreary day, sunk down at night,

⁹ We could not specifically identify John Brickler in Moselle, but Bricklers were found at Lagarde and Guermange, both homes to Engels. No Bricklers are found on the passenger list with Peter Engel. His ship sailed from Le Havre, and arrived at Baltimore May 21, 1831.

many to rise no more, while the blinding storm rapidly wove its winding sheet, and the tall pines, swaying and roaring in the wind, howled their mournful requiem."

History of Woodford County: "John Brickler settled where Farver, his son-in-law now lives, and died in 1852. He had been a soldier in Bonaparte's army in the department of artillery; was on the expedition of the Grand Army to Russia, and in its famous retreat from Moscow. When he came to America, he brought with him one of the short artillery swords used in the French army in that branch of service, and which in this republican country was degraded from the glory of 'noble war' by being used as a knife for 'cutting up corn.' There are those still living in this immediate vicinity who have used the old sword in that capacity. Marceline Farver came from Switzerland to Woodford County in 1837. He married Mary, a daughter of John Brickler, and now lives where Brickler originally settled. He was her second husband, her first having died soon after their marriage."¹⁰

Jean/John purchased 40 acres of federal land in SENE Section 18 of Survey District 56 (later Woodford County) for \$1.25 per acre July 28, 1834. The proper documentation was forwarded from the Land Office at Springfield to the General Land Office at Washington, D.C. A deed showing final payment was issued there March 18, 1837. It ostensibly bears the signatures of Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States; secretary A. Van Buren [his son Abraham]; and recorder Hudson McGarland. The three signatures were written by one person, indicating that this was one of thousands of such deeds confirmed by McGarland on behalf of the administration.

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

The 1850 census of District 56/Woodford County shows John Brickler, 90. France; and Madalaine, 83, France.

Jean/John Brickler's burial place could not be identified. His wife is buried in Oakwood Cemetery at Metamora, where her headstone calls her 'Anna Brickler, 1768-1860.' Their daughter Mary is also found there.¹¹ The mid-1850s was a transition period, when engraved headstones came into use in the area. This suggests that Jean/John was buried nearby under a perishable wooden marker.

Captain Louis Alexandre de Guibert

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

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

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

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 battle field, 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

¹⁰ The 1873 plat map of Metamora shows M. Farver as the owner of 88 acres in Section 18

¹¹ A joint headstone in Oakwood Cemetery says 'Marceline Favre, Feb. 16, 1808-June 30, 1891,' and 'Mary his wife, Oct. 12, 1812, Nov. 30, 1896.'

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.

Louis's sword and other French possessions were lost when the de Guibert home was destroyed by fire in January 1944.

Baron Ludwik Chlopicki

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

In the French army he became Grégoire Joseph Clopicki de Necznia, 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. He immediately offered to negotiate a conditional surrender with representatives of Russian Czar Nicholas I. They refused conditions, and he resigned Jan. 17, 1831.

He then rejoined the army and fought in several battles against the Russians. After being wounded he was taken to Crakow, where he retired and died in 1854. 'Klopisky' 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.¹² On Nov. 22, 1833 he volunteered to be one of 325 exiles to be taken onboard one of two American frigates, the *Hebe* or the *Guerriere*.

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

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

¹² Although Trieste is now in northeastern Italy, it was part of the Habsburg monarchy until 1918. In 1833 it was the Austro-Hungarian Empire's main outlet onto the Mediterranean Sea.

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

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

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

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

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

'Lewis Chlepeski' is found on the 1840 census of Tazewell County. 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.¹³ 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 Chlopnicki's entry shows Andrew Roup (Andreas Ropp), Jacob Unsicker (Unzicker), John Shert (Jean/John Schertz), and the Neukirks.

Chlopnicki 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 Chlopnicki.'

On Dec. 14, 1852, a Peoria County supervisor wrote to the federal government requesting a passport for Chlopnicki. The note that survives may have been attached to a larger application. Chlopnicki'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 Podolia 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 Chlopnicki'

He is found on the 1850 census of Peoria City as victualler Lewis Chlopnicki, 55, Poland.

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

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

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

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

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

¹³ 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.

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

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

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

Names

Bernese dialect	German	French	English
Andres	Andreas	André	Andrew
Anni, Anneli	Anna	Anne	Ann, Anne, Nancy
Barbara	Barbara	Barbe	Barbara
Bat, Batt, Balti	Balthasar	Balthazar	Balthazar
Beder	Peter, Petter	Pierre	Peter
Bendicht, Benz	Benedikt, Benz	Benoît	Benedict
Catrin, Cathrina	Katharina	Catherine	Catherine
Christen	Christian	Chrétien, Christophe	Christian, Christopher
Doratha	Dorothea	Dorothe	Dorothy
Elsbeth	Elizabeth	Elisabeth	Elizabeth
----	Franz	François	Frank
Freni, Verena	Veronika	Vérène, Véronique, Françoise	Franey, Veronica, Frances
----	Philippine, Pena, Jakobina, Bena, Bina	Jacobine, Jacobée	Phoebe
Jaggi	Jakob	Jacques	Jacob
Jost	Jost, Yost, Josef	Joseph	Joseph
Hannes	Johann, Johannes, Hans	Jean	John
Yost	Josef	Joseph	Joseph
Madlen, Madlena, Madleni, Leni	Magdalena, Leni	Madeleine, Magdelaine	Magdalena, Lena, Laney, Matty, Melinda, Linda
----	Margarete	Margueritte	Margaret
----	Maria	Marie	Mary
Michel, Michal	Michael	Michel	Michael
Niglaūs, Niggi, Niklaus	Nikolaus, Klaus	Nicolas	Nicholas
----	Susanne	Suzanne	Susan

There is often no single correct spelling for the name of a particular individual, even when his or her nationality is known. The spelling may have changed as the person crossed national boundaries. Families living in Alsace-Lorraine often spoke German, but not French (Alsace-Lorraine became a German territory 1870-1918). Some immigrant families in North America consciously chose mixed spellings for their children, such as Jakobina or Katharine. And of course in this time frame widespread illiteracy influenced every written document; particularly when the municipal clerk taking record entry information was left to guess at a spelling.

The Puzzle of Barbara Eyer

In earlier versions of this text we put out all the information we had on Barbara Eyer in the HEISER portion. We have moved her here, in the 'miscellaneous' netherworld of the Appendix, because we are still lacking direct proof of a link we hope to make.

One Barbara Eyer was born at Hatten, Lower Alsace in 1813. She came to America in or shortly after 1830. She initially settled along the Erie Canal in upstate New York, where she married George Ramige. They later came to Groveland with a number of companions that would be known as 'the Erie Canal families.'

When Magdalena Eyer became the second wife of Jacob Heisser in Bavaria in 1816, she brought a three-year-old girl named Barbara Eyer to that marriage. We initially assumed that this was an illegitimate daughter.

Was there one Barbara Eyer in Lower Alsace, who came to America, and another Barbara Eyer in Bavaria, both born in 1813? Or were they the same person?

Our late great aunts from Groveland and Morton, who were a relatively reliable source of information on the families in the county, recalled the wife of George Ramige as 'Barbara Heiser' (of course they were born a generation after Barbara left the county). This led us to believe that the Barbara Eyer born at Hatten, who lived in New York and Illinois, was the same as the one who was brought up by the Heiser family in Bavaria.

Yet this is nothing but a guess until hard evidence can be found. Here is the information we originally placed in HEISER:

On Nov. 25, 1816 Jacob Heisser remarried to Magdalena Eyer. She was born circa 1788, a daughter of Jakob Eyer and Magdalena Birki.

Magdalena brought a three-year-old child Barbara Eyer to this marriage. She was noted on their marriage entry, and raised in their family.

She was a daughter of Jean Eyer (he signed his own name Johannes Eyer), who could have been Magdalena's younger cousin or a more distant relative.¹⁴ A civil birth entry created at Hatten, Lower Alsace Feb. 25, 1813 states that Barbe Eyer had been born a day earlier in House No. 231. It describes her parents as *vitrier* Jean Eyer, 22, and his wife Marie Eve Strohm. A *vitrier* is a finishing carpenter who specializes in the installation and replacement of windows.

In 1830 Jean Eyer traveled from Hatten to Le Havre to New York City. His travel group included Heidt/Heit and Müller/Miller families. Barbara either accompanied them in 1830, or traveled to them a short while later.¹⁵

They settled at Lyons, a village on the Erie Canal in upstate New York. Jean (now called John) signed a naturalization *Declaration of Intent* there Sept. 28, 1830, stating that he was born at Hatten and was 38 years old. He would become an American citizen at Lyons Sept. 27, 1836.

THE ERIE CANAL

Construction of the Erie Canal was begun at Rome, New York in 1817. The banks were paved, 50 locks were constructed, and a stone tow path for harnessed draft horses ran along its 360-mile length. This provided work for thousands of unskilled laborers and stone masons. Many immigrants simply labored until they earned savings, then abandoned their employers to settle on inexpensive land farther west.

The canal reached Lyons in 1821, and opened in 1825-26, connecting the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie. In 1834 work began to expand its width from 40 to 70 feet. Lyons was one of only two locations with dry docks to repair damaged flatboats.

¹⁴ The marriage entry for Jean Eyer and Marie Eve Strohm at Hatten Jan. 9, 1812 says he was born there Feb. 12, 1791 to carpenter Jean Eyer and Barbe Friedel, and that his parents were present at the ceremony. Both father and son signed the page, along with witness Michel Eyer, a 57-year-old weaver described as an uncle of the groom.

Jean's son George Eyer was born at Hatten Dec. 18, 1815, and died at Lyons Sept. 14, 1894. On Nov. 27, 1838 he married Magdalena Stell at Lyons. She was born at Hermerswiller, a village four miles east of Hatten (Kutzenhausen, associated with the Gerber family, is only two miles east). They had 10 children at Lyons, leaving many Eyer descendants in the area.

¹⁵ The Heidt/Müller/Eyer group may have come to America in response to correspondence from the Ramige family. George's father weaver George Henry Ramige was also born at Hatten, Lower Alsace Jan. 6, 1788. He married Marie Salomé 'Sally' Kuntz there Dec. 26, 1809. They departed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Sully*, arriving at New York July 15, 1829, no doubt attracted by a community that was receptive to Alsatian and German immigrants. The *Sully* passenger list includes George Ramage, 40; Salomie, 40; George Jr., 18; Madelina, 15; Salomie Jr., 13; Mary, 10; Dorothy, 8; Justina, 3; and Barbara, 1. Some Hatten records show 'Ramigé.'

On Feb. 22, 1834 at Lyons Barbara Eyer married George Ramige. He was born Aug. 29, 1812 (his headstone shows Oct. 22, 1811), a son of George Henry Ramige and Salomé Kuntz. George and Barbara were members of the congregation when the Lyons Evangelical Church was established in 1835.¹⁶

In 1848 Ramige, Espenschied, Eller, Lux, and Wagner families departed Lyons and traveled 775 miles west to Groveland. In 1848 there was still less than 100 miles of railroad track in Illinois.

The household of George Henry Ramige is found on the 1850 census of Tazewell County as farmer John H. Ramige, 62, Germany; Salome, 52, Germany; and laborer Fredk., 17, New York. Their next door neighbors were farmer Nicolas Eller, 25, Germany; Barbara [Ramige], 22, Germany; and Peter, 1, Illinois.¹⁷ The household is found again on the 1860 census of Groveland as gentleman George N. Rumage, 71; and Mary, 71. They possessed \$10,000 of real estate and \$200 in personal property, a considerable sum. Their next door neighbors were still the Ellers, now with five children.¹⁸

The 1860 census of Groveland shows the household of their son George Ramige and Barbara Eyer as farmer George Rumagy, 57, Württemberg; Barbary, 46, Württemberg; George, 23, New York; Henry, 21, New York; William, 19, New York; Christian, 15, New York; Frederick, 11, Illinois; Emeline, 6, Illinois; and Sarah, 3, Illinois. Their son George lived next door. Barbara's relative John was living with them in 1870. That household is described as farmer George Ramige, 59, France; Barbara, 54, France; school teacher Frederick, 21, Illinois; Emma, 16, Illinois; farmer William [son of George and Barbara], 29, New York; Mary, 26, Missouri [William's wife]; Alice, 4 months, Illinois; and John Eier, 79 [closer to 68], France. They also appear on the 1880 census of Groveland as farmer Geo. Ramige, 69; wife Barbary, 66; and daughter Emma, 26, born in Illinois to parents from Germany.

The farm of 'G. Ramage' is located below Wesley City on the 1864 plat map of Groveland.

George Henry Ramige died at Groveland Dec. 6, 1867 (his headstone gives the age 79 years, 11 months, 21 days). Maria Salome 'Sally' Kuntz died there July 28, 1861 (her headstone gives the age 72 years, 3 months, 13 days). They are buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery at Groveland.

Their son George Ramige and Barbara Eyer moved to Rockwell City, Iowa in 1883, where Barbara died May 13, 1892. George died there March 21, 1892. They are buried in Lake Creek Cemetery in Rockwell City.

Wolber of Königsbach

A *Wolber* is a person who makes the posts and trellises for arbors, so that cultivators can raise grapes and other fruits to be distilled into wine and brandy.

The Swiss *Heimatort* or legal place of origin for citizenship rights associated with this surname is the remote village of Adelboden in Canton Bern, at the end of the valley of the Engstlige River, 18 miles southwest of Lake Thun.

Joseph Wolber worked as a miller at Eusserthal. With Christian Rinckenberg he was a witness to a document created at Essingen in March 1760, where the deceased Ulrich Nafziger's European children (including minister Johannes 'Hans the elder' Nafziger) relinquished claim to his estate in Pennsylvania.

¹⁶ The ebullient personality of Philip Dorsheimer played a part in the growth of Lyons. He was born at Wöllstein (now in the Pfalz) April 15, 1797. He emigrated to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1815, and married there in 1821. He moved to Lyons in 1825-26 to work as a flour miller. He later purchased hotels within sight of the flatboats. There he interpreted English for new German arrivals and attracted German businessmen to buy farms. Dorsheimer left Lyons in 1836 and moved to Buffalo with his son William, where he died in 1861. His son later became lieutenant governor of New York. (See Lloyd Espenschied's *Early Wayne County Settlers and their Rhineland Origins* online for more on this family and Lyons).

Two of the German settlers attracted by Dorsheimer were John Espenschied Sr. and John Espenschied Jr. On Aug. 22, 1834 they arrived at New York from Le Havre on the *Normandie*, traveling from Siefersheim, Hesse-Darmstadt (a village adjacent to Donsheim's birthplace). Also on the passenger list were Philip Dorsheimer's 68-year-old father Wilhelm, as well as several more families that settled at Lyons.

The surname Espenschied originates from a village located 13 miles east of Sankt Goarshausen. A Mennonite branch of this family emigrated to Lancaster County in the 1780s. A number of spelling variations are found in that area.

¹⁷ Nicholas Eller was born at Wonsheim, Hesse-Darmstadt Aug. 25, 1825, and died at Groveland Dec. 30, 1911. Wonsheim is located next to Wöllstein and Siefersheim, the hometowns of the Dorsheimers and Espenschieds. He arrived at New York on the *Argo* Nov. 6, 1846; made his way to Lyons; then moved with relatives to Groveland in 1848. On July 30, 1848 in Peoria County he married Barbara Ramige. She was born in Hatten, Lower Alsace Aug. 11, 1827, and died at Groveland Dec. 5, 1872. They are buried in Zion Evangelical Cemetery at Groveland.

¹⁸ Three-month-old Salome 'Sally' Eller later married Benjamin F. Ropp (see ROPP), a son of Jacob Ropp and Elizabeth Schlegel.

His son **Christian Wolber** lived on the Rodenhof at Rodenbach after the departure of Ulrich Nafziger and *der alte Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann*. Nafziger left in 1728, while Ehrismann passed the lease over to his oldest son and moved to the Lauberthalerhof before 1743 (the son moved to Mechtersheim 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 minister Johannes 'Hans the elder' Nafziger.

One of the children, **Joseph Wolber**, was born circa 1745. He married Catherine/Katharina Oesch. Joseph died at Mattstall, Lower Alsace Jan. 16, 1808 (Mattstall merged into Lembach in 1972). His civil death entry called him 'Joseph Wolmer,' and described him as a 62-year-old cultivator at Mattstaller Glashütt (the Mattstall glassworks).

Christian Wolber was born at Steinfingen (presumably a location in Mattstall) Oct. 31, 1792 (per his marriage entry), and died at Königsbach, Baden June 25, 1860.

Christian was married at Riedseltz Feb. 4, 1815. The civil marriage entry describes the groom as Chrétien Wolber, born at Steinfingen Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Joseph Wolber who had died at Steinfingen, and Catherine Esch, who was present and consenting. The bride was described as Catherine Eÿer (she signed her name that way), born at Mattstall March 12, 1785, 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). Mother-of-the-groom 'Catherine Esch' was present and consenting. The entry was witnessed by 26-year-old laborer Chrétien Schantz.

Although the marriage entry explicitly states that Christian was born and resided at Steinfingen, the supporting documents gathered before his marriage stated that he was born and lived on Dieffenbach at Riedseltz. On Jan. 21, 1815 Jean and Chrétien Roggi of the Dieffenbach attested that Chrétien Wolber was born there Oct. 31, 1792, a son of Dieffenbach day laborer Joseph Wolber (now deceased) and Catherine Esch. The farm that is also known by its German equivalent, *Diefenbacherhof*. This is significant because the Diefenbacherhof farm at Riedseltz had been leased by Valentine Nafziger, a cousin of elder Johannes 'Hans the elder' Nafziger, before the lease was passed to the Roggys who signed the pre-marriage document.

Catherine Eyer was born at Mattstall March 11, 1785, and died at Königsbach May 9, 1848. The parents of Catherine Eyer leased the Johannistalerhof at Königsbach, Baden, and the couple resided there.

We will only follow two of their children. Illinois settlers in bold type.

1. **Catherine Wolber** was born on the Johannistalerhof at Königsbach Jan. 13, 1820. On July 26, 1840 at Königsbach she married Daniel Ehresman. They immigrated circa 1852-58, and settled in Montgomery Township, Woodford County. See EHRESMAN for background on this couple.
2. Christian Wolber was born on the Johannistalerhof estate at Königsbach March 28, 1824, and died there Feb. 18, 1872. He married Susanna Hochstettler. She was born at Eisenberg in the Pfalz Feb. 12, 1826, and died at Überlangen am Bodensee March 24, 1902. They were the parents of **Jacob Wolber**, who was born at Königsbach Feb. 13, 1849. He immigrated in 1868, and settled at Deer Creek. See ZEHR for background on his marriage with Magdalena Zehr and possibly her younger sister Phoebe Zehr, or REDIGER for a list of those who accompanied him on his immigration voyage.

Landes and Landes Mennonite Cemetery

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

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

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

He sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Rhone*, arriving at New York June 17, 1839. The passenger list shows Christ Zear, 26, Bavaria. His name appears three lines below that of Jacob Imhof, 24; and Peter Imhof, 23. Peter Imhof or Imhoff later became elder/bishop of the conservative Augsburg congregation in Butler County. Andreas/Andrew Zimmerman and Anna Müller also brought their family on this voyage.

On Sept. 5, 1841 in what became Woodford County, Christian married Elizabeth Landes.¹⁹ She was born in Virginia circa 1814.

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

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

Catherine said that her grandfather was ordained as a German Baptist minister in Europe.

GERMAN BAPTISTS

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

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

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

In America adherents were called Dunkers, Dunkards, Tunkers, or simply *Täufer*.

Mack died Jan. 31, 1735. He was originally buried in Axe's Burying Ground, then in 1894 reburied in the Church of the Brethren Cemetery at Germantown.

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

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

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

'Henry Landes' is found in a list of redemptioners in *Records of indentures of individuals bound out as apprentices, servants etc. and of German and other redemptioners in the Office of the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia* (1907).²⁰ The list notes that he had arrived on a ship from Rotterdam. On Dec. 28, 1771 he was indentured to William Richards of Philadelphia for a term of five years, 10 months, and 19 days - perhaps sufficient to pay for a number of fares.²¹ The terms of his contract provided for help with English and mathematics: "Apprentice taught to read, write and cypher, to understand the rule of three and the business of an apothecary and as much Latin as will qualify him for that business, at expiration to have two complete sets of apparel, one whereof to be new."

