

13. BOESIGER/BESINGER

This name, also spelled Bessiger, or Basinger, was represented both among the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite settlers in Wilmot Township. "Besinger" was the spelling used in the family Bible and on the tombstones of the Amish Mennonite Besinger family. As with most other Anabaptists in France, the Boesigers were Swiss, coming from Rumisberg in the Canton of Bern two or three generations earlier. (1) (See Notes below) Both the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite families immigrated to Canada from France and may have common roots. The Mennonite Boesiger family continued to be represented in the Bluffton, Ohio, area as Basinger. There are Boesiger descendants in Ontario through female lines.

One also finds the name Biesinger (or some variant) in the Mornington area, but they are neither Mennonite nor Amish and probably have no connection to the families here described.



***Rumisberg, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Population: 488
Heimat of the Boesiger Family***

Credit: Ch-info.ch-2008 Creative Commons

The Mennonite Boesigers arrived in Ontario in the 1820s, and the Amish Mennonite Besingers sometime later. A Christian Boesiger is first listed in an 1825 census in Waterloo Township. Christian had a daughter Veronica, but she is to have married Abraham Martin.

A John Boesiger appeared in Wilmot Township in the 1831 census. Veronica Boesiger Lichti is probably the daughter of John, whose family is listed below.

This BOESIGER Family Genealogical Introduction will be divided into the following sections:

1. Hans Bosiger
 - a) Veronica Boesiger and Joseph Lichty (daughter)
2. The Mennonite Christian Boesiger
3. The Amish Mennonite Christian Boesiger/Besinger
4. Barbara Bösiger/Bosicker and John Albrecht

Town Hall of Florimont

Hans Bosiger and Anna Luginbuhl were married in Florimont, Belfort, France in 1795. The births of their children were also registered here, except the youngest one.

Credit: Wikipedia-Rauenstein-Creative



HANS BOSIGER

HANS/JOHN BOSIGER, b. 1778

son of Christian Boeziger (1746-1808) and Anne Steiner (1749-1805)

m. Sept. 28, 1795 at Florimont, Franche-Comte, France

ANNA LUGINBUHL, b. 1769

dau. of Pierre Lugbull/Lugenbuhl b. 1734 and Barbe Baumgartner

Children:

1. Peter Boesiger, b. 1796
m. Mary _____
2. Christian Basinger, b. 1798
3. Hans/John Boesinger. b. 1800; d. 1882
m. 8 Dec 1840 to Barbara Shantz, (1805-1896)
4. Catherina Boesiger, b. 1804 (no further record)
5. (Veronica Boesiger, b. 1807 -- not registered) d. 1873
m. 1830/33 (4) to Joseph Lichti/Lichty (1804-1895)

This family was registered at Florimont, Belfort, France: (2)

This chart has been updated from Geneanet – Jean Francois Lorentz (2018)

- Son Hans/John Boesinger (1800-1882) had settled on Lot 2, South Blead's Road in Wilmot Township.

Hans/John Boesinger, (1800-1882)
m. 8 Dec 1840 to Barbara Shantz,
(1805-1896)

Also resided in Blandford
Township, Oxford County

from Geneanet – Jean Francois Lorentz, for the above chart we found

Hans/John Bosiger b. 1778 had a brother
Ulrich Boeziger b. 1775 in Florimont
m. 1816 to Verene Stauffer b. 1780

Anna Luginbuhl b. 1769 had a brother
Christian Lugbull (1765-1802)
1m. Catherine Staffer b. 1774: 2m. Anne Steiner b. 1774

- Son Peter Boesiger and his wife Mary became the owners of part of this lot, but may not have had any children or they went to Ohio.
- Christian Boesiger settled in Ohio where the name is spelled Basinger.



- Veronica Boesiger – In correspondence preserved by the Joseph Lichty family- through son Daniel and a later descendant Valerie Agresta (3)- the Lichty family received inheritance from Barbara (Shantz) Boesinger's estate in 1896. John Boesinger, married to Barbara Shantz, had no children, hence nieces and nephews were their beneficiaries. From this we can probably safely count Veronica as part of the John Boesinger Sr, family, although she was not registered in the records at Florimont. Either they failed to register her or the family lived elsewhere when she was born.

