

ZIMMER

Until very recently the name Zimmer was not on my Amish Mennonite radar screen. It was not until the year 2001 that Arlis Kipfer, whose husband is a Zimmer descendant, contacted me about the Zimmer connection in Canada.

Jacob Zimmer and Katherine (Kate) Baechler/Beckler were married in 1850. (1) (See Notes on page 3) At the time of the 1851 census, one finds the Christian and Catherine Schantz family in Hay Township along with 23-year-old Christian "Pechler." Christian Baechler turned out to be the son of Catherine (Ingold) Schantz and step-son of Christian Schantz. Katherine Baechler, however, did not appear. A 2009 publication of the Amish Mennonites in Bavaria has come to our attention, and in it we find "Katharina Pechler" , born 1830, to Joseph "Pechler" and "Katharine" Ingold. (2) The family of Christian Baechler, her older brother had obviously forgotten about her.

I did not search the Stanley Township records at that time, because I had not expected any Amish Mennonites to be there at that early date. When I systematically studied the Stanley Township land records, I did find Jacob Zimmer, but the land records do not identify the religious affiliation; so I still did not consider Jacob Zimmer to be of interest to me. But he purchased his property from John Schwartzentruber -- who was of interest -- therefore, Jacob Zimmer got into my notes.

There are still Zimmers in Huron County, and I found a John Zimmer buried in a Hay Township cemetery, although not a Mennonite one. Whether Jacob and John were related, we do not know. Whether Jacob was Amish Mennonite or affiliated with them because of his marriage to Katherine Beckler, we do not know either.

It was not until 1856 that Jacob and Katherine purchased Lot 7, Concession XII in Stanley Township from John Schwartzentruber. John had just acquired the deed to this 200-acre lot from the Canada Company. Perhaps John, who was still living in Wilmot, had leased the lot from the Canada Company at an earlier date and Jacob and Katherine had leased it from Schwartzentruber. Leases were not registered - hence no records.

Four children were born to Jacob and Katherine from 1850 to 1860 when they sold the "farm," which they had carved out of the forest, to Daniel Steckly. They probably left for Iowa in the fall of 1860, and were there until after Levi's birth in 1862. Lydia was born at Delavan, Illinois in 1870, and the Zimmers were still there in 1880 when son Jacob died of consumption (probably T.B.) at age 22. Noah, age 18, died at Milford, Nebraska, in 1886, and Barbara, age 21, in 1887. From Milford, they went to Decatur County, Kansas, returning to Cuming County (Beemer and Bancroft), Nebraska in 1901.

Jacob and Katherine had nine children and adopted a girl and a boy who may have been siblings. Many of their children died young, and by the time Jacob died in 1915 (at age 94) he was survived by only two children -- Samuel, the oldest and unmarried and Katherine, married to Joseph H. Birky.

Daughter Magdalena married John C. Birky in Illinois. He was eventually ordained a bishop. Magdalena died of consumption, at age 40, in Kansas. Bishop John C. Birky travelled from near Peoria, Illinois, to Crystal Springs, Kansas, to attend an Amish Mennonite conference in 1910. He kept a diary of this trip. On his return he stopped at Beemer/Bancroft, Nebraska, to spend some time with

his brother Joe who was married to Katherine Zimmer and the "Grandparents Zimmer." He reported that they were getting somewhat feeble. As he bade them farewell he thought it would be the last time on this earth.(2)

Katherine (Beckler) Zimmer died less than two years later at the age of 82. Jacob died in 1915 at the age of 94. They were buried in the Beemer Amish Mennonite Cemetery.(4)

THE FAMILY OF JACOB AND KATHERINE (BECKLER) ZIMMER

Jacob Zimmer, b. 27 Feb 1821, Bavaria, Germany
d. 2 May 1915, Beemer, NE
m. 14 Feb 1850, Canada

Katherine Baechler, probably dau. of Joseph Bechler & Catherine Ingold(5)
Beckler, b. 2 Feb 1830, Bavaria, Germany
d. 2 Apr 1912, Bancroft, NE

Children:

- 1) Samuel Zimmer, b. 14 Feb 1851, Huron County, Canada
b. 14 Feb 1933, Beemer, NE? (at his sister's?)
- 2) Magdalena Zimmer, b. 3 Oct 1853, Huron Co.
(also Martha) d. 29 Oct 1893, bu. Lund Cem., Decatur County, KS
m. 25 Jan 1874, Tazewell Co., IL, by S. Nafziger
to John C. Birky(6)
- 3) Katherine Zimmer, b. 11 Oct 1855, Huron Co.
d. 27 Nov 1941, Beemer, NE
m. to Joseph H. Birky (bro. of John C. Birky)
- 4) Jacob Zimmer, b. ca.8 Aug 1857, Stanley Township, Huron Co.
d. 23 Feb 1880, Tazewell Co., IL (of consumption)
- 5) Levi Zimmer, b. ca.1 Jan 1862, Iowa
d. 5 Mar 1889, Decatur Co., KS
m. Amelia Berger (1862-1941)
- 6) Barbara Zimmer, b. ca.1865, IL?
d. 8 Sept 1887, Milford, Seward County, NE
(card file, Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen College)
- 7) Noah Zimmer, b. ca.1867, IL?
d. 8 Mar 1886, Milford, NE
- 8) Lydia Zimmer, b. May 1870, Delavan, IL? (info. from David Zimmer)
- 9) Ezra Zimmer, b. ? ; d. ?
(J.W. Birky of Beemer told Bertha Birky Kipfer he remembered Ezra)
- 10) Marie Zeitler (adopted), b. 30 Oct 1874, IL?
1m. Daniel Birky; d. Decatur Co., KS
2m. ca.1903 to C.H. Detwiller (in 1910 census in Hamilton Township,
Fillmore County, NE)
- 11) Adopted son, perhaps brother of Marie Zeitler
d. before 1912(6)

Notes:

1) Katherine's obituary gives the date of marriage as 1850, Jacob's as 1851. Since their oldest child was born in February of 1851, it is likely that the 1850 date is the correct one.