An apprenticeship at Philadelphia would have put him within brief traveling distance of the Quaker, Mennonite, and Dunkard community at Germantown.

The Second Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia July 4, 1776. On Sept. 26, 1777 British troops under Sir William Howe occupied the city. Congress had evacuated and reconvened in

¹⁹ A Woodford County transcription from the original handwritten record names them as Christian Sein and Elizabeth Landes.

²⁰ The only other Henry Landes mentioned in these records was one who immigrated in 1749.

²¹ William Richards was born in Barbados in 1716. His family moved to a location near Hackensack, New Jersey in the early 1730s. By the 1760s he was a merchant at Perth Amboy, and owned his own schooner. He relocated to Philadelphia before 1765. There he worked as a merchant, shopkeeper, and apothecary. He still owned the schooner, and occasionally acted as its captain. In 1765 he purchased a fishery at Lambertton, New Jersey (now part of Trenton). He eventually owned a number of businesses along its waterfront including a bakery and pottery factory. The fish and ceramics were sold in his shops at Philadelphia, while some of the fish were shipped as far as Barbados. Richards is thought to have died at Philadelphia in 1787.

Lancaster County. On Oct. 7, 1777 the British defeated troops under General George Washington in the Battle of Germantown. The term of the Heinrich/Henry's redemption contract expired later that month.

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

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

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

While son Henry resettled in Hampshire County, his 56-year-old father may have retired to a safer and more developed area on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Catharine recalled being told that in 1796 Heinrich/Henry "removed his family [likely wife and younger children] to Rockingham County, Virginia, at which place he resided until his death, the date of which cannot be fixed to a certainty." We did not identify a Henry Landes in Rockingham County censuses 1800-30. However, federal censuses before 1850 only named actual heads of households. Thus, if he were living in a household where a son-in-law was considered the head of the family, he would have been indistinguishable from others - only a number in a male age bracket. However, it is also possible that Heinrich/Henry took up residence on the 625 acres. Whether he stayed in Hampshire County or departed, the land may have been intended for common use by his children.

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

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

The younger five children married individuals from German Baptist families associated with the Beaver Run and Mill Creek congregations in Hampshire County.²²

The known set of children from one mother includes:

1. Samuel Landes was born circa 1766 (presumably in Europe), and died near Lockbourne, Franklin County, Ohio (below Columbus) Dec. 19, 1822. He married Hannah Shoaf. His name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1800 and 1803. *History of Pickaway County, Ohio and Representative Citizens* (1906) describes "Samuel Landes of Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio," who lived on "...the Landes homestead, one mile north of Lockbourne."
2. Magdalena Landes was thought to have been born circa 1773. According to Catherine Landes, Magdalena "...married a Mr. Rudruck and lived in Pennsylvania. Of her family I know nothing." Perhaps this was the couple found on the 1850 census of Georges Township, Fayette County as David Roderick, 79, Maryland; and Magdalin, 80, Pennsylvania. They are buried in Mount Mariah Baptist Cemetery at Smithfield, Fayette County as 'Magdalene Roderick, 1770-1853' (she died in Fayette County Oct. 30, 1853) and 'David Roderick, 1770-1858' (he died in Fayette County Dec. 20, 1858).
3. Felix Landes may have been born circa 1770 or 1773, and died at New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio Sept. 3, 1838. He married Christina Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. His name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1805 and 1806. Some sources say that they resettled at New Philadelphia on 1807. *The History of Tuscarawas County* (1884) says Felix came there from Virginia in 1812, purchased 200 acres, and died there in 1838 "aged sixty-five or sixty-eight years."
4. **Rudolph Landes** (twin) was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778 (headstone count), and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 13, 1840.
5. Frederick Landes (twin) was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778, and died at Delphi Oct. 29, 1850. On Nov. 26, 1805 in Virginia he married Mary Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. They initially farmed in Virginia; his name appears on Upper Hampshire District County Tax lists in 1804, 1805, and 1810. They then resettled in Muskingum County, Ohio. In 1839 they resettled at Carrollton, Carroll County (adjacent to Flora on its east side). 'Frederick Lantz' is found on the 1840 census of Carroll County. The 1850 census of Carrollton shows farmer Frederick Landes, 73, on the same page as several of his grown children. *History of Carroll County, Indiana* (1909): "Fred and Mary (Thomas) Landes were natives of Rockingham county, Virginia, where they grew to manhood and womanhood and where they were married. Subsequently, they emigrated to Muskingum county, Ohio, and there lived until 1838, when they emigrated to Indiana and settled in Carrollton township, Carroll county. There they purchased a large tract of land and spent the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Dunkard church. Fred Landes was identified with the Whig party." Local records say Frederick is buried in Beech Grove Cemetery at Sharon, Carroll County, where his headstone is missing.
6. Joseph Landes was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Feb. 25, 1784 (according to his daughter Catherine), and died in Licking County, Ohio (on the east side of Columbus) March 11, 1843. He married Barbara Thomas, a daughter of Samuel Thomas and Nancy Culp. In 1807 they resettled at New Philadelphia. He may be found as Joseph Landers on the 1840 census of Gratiot, Hopewell Township, Licking County.

Elizabeth's father **Rudolph Landes** was born in Pennsylvania May 3 or 5, 1777 or 1778, and died at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 13, 1840.

He married Nancy Plum. It is likely that the ceremony took place in Hampshire County, Virginia. In 1795 her parents John Plum and Rachel Temple purchased 100 acres on Mill Creek.²³ It has been assumed that Rudolph and Nancy married in the same year, but we think it more plausible that the groom was at least 21 years of age, and the bride at least 16. Thus they may have been married as late as 1799. The 1840 census shows her in the 50-59 age bracket, narrowing the window for her birth year to the early 1780s.

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

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

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

²² This denomination has been called Church of the Brethren since 1908.

²³ The sales record calls the buyer John Plumb.'

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

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

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

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

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

THE NEW DUNKERS

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

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

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

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

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

THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL

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

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

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

'Rudolph Landiz' is found on the 1840 census of Carroll County. His household included one male 60-69 years of age [Rudolph], one male 30-39 [Solomon], one female 50-59 [wife Nancy], two females 20-29 [Mary and Rachel], and two females 15-19 [Susan and Eliza].

A Brief Statement of the Stimmel and Plum Ancestors From 1740 down to and Including the Names of the Fourth Generation (1902) says that Rudolph and Nancy "...came to Ohio and settled on a farm on the north line of Pickaway County. From this union four sons and seven daughters, namely: Joseph, Solomon, Felix, Rudy, Margaret, Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary, Susan, Eliza and Rachel. Rudy Landes and all his family (except Joseph) removed to Carroll County, Indiana, in the fall of 1833, and settled on a farm [at Delphi] about 10 miles southwest of Logansport, Indiana." It adds, incorrectly, that "Rudy died about 1837, age 65 years. Nancy, his wife, died in about 1848, age 74 years."

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

He is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora (adjacent to Delphi on its east side), where his headstone says he died Dec. 13, 1840, aged 62 years, seven months, and seven days (yielding the approximate birth date May 5,

1778). Flora is adjacent to Delphi on its east side, but located within Monroe Township. A Dunkard church was constructed in Monroe Township in 1831, nine years before the formal organization of Flora.

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

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

The children of Rudolph Landes and Nancy Plum include:

1. Solomon Landes is identified as a son and secondary heir (with brother Felix) on his father's will created in Carroll County in 1840. It is probable that he died before the 1850 census.
2. **Joseph Landes** was born at Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia Sept. 16, 1803, and died at Morton in 1885.
3. Felix Landes was born in Ohio (likely at Hamilton Township, Franklin County) Dec. 28, 1804 (headstone), and died at Chicago Oct. 1, 1884. A Carroll County marriage entry is titled 'Falix Landes to Letha Armstrong.' However, the actual text uses different spellings: "I hereby certify that on the 24th day of March 1936, I Aregalas Ardanian Preacher of the Gospel in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church joined in the holy state of matrimony Felix Landis and Letha Armstrong according to the usual customs and the Laws of the State of Indiana."²⁴ Lethia Armstrong was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee May 15, 1816, a daughter of William Armstrong and Elizabeth Galbraith.²⁵ Her father came from Augusta County to purchase 100 acres on Potter Creek in Hampshire County in 1808. Felix is identified as a son and secondary heir (with brother Solomon) on his father's will created in Carroll County in 1840. He may also be found as head-of-household Felix Landis on the 1840 census of Carroll County, Indiana: one male 30-39 years of age; two males under 5; and one female 20-29. The 1850 census of Carroll County has farmer Felix Landis, 43, Ohio; Letha H., 36, Tennessee; John, 16; Joseph, 11; Cyrene [daughter], 10; and Rudolph, 8; all children born in Indiana. As noted earlier, they were living next door to his mother and siblings. The 1860 census of Cold Water Township, Butler County, Iowa shows farmer Felix Landes, 52, Ohio; Leatha, 42, Tennessee; farm laborer John A., 22, Indiana; Joseph, 21, Indiana; Rudolph, 17, Indiana; Martha, 10, Indiana; farmer Leonard N. Lockwood, 28, New York; and Emeline, 18, Indiana. The 1870 census of Coldwater also lowers his age to bring it closer to his younger wife: farmer Felix Landes, 62, Ohio; Lithet, 53, Tennessee; Rudolph, 28, Indiana; and Martha, 19, Indiana. They lived next door to son John A. Landes, 33. An 1885 state census of Coldwater has Letha Landes, 68, Pennsylvania; Joseph M., 46, Indiana; Rudolph, 43, Indiana; and Mary Strayer, 35. Felix and 'Leath' are buried in Brethren Cemetery at Greene, Butler County, Iowa. His headstone says he was born Dec. 28, 1804, and died at age 79 y. 9 m. 4 d. Her headstone says she was born May 15, 1816, and died April 25, 1897, aged 80 y. 11 m. 10 d.
4. Katharina/Catherine Landes was born in Ohio (likely at Hamilton Township, Franklin County) circa 1808. She is last found as a 42-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County. She may be the Catherine Landes who died May 10, 1867, and is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora.
5. Margaret Landes was born in Ohio approximately June 30, 1812, and died in Carroll County Feb. 1, 1852. On April 13, 1833 in Carroll County she married Burrell Bell; their ceremony was performed by a probate judge. He was born in Blount County, Tennessee in 1805, and died Jan. 21, 1874, a son of Burrell Bell and Sophie Yancy. They are found on the 1850 census of Irvin, Howard County, Indiana as farmer Burrell Bell, 45, Kentucky; Margaret, 38, Ohio; and 10 children born in Indiana between 1834 and 1850. Margaret Landis Bell is buried in Shirar-Landis Cemetery at Flora. Her headstone says she aged 39 y. 7 m. 2 d. Following her death Burrell remarried twice. He is buried in Mound Cemetery at Poplar Grove, Howard County, Indiana.
6. Elizabeth Landes was born in Ohio circa 1814, and died in Tazewell County in 1843. See ZEHR for background on her marriage to Amish Mennonite Christian Zehr of Tazewell County.
7. Rachel Landes was born in Ohio circa 1815. A marriage license issued in Carroll County, Indiana Dec. 10, 1845 was titled 'William Baily to Rachall Landes'; the ceremony took place on Christmas day. We could not determine if this was the same person.
8. Rudolph 'Rudy' Landes (Jr.) was born in Ohio circa Nov. 5, 1816. He is buried in Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton, where his headstone says he died Aug. 24, 1839, aged 22 y. 10 m. 19 d.
9. Mary Landes was born in Ohio in 1818. She is found on the 1880 census of Elm Grove as boarder Mary Landes, 62, born in Ohio to parents from Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the household of farmer Franc Hill, 30, Ohio. In 1880 her

²⁴ Lethia is derived from the Greek *Letha*, and pronounced lae-thee-uh with the emphasis on the last syllable. In Greek mythology, the river Lethe in Hades made people forget unfortunate events in their mortal life. It implies forgetfulness, in the sense that the arrival of the newborn girl helps her parents get over earlier tragedies.

²⁵ Lethia Armstrong's sister Martha (1813-1899), also born in Hawkins County, Tennessee, married widower Joseph Landes (1811-1865) in Carroll County Nov. 21, 1848, becoming his second wife. Joseph was a son of Frederick Landes and Mary Thomas. His first wife was Nancy Richey (1815-1846). All three are buried in Beech Grove Cemetery at Sharon, Carroll County.

- older brother Joseph was living at adjacent Groveland. She is buried in Cropsey Cemetery, McLean County as 'Aunt Polly Landes, 1818-1898.' She was an aunt to Mary Ann Landes (wife of Ira Pratt) who is also buried there.
10. Susan/Susanna Landes was born in Ohio, and likely died between 1870 and the 1880 census. It is difficult to pin down her age, but we suspect she was born circa 1820. She is found as a 24-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County (thus born circa 1826), and as a 35-year-old on the 1860 census of Monroe Township, Carroll County (thus born circa 1825). Yet the 1850 census has her older than her sister Eliza, whose later censuses and headstone say was born in 1821. On Sept. 30, 1868 in Carroll County Susan married widower Samuel Myer. He was born in Maryland May 24, 1815, and died at Flora Aug. 5, 1890, a son of Dunkard minister John Myer and Elizabeth Witter. (In 1834 John Myer was an elder of their congregation). Samuel had been married to Elizabeth Burkett (they are found as Saml. Moyer and Elizabeth on the 1850 census of Carroll County, on the page following Susan). Samuel and Susan appear on the 1870 census of Monroe, Carroll County as farmer Samuel Myer, 55, Maryland; Susan, 50 [thus born circa 1820], Ohio; and four children born in Maryland. The 1880 census of Monroe has retired farmer Samuel Myer Sr., 65, in the household of son William K. Myers, 21. Samuel is buried in Moss Cemetery at Flora.
 11. Eliza Landes was born in Pickaway County, Ohio Aug. 8, 1821 (headstone date), and died in Carroll County Nov. 25, 1900. We found her as a 22-year-old on the 1850 census of Carroll County; however, we found her birth year as 1821 in all later instances. On March 18, 1857 in Carroll County she married widower James W. Glasscock, who had been her school teacher. He was born in Loudoun County, Virginia Aug. 23, 1815, and died March 5, 1892, a son of Gregory Glasscock and Elizabeth White. His first wife Jane B. Salisbury had died in 1856. The 1870 census of Rock Creek, Carroll County shows them as 65 and 58 years of age; a decade later they are found as 54 and 48. *History of Carroll County, Indiana* (1882) says James served as commissioner of Carroll County 1866-69 and as a trustee of Monroe Township, Carroll County. The 1900 census of Rock Creek has widow Eliza Glasscock, 78, born in Ohio in August 1821 to parents from Pennsylvania and Virginia. They are buried in Asbury Cemetery at Burlington, Carroll County, Indiana.

Elizabeth's older brother **Joseph Landes** was considered a pioneer settler of Tazewell County.

He was born at Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County Sept. 16, 1803. At the time the county was in Virginia; it is now in West Virginia. Romney was specifically identified as his birthplace on the Tazewell County death certificates of two of his children.

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

On April 8, 1830 in Franklin County, Ohio he married Jane Mitchell. She was born in Ohio circa 1806.

They arrived in Tazewell County Oct. 17, 1830 - just before the 'Deep Snow of 1830.' On Nov. 10, 1830 Joseph purchased 80 acres of federal land in Section 36 of Township 25N (what became Groveland) at \$1.25 an acre. On Dec. 12, 1831 he purchased another 80 acres of federal land in Section 27 of Township 24N at the same price.

Joseph volunteered to serve under Major Isaiah Stillman in the state militia in 1832. He was one of 275 citizen-soldiers who participated in the disastrous 'battle' of Sycamore Creek, also known as Stillman's Run, the first skirmish of the Black Hawk War. On May 14 his company encountered scouts from the Sauk tribe in Ogle County. They followed them until they approached an encampment with a significant number of Sauk and Fox warriors, seven miles north of what is now called Stillman's Valley (now a village in Marion Township, midway between Rockford and Dixon). From eight to twelve volunteers stood their ground and died, including Captain John G. Adams of Tazewell County. The remainder ran in headlong panic to Dixon's Ferry, about 25 miles to the southwest.

History of Tazewell County (1879): "The main force scampered off to Dixon as fast as they could. David Wright, in speaking of the hardships incident to this retreat, would often say he was "...Three days and nights in the howling wilderness with nothing to eat and nothing to cook in." Abraham Lincoln later denied being part of the skirmish or retreat, but said that as a 23-year-old he had been among those who eventually buried the dead in a common grave.

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

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

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

LANDES MENNONITE CEMETERY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. George Landes was born Jan. 26, 1831, and died at Groveland Feb. 29, 1926. On June 22, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Barbara Smith. She was born in Scotland in 1860, and died in 1916. They are found on the 1880 census of Groveland, on the same page as his father, as Geo. Landes, 49, born in Illinois to parents from Virginia and Ohio; and Barbara, 40, born in Scotland. They are buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.
2. Mary Ann Landes was born Feb. 16, 1833, and died at Cropsey, McLean County Feb. 22, 1931. She appears as 'Magalin' on the 1850 census; perhaps she was originally a Magdalena. On June 30, 1880 in Tazewell County she married widower Ira Clarke Pratt²⁶. He was born in Swanton, Vermont Jan. 12, 1832, and died at Cropsey April 14, 1917, a son of Ira Allen Pratt and Acenath Walt. His first wife was Ellen Hathaway, who died in 1879. Before his remarriage Pratt was a resident of Morton. The following year he and Mary Ann constructed a home at what is now Cropsey, McLean County, and participated in the establishment of that community. They appear on the 1900 census of Cropsey as landlord Ira C. Pratt, 68, born in Vermont to parents from Vermont and Massachusetts; Mary A., 67, born in Illinois in February 1833 to parents from West Virginia and Ohio. Mary Ann's younger sister Susan was also living with them. In McLean County Pratt held positions as justice of the peace, assessor, and road commissioner. They also owned a home at Crescent City, Florida. Ira and Mary Ann are buried in Cropsey Cemetery.
- Mathew Landes was born circa 1837, according to the 1850 census. We suspect this was a clerical error.
3. Rudolph Landes was born circa January 1835, and died Sept. 3, 1848. His headstone in Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton says he was a "Son of J and J, aged 13 y. 8 m."
4. Susan Elizabeth Landes was born in January or February 1847. She is last found as a 53-year-old sister-in-law, born in Illinois to parents from West Virginia and Ohio, in the household of Ira Pratt and her older sister Mary Ann at Cropsey in 1900.
5. Isabell J. Landes was born in 1851, and died in 1864. She is buried in Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

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

6. John S. Landes was born in 1860, and died in 1864. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.
7. Ellen or Ella Landes was born Feb. 20, 1861, and died in Los Angeles July 23, 1955. On Dec. 29, 1880 in Tazewell County she married Sigourney Augustus Hayward. He was born at Morton Aug. 29, 1857, and died in Los Angeles March 2, 1947, a son of Joseph Lyman Hayward and Mary C. Selah. They are found on the 1900 census of Tremont, the 1910 and 1920 censuses of Peoria Ward 2 as well as the 1910 census of St. Andrews, Florida; and the 1940 census of Lakewood, Florida. They are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery at Tremont.
8. Joseph S. Landes was born in 1863, and died in 1865. He is buried in the Deacon Street Cemetery at Morton.

JOHN AND JAMES PLUM

Nancy Plum has a brother named **Jacob Plum**. He was born in Hampshire County, Virginia Jan. 17, 1782.

In Hampshire County he married Hannah Magdelene (also known as Mary) Stimmel. She was born at Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland July 3, 1788, and died in Franklin County, Ohio March 24, 1839.

²⁶ The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists her as Mary L. Landes.

In the spring of 1812 they resettled above Lockbourne.

Jacob died at Hamilton, Franklin County, Ohio Dec. 8, 1851, and is buried under a largely illegible headstone in Landes Cemetery at Lockbourne.

Their sons John and James Plum both resettled in Tazewell County.

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

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

Tazewell County Townships

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

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

An Illinois state constitution was adopted in 1847-48. One consequence was that the commissioner's court in Tazewell County was dissolved Nov. 7, 1849, the day after a fall election.

A referendum favoring the establishment of a township system was approved by voters in that fall election. The question of fair boundaries occupied a special county court convened Dec. 3, 1849.