VERONICA BOESIGER AND JOSEPH LICHTY

VERONICA BOESIGER (1807-1873)

m. 1830/33 (4) to Joseph Lichti/Lichty (1804-1895)



Stone house which Joseph and Veronica Lichty built in Wellesley Township (1214 Hutchison Rd, Wellesley, ON)

Photo by Bruce W. Jantzi 2006

Joseph Lichty's name appeared on S.S. Wilmot's report on Wilmot Township in 1830. He had already built a log cabin, cleared some land and the roadway on lot 17, North Snyder's Road. Joseph and Veronica Lichty sold their interest in this lot to Joseph Zehr in 1850 and moved to Wellesley Township (Lot 12, Concession I, West Section; owned by g.g.great-grandson Conrad Jantzi in 2016) Veronica died in 1873, and in 1879 Joseph married Catherine Reul, a Lutheran girl, 50 years younger.

Veronica Boesiger (1807-1873), considered to the daughter of John Boesiger and Anna Luginbuhl, married Joseph Lichti of an Amish

Mennonite family. One Lichti family tradition is that Joseph's family was Mennonite, another that it was Lutheran.

The tradition that the family was Mennonite (not Amish Mennonite) is confirmed by the fact that Veronica's funeral was conducted by Mennonite ministers and she was buried in the cemetery at the Shantz Mennonite Church on Erb's Road, north of Baden. (5) Joseph Lichti lived until 1895. Cressman (identity uncertain) and Bowman (probably Tobias who was minister at Shantz at that time) officiated at his funeral, and it was reported that he was buried beside Veronica. (6)

Joseph and Veronica's oldest son, Joseph B. Lichty married Catherine Jantzi, and they affiliated with the Amish Mennonites. The other children, however, affiliated with other denominations, mostly Lutheran. For this reason and because of Joseph's second marriage to a Lutheran girl, the tradition that Joseph's family was Lutheran also has some validity.



The farm which was settled by Joseph and Veronica (Boesiger) Lichty, located southwest of Wellesley, Ontario, is presently owned by Conrad and Christine Jantzi

Photo from Conrad Jantzi 2019

FAMILY OF VERONICA BOESIGER AND JOSEPH LICHTY

Veronica/Fanny Boesiger, dau. of John Boesiger and Anna Luginbuhl

b. 2 Mar 1807, France

● great-great-great-grandmother of BWJ

d. 21 Dec 1873, Wellesley Township

m. 1830/33, Canada

Joseph Lichty, son of John Lichti and Magdalena Joder

b. 30 Jan 1804, Bettendorf, Haut-Rhin, France

d. 2 July 1895, Wellesley Township

Joseph 2m. 14 Oct 1879 Berlin, Ontario by C.G. Manz

Catherine Reul, dau. of Henry and Maria Reul

b. ca.1854, Germany; d. ?

(eight children born to Veronica, of whom six reached adulthood and married;

two children born to second marriage)

Children of Joseph Lichty and Veronica Boesiger

1. Joseph B. Lichty (1833-1881) m. Catherine Jantzi
2. Peter Lichty (1834-1840)
3. Christian Lichty (1836-1907) m. Caroline Merklinger
4. Daniel Lichty (1842-1930) m. Margaret Kelso
5. Veronica Lichty (1844-1931) m Daniel Fleischauer
6. John B. Lichty (1846-1915) m. Catherine Streicher
7. Catherine Lichty (1849-1936) m. Jobst Neumeister
8. Infant daughter (1852)

(See the LICHTI Family Genealogical Introduction for more details on this family.)

THE MENNONITE CHRISTIAN BOESIGER

The Christian Boesiger who was already living in Waterloo Township in 1825, was, no doubt, the Mennonite deacon whose wife Elizabeth Steiner had died in Pennsylvania in 1824. He was likely also the Christian who was married in 1831 by the Amish-Mennonite bishop John Oesch to Widow Barbara (Lapp) Kurtz, an Amish- Mennonite woman. (7) This Christian Boesiger is the son of Hans Boesiger and Maria Luginbuhl, but in our research we have not discovered a relationship to the above-listed family of John Boesiger and Anna Luginbuhl.