2) Information concerning baechler and Schantz families, found in *Amische Mennoniten en Bayern , Von der Einwanderung ab 1802/03 bis zur Auflösung der amischen Gemeinden Ende des 19. und Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts*, by hermann Hage, (c) 2009 by edition vulpes e.k. Regensburg, Germany, page 449.

-Katharina Pechler/Baechler, born 12 Feb. 1830, was the second child of Joseph Pechler and Katharina Ingold.

3) From "Conference Trip" September 13 - October 11, 1910 diary by Bishop John C. Birky, edited by son Simon Birky, Tremont, Illinois. A transcribed copy is found in the ZIMMER file.

4) Katherine's obituary appeared in the *Gospel Herald*, April 18, 1912, page 47, and Jacob's on June 10, 1915, page 191. Both of these obituaries were very informative. Transcribed copies are found in the ZIMMER file.

5) For more on the Baechler connection, see the BAECHLER/BECHLER file. After finding Katherine (Beckler) Zimmer, that file needed revision as well.

6) Magdalena and John C. Birky were the grandparents of Ervin Kipfer, husband of Arlis through whose efforts we found the Zimmers in Canada. Ervin and Arlis Kipfer live at Eatonville, Washington.

7) This adopted son was reported (but not named) as preceding Katherine (Beckler) Zimmer in her obituary.

Notes and correspondence with Arlis Kipfer, in addition to the items mentioned in the above notes, are also found in the ZIMMER file.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
November, 2010

STANLEY TOWNSHIP LAND RECORDS

Bold type indicates records were found in Canada Company Records. All leases and transfers are from Canada Company Records. Canada Company sales were recorded both in the Canada Company records and the Registry Office. Canada Company records are on microfilm, available for viewing in the Perth County Archives, Stratford, Ontario. Hay Township land records are located in the Registry Office on North Street, a short distance from the Huron County Court House in Goderich.

Key to some abbreviations:

G & R probably stands for grant and Release - term initially used by Canada Company

"et ux" is the Latin abbreviation for "and wife.". I shorten it to "etux."
Q.C. = Quit Claim

Concession XII

Lot 3

Grant -- 1910 -- Douglas to Valentine Gerber 100 ac.
" -- 1917 -- Valentine Gerber to Moses Gerber "
" -- 1927 -- Moses Gerber to Samuel Gingerich "
" -- 1940 -- Samuel Gingerich to Amos Gingerich "
" -- 1955 -- Amos Gingerich to Kenneth Gingerich "
" -- 1967 -- Kenneth Gingerich to Donald R. and Sharon Gingerich Lot 3
" -- 1998 -- Donald Gingerich to Paul and Elaine Stevenson

Lot 4

Grant -- 1939 -- Edwin Hartman to Aaron Erb 100 ac
" -- 1971 -- Exec. of Rudolph A. Erb to Harold J. Erb All
(no record of Rudolph Erb's purchase
" -- 1973 -- Harold J. Erb, unmarried, to Gerald and Marjorie Steckle
" -- 1994 -- Gerald and Marjorie Steckle to Daniel and Manuela Beeler

Lot 5

Grant -- 1916 -- Boyes to John Erb 100 ac.
" -- 1920 -- John Erb to Aaron Erb "
Agree.-- 1943 -- Aaron Erb and Gordon Erb Lot 5
Grant -- 1971 -- Exec. of Rudolph A. Erb to Gordon H. Erb Lot 5
(no record of purchase)
" -- 1985 -- Gordon H. Erb to Charles Erb and Philip Erb All
" -- 1997 -- Charles and Philip Erb to Hayter Land Farms
" -- 1998 -- Hayter to Harold and Esther Gingerich pt.

Lot 6

Grant -- 1927 -- Boyes to Peter Gingerich
" -- 1957 -- Peter Gingerich etux to Keith E. Gingerich
" -- 1987 -- Keith E. Gingerich to Wayne and Anita Gingerich

Lot 7

G & R -- 1856 -- Can. Comp. to John Schwartzentruber 100 ac.
B & S* -- 1856 -- John (and Catherine) Schwartzentruber of Wilmot
to Jacob Zimmer 100 ac.
(Zimmer had mortgage with John Schultz of Wilmot)
signed by John Schwartzentruber)
B & S --1860 -- Jacob Zimmer to Daniel Steckley* 100 ac
(& Katherine Bechler)
" --1897 -- Daniel B. Steckle etux to John Steckly* "
Grant --1947-67 -- John Steckle to Menno E. Martin

* these are probably also Steckle