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

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

The county court was dissolved April 6, 1850. In many cases the new boundaries prompted merchants to clear roads to the geographic centers of the new townships.

An Anabaptist

An Anabaptist...

...describes someone who believes that baptism should be the reasoned choice of an adult. This placed them at odds in locations where church and state were considered one. Swiss authorities suspected that couples who avoided the early baptism of children lacked patriotism or were trying to avoid taxes.

A Mennonite...

...describes an Anabaptist who also follows the path of nonresistance proscribed by Menno Simons.

Amish Mennonite...

...describes the followers of Jacob Amman of Erlenbach, Bern and their descendants. Amman was less tolerant than other Mennonite leaders. He endorsed the *Ban* (shunning) to exclude some from communion and thus church membership. He also stressed a modest appearance. Unique rituals that came out of his following include twice-yearly communions (Nov. 11 and Easter) and a foot washing ceremony with communion.

The great majority of Amish Mennonite immigrant families that came to North America were absorbed into the Mennonite church or mainstream Protestant denominations within a few generations. In practice 'Amish' now describes customs, clothing, dialect, or religious practices.

Old Order Amish...

...think of the Harrison Ford movie *Witness*.

A number of ministers who attended the *Diener Versammlungen* assemblies of ministers in the Midwest in the mid-1800s withdrew from participation. They saw no point in constant argument over social boundaries, requiring concessions on everything from weather vanes to bow ties to hair tonic to crop insurance to reach general agreement. Though unorganized, their collective actions can be seen as a reactionary movement toward orthodoxy that continued from 1880 to 1920. The 'old orders' resisted mechanical innovation and overtly stressed humility and conformity.

The Old Order Amish numbered only about 5,000 in 1900, but high birth rates and improved mortality rates pushed that number over 200,000 by 2000.²⁷

A good source on this movement is *The Amish Struggle Against Modernity*.

Albrecht of Bureau County

The Albrecht family of Bureau County married into a number of Tazewell and Woodford County families.

In 1774 **Michael/Michel Albrecht** left the Lauberthal estate at Essingen leased by Johannes 'Hans' Jakob Ehrismann. He leased the church-owned estate Hermersbergerhof at Wilgartswiesen in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. It is located six miles southwest of Eusserthal, 13 miles west of Landau in der Pfalz, and 45 miles northwest of Langensteinbach; at the time it was in Pfalz-Zweibrücken. It sits at the highest elevation of any community in the Pfalz.

The estate was partially destroyed by French troops in 1794, and occupied in 1800. In 1802 it was sold. Among the workers employed by Michael/Michel were Hans Oyer (senior) and Hans Oyer (junior).

He had three children:

1. Elisabeth Albrecht was born circa 1745, and died at Vyshenka in the Northern Ukraine [now part of Russia] in 1796. Circa 1763 she married Johannes Schrag. He was a son of Ulrich Schrag and Anna Meyer, residents of Hornbach in the Duchy of Zweibrücken. With the death of Empress Maria Theresa, her son and co-regent became Joseph II, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (see STAKER for background on the county of Falkenstein, a Habsburg-owned enclave within the Palatinate). On Oct. 13, 1780 he signed a decree of tolerance acknowledging the rights of Protestants. On Sept. 17, 1781 his government issued a colonization decree encouraging resettlement in the newly acquired eastern provinces. Residents of the Palatinate were invited to colonize Galicia, a region that would now be described as straddling the borders of Poland and the Ukraine. Mennonites would be exempted from combatant roles in military service; they would also be permitted to build their own church structure once natural growth increased their numbers to 100 families. However, they would not be permitted to baptize adults from families associated with other religions. A decree of acceptance was issued March 29, 1784. In 1784 Johannes and Elisabeth joined a traveling party at Albisheim (near Marnheim and Kirchheimbolanden).²⁸ With the Austrian government paying part of their expenses, they passed through Regensburg, Linz, Vienna, Krakow, and Lemberg (now Lviv in the western

²⁷ The math: Assume there were about 2,000 couples in 1900. If each couple had eight or nine children, and 5.25 remained in the faith, there would have been 5,250 couples in 1925 (assuming a typical generational lapse of 25 years, then multiplying 2,000 by 5.25, and dividing by two). 14,438 couples in 1950. 37,898 couples in 1975. 104,221 couples in 2000, or 208,441 individuals.

²⁸ The traveling party consisted of the families of Johannes Schrag, a son Jakob Schrag, Michael Bachman, Christian Ewy, Daniel Ewy, Peter Krehbiel, and Josph Mündlein.

Ukraine) before arriving in the village of Falkenstein south of Lemberg - a journey of more than 1,400 miles.²⁹ There they were soon joined by Amish Mennonites from Montbéliard. In 1796 they resettled with Hutterite Brethren at Wischenka/Vyshenka in the Northern Ukraine, where Elisabeth died. Johannes remained there a year before moving on to Michalin in the Russian province of Kiev. In 1802 he settled permanently at Edwardsdorf near Dubno in the district of Volhynia (now in the northwest Ukraine). The descendants of the Amish Mennonites who accompanied Mennonite families to Galicia emigrated as a group in 1784-5, resettling in Kansas and South Dakota. Galicia remained part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1914. From 1918 until 1939 it was part of Poland.

2. Christian Albrecht married Barbara. They also went to Galicia in 1784. Christian died at Ensiedel (adjacent to the village of Falkenstein) in 1794. Barbara remarried to Andreas Schrag, a son of Johannes Schrag.
3. **Johannes Albrecht** was born circa 1753.

Johannes Albrecht was born circa 1753. Circa 1776 he married Magdalena Güngerich. She was born circa 1757, a daughter of Valentin Güngerich and Anna Nafziger. They farmed the Hermersbergerhof estate until it was partially destroyed by French troops in 1794, and then relocated to Essingen. The estate was sold to a private owner in 1800.

Their son **Christian Albrecht** was born at Wilgartswiesen Dec. 4, 1779. On Aug. 15, 1802 at Hochspeyer he married Elisabeth Engel.

THE DIEMERSTEIN ENGELS

An Amish Mennonite family of weavers named Engel lived in the tiny hamlet of Diemerstein between Hochspeyer and Frankenstein in the Pfalz. It is not known how this family was related to the Engels of Lorraine.

Jakob Engel and Anna König were the parents of weaver Jakob Engel. He was born circa 1753, and died in 1828. (He is occasionally confused with another Jakob Engel born at Diemerstein, of roughly the same age). Circa 1779 he married Anna Imhof. She may have been a daughter of Peter Imhof and his first wife Veronika Rocke/Roggy (see IMHOF for background on this couple). They had six children born on the estate of ruined Diemerstein Castle between 1779 and 1798.

Jakob and Anna's daughter Elisabeth Engel was born at Diemerstein July 23, 1780.

Another child of Jakob and Anna was Johann Jakob Engel. He was born Oct. 18, 1786. On Jan. 20, 1810 at Hochspeyer he married Elisabetha Jotter, who was a daughter of Christian Joder and Magdalena Nafziger.

Their son Christian Engel was born at Frankenstein on the Rhine River July 16, 1818, and died at Bloomington Jan. 17, 1912. He emigrated from Europe in 1846 and settled at Monroe, Butler County, Ohio. He married Susan Miller Oct. 15, 1854, and moved to Bloomington, McLean County the same year. She was born Sept. 27, 1826, and died at Montgomery Jan. 16, 1861, a daughter of Hessian congregation elder Jacob Müller/Miller and Magdalena Moser.

On Nov. 7, 1861 in Woodford County he remarried to Magdalene Ehresmann.³⁰ It is likely that she was born at Sippersfeld April 9, 1824, a daughter of Jacob Ehresmann and Veronika Eyer (see EHRESMAN for background on this family's voyage to America in 1841). If so, she was a cousin to Christian Ehresman of Montgomery.

A Christian Engel household is found on the 1865 state census of Dry Grove: one male 40-49, one male 30-39, and one or three males below the age of nine years.

Gospel Herald, September 1879: "May 16th, in McLean Co., Ill., Sister Magdalena Engel, born Ehrisman, aged about 56 years. She was a faithful sister of the Mennonite Church. Buried the 18th. Ceremonies conducted by Jos. Stuckey."

Christian is found on the 1880 census of Dry Grove, McLean County as a single head of household from 'Rhine River' (the river ran past his original home). *Gospel Herald*, February 1912: "Christian Engel was born in Rhinepfalz, Germany, July 16, 1818; died Jan. 17, 1912; aged 93 y. 6 m. 1 d. He emigrated to this country in 1846 and arrived at Monroe, Butler Co., O., and lived there till 1854, when he moved to Illinois and settled near Bloomington and has lived there ever since. He was married to Susan Miller Oct. 15, 1854. To this union were born 4 children. He leaves 3 sons and 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren to mourn his death. His wife died Jan. 17, 1861. In 1862 he was married again to Magdalene Ehrisman of Morton. She died in May, 1880, and since then he lived with his son, John. He united with the Mennonite Church in his younger days and has been a faithful member ever since, very seldom missing his place in church when health permitted him to be present. He was blessed with remarkable health until the last few months when he was failing of old age. He was down in bed only a few hours before he was called away. It had been his desire that after his

²⁹ As noted in STAKER, Joseph II had a special affection for his subjects in the Grafschaft Falkenstein. It was an Austrian enclave within the Palatinate used by his Habsburg family for hunting. He knew that ownership of this insignificant property had qualified his father to serve as emperor before him. When he chose to travel incognito to France, Prussia, and Russia, he used the pseudonym 'Count von Falkenstein.' The village below Lemberg was almost certainly named by him or by a courtier to please him.

The village was named after the County of Falkenstein, an Austro-Hungarian enclave within the Palatinate. See STAKER for background on this location owned by the royal Habsburg family.

³⁰ They are found in Woodford County records as Christian Engle and Magdalena Ehresmann.

time to depart was here, he need not linger long. When the call came he quietly fell asleep in Jesus. The motto of his life always was to live right and live in peace."

Christian and Magdalena are buried in Lantz Cemetery at Carlock.

After marriage Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel lived in a large communal house at Kaiserslautern and on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach. Sesslach is a medieval walled village in Upper Franconia, Bavaria, about 200 miles east of Kaiserslautern.

A family story says that oldest son Jacob was excused from military service to support his family. When a military officer visited the Albrechts again, he found the next son Peter playing with pebbles by the side of the road. He waived him on the grounds that he was mentally deficient. The third son Johannes was not so lucky, and was conscripted for a term of three years. This prompted his parents to plan for emigration.

According to Fritz Braun's *Auswanderer aus Kaiserslautern im 18. Jahrhundert*, an Albrecht contingent applied for permission to emigrate at government offices in Kaiserslautern in 1836 (Kaiserslautern is about 10 miles west of Diemerstein). The applicants included Christian Albrecht and his wife Elizabeth Engel; sons Jacob, Peter, Johannes, Joseph, and Christian; daughters Barbara, Elizabeth, Katharina, and Magdalena; seven grandchildren; son-in-law Joseph Joder and four of his relatives. However, Johannes was conscripted into the army before the intended date of departure, and the family was forced to carry out its plans without him.

THE ELUSIVE PASSENGER LIST

For many years the arrival of the Albrechts in America was a bit obscure, and no passenger list could be identified.

One account says that only a few days after Johannes was inducted into the army, a party of 23 boarded a ship at Bremen. "One son and three daughters were already married, and there were seven grandchildren..." (Barbara, Jacob, Elizabeth, and Katharina were married). On the trip Johann Joder, the young son of Joseph Joder and Barbara Albrecht, became extremely ill. He ran a high fever and suffered slight brain damage that affected his behavior until his early death at age 26.

The passenger list of the *Barque Elisa* says the ship departed from 'Hale' (a location we could not identify, though the ship was registered at Bremen), and arrived at New York Aug. 1, 1837.

One passenger group includes farmer Jacob Aldwright, 30, destination Ohio; Catherine, 27; Johann, 3; Magdalena, nine months; farmer Christian, 61; Elisabeth, 59; Catherine, 21; Joseph, 19; Christian, 16; and Johannes, 2. This represents Christian and Elizabeth with their four youngest children, as well as their oldest son Jacob with his wife and two children. A little farther down the page is farmer Joseph Joder [Joder], 31, destination Ohio; Barbara, 32; Catharine, 4; Jacob, 3; and Johannes, nine months. And below that stone mason Caspar Cearline, 30, destination Pittsburg; Elisabeth, 35; Catharine, 5; and Elisabeth, nine months.

The list fails to mention four persons who would have completed a party of 23: son Peter Albrecht, and daughter Katharina Albrecht with her Heimer husband and child. If they arrived in Illinois at a different time than the rest, it is not mentioned in any history we viewed.

History of the Family of Christian Albrecht (1777-1842) and wife Elizabeth Engel Albrecht (1780-1814) says the party arrived at New York. From there they traveled upriver on the Hudson, crossing the Erie Canal and then the Great Lakes to Fort Dearborn (now Chicago). The land journey south from Chicago to Hennepin, Putnam County took more than three weeks. Hennepin is located on the east bank of the Illinois River, 30 miles north of Peoria. Adults walked while children rode and trunks were carried in a wagon pulled by oxen.

Bureau County histories say the Albrecht family arrived there in November 1837.

There were already two 'Burchey' families in Putnam County. *Past and Present of Bureau County:*

"Mennonite Church of Indiantown: The first family of this sect [that of Johannes Burcky and Marie Schoenbeck] came to Putnam County in 1835 or 1836, from Ohio. In the family, whose name was Burchey, were four boys, Daniel, Christian, Frederick, and Jacob, the latter being a minister of the gospel, and thus was a nucleus formed for the Mennonite church, which has been maintained up to the present time." This family came from Hesse, and the youngest son held meetings at Granville. "About a year later came another family of the same name [that of Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter] with four sturdy sons and one daughter (leaving four daughters in the mother country, Germany). Then from Germany also came Christian Albrecht with six sons and four daughters. Many others joined them from time to time. Until 1867 meetings were held in private parlors, once in three weeks, and till 1873, they met every two weeks." (The two Bürki-descendant families can be found in BIRKY/BIRKEY).

Family notes say the Albrechts made the trip to reunite with Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter, whom they had known in Europe.

Land on the west bank had recently become available for purchase from the government. 19-year-old Joseph Albrecht was the first of the family to search for fertile land across the Illinois River in Bureau County. Six weeks

of rain stranded him on the west bank, and he was forced to live on berries under a bark shelter while he waited out the bad weather.

The *Illinois Land Tract Sales Database* shows that Christian Albrecht purchased 160 acres of government land at Arispie, Bureau County for \$1.25 per acre Nov. 17, 1837. The same day his oldest son Jacob purchased 80 acres about two miles to the west. Other Mennonite families followed and continued to settle in the bottom one-third of the county.

'Christian Albright' appears on the 1840 census of Bureau County. He is checked in the 60-70 year age group; Elizabeth in the 60-70 age group; with three sons and a daughter in the 20-30 age group. The household of oldest son 'Jacob Albright' appears elsewhere on the same page.

Christian's 160 acres became a family farm that has passed through many generations. Elisabeth Engel Albrecht died there Nov. 24, 1842, and Christian Albrecht died there Feb. 3, 1843 from what was described as 'lingering pneumonia.' Their burial place became a cemetery on the farm.

In Europe, son Johannes received a letter telling about the death of his parents. His term of enlistment had been involuntarily extended beginning in 1848, because of a threat of war with France. He was discharged from his cavalry regiment April 16, 1842, and reunited with his brothers and sisters in Illinois in August.

The children of Christian Albrecht and Elizabeth Engel include:

1. Barbara Albrecht was born at Kaiserslautern March 12, 1804, and died in Bureau County Jan. 13, 1878. In 1831 she married Joseph Joder/Ioder/Yoder. He was born on the Horbacherhof estate at Hinterweidenthal (now in the German state Rheinisch-Pfalz) in 1805, a son of Josef Steinmann Joder and Maria Katharina Germann of the Hermersbergerhof estate at Wilgartswiesen. They are found on the 1850 census of Bureau County as farmer Joseph Yoder, 44, Germany; Barbara, 45, Germany; Catharine, 18, Germany; Jacob, 17, Germany; John, 14, Germany; Daniel, 12, Illinois; Joseph, 8, Illinois; Louisa, 6, Illinois; and William, 2, Illinois. Joseph died at Tiskilwa Aug. 28, 1857 after a train accident. They are buried in the Albrecht Family Cemetery at Willow Springs. Descendants spell the surname 'Ioder.'
2. Jacob Albrecht was born at Hochspeyer Jan. 9, 1805, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 11, 1878. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton. His first wife was Katharina Ackerman (1813-1842). On Jan. 7, 1844 in Tazewell County he remarried to Barbara/Barbe Ringenberger, who was born Sept. 25, 1821 and died at Walnut Jan. 4, 1864, a daughter of Peter Ringenberger and Anna Schrag.³¹ His household is found on the 1870 census of Ohio, Bureau County as farmer Jacob Albright, 64, Germany; Jacob, 23, born in Illinois; Joseph, 13, born in Illinois; Fredk., 11, Illinois; farmer Christian Birke [son-in-law Christian Burkey, a son of Andreas/Andrew Birkey of the Big Birkeys and Magdalena Gerber], 22, Illinois; and Catherine, 20, Illinois [Christian and Catherine were married in December 1869].³²
3. Elizabeth Albrecht was born at Kaiserslautern March 19, 1807, and died Aug. 15, 1874. On Dec. 26, 1835 she married Casper Zierlein. He was born at Maroldsweisaach, Bavaria July 30, 1807, and died Sept. 30, 1860, a son of Heinrich Zierlein and Margareta Sperbert. In 1837 Casper Zierlein found employment as a bricklayer and helped to build the Hennepin Courthouse, which was completed in 1839. It is the oldest courthouse in Illinois still in use in its original form. He can be found on the 1840 census of Putnam as 'Casper Zerlin.' They later lived at Tiskilwa. *Centennial History of the Mennonites in Illinois 1829-1929* discussing minister John Michael Kistler: "Prior to his coming, whenever a member married a person outside the church they could no longer hold membership unless the other person joined the church also. Kistler permitted the members to remain, even though the one married did not belong to the church. Before his arrival, Elizabeth [Albrecht] Zierlein, who had been a member, was no longer permitted to commune because she had married a Lutheran. He reinstated her and received her children into the church by baptism, though her husband [Casper] remained a Lutheran until his death."
4. Peter Albrecht was born Nov. 30, 1810, and died in Bureau County Jan. 23, 1888. On a naturalization application submitted April 29, 1853, he stated that he was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden. However, this may only have been some confusion over the political allegiance of the Franconia region during the Napoleonic wars. The 1850 census of Putnam County gives the birthplace of Peter 'Albright' as Germany. His birthplace is given as Bavaria on the 1860 census of Granville, Putnam County (Peter 'Albright'); the 1870 census of Macon, Bureau County (Peter 'Albright'); and the 1880 census of Macon (Peter Albrecht). In Illinois he married Catharina Birki/Catherine Burkey. She was born at Obersanding, Bavaria Feb. 4, 1819, and died at Macon, Bureau County March 4, 1895, a daughter of Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter (see BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple). Her civil birth entry described her as a daughter of 'Joannis Birki of the Mennonite sect, living at Obersanding Number 16, and Veronica, also an Anabaptist, whose father Joannis Zwalter is a preacher of that sect.' (Her father was actually Christian Zwalter; see the MOSIMAN footnote on this family). The Putnam household of Peter Albrecht appears on the 1850 federal census with his widowed father-in-law John Burkey Sr., 73, born in France. He does not appear on

³¹ The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Jacob Albright and Barbara Rinkenberger.

³² A train depot for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was named Albrecht. It was later changed to Ohio after a nearby post office.

the 1860 census. They can be found on the 1880 census of Macon, Bureau County, as Peter Albrecht, 71, Bavaria; Catharine, 61, Bavaria; and daughter Mary, 20, Illinois. Their household is listed between those of Jacob and John Eigsti (see EIGSTI). *Herald of Truth*, February 1888: "On the 23d of January, in Bureau County, Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Peter Albrecht, aged 77 years, 1 month and 23 days. He was buried on the 25th, in the Amish Mennonite graveyard in Indiantown, Bureau County, Ill. He leaves his widow, 3 children and 8 grandchildren and many friends to mourn his death. Services by Joseph Burkey and Chr. Zehr, from *Matt.24:44* and *Ps.90*, for the comfort of the bereaved ones and a warning for all. *Herald of Truth*, April 1895: "On the 4th of March 1895, near Lombardville, Stark Co., Ill., of general debility, sister Catherine, widow of Peter Albrecht, aged 75 y., 9 --. Of seven children, three survive her, also 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, besides many relatives and friends. Buried on the 7th in the Willow Spring graveyard. Funeral services by Joseph Buercky in German and E. Hartman, of Washington in English."