Christian and Barbara (Lapp) (Kurtz) Boesiger eventually migrated to Richland Township, Putnam County (later Allen County), Ohio. They took with them Barbara's orphaned Stuckey grandchildren. Christian served as a deacon in a Mennonite church in Ohio. There was very little mixing in marriage between Mennonite and Amish in Ontario during the nineteenth century, but here seems to be one case, and they were even married by an Amish bishop. Delbert Gratz suggests that these rather conservative Mennonites from southern Alsace may have had more in common with their Amish-Mennonite neighbours than with the Pennsylvania Mennonites, and that there were some intermarriages between the two groups in France as well. (8) (Also see the KURTZ and STUCKEY files)

THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN AND ELIZABETH (STEINER) BOESIGER

Christian “Reisbach” Boesiger, (9) son of Hans Boesiger and Maria Luginbuhl

a weaver, and a deacon of the Mennonite Church

b. 24 Nov 1770, Florimont, Belfort, France [b. May 27, 1770 – James Basinger]

d. 23 Jan 1847, Richland Twp., Putnam/Allen Co., Ohio; bu. Old Swiss Cemetery, Bluffton

1m. Feb. 15, 1791, Belfort, France

Elizabeth “Elsie” Steiner, dau. of Hans Steiner and Verena Habegger

b. Sept. 17, 1772 in Signau, Bern, Switzerland; d. 29 Jan 1824, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

2m. 11 Dec 1831, Wilmot, Canada, by Amish Mennonite Bishop John Oesch

Barbara (Lapp) Kurtz, dau. of Michael and Mary Lapp

widow of David Kurtz

b. Jan 1768, East Whiteland Twp., Chester Co., PA

d. 8 Oct 1837, Richland Twp., Putnam/Allen Co., Ohio; bu. Old Swiss Cemetery, Bluffton

Christian “Reischbach” Basinger/Bosinger/Bösiger/Beseger arrived in New York City in 1822 on Ship *Elbe NTC*, departing from the Normanvillars area of France. The ship list states his ‘country’ as Switzerland. Is this country of birth, or fatherland? They spent a few years in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where Christian’s wife Elizabeth Steiner died in 1824. This family then relocated in 1825 to Canada in Wilmot Twp., Waterloo County, where Christian remarried to Widow Barbara (Lapp, Kurtz). After Ontario, Christian “Reischbach” Basinger and some of his children moved to Putnam County, Ohio. Christian purchased land in 1835 in Putnam County, Ohio in the Swiss Mennonite settlement, and his son Christian (Schwartz) Basinger purchased land here in 1836. [Reischbasch/Reisbach/Reisenbach all refer to the same place, and identify which ‘Christian’ Boesiger is meant.]

Children:

1) John Boesiger/Basinger (1792-1860) m. Maria Berner

Lived in Riley Twp., Ohio

John Basinger was born in 1792 in Belfort, France. In 1815, he and his intimate friend, John Steiner were conscripted into Napoleon’s army. They deserted the army twice, but were caught and punished. In their third attempt to escape, after running for two days and two nights they crossed the Swiss border and stayed hidden for a while in the cellar of a well-known friend’s house. As soon as circumstances permitted, they made preparations to travel to America. Their destination was Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After a few years, his father’s family followed him. For some unknown reason they went to Canada and settled near Berlin (present-day Kitchener). After six years they moved on to Wayne County, Ohio, and not feeling at home, they moved to Putnam County.

2) Anna Marie Boesiger (1793-1868) m. Moses Moser/Musser; 2m. David Geiger

Lived in Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada

3) Christian ‘Schwartz’ Boesiger/Basinger (1795-1880) nicknamed Schwartz (blackbeard)

Arrived in New York City in 1819

m. 1831 in Wayne Co., Ohio to Catharina Luginbuhl, d. 1840

2m. Maria Sutter

Lived in Ohio; children first marriage: John, Ulrich, Jacob, Peter, Elizabeth; second marriage 7 sons
Son Jacob Christian Basinger (1840-1925) b. and d. in Riley Twp., Ohio; m. 1867

Christian Bosiger of Rumisburg, a young man of 23, left Le Havre in June 1819. After arriving in New York he followed the road those who had preceded him had taken and arrived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. For several years he was employed here in transporting merchandise to various parts of the United States for a Mr. McCall. After several years of this type of work, he went to Lincoln County, Ontario, where he did farm work and weaving for several years. After this he moved to Wayne County, Ohio, and then in 1836 to Putnam county, Ohio, where he put in his last claim for land in the settlement. (*excerpt from book listed below*)

4) Ulrich Boesiger/Basinger (1798-1873) m. Elizabeth Kirchoffer

Lived in Ohio

- 5) Elizabeth Boesiger (1800-1880) m. Ulrich Steiner
Lived in Canada; died at Blandford Twp., Ontario, Canada
- 6) Veronica Boesiger (1802-1875) m. Abraham G. Martin
Lived in Canada

Note: Some of the information for this family is from James Basinger, jbasinger7344@gmail.com
James Basinger is a descendant of Christian Basinger (Schwartz), and originates from Bluffton, Ohio. James sent me (Bruce Jantzi) several pages which were marked – Source: Delbert Gratz. Some material appears to be from the book, *Historical Events of the Mennonite Settlements in Allen and Putnam Counties, Ohio*, P. B. Amstutz, Bluffton, Ohio, 1925, Translation by Anne Konrad Dyck, Toronto, Canada

LAND RECORDS:

Summary of land records for Mennonite Boesiger Family:

- Christian Boesiger, Ulrich Geiger were in Waterloo Township in 1825
- Christian Boesiger, Ulrich Geiger, John Christner were in Waterloo Township in 1827
- Christian Basinger and John Christner in Waterloo Township in 1829
- John Boessiker on Lot 2, S Bleams Rd., Wilmot Township in 1831
- Christian Besicker, Lot 12, S Erb St., Wilmot Township in 1832/33
- Christian Risseker/Basinger on Lot 17, South Snyders Rd., Wilmot Township in some 1829/1830 reports
- Christian Bessiger and wife Barbara sold front 50 acres of Lot 12, S Snyders Rd. to Barnabas Devitt, 13 June 1834 (registered 14 June, 1834 in University of Waterloo RBR Copy Book #20, page 4) (This is Christian Giesler's lot in the 1830 reports and in Registry Office abstracts. The copybook entry is probably an error. It should read S Erbs Rd. rather than S Snyders Rd.)

NOTES:

- 1) Letter from Delbert Gratz, Bluffton, Ohio, 9 June 1994
Bosiger family chart by Delbert Gratz, 1999. This chart attempts to outline four generations of Bosigers, which include Christian (b. 1770) and John (b. 1777), immigrants to Canada
- 2) Researched by Delbert Gratz
Also see the Bosiger chart mentioned in #1.
- 3) This family was thoroughly researched by Valerie Agresta, a descendant through Christian B. Lichty. See the Joseph Lichty/Veronica Boesiger Family in the LICHTI Family Genealogical Introduction.
- 4) Agresta gives the date for Veronica and Joseph's marriage as 1833, but I do not know her source. (Lichty/Boesiger File)
- 5) From Veronica's obituary in the Herald of Truth, Vol. II (note in Lichty/ Boesiger File). The person transcribing the writing on the tombstone for the Genealogical Society cemetery records, transcribed Lichti as "Biehn." When we discovered this, we made another stop at the cemetery to have another look. We decided it was "Lichti," but as we stood back and contemplated the writing, we could see how the person had arrived at "Biehn." Unfortunately, there is no tombstone for Joseph beside her, nor anywhere else in the cemetery.

- 6) From a letter, dated July 5, 1895, advising Daniel Lichty in Mancelona, Michigan, of Joseph Lichty's death on July 2, giving the information that Cressman and Bowman preached and that he was buried beside "Grandmother Lichty." (Lichty/Boesiger File)
- 7) The certificate of marriage of Christian Boesiger and Widow Barbara Kurtz was obtained from the Provincial Archives by David Kurtz, Pleasant Ridge, Mich.
The copy is filed in the OESCH Document file.
- 8) Delbert Gratz letter, 9 June 1994, and chart of Christian Boesiger's family by his first wife Elizabeth Steiner, as well as the family of his second wife, Barbara (Lapp) Kurtz.
- 9) This Christian Basinger (1770-1847) Family was updated in 2018 with information from James Bennet Basinger, 1964 Laxton St., Pasadena, CA 91104; jbasinger7344@gmail.com. His main source of information was from Delbert Gratz, of Bluffton, Ohio.

THE AMISH MENNONITE CHRISTIAN BOESIGER/BESINGER

The Amish-Mennonite Christian Besinger is probably the one found in the 1851 Woolwich Township census at age 30. By late 1854 or early 1855 he had married Magdalena Spenler, widow of Peter Jantzi, in Wilmot Township. In the 1861 census, Peter (1) (See Notes below) and Magdalena Besinger and their six-year-old son Christian were listed. Christian must have been erroneously called Peter. His occupation was fanning mill manufacturer.