5. Johannes/John Albrecht was born on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach April 3, 1814 according to his emigration application, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Oct. 6, 1905. *History of Bureau County, Illinois* says, "John Albrecht was reared in Germany, where he entered the regular army at the age of twenty-one years and served six years in a cuirassier regiment. Unable, on account of military duties, to accompany his parents to America in 1837 he waited patiently till his time expired, when he borrowed \$100 of a relative and in August, 1843 came to America. He was fifty-four days on the ocean and running out of money after landing, was obliged to borrow of a traveling companion with whom he came to St. Louis, Mo. He reached home in Bureau County, poor in purse but rich in strength of mind and body." His trip to Hennepin was prolonged by a misunderstanding: when he asked directions for Hennepin, he was given directions to Hannibal, Missouri. John worked three years at Hennepin and Tiskilwa, then married Mary Ackerman in March 1847. She was born May 19, 1819, and died Jan. 27, 1875, a daughter of Henry Ackerman. In 1851 they purchased 80 acres of prairie and 40 acres of timber at \$5 per acre. They are found on the 1850 census of Dover, Bureau County as John Allbright, 35; Mary, 30; and two children. They had five children, two of whom married children of Nicholas Stecker/Staker and Magdalena Eimer. Christian Albrecht, born Nov. 22, 1850, married Fanny Stecker on March 10, 1878. Henry V. Albrecht, born Feb. 4, 1860, married Mary Stecker on March 4, 1883. Daughter Mary Ackerman, born Oct. 4, 1853 and died July 31, 1904, married Andrew W. Ropp, a son of Andrew Ropp and Jacobine Vercler. The household is found on the 1880 census of Arispie as John Albrecht, 66, born in Bavaria; son Thurston, 29, born in Illinois; Fannie Albrecht, 23, born in Ohio; and son Henry, 20, born in Illinois. *Gospel Witness*, January 1906: "John Albrecht was born in Bavaria, Germany, Apr. 3, 1814. Died at his home, near Tiskilwa, Ill., Oct. 6, 1905, of the infirmities of old age. Aged 91 y., 6 m., 3 d. He came to this country in 1843. From that until the time of his death he had resided in Putnam and Bureau counties, Ill. In 1847 he was married to Mary Ackerman, also from Bavaria. To this union were born nine children. In early life he united with the Amish Mennonite church, of which he was a faithful member until he was called home. His wife and six children preceded him to the spirit land. Funeral services at the home and church by Bro. Jacob Ringenberg in the German language from *I Kings 2:2*, assisted by Pre. Alford (of the Tiskilwa M. E. church), in the English language, from the same text and also from *Job 5:26*. This aged brother was loved and respected by all who knew him. He leaves three sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but they do not mourn as those without hope. May the Lord abundantly bless those who so faithfully ministered to this loved one during his sickness."
6. Katharina Albrecht was born July 8, 1815, and died at Spring Bay in 1859. She married a Heimer in Germany and had one son. They settled at Spring Bay, Woodford County, where Heimer died before 1844. Katharina remarried to Daniel Ohrendorf/Orendorf of Hesse-Darmstadt, who was born at Burg-Gemünden in 1803, and died at Morton July 27, 1872. They had their first child together in 1844. They farmed at Spring Bay until her death there. See ORENDORFF for a list of their children.
7. Joseph Albrecht was born March 19, 1817, and died Oct. 17, 1895. On Oct. 15, 1842 in Woodford County he married Barbara Gingery [Güngerich]; the ceremony was performed by minister/elder André Bachmann/Andrew Baughman. Barbara was born at Laubach, adjacent to Grünberg, Hesse-Darmstadt May 3, 1815, and died at Arispie June 25, 1883, a daughter of John Gingery and Magdalena Eckhardt. Joseph and Barbara are found on the 1850 census of Bureau County living only a few houses away from Joseph 'Yoder.' Their household appears as Joseph Albright, 33; Barbara, 34; Catharine, 8; Joseph, 5; Daniel, 2; William, two months; William Rose [?, barely legible], 18; Daniel Gingery, 22; Daniel Imhoff, 48; and Louisa [Gingery] Imhoff, 26.³³ They are found on the 1880 census of Arispie as farmer Joseph Albrecht, 63, born in Bavaria; Barbaray, 62, born in Hesse-Darmstadt; Daniel, 33, born in Illinois; Magdalen, 23, born in Illinois; and grandson Otto, 5, born in Illinois. By 1877 they owned 420 acres. Their farm was managed by oldest son Daniel, who married Lena Unzicker, a daughter of blacksmith-deacon Jacob Unzicker and Marie Krehbiel, who lived at Elm Grove (*DeRham* passengers). *Herald of Truth*, November 1895: "On the 17th of October, 1895, near Tiskilwa, Bureau Co., Ill., of the infirmities of old age, Bro. Joseph Albrecht, aged 75 years, 6 months and 29 days. He leaves three children, and seven grandchildren. Two of his children and his wife preceded him. He was for a number of years deacon in the church, which office he filled faithfully. His parents came to America in 1837. His remains were laid to rest on the 20th in the Mt. Bloom graveyard. Funeral services by Joseph Buercky and Joseph Stuckey."

³³ For background on Daniel Gingery, Daniel Imhof, and Louisa Gingery, see GINGERICH.

8. Magdalena 'Lena' Albrecht was born on the Büdenhof estate at Sesslach June 17, 1819, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 12, 1886. In 1838 at Hennepin she married Andreas/Andrew Burkey. He was born at Rimsdorf, Lower Alsace June 16, 1802, and died at Milford, Nebraska March 5, 1886, a son of Johannes/Hans/Jean/John Bircki/Burkey and Freni Zwalter. See BIRKY/BIRKEY for more on this couple.
9. Christian Albrecht was born at Bamberg (23 miles below Sesslach) Feb. 10, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa Jan. 10, 1910. On Sept. 17, 1848 at Arispie he married Catherine Roggy. She was born in Germany Dec. 15, 1830, and died at Hennepin in 1909, a daughter of Peter Roggy and Magdalena Burkey. On March 1, 1849, Christian left his wife (who was unknowingly one-month pregnant) with her parents and departed Illinois for the California Gold Rush. He arrived at Sutter's Fort before Thanksgiving. The 1850 census of Weaverville and Vicinity, Eldorado County, California has 'miners for gold' Joseph Keefer, 50, France; Nicholas Roggy, 22, France; John Sharts [Schertz], 25, France; and Christian Albright [Albrecht], 32, Germany. See the Appendix, THE LEWIS COUNTY SETTLEMENT for background on his companions. He returned the following year with no gold, but malaria contracted on the return trip via Panama, and found a new son. Their household is found on the 1880 census of Indiantown as farmer Christian Albrecht, 59, farmer from Germany; Catharine Albrecht, 49, from Germany; Elizabeth, 18, born in Illinois; Emma, 13, born in Illinois; and farmhand Michael Weller, 46, born in Germany. *Gospel Herald*, February 1910: "Christian Albrecht was born Feb. 10, 1821, near Bamberg, Germany, and emigrated to America with his parents in 1837. They settled near Hennepin, Ill., but soon moved to Bureau Co., a few miles east of where Tiskilwa now is. Sept. 17, 1848, he was married to Katharine Roggy, who was also from Germany. To this union six children were born John Albrecht, Mrs. John Ringerberg, Mrs. Henry Popp, Mrs. Samuel Zimmerman, Mrs. Peter Rinkenberger and Miss Lizzie Albrecht, all of whom are still living. In 1860 the family moved to Indiantown where they resided until 1902, and then moved to Tiskilwa, where both remained until their death. Mrs. Albrecht was called to 'Great Beyond' less than a year ago. Her husband at the time said, "I will soon follow." This came true Jan. 10, 1910, making his age 88 y. 11 m. and 20 d. He was an honest, energetic and faithful Christian and respected by all who knew him. He never forgot the hospitable way of a pioneer. He passed through many hardships, but was contented. But now he is gone and a family of six children are to attest how sadly he will be missed. It must be so, these tender ties cannot be severed without a pang. Yet in such a death there is really no cause of grief. He has done his life's work, and did it well. Besides the bereaved children he leaves to mourn 13 grand-children and seven great grand-children. The funeral services were held at the Willow Spring Mennonite church on Wednesday at 1:30 p. m., M. Troyer of Normal, Ill., and D. Orndorff of Flanagan, Ill., officiating.

Children of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter

In ROPP we told the story of Canadian pioneer settlers Christian Nafziger (1776-1836) and Maria Stalter. The *Nimrod* sailed from Amsterdam, and arrived at New York Aug. 17, 1826.

From the passenger list: farmer Christian Nafziger, 50; Maria [Stalter], 45; Johann, 19; Catharine, 14; Jacobina, 12; Christian, 12; Johannes, 9; and Joseph, 7.

The late Ontario Mennonite historian Lorraine Roth did not believe that 'Johann, 19' was actually a son of this couple, and the line was a clerical error. This agrees with Christian's obituary in *Canada Museum*, reprinted in Hermann Guth's *Amish Mennonites in Germany*, which says that father Christian arrived in Ontario with "...his wife, three sons and two daughters."

The children were all born in Bavaria, possibly on the estate of Count von Gohren in the district of Ebersberg (20 miles east of Munich), where Christian was an estate manager. They include:

1. Katharina Nafziger was born circa 1812, and died at Wilmot in 1855. She married Christian Miller. He was born circa 1806, and died at Wilmot in 1850. He may have been an 18-year-old son of Simon Miller and Magdalena who preceded them to America, though this cannot be proven from available evidence. Christian served as a minister/elder for the Amish Mennonite congregation at Wilmot 1829-1847. In this time frame it was still meeting in homes (a meeting house was not erected until 1884 and became the Steinmann Mennonite Church); other ministers/elders included Joseph Goldschmidt/Goldsmith, John Brenneman, 'Apostle Peter' Nafziger, Christian Steinmann, John Oesch, Christian Farny, Rudolph Roth, Jacob Gardner, and Peter Litwiller. The household of widow Katharina is shown on the 1851 census of Wilmot as widow Katherine Miller, 42, Germany, Mennonist; farmer John, 22; Magdalena, 19; Catherine, 17; Lizzy, 15; Jacob, 12; Michael, 9; Christian, 7; Anna, 5; and Barbara, 3; all children born in Ontario and Mennonist.
2. Jakobina Nafziger was born circa Jan. 31, 1813 (per her obituary), and died at Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa July 31, 1879. She married Michael Miller, also known as Michael G. Miller. He was born circa 1807 (headstone), and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Oct. 1, 1883, a son of Simon Miller and Magdalena. Michael obtained a crown patent on his Wilmot lot, sold it, and then relocated to Iowa. In 1854 Michael and Jakobina went to Davis County, Iowa, becoming the first Amish Mennonite family there. *Herald of Truth*, September 1879: "July 31st in Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa of dropsy, Jakobina, born Nafzinger, wife of Michel Miller, aged 66 years and six months." Widower

and father-in-law Michael G. Miller, 72, born in Hesse to a father from Prussia and a mother from Hesse, is found in the household of his daughter Catharine and her husband Peter Kinsinger on the 1880 census of Prairie, Davis County, Iowa. *Herald of Truth*, November 1883: "On the 1st of October, near Pulaski, Davis County, Iowa, of cancer of the stomach, of which he suffered long and severely, Michael G. Miller, aged about 76 years. He bore his suffering with Christian patience and resignation. Buried on the third at Pulaski. Funeral services were held by Ph. Roulet and Chr. Zehr of Hickory County, Missouri." He is buried in North Pulaski Cemetery in Davis County where his headstone describes him as "M.G. Miller, died Oct. 1, 1883, age 76 y."

3. Christian Nafziger was born circa 1814. Circa 1840 he married Catherine. Only this son remained in Canada, while the other children resettled in America. Since they had no sons, there are no Nafzigers in Ontario today who are descendants of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter. They are found on the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Wilmot. In 1851: saw miller Christian Nafziger, 37, Germany, Mennonist; Katherine, 36, Germany, Mennonist; and Martha, 11, Ontario, Mennonist.
3. **Johannes Nafziger, also known as John Naffziger**, was born May 9, 1816, and died at Dakota City, Dakota County, Nebraska Jan. 1, 1903. We think of him as 'Nebraska John Naffziger.'
4. Joseph Nafziger, also known as Joseph S. Naffziger, was born July 7, 1820, and died at Elkton, Hickory County, Missouri Aug. 18, 1891. Circa 1839 he left Waterloo County to live in Lowell County, New York, but returned after two years. On Dec. 2, 1841 in Waterloo County he married Jacobine (also known as Josephine) Nafziger. She was born at Kalhausen, Moselle Oct. 18, 1819, and died at Elkton April 12, 1891, a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Catherine Gingrich, and a sister of Iowa John Naffziger.' In 1851 they resettled in Lee County, Iowa. In August of 1859 they resettled again at Tyler, Hickory County, Missouri. They are found on the 1860 census of Tyler as farmer Joseph S. Naffziger, 40, Germany; Bini, 40, France; Catherine, 18, Upper Canada; John, 18, Upper Canada; Christian, 16, Upper Canada; David, 14, Upper Canada; Daniel, 12, Upper Canada; Benjamin, 5, Iowa; Samuel, 9, Upper Canada; and Mary, 2, Iowa. In 1869 Joseph established the Star Union Grist and Saw Mills at Wheatland, Hickory County. The 1880 census of Wheatland has retired miller Joseph Naffziger, 59, Baden; Josephine, 60, France; farmer David, 32, Canada; Mary, 22, Iowa; and ward Mute Dora, 14, born in Illinois to German parents. Their obelisk joint headstone in Gerber Cemetery at Elkton, Hickory County describes them as "Joseph S. Naffziger, born June 1820, died Aug. 18, 1891" and "Josephine, wife of J.S. Naffziger, born Oct. 20, 1819, died April 12, 1891."

Johannes Nafziger, also known as John Naffziger, appears on the *Nimrod* passenger list as 'Johannes, 9.' He was actually 10 years of age at the time, born somewhere in Bavaria May 9, 1816, possibly on the estate of Count von Gohren in the district of Ebersberg (20 miles east of Munich) where his father had been estate manager.

No later than 1844 in Ontario he married Rachel Bear [the Swiss surnames Bär and Bähr describe the animal]. She was born at what is now Preston (17 miles east of Wilmot, and now part of the community of Cambridge in Waterloo County) in March 1823, a daughter of Martin Bear of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and Catherine Gingrich [Güngerich] of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Bear family had come to Preston from Pennsylvania in 1801, when Waterloo County held only 12 families.

The 1900 census says she was born in March 1823, and her headstone says she was born in 1823. Her age varies on censuses (1851 = 1823, 1861 = 1825, 1880 = 1824, and 1900 = 1823). She is mentioned in Ezra Eby's *Biographical History of Waterloo Township* (1895) as someone born March 10, 1825, which fits with what he knew about her siblings.

Eby erroneously wrote that she married 'Samuel Nafzieger.' No such couple appears on any Ontario census. He added that this couple lived at Hespeler Village (20 miles east of Wilmot, four miles northeast of Preston), which was likely true of John and Rachel.

John and Rachel had a daughter Leah born at Wilmot in 1844, and a son Moses born at adjacent New Hamburg in 1847.

Sometime between 1847 and 1851 this family fell apart. Rachel is found on the 1851 census of Waterloo (adjacent to Wilmot). She was staying in the household of her older sister Salome Bear: shoemaker Elias Bergey, 41, Pennsylvania, Mennonist; Salome, 39, Ontario, Mennonist; William, 14, Mennonist; Lovena, 23, Ontario, Mennonist; Isaac, 7, Ontario, Mennonist; and Rachel Nafziger, 28, Ontario, Evangelical, married (the 1861 census shows the Bergeys living at Hespeler Village). Moses, and presumably Leah, were living in different households.

According to one history, John went to Lee County, Iowa in 1851 (as did his brother Joseph, though John's obituary says Davis County).

Sometime between 1851 and the spring of 1856 John permanently left his family. He would remarry and raise a second family on the American frontier.

The 1861 census of Waterloo South, Ontario shows the wife and daughter he left behind: factory worker Leah Nafziger, 18, Ontario, Methodist; and Rachel, 36, Ontario, Methodist, married.

Leah and likely Rachel were residents of Preston in 1868; that residence appears on Leah's marriage entry. Both appear on American censuses after 1870.

Rachel's headstone in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Quincy, Montgomery Township, Hickory County, Missouri describes her as 'Rachael Naffzinger, '1823-1908.'

The children of John Nafziger/Naffzinger and his first wife Rachel Bear was:

1. Leah Naffzinger was born at Wilmot, Ontario Jan. 19, 1844, and died at Osceola, Missouri April 8, 1925. On Sept. 28, 1861 in Oxford County, Ontario she married John Dalglish. He was born at Selkirk, Selkirkshire County, Scotland circa April 15, 1832, a son of James Dalglish and Mary. Their marriage record in the Archives of Ontario says the groom was a resident of Little Falls, U.S. [in Oneida County 22 miles east of Utica, New York], born at Selkirk, Scotland to James and Mary. The bride was Leah Minerva Nafziger, born at Wilmot, a resident of Preston, a daughter of John Nafziger and Rachel. The ceremony was performed by minister William Robertson of the Canada Presbyterian Church. In 1870 they were living at Paris, Oneida County: John Dalglish, 38, works in woolen mill, Scotland; Leah, 27, Canada; George, 4, New York; John, 3, New York; and Minnie, three months, New York. One residence removed on the census page, in the home of wool mill worker William Harwill, was housekeeper Rachel Naffnees [Nafziger], 44, Canada. They are found twice on the 1880 census of Missouri. Their household at Lebanon, Laclede County, Missouri had John Dalglish, 48, works in woolen mill, Scotland; Leah, 37, works in woolen mill, English Canada; and Minnie, 10, born in New York to parents from Scotland and Canada. Their household at Montgomery Township, Hickory County, Missouri shows farmer John Dalgirst, 49, Scotland; Leah, 38, born in Canada to parents from Germany and Canada; George, 14, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; John, 12, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; Minnie, 10, born in New York to parents from Germany and Canada; and mother-in-law Rachel Naffzinger, 56, born in Canada to parents from Pennsylvania and Canada. (At Quincy, Montgomery Township they were living next door to Christian Zehr, 1831-1915, and his first wife Anna Miller, circa 1831-before 1874. Zehr was born at Woolridge, Waterloo County, Ontario, and Miller at Wilmot, Waterloo County. Zehr later became the minister of the first Defenseless Mennonite Church in Missouri.) Dalglish died in Missouri May 4, 1888 (headstone age count 56 years, 19 days), and Leah remarried to a Bethard. He died before 1900. The 1900 census of Wheatland (adjacent to Montgomery Township), Hickory County has farmer and widow Leah Beathard, 57, born in Canada in January 1843 to parents from Germany and Canada, immigrated in 1874; and mother and widow Rachel Naffzinger, 77, born in English Canada in March 1823 to parents from Pennsylvania, immigrated in 1874. The 1910 and 1920 censuses of Osceola, St. Clair County, Missouri show her as seamstress-dressmaker Leah Bethard. Her death certificate names her as Leah Bethard, widow of Jno. [?] Bethard, age 81 years, two months, and 19 days, born 'near Hepler, Ontario.' Her parents were identified as John Naftziger, birthplace unknown, and Rachel Baer, birthplace Ontario. She is buried near John Dalglish and her mother in Mt. Zion Cemetery as 'Leah D. Bethard, 1844-1925.'
2. **Moses Naffzinger** was born at Hamburg, Ontario June 3, 1847.

Moses Naffzinger was born at Hamburg (now New Hamburg, on the west side of Wilmot Centre in Wilmot Township) June 3, 1847. He was raised by a Miller family.