Who was this Christian Boesiger, and from where did he come? The discovery of the Besinger Bible while compiling the Steinman genealogy promised to be of help. It listed the marriage of son Christian to Catherine Steinmann, but also gave some information on their parents. For Christian, it gave the date of his birth as August 15, (2) 1819 and the place as Canton Colmar, Department Strassburg, Alsace, France. However, this was not very helpful. Colmar is the "capital" or "seat" of the department of Haut-Rhin, and Strasbourg is the "capital" or "seat" of the department of Bas-Rhin. Both of these departments make up what we know as Alsace. So, all we can gather from this is that he was born in Alsace. Magdalena Spenler was born August 15, 1823 in Canton Tu Lu, Department Lion, Welschen, France. "Tu Lu" may be Toulouse which is in southern France, and "Lion" is probably Lyon, also a city, considerably farther south than Alsace. "Welschen" may give away the location as Lorraine, because that is the name given to the scattered Mennonite congregation in the western part of Lorraine. (3)

In 1996, Richard Kent put out a publication which includes some Boesigers. A "Christ" Bosiger was born August 24, (4) 1819 at the Farm Chalembert, and registered at Boron, Territory of Belfort. His parents were Jean/John Bosiger and Marie/Anne Marie Roth. Christian was listed as a laborer at Chalembert from 1841 to 1845. (5) We have chosen to accept this Christian Bosiger as the Amish-Mennonite immigrant to Canada. [This is the research as far as Lorraine Roth has carried it.]

[Following is other research by Bruce W. Jantzi]

While doing online research on Geneanet – Jean Francois Lorentz, I discovered a Pierre/Peter Boesinger married to a Magdalena Spenler Jantzi. Pierre/Peter was listed as her second husband after her first husband Peter Jantzi had died. The family of Magdalena Spenler matched exactly. So the question is raised the second time, who really was the second husband of Magdalena Spenler Jantzi – Christian or Peter Besinger?

We notice three points:

1. Lorraine Roth chose to accept Christian Bosiger, born Aug 21, 1891 and son of John Bosiger and Maria Roth, as the one who married Widow Magdalena Spenler Jantzi. Obviously Lorraine was not sure these were his parents.

2. In the 1861 census, Peter and Magdalena Besinger and their six-year-old son Christian were listed. Lorraine assumes Peter (Pierre) should really have been Christian. But maybe Peter was the correct name. Perhaps his name was Peter Christian Besinger or Christian Peter Besinger.
3. The Besinger Bible lists Christian with the date of birth as August 15, 1819, which is the date which Geneanet gives. Lorraine assumes that the August 24, 1819 date was a copy error. Perhaps it was not.

Therefore, I present two options of the parental family of Christian/Pierre Besinger who married Widow Magdalena Spenler Jantzi

OPTION #1 (*from Geneanet – Jean Francois Lorentz*)

THE PARENTAL FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN BESINGER

Pierre Boesiger, b. August 15, 1819 (perhaps he was also called Christian)

son of Jean Pierre Boesiger and Barbe Jantzy

m. Magdalena Spenler b. 1823

dau. of Pierre Spenler (b. 1793) and Barbara Elizabeth Janzy (1797-1865)

Magdalena Spenler 1m. March 3, 1847 at Sotzeling, Chateau Salins, France

to Peter Jantzi (1821-1854) son of Michael Jantzi and Barbe Beller

OPTION #2 (*from Richard Kent chosen by Lorraine Roth*)

THE PARENTAL FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN BESINGER

Jean Bosiger, son of Durs Bosiger, d. 29 Sept 1786

(weaver) grandson of Johann Ulrich Bosiger and Catharina Ischi

b. 4 Feb 1786, Florimont, Belfort, France

d. 8 Jun 1841, Chalembert (farm near Boron and Grandvillars)

m. 26 Nov 1805, Boron, Belfort

Marie Roth, dau. of Jean/Jacques Roth and Marie Aplise (Ablitzer?)

(or Anne Marie) b. 1777-79, Cernay, France

d. 6 Jul 1845, Chalembert

Children:

1) Freny Bosiger, b. 26 Oct 1806, Boron

m. 8 Mar 1825, at Boron, to Adolph Schickler

2) Jean Bosiger, b. 13 Nov 1808, Boron

3) Anne Bosiger, b. ca.23 Apr 1811, Boron

m. 15 Feb 1836, at Grandvillars, to Morand Steiger/Steigert

4) **Christian Bosiger**, b. 24 Aug 1819, Chalembert, Boron

m. 1854 to Magdalena Spenler Jantzi

(see below for further details)