THE MILLERS

Simon Miller and Magdalena came from Hesse-Darmstadt. They sailed from Bremen with two sons and three daughters, arriving at Baltimore in the last quarter of 1824. The scrambled passenger list from a quarterly abstract in the National Archives shows miller Simon Miller, 45, Bremen [not their home, but their point of departure, written in a column headed 'Country to which they belong']; farmer Christian Bender, 28; farmer Michael Miller, 16; farmer Peter Miller, 14; farmer Magdaline Miller, 50; Anna Gingerling, 40; Anna Miller, 14; and Catherine Miller, 12.

One item on the passenger list suggests that the Millers departed Europe so their oldest son could avoid military conscription, or because of his debts. It gives the impression that Peter was 14 years of age, thus born circa 1810. But the 1851 census of Wilmot, as well as his headstone, indicates that Peter was born circa April 3, 1798, and would have been 28 years of age. It is tempting to speculate that 'Christian Bender, 28' was actually Peter Miller traveling with the papers of someone of the same age. And 'Peter Miller, 16' was actually Christian, who would have been 20.

The name Simon Miller appears in the alms book of deacon Abraham Kurtz, recorded in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1825.

Recall the ROPP excerpt from Ezra Eby's History of Waterloo: "It might be stated here that the cause of so many arrivals here [Ontario] during 1826-27-28-29 was owing to the very hard times in old Pennsylvania in 1825. Many failed financially, and in order to procure homes for themselves and children, they came to Canada where land could be had very cheap. During haying and harvesting in 1825, people worked from sunrise until sunset for 37 ½ cents per day. For threshing grain during winter months, days then being only 12 hours long, wages were 12 ½ cents per day, and many worked receiving only their board as wages."

Amish Mennonite clergy in Pennsylvania encouraged immigrants with limited means to go to the German Block at Wilmot, Waterloo County, Ontario. Those with savings were expected to purchase elsewhere.

The Millers soon resettled there. The 1830 surveyor's plat map of Wilmot Township shows the 50-acre lots of Simon Miller, Lot 9, north side of Bleam's Road (now Bleam Street); Christian Miller, Lot 25, north side of Bleam's Road; Michael Miller, Lot 26, north side of Bleam's Road; and Peter Miller, Lot 19, north side of Bleam's Road.

The number of lots occupied by this family does not indicate wealth. Recall from ROPP that when Andreas Ropp came there in 1826, he was able to make a down payment with only \$9 (the 1826 equivalent of \$175). He agreed to build a house, clear 10 acres, and clear half of the roadway facing the lot in exchange for clear title after six years residence.

The 1851 census of Wilmot shows a 24-member household. All were described as Mennonists: farmer Michael Miller, 45, Germany; Jacobine [Nafziger], 38, Germany; Anna, 20; Magdalena, 17; Marie, 15; Elizabeth, 14; Catharine, 12; Barbara, 10; David, 7; Letty, 6; and Moses, 5 [all children born in Ontario]; farmer Peter, 53, Germany; Anna, 43, Germany; Christopher, 21; Michael, 20; John, 16; Magdalena, 13; Daniel, 8; Maria, 5; Joseph, 1; [all children born in Ontario]; and farmer Simon Miller, 73, Germany. Peter's oldest two children Samuel and Catherine (married to Iowa John Naffziger) had already moved out.

Though the families were listed together, the Peter Miller family was living in a two-story brick house, while the Michael Miller family lived in a one-story log house next door. Mother Magdalena had died before the information was taken, and father Simon Miller died before it was published, though his name appears.

The children of Simon Miller and Magdalena include:

1. Peter Miller was born circa April 3, 1798 (per his headstone count), and died in Davis County Dec. 3, 1855. Circa 1832 he married Anna. According to the 1851 census of Wilmot, she was born circa 1808; all later censuses suggest she was born circa 1810. In 1835 Peter obtained a crown patent for his Wilmot lot. He purchased an additional 150 acres in July 1853. He sold all 200 acres in August 1853 and relocated to Iowa. They purchased land at Bloomfield, Davis County in 1854. Peter's odd headstone in North Pulaski Cemetery reads: "Peter, consort of Anna Miller, died Dec. 3, 1855, aged 57 y. & 8 mos." A 'consort' can be a spouse, but more often describes someone who is closely associated with another, where the relationship is nil or unknown. But in this instance the odd use of words strongly suggests the Millers were still practicing a bit of deception linked to their emigration from Europe. Later Miller graves were identified accurately. Widow Anna or Annie Miller is found on the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses of Bloomfield as ages 50, 60, and 70; her place of birth is given as Germany, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Hestia. The 1860 census shows Anna Miller, 50, Germany; Daniel, 16, Canada; Mary, 14, Canada; John, 24, Canada; John Helmuth, 27, Canada [born at Wilmot, a son of George Helmuth and Magdalena Brenneman]; and farmer Jacob Kinsinger, 69, France (see KINSINGER for his background). Next door was farmer Michael Miller, 27, Canada, with his wife and two children. The only child of Peter and Anna who did not join the Apostolic Church of Christ [Neu Täufer or New Amish] was Mary Miller. She was born at Hamburg, Ontario (now New Hamburg, on the west side of Wilmot Centre in Wilmot Township) Feb. 14, 1847, and died at Milford, Nebraska April 25, 1923. She married minister/elder Joseph Schlegel (1837-1913). See SCHLEGEL for background on this couple including her obituary.
- Minister/elder Christian Miller was born circa 1806, and died at Wilmot in 1850. He may have been a son of Simon Miller and Magdalena who preceded them to America, though this cannot be proven from available evidence. But note that his Wilmot lot was next to that of Michael Miller, who would have been his younger brother. In 1829 he married Katharina Nafziger. For background on this couple see the earlier list of the children of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter.
2. Michael Miller, also known as Michael G. Miller, was born circa 1807 (per headstone), and died at Prairie, Davis County, Iowa Oct. 1, 1883. He married Jakobina 'Phoebe' Nafziger, who was born circa Jan. 31, 1813 (per her obituary), and died at Pulaski, Davis County July 31, 1879, a daughter of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter. For background on this couple see the earlier list of the children of Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter, or continue reading for additional censuses.
3. Anna Miller was born circa 1810. We could not follow her after her 1824 arrival.
4. Catharine Miller was born Feb. 13, 1813, and died at East Zorra, Oxford County, Ontario March 21, 1896. On June 18, 1830 (the groom's birthday) at Wilmot she married George Jutzi/Iutzi. He was born near Siegen, Hesse June 18, 1801, and died in Ontario Dec. 21, 1882, a son of Christian Jutzi and Maria. It is thought that he came to America with his oldest brother Peter in 1825, and came to Wilmot from Somerset, Pennsylvania before 1830. The 1830 surveyor's map of Wilmot Township shows George Uitze on Lot 8, Bleam's Road, between Simon Miller and Christian Miller. They are found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as saw miller George Jutzi, 52, Germany, Mennonite; Katherine, 40, Germany, Mennonite; and seven children born in Ontario, the oldest 20. George worked a farm, sawmill, and gristmill. They belonged to the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Church. George is buried in East Zorra Municipal Cemetery (at the time of his burial it was called the Fifteenth Line Cemetery), and Catharine is buried in East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery. Herald of Truth, April 1896: "Catherine Yutzi, maiden name Miller, was born Feb. 13, 1813 and died on the 21st of March 1896, aged 83 years, one month, and eight days. She lived in matrimony with Geo. Yutzi for 52 years, and was a widow for 13 years. Their union was blessed with eight children of whom six survive. She also leaves 36 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren."

Recall that Moses is found on the 1851 census of Wilmot as a 5-year-old in the home of his uncle and aunt Michael Miller and Jakobina 'Phoebe' Nafziger.

According to Melvin Gingerich's article Mennonites in Lee and Davis Counties, Iowa, published in the April 1960 issue of Mennonite Life, the Peter Miller family became the first Amish Mennonites to settle in Davis County when they arrived in 1854. By 1860 nearly 50 families had purchased government land for \$2.50 an acre. The 1860 census of Prairie, Davis County shows farmer Michael Miller, 53, Hesse-Darmstadt; Phebe, 46, Hesse-Darmstadt; Barbaray, 18, Canada; Lydia, 14, Canada; Moses Nofsinger, 12, Canada; John Gingrich, 67, Germany. He is found again on the 1870 census of Prairie: farmer Michael Miller, 62, Hesse-Darmstadt; Phebe, 55, Beiern [meant to be Bayern/Bavaria] overwritten as 'Switz.'; Lydia, 22, Canada; and farm laborer Moses Nausinger, 23, Canada.

On Dec. 25, 1873 at Pulaski, Davis County Moses married Harriet 'Hattie' Stover. She was born in Ashland County, Ohio April 7, 1853 (per her funeral service, though her death certificate says Indiana, where she lived to age four), and died at Bloomfield, Davis County Feb. 27, 1926, a daughter of Jacob Stover and Barbara Greiner.

Presumably Moses visited his father John in Nebraska about this time. A studio portrait photograph shows Moses with his two half-brothers William and Frank (from his father's second marriage).

The 1880 census of Bloomfield has farmer Moses Naffziger, 30, born in Canada to parents from Germany and Canada; Hattie, 28, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania; William E., 5, born in Iowa to parents from Canada and Ohio; Minnie, 4, born in Iowa to parents from Canada and Ohio; and laborer William Zehr, 16, born in Iowa to parents from France and Germany. The 1905 census of Bloomfield shows widow Hattie Naffziger, 55, born in Ohio to parents from Pennsylvania, with 51 years in Iowa.

Moses died of tuberculosis at Bloomfield April 11, 1896, and was buried the same day. An entry for 'Moses Neaffziger' in the county register gave his age as 48 years, 10 months, and eight days. It did not name his parents.

Moses and Harriet are buried in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery at Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa.

Nebraska became a territory under the Kansas-Nebraska Act of March 30, 1854. On April 15, 1858 at Dakota City in the Territory of Nebraska Moses' father John remarried to school teacher Lurinda Packard.³⁴ She was born at Plainfield, Massachusetts Aug. 30, 1830, and died in Dakota County, Nebraska July 5, 1891, a daughter of Milton Packard and Charlotte Parker. The ceremony was registered on the opposite side of the Missouri River in Woodbury County, Iowa.

A.T. Andreas' *History of the State of Nebraska* (1882), describes Dakota City:

"...A preliminary survey of this city was made in 1855, and in September, 1856, it was surveyed under the direction of the Dakota City Company, of which Augustus Kountze, since then a wealthy banker of Omaha, was president. The first building erected in Dakota was a log cabin with a flat dirt roof, with the ground for a floor, by B. F. Chambers, in May, 1856. This building was afterwards improved and occupied as a hotel under the name of the Chihuahua House, by Dr. J. D. M. Crockwell. Among the early settlers of Dakota city may be mentioned Joseph Hollman, who came in 1856, also W. G. Crawford, F. A. Robinson, John Naffziger, William H. James, who in 1871, became Secretary of State, and John Taffe, afterwards a member of Congress. In 1857 John Naffziger opened the first store, and Messrs. Hollman & Crawford opened a law office. ...The first marriage was that of John Naffziger to Miss Surinda Packard, who had previously taught the first school."

"...John Naffziger, farmer, is a native of Bavaria. In 1826 he came to Canada. In 1851 he came to Lee County, Iowa. In 1856 he removed to Dakota County, Neb., where he has since resided. He entered a one-quarter section of land, which he improved; also engaged in merchandising, his being the first goods sold in Dakota City. After selling goods a few years, he removed to his farm, where he remained till 1874, when he sold his farm and returned to Dakota City, where he has since resided. He has been Probate Judge one term, County Commissioner two terms, represented this county in the Legislature one regular and one special term, and has held various other minor offices. His son William has taught school several terms, is now engaged in farming."

John's dry goods business must have benefited when the discovery of gold in Wyoming in 1859 drew speculators west.

The 1860 census of St. John's, Dakota County has farmer John Naffziger, 40, Bavaria; Laina, 30, Massachusetts; and William, 1, Nebraska.

The Homestead Act of 1862 greatly expanded the population of the territory, and Nebraska became the 37th state Feb. 8, 1867.

The 1870 census of Dakota City shows farmer John Noffziger, 50, Germany, \$7,000 real estate, \$11,000 personal property [a substantial amount for the time]; Lorenda, 39, Massachusetts; Willie, 11; Mary, 8; Lora, 6; Frank, 3; Harriett, 10 months; all children born in Nebraska.

³⁴ We found a variety of spellings of her first name. We chose to follow the spelling on the 1855 census of Plainfield, Mass.

The 1880 census of Dakota City: common laborer John Naffziger, 62, Bavaria; Lurinda, 51, Massachusetts; farm laborer Wm. H., 21; Mary J., 18; Leana A., 18; Frank J., 10; Hattie E., 10; and Flora B., 7; all children born in Nebraska.

In later years John served as president of the Pioneers and Old Settlers Association.

Lurinda died at Dakota City July 5, 1891. John died there Jan. 1, 1903.

Censuses varied on John's age: 1860 = birth year 1820, 1870 = 1820, and 1880 = 1818. In Tazewell County the stories told in the Old Settlers Association were characterized by, "Do you remember the Deep Snow of 1830? You could walk across the bones of dead deer and never touch the ground." It is befitting that the age of the ex-president of such an association should be exaggerated by a full decade. *Dakota County Herald* obituary, Jan. 8, 1903:

"Another Pioneer Passes Away. John Naffziger, after a Fight for Life, Breathed His Last New Year's Day.

Uncle Johnny Naffziger, one of the early pioneers of Dakota County and one of the best-known men in northeast Nebraska, died at his home in Dakota City New Year's morning. For several years his health has been gradually and slowly failing, and like the works of a watch the machinery had given away and his time had come, for he was in his 97th year.

About a week before his death he was stricken with paralysis, and during the intervening time he fought hard against death. His children were nearly all at his bedside night and day during his last hours.

He was born in Bavaria, Germany, going with his parents to Canada when but six years of age. After having once made a previous trip to Davis County, Iowa, he returned to Canada and piloted a colony of Germans to that place, many of who became independently wealthy, and whose children and grandchildren are still residents of the same settlement.

He came to Dakota county in the spring of 1856 and has been a continuous resident of the county ever since. In the early days he conducted a store in Dakota City on the lots east of the McBeath home, and a few pioneers who are left well remember it. Mr. Naffziger was always an ardent democrat and a great party advisor and leader, and filled many offices of trust for the people who had much confidence in his ability and judgment.

At a special election in January, 1862, he was elected county judge; he served as justice of the peace for Dakota precinct from 1889 to 1893; he was elected state representative October 13, 1868, serving fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of that body; October 13, 1863 he was chosen county commissioner and was re-elected October 9, 1866.

He was married before coming to Nebraska, and leaves one child, Mrs. Leah Daghlish, of Mo., by his first marriage. He was married here to Larinda Packard in 1868, who died July 6, 1891. The following are the children by his second marriage who mourn the loss of a good, kind and considerate father: Rev. William Naffziger, Smithville, O., Mrs. Louis Warnholtz and J.F. Naffziger, of Sioux City; Mrs. Henry Niebuhr, of Winnebago Agency, and Mrs. George Niebuhr and Mrs. John Dewitt, of this place.

For more than thirty years has the writer known 'Uncle' Johnny Naffziger, and he did not look a day older than he did when we first became acquainted with him. He was a man of his own mind and convictions, always frank in his assertions, but never saying anything harmful against any man.

The funeral services were held at Lutheran Church Friday afternoon, conducted by Rev. S.M. Leshner, the remains interred in the Dakota City cemetery."

The children of John Naffziger/Naffziger and his second wife Lurinda Packard born at Dakota City, Nebraska include:

3. William Henry Naffziger was born at Dakota City Dec. 6, 1858, and died at Springfield, Ohio Aug. 21, 1939. On Dec. 31, 1890 he married Emma Jane Castle. She was born at Springfield, Ohio Sept. 27, 1869, and died at Dayton, Ohio March 4, 1960. William was an Evangelical Lutheran minister in Nebraska and Ohio. They are buried in Ferncliff Cemetery at Springfield.
4. Mary Jane Naffziger was born at Dakota City circa 1864, and died there Aug. 8 1925. She married George L. Niebuhr. He was born in Iowa May 1, 1859, and died at Dakota City Sept. 2, 1949. They are buried in Dakota City Public Cemetery. Niebuhr led an adventurous life, and one of the stories about him in the Dakota County newspaper told about being held over on an ice-locked steamboat in the Missouri River. The boat was held up near Fort Bismarck in sub-zero temperatures in October. The owner and the remainder of the crew chopped the fuel wood down to 20-30 cords at a size that would fit into a stove. Then they traveled home by stage coach while George remained behind. He had a plentiful supply of sugar, flour, bacon, beans, and coffee, and managed to kill a few young buffalo. The crew returned in April, and the boat continued downstream May 1. It was the winter of 1877, and George was only 13 years old.
5. Laura Ann Naffziger was born at Dakota City in September 1863, and died there in 1904. She married Henry G. Niebuhr. He was born in Illinois in 1855, and died at Dakota City in 1931, a son of Henry Niebuhr and Louisa Mohrwinkel. They are buried in Dakota City Public Cemetery.
6. Franklin John Naffziger was born at Dakota City Nov. 4, 1866, and died at Denver, Colorado April 11, 1911. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery at Denver.

7. Harriet Elena 'Hattie' Naffziger was born at Bushy Bend, Nebraska Aug. 29, 1869, and died at Sioux City, Iowa April 9, 1951. She married Louis Warnholtz. He was born in 1866, and died at Sioux City in January of 1948. They are buried in Floyd Cemetery at Sioux City, where their joint headstone describes her as 'Hattie E.'
8. Flora Belle Naffziger was born at Dakota City Aug. 31, 1871, and died at Anaheim, California Oct. 18, 1959. In 1888 she married John B. Dewitt. He was born at Dakota City Nov. 18, 1864, and died at Anaheim Oct. 14, 1927. John is buried in Anaheim Cemetery.

Thus, the only Nafzigers in North America with a paternal line of descent from Christian Nafziger and Maria Stalter would be descended from sons of John Nafziger/Naffziger (1816-1903) or his younger brother Joseph Nafziger (1820-1891).

Rocke

The Rocke family that passed through Tazewell County in the 1850s left very few footprints.

Joseph Rocke was born at Ismannsdorf, Bavaria March 16, 1809, and died at Buda, Lancaster County, Nebraska Jan. 28 of 31 (headstone), 1883.³⁵

According to a biography of a son in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska* (1888) he first married Philipine Imhof. She was born in 'the Rhine province' [Pfalz], and died in 1844. *Portrait* makes a point of saying that Joseph and both of his wives were Mennonites (the German *Mennoniten* encompasses Amish Mennonites).

The child of Joseph Rocke and his first wife Philipine Imhof was:

1. Jacob Rocke was born at Eisenberg (20 miles northwest of Kaiserslautern) Nov. 7 (obituary), 1843, and died at Atkinson, Nebraska June 16, 1915. He enlisted for a three-year term Aug. 12, 1862, and mustered in at Bloomington, McLean County Aug. 17. As a private in Company H, 94th Illinois Infantry, he fought in the battles of Prairie Grove, Vicksburg, Yazoo City, and Brownsville. He mustered out at Galveston, Texas July 17, 1865. His obituary in the *Atkinson Graphic* says, "During his three-year service he was at first with the Missouri Artillery, afterward with the sharp shooters, and later with the scouts along the Texas border." He returned to farm in Livingston County, then went to Nebraska in 1868. The following year he returned to assist his parents with their move west. He put in a homestead claim on the southern half of Section 12 at Buda. After improving the land and fulfilling the five-year tenancy requirement he sold it to his father and bought another farm. In 1879 he moved to Lincoln, where he and his younger brother Christian became proprietors of the Washington House hotel. On March 14, 1883 at Lincoln he married Kate Wittmann/Whitman, who was born circa 1858. In 1885 he was elected treasurer of Lancaster County; in 1898 he was elected to the state senate. In 1900 they relocated to Atkinson in Holt County. They are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery (formerly Greenwood Cemetery) at Atkinson.

Joseph remarried to Marie/Mary Nafziger. She was born Feb. 2, 1824, and died at Cortland, Gage County, Nebraska June 19, 1886.

Marie/Mary is thought by descendants to have been a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Barbara Oesch. Jean had come from Imsbach in the Pfalz (14 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern) to be married to Barbe at Helling-le-Grand, Moselle March 9, 1809. Helling-le-Grand is now part of Hombourg-Haut.

They sailed from Le Havre to New York in the fall of 1850. It is certain that they were at sea on Oct. 21, the day their son Christian was born; a family story says that he was named after the Danish vessel, the *Christiana*. We could not identify a date of arrival or passenger list.

Portrait: "He [Joseph Rocke] went from New York City to Illinois, and located in Tazewell County on a farm. He remained there and in McLean County for several years, actively engaged in agricultural pursuits."

A descendant maintains that in the early 1850s Joseph and Mary lived with widow Catherine Nafziger Jantzi (circa 1810-1866) in Tazewell County. If Marie/Mary was a daughter of Jean Nafziger and Barbara Oesch, Catherine would have been her second cousin. Catherine was a daughter of Johannes/Jean Nafziger and Catherine Guingrich/Gingerich, and had been the second wife of Michel Jantzi of Macheren, Moselle. She had been a resident of Macheren, adjacent to Hombourg-Haut. In 1849 she sailed in a party of 16 to New York, then traveled via Lewis County, New York and Wilmot, Ontario to Illinois, where she arrived in 1850 or 1851. See NAFZIGER, GRANDPA JOHN NAFFZIGER and JANTZI for background on her family.

³⁵ Ismannsdorf is in the administrative district [Ger. *Landkreis*] of Ansbach, 30 miles southwest of Nuremberg.

The 1860 census of Mosquito Grove, McLean County (this community became Allin in 1867) has farmer Joseph Rocker, 53, Byronne [Bayern/Bavaria]; Mary, 35, Byronne; Jacob, 16, Byronne; Christian, 9, Illinois; Melinda, 8, Illinois; Joseph, 3, Illinois; and Lizzie, 2, Illinois.

In 1869 Joseph and Mary relocated to what became Buda, Lancaster County, Nebraska. They were assisted by Joseph's son Jacob, who had claimed land there a year earlier. Joseph constructed a home on a homestead claim comprised of 80 acres in Section 12.

The county seat of Lancaster County is Lincoln. It is north of Buda, and 50 miles southwest of Omaha.

NEBRASKA

When the Nebraska Territory was created in 1854, public land was made available for sale or claim by homesteaders. The *Preemption Act of 1841* and the *Homestead Act of 1862* outlined requirements. The only land that was not offered had been set aside for railroads or educational purposes.

The *Preemption Act of 1841* allowed settlers to put in a claim on up to 160 acres of public land, even if the land had already been surveyed. It could then be purchased for \$1.25 per acre. A *Declaration of Intent to be Naturalized* and residence on the land were required of the purchaser.

The *Homestead Act of 1862* became effective Jan. 1, 1863. Anyone could establish residence on 40-160 acres of unclaimed public land, file a homestead entry, then wait five years to obtain it for free. A few new requirements were added: the settler could not own more than 320 anywhere else in the country, and could not have quit another claim. A small filing fee was all that was needed to finalize the claim at a land office. 'Homestead proof' documents submitted to support the claims are now valued sources of information for genealogists.

Veterans of the Union Army (such as Jacob Rocke) could deduct their time in service from the five-year period. If the veteran had been discharged early because of wounds or disability, he was allowed to deduct the full term of the enlistment that would have been served. The maximum that could be deducted was four years, so that even the most qualified veteran had to establish residence for a year before obtaining a deed.

When someone had filed a homestead entry and lived on a parcel of land for more than six months, they had the option of purchasing the land at a reduced price to close out the claim period. This often happened when farmers were able to bring in one or two good crops.

Railroad construction halted during the Civil War. In 1862 the Union Pacific Railway was organized at Chicago. Construction of the first railroad tracks to cross Nebraska was begun July 10, 1865. By the end of the year Union Pacific Railroad tracks were in place from Omaha (on the eastern border) 40 miles west to Fremont. In 1866 another 260 miles were laid. In 1867 they reached the summit of the Black Hills near Cheyenne, Wyoming. They continued to build west and met the Central Pacific Railroad at Promontory Point, Utah May 10, 1869.

The 1870 census of Lancaster County, Nebraska shows farmer Joseph Rocke, 61, Bavaria; Mary, 40, Bavaria; Jacob, 26, Bavaria; Christian, 20, on Atlantic Ocean; Malinda, 14, Illinois; Lizzie, 12, Illinois; Mary, 9, Illinois; and Joseph, 14, Illinois. The 1875 state census of Buda has Joseph Rocke, 65, Germany; Mary, 50, France; Jacob, 30, France; and Christian, 24, 'born on the Atlantic Ocean.' The 1880 census of Buda has Joseph Rocke, 71, Bavaria; Mary, 44, born in Bavaria to parents from Hesse and France; Jacob, Illinois; and Mary, Illinois.

Joseph and Mary are buried in Stockfeldt Cemetery at Sprague, Nebraska.

The children of Joseph Rocke and his second wife Marie/Mary Nafziger include:

2. Christian Rocke was born on the immigration voyage Oct. 21, 1850, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska in 1930. In 1879 he became proprietor of the Washington House hotel at Lincoln with his older brother Jacob. In 1887 at Princeton, Nebraska he married Amanda Stockfeldt. She was born at Ceres, Iowa circa 1862, and died at Lincoln April 13, 1949, a daughter of minister Paul Stockfeldt and Eleanor Alvidore McDonald. She is buried in Lincoln Memorial Park at Lincoln.
3. Magdalena/Lena/Malinda Rocke was born in Illinois circa 1855. She married Henry Wiedemann. Circa 1900 Magdalena remarried to James Halvey. They are shown on the 1910 census of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska as laborer James Halvey, 59, born in Indiana to parents from Indiana and Ohio, wells; Lena, 56, born in Illinois to German parents, mother of six children of whom six were living; and daughter Marie Weideman, 22, born in Nebraska to a father from Germany and a mother from Illinois [Marie is also found on the Lincoln census that year, living with her aunt Lizzie].
4. Joseph Rocke was born in Illinois Oct. 28 or 29, 1856, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska Nov. 17, 1925. On April 3, 1887 in Lancaster County he married Mary Emma Rocke. She was born Dec. 23, 1864, and died at Lincoln March 15, 1922. They owned 80 acres in Section 1 of Buda, and 320 acres at Rawlins. They are found on the 1920 census of Buda as Joseph Rocke, 64, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; Mary E., 55, born in Illinois to Bavarian parents; and four children born in Nebraska. They are buried in Hallam Community Cemetery in Lancaster County.
5. Elizabeth/Lizzie Rocke was born in Illinois Nov. 15, 1859 (per headstone), and died at Lincoln, Nebraska Nov. 15, 1944. On Sept. 24, 1887 in Lancaster County she married John Fisher (the record found as Lizzie Rocke). He was born May 30, 1844, and died Nov. 23, 1915. During the Civil War he had served as a private with Company K of the

136th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. They participated in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Elizabeth and John are found on the 1910 census of Lincoln Ward 5 as woodworker John Fisher, 65, born in Pennsylvania to German parents, repair shop; Lizzie, 52, born in Illinois to German parents; Elizabeth, 9, Nebraska; and niece and sales lady Marie Wiedemann, 21, born in Nebraska to parents from Germany and Illinois, millinery store. They are buried in Wyuka Cemetery at Lincoln.

6. Mary Rocke was born in Illinois April 22, 1861, and died in Lancaster County March 15, 1889. She married Johann Gerhard Richard Alex Stockfeldt (also found as Richard Stockfeld or Stockfield). He was born at Garnavillo, Iowa Nov. 20, 1856, and died before 1910, a son of minister Paul Stockfeldt and Eleanor Alvidore McDonald. He was the principal of schools at Cortland, Gage County, and later a grocery salesman. Circa 1892 Richard remarried to Mary. She was born in Ireland in June of 1869, and immigrated in 1889. They are buried in Stockfeldt Cemetery at Sprague, Lancaster County.

The Lewis County Settlement

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

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

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

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

THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

In 1853 Weyeneth traveled to Woodford County, Illinois, and made his permanent home at Roanoke.³⁶

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

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

³⁶ Confusion over the naturalization of a Swiss individual also named Benedict Weyeneth in New York City Feb. 18, 1854 led one biographer to a false assumption: that Weyeneth returned to Europe via New York City between his time in Lewis County and resettling in Woodford County. The Benedict in New York City was born at Bern May 8, 1822, and died in Manhattan Nov. 30, 1875.

The De Chaumonts and the Castorland Company

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

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

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

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

In the same year **Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont [Jr.] later known as James Chaumont** (1760-1840) was sent to the new country to press his father's requests for compensation. He had also been commissioned by his government to lobby Congress to honor the depreciated notes held by French subjects. He carried letters of introduction signed by Franklin, John Jay, and the Marquis de Lafayette. But his political efforts were largely unsuccessful.

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

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

The original purchase price was about eight pence per acre, or 30 acres for one dollar.³⁷

The syndicate was made up of 'land jobbers' looking for a turnaround with a minimum of complications. But the business of re-selling land in the wilderness was slow. Within six months Macomb had no liquid assets, and went to prison for refusing to pay the interest on loans. He then sold all his acreage to Constable.

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

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

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

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

In France James curried favor and influence by selling bargain parcels to influential people. According to A.M. Sakolski's *The Great American Land Bubble* (1932), he sold 4,480 acres to Napoleon's aide Armand-Augustin-Louis de Caulaincourt, who then sold them to Napoleon's minister of police Comte Pierre-François Real.

³⁷ In 1792, 12 pennies or pence equaled one shilling; five shillings equaled one crown; and four crowns equaled one pound sterling or sovereign. Using these relative values, and knowing that one English penny was equivalent to only .416 of an American penny, we figured the eight pence purchase price would be equivalent to 3.328 cents per acre, or roughly 30 acres for one American dollar. How would a 1792 dollar equate in modern buying power? It would depend on whether it was made of gold or silver, or was issued as a private bank note. A random internet historic currency converter told us one dollar in 1792 would have had the equivalent of \$25.09 in current buying power (which of course can also be figured in a number of ways). 30 acres for \$25.09 in modern buying power, or 84 cents an acre, still seems like a bargain. Another way to look at this: an area was purchased for 3.328 cents an acre in 1792. After modest development (surveying, creating access roads, and setting up sales offices and general stores), it was selling for \$1.50 an acre by 1834.

Other parcels went to general and marshal Marquis Emmanuel de Grouchy, and Napoleon's critic Madame Germaine de Staël.

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

James returned to America again in 1816. For the next 16 years he lived at Fort Drum in Jefferson County. According to a county history his mansion housed a physician, priest, surveyors, and engineers. He received visits from President James Monroe and the commanding officer of the army General Jacob Jennings Brown.³⁸ He founded the Jefferson County Agricultural Society and the Jefferson County Fair, and was a president of the New York State Agricultural Society.

However, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 provided a more convenient means of transportation for immigrants hoping to settle west of upstate New York. This diminished the value of the de Chaumont's portfolio.

Though it would no longer be fashionable for the *elite* of France to buy their properties, they were still a safe haven for those of modest means. Recall from STAKER the factors that drove French emigration:

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

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

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

In Lewis County, would-be settlers would not have purchased directly from the de Chaumonts. A local history tells us that in 1821 they appointed lawyer Charles Dayan of Lowville as their sales agent and land registrar.³⁹ He was responsible for 12,000 acres of the Castorland Company survey, and later sold properties to the west. The town center of what is now New Bremen was originally called Dayanville in his honor.

Joseph Bonaparte

One of the odder points of local history is the role Jacques Donatien LeRay de Chaumont [Jr.] or James Chaumont played in bringing a Bonaparte to Lewis County.

In 1815, he heard that Napoleon's older brother Joseph Bonaparte (born Giuseppi Buonaparte) had fled from his throne in Spain and was lodging in the community of Blois. He went from his estate at Touraine to Blois to have dinner with him, and saw that Bonaparte was taking a train of wagons to Switzerland.

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

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

³⁸ The military career of Jacob Jennings Brown can be found on *Wikipedia*. We found it interesting that he was a general who began as a smuggler, like Napoleon's spymaster Karl Ludwig Schulmeister, who can be found in EIGSTI.

³⁹ Charles Dayan (1792-1877) was a Lowville school teacher who became a lieutenant colonel in the War of 1812. He became a member of the state senate in 1827, and served as lieutenant governor for 10 weeks in 1828. He served in Congress March 4, 1831 to March 3, 1833. Then he returned to New York to serve two years in the State Assembly, and five years as district attorney of Lewis County. The center of what became New Bremen was initially called Dayanville.

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

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

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

Starting in 1818 he spent summers on what became Lake Bonaparte. The lake (known even then as 'Lake Bony') is approximately 18 miles north of Croghan, and is within the boundaries of Lewis County at its northern tip.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kiefer/Kieffer

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

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

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

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

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

Tobias was married to Susanne Hirschi. Although her civil death entry suggest she was born circa 1723, we suspect but cannot prove that she was Françoise Susanne Hirschi, born at Altviller Oct. 7, 1729, a daughter of Jacob

Hirschi and Barbara Rolle. She died at Faulquemont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1810; the 10-year civil index lists her as Susanne Hirgy.

Their son **Jean Joseph Kieffer**, born circa 1772, was married at Folschviller, Moselle Dec. 18, 1797. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Josef Kieffer, 24, a resident of Hingsing, Tenchen, Bistroff [Hingsange farm at Linstroff]. His parents were the deceased Tobias Kieffer and Susan Hirschin, who had been residents of Puttange. The bride was Madlön Hörgy, 24, a resident of Berfang farm at Folschviller. She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Hörgy and the deceased Anne Farny, who had been residents of Bonhousen farm at Faulquemont. Witnesses included cultivator Pierre Beller, 30, cousin of the groom and resident of Berfang farm; and cultivator Christian Kenille [Kennel], 36, brother-in-law of the groom and resident of Wenick [?], St. Avold. The groom signed 'Joseph Kinfnr' (the letter 'e' written in the old-style German that looks like 'n'); the bride signed with an 'x', indicating she was illiterate.

Madeleine Hirschi/Hirschy was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont circa 1773, and died at Amélecourt, Moselle March 23, 1825, a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny, who had lived at Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-lès-Harprich) before becoming residents of Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont.⁴⁰

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

1. **Jean/John Kieffer** was born at Folschviller, Moselle Sept. 29, 1798. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Joseph Kiefer and Madlön Hörgy of Berfang farm at Folschviller. It was witnessed by cultivator Pierre Biller [Beller], 34. Though the municipal clerk at Foschviller chose the spelling variation 'Kieffer,' only this son employed it.
2. **Joseph Kieffer** was born at Folschviller Aug. 29, 1800. His civil birth entry described his parents as cultivator Josphe Kiefer, 53, and Madlön Hörgy of Berfang farm at Folschviller.
3. **Christian Kieffer** was born at Faulquemont, Moselle (six miles southwest of Folschviller) July 26, 1802.
4. Margueritte Kiefer (found as Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Sept. 26, 1804, and died there March 20, 1816.
5. Pierre Kiefer (found as Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Dec. 25, 1807, and died there Feb. 25, 1808.
6. Madeleine Kiefer (found as Kiffer) was born at Faulquemont Dec. 7, 1810.

JEAN/JOHN KIEFFER

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

On Aug. 12, 1818 at Destry he married Catherine Farny.⁴¹ Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as Jean Kailfeurt, 20, born at Folschviller. He was a son of cultivator Jean Kailfeurt and Magdeleine Hyrchy, residents of the tile factory at Faulquemont. The bride was described as Catherine Farny, 20, born at Besville, Bénestroff. She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Farny, who had died at Benning, Harprich May 7, 1805, and Anne Elisabeth Guerber, a resident of Moulin Rouge [the red mill] at Destry who was present and consenting.

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

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

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

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

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

⁴⁰ The couple was listed in the 10-year civil index as Josep Kieffer and Madlön Hörgy.

⁴¹ The 10-year civil index of Destry lists them as Jean Kailfeurt and Catherine Farny.

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

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

1. Madeleine/Magdalena/Lena/Lany Kieffer was born circa 1830, and died in Newton County, Missouri (near Joplin) in January of 1889. She may have been the Madeleine Kiffer whose birth entry created July 5, 1828 is found in the 10-year civil index of Amélecourt, 16 miles southwest of Grostenquin (the home of Jean/John's brother Joseph Kiefer). In Lewis County circa 1850 she married Joseph Zehr. He was born in Bischwald mill at Bistroff June 19, 1823, a son of Michel/Michael Zehr and Anne Jantzi (a daughter of Christian Jantzi and Anne Farny).⁴² The 1860 census of Croghan has miller Joseph Sair, 36, France; Lana, 30, France; Michael, 9; Emma, 8; Nancy, 6; Jacob, 5; and Cathrine, seven months; all children born in New York. In 1865: farmer Joseph Zehr, 37, France; Lana Zehr, 34, France; Michael, 14; Ermang [Emma], 12; Anna, 10; Jacob, 9; Catharin, 6; Marey, 4; and Benjamin, five months; all children born in Lewis County. They lived next door to the households of brothers Andrew Zehr, 37 (born at Croghan May 7, 1834, married to Mary Martin); and John Zehr, 43 (born at Bistroff Feb. 25, 1821, married to Catherine Kiefer); as well as uncle Christian Keffer [Christian Kiefer], 62 (born at Faulquemont July 26, 1802, married to Catherine Hirschy). *The Lewis County Democrat* [Lowville]: "Joseph Zehr has exchanged his farm... for a large tract of land in Missouri, said to be valued at \$40,000. He is said to offer inducements to emigrate to settle on these lands, and is in hopes he may induce the Mennonites, recently emigrated to this country, to go there, as they are a very industrious, thrifty and desirable class of inhabitants." Oct. 21, 1874: "Joseph Zehr and family and eight or ten other German families, from this town and New Bremen, numbering altogether over one hundred persons, start this week for Missouri. Their destination is North Western Missouri."

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

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

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

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

JOSEPH KIEFER

Joseph Kieffer was born at Folschviller, Moselle Aug. 29, 1800.

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

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

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

The household of 'Joseph Keeffer' is found on the 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County as one male in the 30-39 age range; one male 20-29; one male 15-19; one male 5-9; one female 40-49; one female 30-39; one female 20-29; and two females 10-14.

In 1846 Christian and Barbe were reunited with a niece, Jacobine Engel Schertz.

⁴² Sources that say Joseph Zehr [Sr.] died in October of 1899 may be confusing him with his son, Joseph Zehr, who was born Dec. 30, 1867, and died at Granby Oct. 17, 1899. He is buried in Granby Memorial Cemetery. We could not identify the burial places of Joseph Zehr (Sr.) and Madeleine/Magdalena/Lena/Lany Kieffer.

THE SCHERTZ FAMILY OF BUREAU COUNTY

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

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

In 1846 Jacobine accompanied some of her children to America.⁴³ According to the obituary of son Andrew Schertz in the *Walnut Leader*, Dec. 22, 1911, they arrived at Chicago in the fall of 1846, and settled at Libertyville, Lake County in the spring of 1847.

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

A census submitted Sept. 25, 1850 at Vernon (now Vernon Hills), Lake County shows farmer Joseph Kiefer, 50, France; Barbaray [Guingerich], 60, France; Andrew, 24, France; Barbaray, 22, France; Catharine, 21, France; Peter, 17, New York; and farmer Michael Neiderstock, 35, France. The census of adjacent Libertyville has Jacophene Schwartz [Schertz], 48; John, 30; Joseph, 27; Andrew, 22; Nicholas, 20; and Caroline, 12; all from France.⁴⁴

A census submitted Oct. 2, 1850 at Weaverville and Vicinity, Eldorado County, California has 'miners for gold' Joseph Keefer, 50, France; Nicholas Roggy, 22, France; John Sharts [Schertz], 28, France; Joseph Sharts, 25, France; and Christian Allbright [Albrecht], 32, Germany.⁴⁵ Eldorado County is in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

It is known that Christian Albrecht arrived at Sutter's Fort (now in midtown Sacramento, the state capital) before Thanksgiving of 1850. Sutter's Fort was built in 1839 by immigrant Johann August Suter (1803-1880), and originally called New Switzerland [Ger. *Neu Helvetia*].⁴⁶ Gold was first found in the area by employee James Marshall Jan. 24, 1848, while constructing a saw mill for Suter on the South Fork of the American River at what is now Coloma, at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.⁴⁷ A treaty transferring the American Southwest from Mexican claim was not signed until Feb. 2, 1848.

⁴³ Madeleine/Magdalena was already married to Joseph Roggy, at Sarralbe, Moselle May 1, 1841; they settled at Princeton, Bureau County. We could not identify the Schertz passenger list to verify that Joseph Roggy and Madeleine/Magdalena came with them.

⁴⁴ Caroline Engel was born at Lorentzen Feb. 17, 1838, and died at Morton June 18, 1922. She became the second wife of Jakob/Jacob Schwarzenraub, 1819-1887, a son of Johannes Schwarzenruber/John Schwarzenraub and Magdalena Schwarzenruber (see SCHWARZENRAUB). They are buried in Hirstein Cemetery at Morton.

⁴⁵ Nicolas/Nicholas Roggy was born on the Diefenbacherhof at Riedseltz, Lower Alsace June 16, 1828, and died at Princeton, Bureau County Feb. 8, 1909, a son of Jean Roggy and Anne Catherine Güngerich. On the 1900 census of Princeton he reported that he immigrated in 1848. On April 26, 1859 in Tazewell County he married Elisabeth Baechler. The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Nicholas Roggy and Elizabeth Brockler. She was born at Salannes July 26, 1836 (her civil birth entry called her 'Elisabeth Beklere'), and died at Princeton in 1874, a daughter of Andreas/André/Andrew Baechler and Anne/Anna Roupe. See BECHLER/BECKLER for background on her family. On Oct. 4, 1877 in Bureau County Nicholas remarried to Mary Yordy. She was born May 2, 1857, and died at Princeton Jan. 20, 1932. The 1900 census of Princetown shows Nicholas Roggy, 71, born in France in June 1828, immigrated in 1848; Mary, 43, born in Germany in May 1857, immigrated in 1872; and son Ralph A., 6, born in Illinois in June 1893 to parents from France and Germany. Elisabeth and Nicholas are buried under a joint headstone in Oakland Cemetery at Princeton.

Christian Albrecht was born at Bamberg, Northern Bavaria Feb. 10, 1821, and died at Tiskilwa, Bureau County Jan. 10, 1910. On Sept. 17, 1848 at Arispie, Bureau County he married Catherine Roggy. She was born in Germany Dec. 15, 1830, and died at Hennepin, Putnam County in 1909, a daughter of Peter Roggy and Magdalena Burkey. On March 1, 1849, he left his wife (who was unknowingly one month pregnant) with her parents and departed Illinois for the California Gold Rush. He returned the following year with no gold, but malaria contracted on the return trip via Panama, and found a new son. See the Appendix, ALBRECHT OF BUREAU COUNTY.

⁴⁶ Suter was born at Kandern, Baden to Swiss parents, and went to school at Neuchâtel in French-speaking Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland (85 miles up the Rhine River). He later mismanaged a business, and fled the county without his wife and children to avoid bankruptcy proceedings. He obtained a French passport and sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Sully*, arriving at New York July 14, 1834.

⁴⁷ The reconstructed fort is now Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and the reconstructed sawmill is now Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

The Kiefer and Schertz families relocated from Lake County to Bureau County in the spring of 1852.

The 1860 census of Bureau, Bureau County shows farmer Joseph Keifer, 60, France; Barbara, 65, France; Peter, 26, New York; farm laborer Nicholas Rugee [Roggy], 20, France; and Elizabeth Gingrich, 19, Illinois. On the same page was farmer Andrew Keefer, 25, France [note only one year older than the 1850 census]; Elizabeth [Beck], 23, Illinois; Joseph, 3, Illinois; Archibald, 1, Illinois; and farm laborer Henry Breman, 30, Germany; as well as farmer Andrew Shirtz [Schertz], 27, France; Elisabeth, 23, Illinois; Adolph, 2, Illinois, and Andrew Rugee [Roggy], 22, France. The 1870 census of Walnut, Bureau County shows farmer Peter Kiefer, 39, New York (holder of an unusual \$14,000 worth of real estate and \$3,000 in personal property); Julia A., 24, Pennsylvania; Eliza Fisher, 10, Germany; Noah Mostaler [Noah Mostoller, Julia's brother], 29, Pennsylvania; and Joseph Kiefer, 70, France.⁴⁸ The 1880 census of Walnut has farmer Peter Kiefer, 47, born in New York to parents from France and Switzerland; Julia A., 33, Pennsylvania; Edgar, 9, Illinois; Clara M., Illinois; and father Joseph Kiefer, 79, born in France to parents from Switzerland.

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

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

1. Marie Kiefer was born at Amélecourt, Moselle (16 miles southwest of Grostenquin) Aug. 24, 1824, and died there Feb. 28, 1825. She is found in the 10-year civil index as Marie Kieffert.
2. André/Andrew Kiefer was born April 25, 1825 (per headstone; note that this date conflicts with older sister Marie's, and he is not found in the 10-year civil index of Amélecourt, suggesting it is not accurate or he was adopted), and died in Allen County, Kansas Jan. 1, 1910. On Nov. 11, 1856 in Woodford County he married Elizabeth Beck (he is found in county records as Andrew Kerfier). She was born in Woodford County Oct. 9, 1836, and died in Allen County, Kansas Jan. 10, 1917, a daughter of Peter Beck and Katharina Güngerich/Catherine Gingery (see BECK for background on her family). They are found on the 1860 census of Bureau, Bureau County as Andrew Keefer, 25, France; Elizabeth, 23; Joseph, 3; and Archibald, 1. He is found as Andrew Kiefer on the 1865 state census of the same location. The 1900 census of Salem, Allen County, Kansas shows farmer Andrew Kiefer, 75, born in France to French parents in April 1825, 42 years of marriage, immigrated in 1831; Elizabeth, 64, born in Illinois to German parents in October 1835; and daughter Bertha, 36, born in Illinois in November 1863 to parents from France and Illinois. They are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery at Humboldt, Allen County, Kansas.
3. Barbe/Barbara Kiefer was born at Amélecourt Nov. 11, 1826. She is found in the 10-year civil index as Barbe Kieffert. On Feb. 3, 1853 in Bureau County she married Johannes/John Schwarzentraub.⁴⁹ He was born on the Bubenrod estate at Königsberg, Baden (now Königsbach-Stein) Dec. 27, 1820, a son of Johannes Schwarzentrauber/John Schwarzentraub and Magdalena Schwarzentrauber. See SCHWARZENTRAUB for background on this couple who lived at Morton.
4. Catherine 'Kate' Kiefer was born at Amélecourt Aug. 16, 1828, and died in Illinois Nov. 11, 1895. On Dec. 8, 1857 in Bureau County she married Wilhelm/William Holly.⁵⁰ He was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse June 20, 1825, and died March 2, 1906, a son of Johannes Holly and his second wife Helena Jutzi/Iutzi. Wilhelm and his parents were passengers on the '100 Hessian Mennonites' voyage of 1832. He went from Butler County, Ohio to Putnam County in 1848, then to LaSalle County in 1856. They are found on the 1870 census of Eden, LaSalle County as farmer Wm. Holly, 44, Hesse; Catherine, 41, France; Leda B., 11, Illinois; Edgar J., 9, Illinois; Helen J., 7, Illinois; Amelia J., 3, Illinois; and Jacob Gingery, 42, works on farm, Nassau Ger. They are buried in Granville Cemetery in Putnam County.
5. Peter Kiefer was born in New York (per 1860 census) in 1832 (per headstone), and died in 1897. He married Julia Ann Mostoller. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1847, and died in 1916. They are buried in Van Orin Repose Cemetery at Van Orin, Bureau County.

CHRISTIAN KIEFER

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

⁴⁸ At a time when wealth was easily hidden, Peter was admitting to holding \$17,000 in assets, worth about \$314,000 in modern buying power.

⁴⁹ The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as John Swatzenraub and Barbara Kiefer.

⁵⁰ The *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index* lists them as Wm. Holly and Catharine Keefer. (13 miles southwest of Grostenquin)

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Christian Kiefer was born at Château-Voué (where all entries were spelled 'Kiffert') Oct. 12, 1824, and died at Croghan in 1895. On Jan. 18, 1849 at Croghan he married Marie Madeleine Steiner. She was born at Robertsau, Lower Alsace Aug. 25, 1830, and died at Croghan March 2, 1906, a daughter of Phillipp Steiner and Anne Marie Zehr. They were living next door to Christian's parents on the 1850 census of New Bremen as farmer Christian Keiffer, 23, Germany; and Lena, 18, Germany. The 1860 census of New Bremen also has them next door as farmer Christian Keefer Jr., 33, France; Lany, 28, France; Christian D. Jr., 9, New York; Joseph G., 5, New York; Matilda, 3, New York; and Albert, three months, New York. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
2. Catherine Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Aug. 3, 1826, and died at Croghan April 12, 1885. In 1844 at Croghan she married Johannes/John Zehr. He was born on Belgrade farm at Bistroff, Moselle Feb. 25, 1821, and died at Croghan May 2, 1906, a son of Michel/Michael Zehr and Anne Jantzi. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
3. Elisabeth Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Nov. 1, 1828, and died there Feb. 4, 1829.
4. Jean Kiefer (twin) was born at Château-Voué Jan. 3, 1830, and died there Jan. 18, 1830.
5. Jean Pierre Kiefer (twin) was born at Château-Voué Jan. 3, 1830, and died there Jan. 19, 1830.
6. Michel Kiefer was born at Château-Voué Feb. 25, 1831. We could not follow him after the 1850 census.
7. Madeleine 'Lany' Kiefer was born circa 1834 (despite the date on her headstone). Between 1850 and 1855 she married Christian Farni/Farney. Christian Farney was born at Barst Nov. 11, 1826 (the 10-year civil index calls him Chrétien Farni), and died Jan. 11, 1902, a son of Joseph Farni and Catherine Gerber/Guerber. The 1855 census of New Bremen has farmer Christian Farney, 28, France; Lany, 21, France; Samuel, 1, Lewis; father Joseph, 60, France; and mother Barbara [Joseph's second wife Barbe/Barbara Mosimann, the widow of Christian Zehr], 63, France; and sister Catherine, 20, Lewis. A headstone in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan identifies, "Magdalena Keiffier, wife of Christian Farney, born April 15, 1832, died June 26, 1910." Christian is also buried there.

Hirschy/Hirschey

In Canton Bern a *Hirschi* is a deer.

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

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

Because of this, we suspect that our family of interest may have been associated with Schangnau in Canton Bern. It was a 'refuge village' for Anabaptists at the end of a cul-de-sac road into the mountains 15 miles east of

Steffisburg. This would be consistent with what we know about those who migrated in the early 1700s to what became Moselle, while it was still ruled by a Catholic.

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

A very tentative model of the Hirschis in the region suggests two branches of descendants coming down from Pierre (born in or before 1704) and Jacob/Jacques (perhaps born in or before 1705). They may have been brothers. But even without supposing this connection, it is obvious that their descendant branches considered themselves a blended family, and did not cross-marry. Another possible connection may have come from Jacob/Jacques's marriage to a Rolle, while Pierre's only son Jean Michel also married a Rolle.⁵¹

French records occasionally called them Hirschi, but just as often they are found as Hirchi, Hergy, or Hirschy. In America some descendants became Hirschey.

Pierre's Descendants

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

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

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

1. Marie Françoise Hirschi (found as Hirchi) was born and baptized at Grostenquin March 17, 1725. Her parents were described as Pierre Hirchi, miller at the mill *de Tenge* [Tenquin], and Marie Kupperschmit.
2. **Jean Michel Hirschi** (found as Hirchy) was born at Grostenquin Nov. 18, 1729, and baptized on the 20th. His parents were described as Pierre Hirchy, miller at the mill *de Tengin* [Tenquin], and Marie Kupperschmit.
- See SMITH for background on the wife or wives of miller Johann/Jean Schmitt. He was born circa 1733, worked in the mill on Hingsange farm, and died there Sept. 27, 1793. His wife was variously called Barbe (on his death entry), Anne (on the marriage entry of a son), and Marie (on the death entry of a son). Johann/Jean's 1793 death entry said she was 58 years of age, thus born circa 1735. She may have been a second daughter (or two) of this couple, but may also have been Marie Françoise Hirschi.

Jean Michel Hirschi was born at Grostenquin Nov. 18, 1729, and baptized Nov. 20.

Circa 1749 he married Anne Rolle. Their children include:

1. Jean Georges Hirschy was born in the Oderfang mill at St. Avold Oct. 9, 1750, and died there May 11, 1751.
2. Jean/Johannes Hirschy was born at St. Avold April 15, 1752, and died at Haut-Clocher April 1, 1833 (the 10-year index of civil entries says he was age 81). Circa 1775 he married Anne Rouvenacht. She was born on Les Bachats farm at adjacent Rhodes, Moselle circa 1754, and died at Haut-Clocher Sept. 11, 1838 (the 10-year index of civil entries says she was 84), a daughter of Hans/Jean Rüfenacht and Barbe Ringenberg. Their children include:
 - a. Marie Hirschy was born at Sarraltroff (five miles east of Haut-Clocher) circa 1777, and died at Gelucourt Jan. 10, 1811. Before 1800 she married Pierre Schertz. He was born at Gelucourt April 23, 1765. On Nov. 27, 1811 at Gelucourt Pierre remarried to Marie Schmitt. She was born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff circa 1782, a daughter of Jean Schmitt and Marie Hirschi.
 - b. Anne Hirschy was born on Alsing farm at Gosselming Jan. 9, 1779, and died at Maçoncourt, Haute-Marne April 4, 1866. On May 21, 1796 at Sarraltroff she married Valentin Gerber/Guerber. He was born in the hamlet Creutzfeld at Saverne, Lower Alsace April 22, 1774, and died at Dolving, Moselle Oct. 22, 1848, a son of Johannes/Jean Gerber and Catherine Gingerich.
 - c. Jean Hirschy was born at Haut-Clocher circa 1787, and died on Mouckenhoff farm at Buhl-Lorraine in 1876. On Aug. 16, 1813 at Destry he married Madeleine Farny. Their civil marriage entry described the groom as cultivator Jean Hierchie, 26, born at Haut Clocher, a son of cultivator Jean Hierchie and Anne Ruffenach of Sarrelfing farm at Haut-Clocher. The bride was described as Madeleine Farny, 19, born at Besville, Bénestroff. She was a daughter of the deceased Pierre Farny, who had died at Bening [Harprich] May 7, 1805, and shopkeeper Anne Elisabeth Guerber, a resident of Moulin Rouge at Destry who was present and consenting. Their signatures looked like Jn. Hirschy and Ellisabeth Gerber (Old German-style 'e' looking like 'n'). Jean became minister/elder of the congregation at Sarrebourg. Madeleine's younger sister Catherine married recruiter-land agent Jean Kiefer/John Kieffer. Her younger

⁵¹ If Rolle was a Swiss émigré surname, it may have been derived from the village of Rolle on Lake Geneva in Canton Vaud, Switzerland. The village was administered by Canton Bern 1536-1798.

brother Jean married Catherine Gerber and arrived in Woodford County in 1853 (see FARNY, FARNY OF BISTROFF).

3. Jacques/Jacob Hirschy was born circa 1757. He died at Marienthal June 21, 1799. His civil death entry described him as age 42, the widower of the deceased Barbara Henry. It was witnessed by brothers Jean Hirschy, 45 (he signed as Johannes), and Simon Hirschy, 40.
4. **Joseph Hirschy** was born at Grostenquin circa 1759, and died there Jan. 17, 1838.
5. Simon Hirschy was born circa 1760, and died at Valmont, Moselle Oct. 28, 1824.
6. Jean Christophe Hirschy was born at Virming Feb. 12, 1761, and died there Feb. 17, 1765.

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

When Joseph appeared as a 76-year-old witness at the wedding of his grandson Christophe in 1834, he was described as a laborer on Hingsange farm at Linstroff (now part of Grostenquin).

The children of Joseph Hirschy and Anne Blank born on Hingsange farm at Linstroff include:⁵²

1. **Jean Hirschy** was born circa 1790, and died there Dec. 14, 1822.
2. Catherine Hirschy was born June 8, 1796, and died at Croghan, Lewis County Oct. 28, 1879. On May 3, 1811 at Linstroff, age 14, she married Pierre Guingerich. He was born at Albestroff, Moselle April 30, 1791, and died at Haboudange, Moselle Feb. 25, 1822, a son of Nikolaus Güngerich/Nicolas Guingerich and Catherine Ruby. Nikolaus/Nicolas and his son Christian were well-known for having refused to serve in the National Guard in 1792. Christian became a minister/elder at Linstroff; in 1809 he went to Paris with minister/elder Christian Engel and others to petition the government for Anabaptist exemption from military conscription. Pierre and Catherine had three sons who died at less than eight years of age, and a daughter who died in France in 1853. On June 12, 1824 at Château-Voué, Moselle Catherine remarried to Christian Kiefer (the 10-year civil index lists them as Christian Kiffert and Cath. Hirschy). He was born at Faulquemont, Moselle July 26, 1802, and died at Croghan Dec. 9, 1887, a son of Jean Joseph Kiefer and Madeleine Hirschi (and a brother to recruiter-land agent Jean Kiefer/John Kieffer). Background on their life together was given in KIEFER/KIEFFER.
 - Anne Hirschy may belong here. She was born May 6, 1809, according to the 10-year civil index of Linstroff (found as Anne Hirgy). We have not seen the actual birth entry.
 - Joseph Hirschy may belong here. One source says he was born on Hingsange farm Dec. 11, 1812, though no civil birth entry is found in Linstroff records. On Oct. 15, 1831 at Azoudange he married Marie Vercler. She was born at Gros-Réderching Feb. 10, 1812, and died on Hingsange farm at Linstroff April 26, 1904, a daughter of André Vercler and Barbe Rupp. We have ordered the FHL microfilm for their marriage entry, and hope to view it in the near future. Some sources say Joseph was a son of Jean Hirschy and Barbe Guingerich (and thus a nephew to Joseph and Marie), but Joseph's birth date Dec. 11, 1812 conflicts with their son Jean Hirschy, born Oct. 31, 1812. Joseph died at Grostenquin April 6, 1863.

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

On March 17, 1809 at Linstroff he married Barbe Guingerich (the 10-year civil index lists them as Jean Hirgy and Barbe Guingerich). She was born on Brandelfing farm at Gros-Réderching circa 1790, a daughter of Joseph Guingerich and Anne Ruby (as a widow Anne Ruby remarried to Michel Engel). Marriage witnesses included her stepfather, Michel Engel, described as a 39-year-old cultivator on Brandelfing farm. The civil entry makes a curious lapse: her father is correctly given as Joseph Guingerich, but her mother is given not as Anne Rubi, but as Anne Boulzeler.

On Aug. 7, 1824 at Grostenquin widow Barbe Guingerich remarried to Joseph Kiefer. He was born at Folschviller Aug. 29, 1800, a son of Jean Joseph Kiefer and Madeleine Hirschi, and a brother to recruiter-land agent Jean Kiefer/John Kieffer.

Their son Andrew would report on the 1900 census that he had immigrated in 1831. The birth of a son Peter in New York circa 1833 confirms this. Perhaps they came on the first trip of Joseph's younger brother John.

The children of Jean Hirschy and Barbe Guingerich include:

⁵² Linstroff became part of Grostenquin in 1812, then part of Bertring in 1835. It returned to administration by Grostenquin in 1959.

1. Joseph Hirschy was born circa 1811. On Oct. 2, 1831 at Azoudange he married Marie Vercler. Their civil marriage entry describes the groom as cultivator Joseph Hirchy, 20, a resident of Hingsange farm at Grostenquin. He was a son of the deceased Jean Hirchy and Barbe Guingerich, 42, a resident of Hingsange farm who was on her way to America [Fr. *maintenant partie pour l'Amérique*]. The bride was described as Marie Vercler, 19, a resident of Azoudange. Her parents were cultivator André Vercler, 55, and Barbe Rub [Rüpp], 47, residents of Le Toupet farm at Azoudange.
2. Jean Hirschy was born on Bérage farm [Ger. *Beringen*] at Chateau-Voué Oct. 31, 1812, and died there June 28, 1813.
3. **Christophe Hirschy/Hirschey** was born on Bérage farm April 3, 1814, and died at New Bremen May 23, 1894.
4. Michel/Michael Hirschy was born on Bérage farm Nov. 27, 1815, and died at Granville, Putnam County April 30, 1889. *Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties, Illinois* (1907): "Michael Hirschy was born in Lorraine, France November 27, 1815, and came to America with his parents in early life, settling in the state of New York. After reaching manhood he made his way westward to Chicago, where he engaged in carpentering and contracting. He was married in 1850 to Miss Jacobine Holly, who was born in Germany December 23, 1829. In the year of their marriage they removed to Putnam County, and Mr. Hirschy's first purchase of land was a tract of forty acres, on which a log house had been built. Soon afterward he erected a frame dwelling there, and as the years passed became a successful farmer, adding to his original holdings until at his death he left an estate of three hundred acres. He was a member of the Mennonite church of Granville, which he assisted in organizing... He died upon his farm in Granville township in 1888. His wife survived until 1893 when she, too, passed away." On Sept. 25, 1851 in Lake County Michel/Michael married Jakobina Holly. She was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse Dec. 23, 1829, and died at Granville, Putnam County Oct. 11, 1893, a son of Johannes Holly and his second wife Helena Jutzi/Iutzi. Jakobina and her parents were passengers on the '100 Hessian Mennonites' voyage of 1832. (On Dec. 8, 1857 in Bureau County Michel/Michael's younger half-sister Catherine 'Kate' Kiefer would marry Jakobina's older brother Wilhelm/William Holly; he was born on the Neuhof estate at Hanau, Hesse June 20, 1825, and died March 2, 1906). On the 1865 state census of Granville Michael Hershey is listed between Daniel Holly and Jacob Bender. They are found on the 1880 census of Granville as farmer Michael Hirschy, 63, France; Jacobina, 50, Kuhr-Hessen; farmer John, 26, Illinois; Emma, 22, Illinois; Helen, 19, Illinois; farm hand son Willie, 16, Illinois; Ernst, 8, Illinois; and servant and farm hand Herman Utendorffer, 22, Kuhr-Hessen. They are buried in Granville Cemetery in Putnam County.
5. Anne/Anna Hirschy was born on Bérage farm Sept. 5, 1817, and died at New Bremen Jan. 19, 1882. She married Joseph Virkler, who became an Apostolic Christian minister/elder. He was born Sept. 24, 1816, and died at New Bremen Oct. 2, 1866, a son of Rudolf/Rodolphe Virkler and Anne Brechbühl. His family had sailed from Le Havre on the packet ship *Formosa*, and arrived at New York April 17, 1834. They are found on the 1855 census of New Bremen as farmer Joseph Virkler, 38, France; Anna, 37, France; Anna B., 13, Lewis [County]; Rudolph, 64, France; Anna, 60, France; and Michael, 19, Lewis. His father Rudolf was a prominent minister known for his strict adherence to simplicity, who had nephews at Worth and Metamora in Woodford County, and paid at least one visit to Tazewell County (see VERCLER). New Bremen censuses show 'Anna H. Virkler' age 52 in 1870, age 58 in 1875, and age 62 in 1880.
6. Jean Hirschy was born at Grostenquin Aug. 20, 1819, and died there July 24, 1830.
7. Pierre Hirschy was born at Grostenquin June 30, 1821, and died at Amélecourt, Moselle April 21, 1830. The 10-year civil index lists him as Pierre Herchi.

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

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

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

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

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

The 1840 census of Watson, Lewis County has the household of 'Christian Herschy': one male in the 20-29 age range; two males under 5; and one female 20-29. They lived next door to 'Seymour Herschy' (their traveling companion Simon Hirschy).

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

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

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

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

Christophe/Christian died on their farm May 23, 1894, and Marie/Mary died there Feb. 5, 1895. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

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

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

1. John A. Hirschey was born March 4, 1836, and died at New Bremen Feb. 12, 1921. On Feb. 10, 1867 he married Margaret Schloop. She was born in Switzerland July 17, 1842, and died at New Bremen Nov. 27, 1927. The 1870 census of New Bremen has them as farmer John Hirshy, 31, New York; Margret, 28, Switzerland; Mary S., 3, New York; Jacob, 1, New York; Mary, 14, New York (John's younger sister); and Benjamin Roush, 14, works on farm, New York. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
2. Jacob Hirschey was born April 1, 1838, and died at Castorland Jan. 21, 1865. He is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
3. Christian Hirschey was born June 14, 1842, and died at Castorland June 9, 1918. He farmed for 16 years, then manufactured cheese at Beaver Falls, New York. In 1872 at Croghan he married Wilhelmina Bachman. She was born May 22, 1843, and died at Castorland Nov. 20, 1905, a daughter of Karl F. Bachman. They are buried in Naumburg Evangelical Baptist Cemetery.
4. Jonathan Hirschey was born May 28, 1844, and died at Castorland Dec. 26, 1912. On Aug. 17, 1873 he married Anna Virkler, a cousin of the wife of his brother Joseph. She was born at New Bremen Aug. 20, 1851, and died May 18, 1944, a daughter of Jacob Virkler and Catherine Zehr.
5. Catherine 'Kate' Hirschey was born May 20, 1846, and died in Illinois April 23, 1902. She married a Brahm, Braham, or Breham.
6. Joseph Hirschey was born June 28, 1848, and died Sept. 24, 1935. On March 5, 1876 he married Anna Virkler. She was born at New Bremen June 17, 1851, and died at Castorland May 29, 1929, a daughter of John Virkler and Barbara Gerber/Guerber. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
7. Rachel Hirschey was born Aug. 5, 1854, and died March 29, 1936. On Dec. 22, 1878 she married Joseph S. Virkler. He was born at Croghan March 18, 1853, and died at Lowville, Lewis County March 8, 1933, a son of Jacob Virkler and Catherine Zehr. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
8. Maria/Mary A. Hirschey was born April 15, 1857, and died Aug. 6, 1937. On Aug. 13, 1885 she married her sister's widower Christopher R. Schantz. He was born at New Bremen June 11, 1855, and died at Castorland April 22, 1918, a son of Joseph Schantz and Susan Rouvenacht. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
9. Barbara Emma Hirschey was born Sept. 5, 1859, and died at Castorland Jan. 13, 1885. She married Christopher R. Schantz. They are found on the 1870 census of New Bremen as Christopher Schuntz, 36, works in tannery, Germany; Barbara, 28, New York; Mary, 4, New York; and Joseph, 2, New York. Barbara Emma is buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.

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

Jacob/Jacques's Descendants

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

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

- We suspect but cannot prove that **Simon Hirschi/Hirschy** belongs here. He was born at Grostenquin Jan. 14, 1726 (per Lorentz).
- 1. Françoise Susanne Hirschi was born at Altviller Oct. 7, 1729, and baptized the same day (found as Hirschy). She may have been the Susanne Hirschi who married Tobias Kiefer (see KIEFER/KIEFFER); if so, she died at Faulquemont, Moselle Feb. 28, 1810, where the 10-year civil index lists her as Susanne Hirgy.
- 2. Jacques Hirschi was born and baptized at Bistroff May 5, 1734 (found as Hirschy).
- 3. Barbe Hirschi was born at Bistroff April 12, 1736, and baptized the following day. French genealogist Jean François Lorentz has identified her burial certificate dated April 7, 1737. It identifies her parents as Jacob Hersy and Barbe Roll, *anabaptistes* at the Hingsange mill.
- 4. Jean Jacob Hirschi was born at Bistroff Aug. 11, 1738 and baptized the following day (found as Hirschi).

Simon Hirschi/Hirschy was born at Grostenquin Jan. 14, 1726 (per Lorentz). He married Barbara Schertz. Their children include:

- Pierre Hirschi may belong here. Circa 1766 he married Anne Farny. We suspect that she was a sister to Christian Farny (born circa 1746) and Pierre Farny (born circa 1761). See FARNY for background on this family. Pierre and Anne lived in Bening Commune at Harprich (a farm and tile factory, also known as Bening-lès-Harprich) and then on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont. Pierre died before 1787, when Anne remarried to Jacob/Jacques Martin. She died on Bonhouse farm May 19, 1795. Their children include:
 - A number of sources attribute Anne Hirschi as a daughter of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny, saying she was born in 1766. She married Christian 'Christel' Kennel. The marriage date is found as 'circa 1780' (the year their first child was born). He was born circa 1759-63, a son of Jean Kennel and Barbe Kennel. Christian was a miller on the Wenhecker Hof, a dairy farm that had been established to support the abbey of St. Avold (also found as *Cense du Venec*). It is in the lower quarter of St. Avold, near adjacent Valmont. Christian's first child Jean was born May 5, 1780. When Anne died at Blâmont, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 9, 1834, her civil death entry witnessed by a son described her as Anna Hirschie, a 78-year-old born at Benning, wife of elderly cultivator Christiann Kennel and resident of Blâmont. Note that this would place her birth in 1756, predating by a decade the marriage of Pierre Hirschi and Anne Farny. When Christian died at Thuilley-aux-Groseilles, Meurthe-et-Moselle Oct. 21, 1839, his civil death entry witnessed by a son described him as a 76-year-old miller from St. Avold, whose deceased wife was Anne Hergi.
 - b. Barbe Hirschi was born on Bening Commune Oct. 20, 1771, and died at Maizeroy, Moselle March 28, 1833. On May 7, 1793 at Faulquemont she married Pierre Beller. He was born at Ste. Croix-aux-Mines, Upper Alsace Dec. 6, 1766, and died Feb. 28, 1831, a son of Jean Beller and Anne Schneider. After marriage they lived at Folschviller.
 - c. Madeleine Hirschi/Hirschy was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont (nine miles southeast of St. Avold, nine miles northwest of Grostenquin) circa 1773, and died at Amélecourt, Moselle March 23, 1825. On Dec. 18, 1797 at Folschviller, Moselle she married Jean Joseph Kiefer (found on the civil marriage entry as Kieffer). He was born circa 1772, a son of Tobias Kiefer and Susanne Hirschi. See KIEFER/KIEFFER for background on this couple.
 - d. Catherine Hirschi was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont circa 1781, and died at Forbach, Moselle March 5, 1814. On March 3, 1804 at Sarralbe she married Michel/Michael Salzman. He was born on Zelle farm at Petit-Tenquin Sept. 29, 1779, and died at Lemon, Butler County, Ohio Nov. 30, 1861, a son of Michel Salzmann and Catherine Weiss. See SALZMAN for background on this couple and Michael/Michel's second marriage to Magdalena Eymann.

- e. Christine Hirschi was born on Bonhouse farm at Faulquemont circa 1789, and died at Riche, Moselle March 14, 1852 (the 10-year civil index lists her as Christine Hugy). On Dec. 11, 1806 at St. Avold she married Christophe Gasseur. He was born at Hellimer circa 1783, and died at Les Thons, Vosges Jan. 27, 1861, a son of Jean Christophe Gasseur and Anne Kennel. His civil death entry described him as Christophe Gasseur, 82, born at Elimer, Moselle, a son of the deceased Christophe Gasseur and the deceased Anne Kennel, and the widower of Christine Hircie. It was witnessed by their son Christophe Gasseur, 44, and son-in-law Jean Guerbert, 45, both cultivators and residents of Les Thons.
1. Christian Hirschi/Hirschy was born at Hombourg-Haut (13 miles north of Grostenquin) Dec. 3, 1747 (per Lorentz).
 2. Madeleine Hirchi/Hirschy was born circa 1748. In 1797 she married Nicolas Blank. He was born (likely at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines) circa 1744-48, and died at Bistroff Nov. 26, 1828, a son of Michel Blank and Elizabeth Hochstettler. For background on their children see BLANK.
 4. Anne Hirschi was born circa 1748, and died at Bistroff Nov. 17, 1789. She married Christian Farni/Farny. He was born before 1749, and likely died before Jan. 7, 1793. See FARNY for background on this couple.
 3. **Jean Hirschi/Hirschy** was born at Hombourg-Haut Aug. 4, 1749 (per Lorentz).
 5. Nicolas Hirschi/Hirschy was born at Hombourg-Haut Dec. 29, 1751 (per Lorentz).

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

He married Anne Ziegler or Siegel (found as Siglerine and Zigel), who was born circa 1774. This may have been his second marriage.

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

The son who survived was **Simon Hirschi/Hirsch/Hirschev**.⁵³

On May 13, 1823 at Hoste-Haut (adjacent to Marienthal) Simon married Madeleine Gerber/Guerber.⁵⁴ Their civil marriage entry described him as cultivator Simon Hirsch, 24, an *anabaptiste* resident of Valette farm in Hoste-Haut. He was born at Marienthal, St. Avold. He was a son of day laborer Jean Hirsch, 73, a resident of Henriville [four miles north of Hoste] who was present and consenting; and the deceased Anne Zigel, who had died on ‘the farm called Gehansviller’ [also called Johannisweiler, located at Farschviller, adjacent to Hoste] Sept. 7, 1799.

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

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

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

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

The 1855 state census of New Bremen shows farmer Simon Hershey, 56, France; Madaline, 56, France; Laney, 37, France; Barbara, 19, America; John, 22, Lewis Co. [should have been France]; and Mary, 16, Lewis Co.

In 1861 Simon retired from farming and deeded all but one acre of his property to daughter Mary. The 1865 state census of New Bremen has farmer Simon Hersha, 67, France; Lana, 67, France; farmer Samuel Lyman [son-in-law Simon Lehman], 28, France; Mary [Marie Hirschev], 27, Lewis [County]; and Samuel, 11 months, Lewis.

Simon died between the 1870 and 1880 censuses. We last find them as a couple on the 1870 census: retired farmer Simon Harshi, 75, France; and Maldine, 62, France. We last find Madeleine on the 1880 census as Laney Heirschev, 83, living next daughter to her daughter Catherine and Peter Kempf.

⁵³ Another minor mystery: the 10-year civil index tells us that at Barst, the village adjacent to Marienthal, a child named Simon Fritzchin Hirsch was born Feb. 18, 1802. ‘Fritzchen’ is a diminutive form of Friedrich/Fritz. He died there May 16, 1802. The death listing gives the name of the child as Fritzchin, and the name of the family of the deceased as Hirsch Simon.

⁵⁴ The 10-year civil index listed them as Jean Hirsch and Magdelaine Guerber.

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

1. Elisabeth Hirschi (found as Hirsche) was born at Hoste-Haut Sept. 22, 1822. On her civil birth entry her parents were described as *anabaptiste* farmer Simon Hirsche, 25, and Madeleine Guerber, residents of the farm at Valette. Presumably this child died elsewhere before July 5, 1824.
2. Elisabeth Hirschi (found as Hirsch)/Elizabeth Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haut July 5, 1824, and died in Newton County, Missouri Aug. 15, 1905. Her civil birth entry described her parents as laborer Simon Hirsch, 28, and Madeleine Gueber, residents of Valette. On March 21, 1848 she married John Garber. He was born in France Feb. 16, 1816, and died in Newton County, Missouri July 25, 1907, a son of Jean Garber and Marie Farny/Mary Farney; he had immigrated in 1822 with his widowed mother. They are found on the 1865 state census of New Bremen as farmer John Garber, 49, France; Elizabeth, 41, Germany; Catherine, 14; Joseph, 13; John, 9; Benjamin, 7; Samuel, 5; Jacob, 4; Lidia, one year and four months; all children born in Lewis County. They relocated to Missouri in 1874; a large contingent from Lewis County arrived there in November to establish an Apostolic Christian church. They appear on the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Marion, Newton County, Missouri. The 1900 census shows John Garber, 84, born in Germany in February of 1816, immigrated in 1822; Elizabeth, 75, born in Germany in July of 1824, immigrated in 1835; and daughter Lydia, 34, born in New York in February of 1866 of German parents [Alsace-Lorraine was occupied and claimed by Germany 1871-1918]. They are buried under a joint headstone in the Garber Family Cemetery in Newton County, which says that Elizabeth was born July 15, 1822, and died Aug. 15, 1905.
3. Madeleine Hirschi (found as Hirsch)/Magdalena 'Laney' Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haut March 20, 1826, and died in Lewis County March 10, 1892. In 1860 she was living with her younger sister Catherine; she is found as Lany Hirschey. In 1865 she was living with her sister Barbara. The 1870 census of New Bremen shows her living next door to her sister Barbara and her husband Joseph Noftsier as Lany Hersche, 40, France; and school teacher Melissa Butts, 25. In 1880 she was living at New Bremen with her sister Catherine and Peter Kempf. She is buried as Magdalena Hirschey in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan. Her headstone describes her as, "Magdalena Hirschey died Mar. 10, 1892, ae. 66 yrs."
4. Catherine Hirschi (found as Hirsch)/Hirschey was born at Hoste-Haute June 22, 1828, and died at New Bremen Dec. 14, 1931. Her civil birth entry described parents Simon Hirsch and Madeleine Guerber as cultivators at Valette. On Jan. 25, 1853 at New Bremen she married Peter Kempf. He was born Dec. 24, 1827, and died at New Bremen Oct. 20, 1906, a son of Michel Kempf and Margueritte Abresol. The 1855 state census of New Bremen shows them living next door to her parents: farmer Peter Kamp, 27, France; Catharine, 25, France; and Madaline, 1, Lewis. The 1860 census of New Bremen has them as farmer Peter Kempf, 32, France; Catharin, 32, France; Laney, 6, New York; Catherine, 5, New York; Mary, 3, New York; Peter, 2, New York; Lydia, one month, New York; and Laney Hershey [Catherine's older sister], 36, France. The 1880 census of New Bremen shows farmer Peter Kempf, 52, France; Catharine, 52, France; Peter, 21, N.Y.; Lydia, 20, N.Y.; Martha, 18, N.Y.; Anna, 15, N.Y.; Sarah, 14, N.Y.; Rosa, 10, N.Y.; and sister-in-law Laney Heirschy, 54, France. They were living next door to mother Magdalena, 83, and another residence with brother John, 47. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery at Croghan.
5. Marie Hirschi (found as Hirsch) was born at Hoste-Haut Feb. 10, 1831. She died at sea circa May of 1834, on the immigration voyage.
6. Jean/John Hirschey/Hirshey was born in Moselle April 20, 1832 (headstone date), and died in Newton County, Missouri Nov. 22, 1926. In New York he married Ernestine Hereford. She was born May 29, 1839 (her headstone says 1840), and died in Newton County Jan. 17, 1926. They appear on the 1870 census of New Bremen on the same page as his parents: farmer John Hersche, 37, France; Ernestine, 36, Prussia; and five children born in New York. They relocated to Granby, Newton County, where they spelled their name 'Hirshey.' They are buried in Powers Cemetery at Pepsin (adjacent to Granby on the north side).
7. Barbara Hirschey was born in Lewis County circa 1836, and died from complications of child birth at Croghan March 27, 1871. Circa 1857 she married Joseph Nafziger. He was born at Utica, New York May 18, 1834, and died at Croghan Jan. 15, 1871 (a month before his wife), a son of Christian Nafziger and Marie Jantzi. The 1865 state census of New Bremen has farmer Joseph Nofsier, 34, Germany; Barbaray, 30, Germany; Lana, 5, Lewis; Mary, two years four months, Lewis; and sister Lany Hersha [Hirschey], 38, France. They are found on the 1870 census of New Bremen as farmer Joseph Norfsier, 37, New York; Barbara, 34, New York; Lany, 10, New York; Mary, 7, New York; Catharine B., 5, New York; and Joseph, 3, New York. They lived next door to Barbara's sister Laney. Joseph is buried in the Old Amish/Zehr Cemetery at Croghan as Joseph Noftsier, while Barbara was the first burial in the Kirschnerville Cemetery.
8. Mary Hirschey was born in Lewis County circa 1838, and died before 1875. Circa 1861 in Lewis County she married Simon Lehman. He was born at Harprich, Moselle Sept. 7, 1836, and died in Lewis County May 16, 1915, a son of Christian Lehman and Marie Sommer. On June 27, 1875 at Mornington, Perth County, Ontario Simon remarried to Marie/Mary Kipfer. She was born in Switzerland Feb. 19, 1845, and died at Kirschnerville, Lewis

County Feb. 21, 1913. Simon and Marie/Mary appear on the 1880 census of New Bremen as farmer Simon Lehman, 44, France; Mary, 35, Switzerland; and six children born in New York. Simon and Marie/Mary are buried in Kirscherville Cemetery.

A loose puzzle piece: Who was Joseph Hirschy, who was born circa 1782 and died at St. Avoild Nov. 14, 1851? He married Catherine Blaser/Blaseur/Blazeur and lived at Rhodes.