5) Pierre Bosiger, b. 11 Apr 1823, Boron

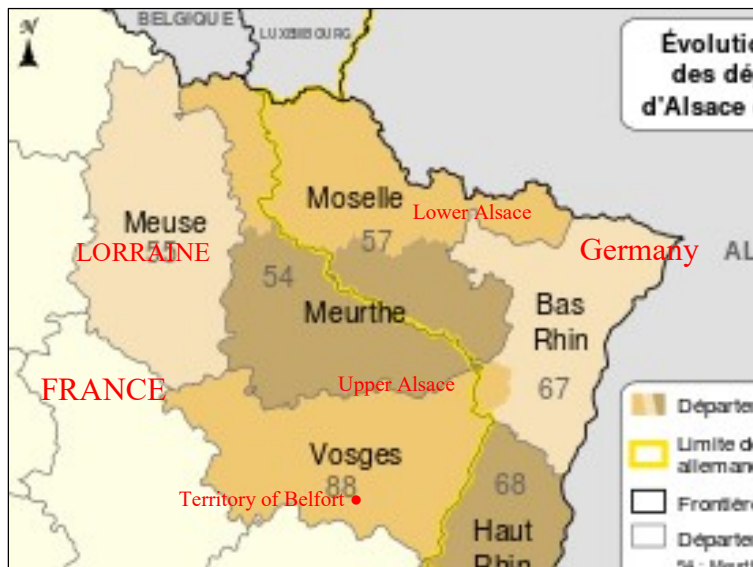
CHRISTIAN AND MAGDALENA (SPENLER) (JANTZI) BESINGER

[Was it Christian Bosiger or Peter/Pierre Boesiger, or Christian Peter Boesiger, who married Widow Magdalena Spenler Jantzi? And, what is his ancestry? Further research is needed to answer these questions. Lorraine Roth wrote the following paragraphs, and used the name Christian. So, we will leave his name as Christian, but the reader should be aware of the confusion of his name and ancestry.]

Christian and Magdalena Besinger purchased ten acres of Lot 14, South Snyder's Road, Wilmot Township at the east end of Baden in 1858. Perhaps they had already been renting the place, and this is where Christian had his shop for manufacturing fanning mills. What happened to Christian, whether he was ill or suffered an accident, we do not know, but on July 19, 1862 he made a Will and on August 27 it was probated. Widow Magdalena, Christian S. Miller, a resident of Baden, and Michael Jantzi, a relative of both Magdalena and her first husband, were the executors. The Probate proceedings were witnessed by John Gascho and Christian Wagler. (6)

Young Christian was about seven years old and daughter Magdalena probably less than a year old, and Magdalena was pregnant with her third child when Christian met his untimely death. The executors proceeded to purchase a property for Magdalena near the main intersection of the village of Wellesley in November of the same year. It consisted of 58 perches of the northeast corner of Lot 13, Concession I, East Section. A daughter Barbara was born in February of 1863 and died in July. Both birth and death were recorded by Bishop John Jantzi. The executors, however, did not sell the Baden property until 1865. At the time of the 1871 census, Widow Magdalena was listed with her two surviving children, Christian and Magdalena, in Wellesley.

The Wellesley property was sold in 1879, and Magdalena moved in with son Christian and his wife Catherine (nee Steinmann), where we find her at the time of the 1881 census. Christian Sr. was probably buried in the Kropf family cemetery at the east end of Baden, almost across the road from the Besinger property. In the 1891 census Magdalena was living with Joseph and Catherine Kennel, southeast of the village of Wellesley. By that time, she had outlived both of her children. Her date of death, nor her place of burial, have not yet been found.



Map of North Eastern France

*Showing Alsace and Lorraine
and their departments*

*The Territory of Belfort lies south of
Upper Alsace*

*Boron is in Belfort,
and Christian Besinger
was born here in 1819*

**THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN (PETER) BESINGER
AND MAGDALENA (SPENLER) (JANTZI)**

Christian (Peter) Besinger, b. 24 Aug 1819, Farm Chalembert, Boron, Belfort, France
if son of Jean/John Bosiger and Maria Roth
b. 15 Aug 1819 if son of Jean Pierre Boesiger and Barby Jantzi
d. 1862 (will dated 19 July 1862, probated 27 Aug 1862)
m. ca.1854, Wilmot Township, Canada

Magdalena Spenler Jantzi, dau. of Peter Spenler and Barbara Jantzi
widow of Peter Jantzi, son of Michael Jantzi III and Barbara Bellar
b. 15 Aug 1823, Sotzeling, Moselle, France
d. after 1891

Children:

A. Christian Besinger, b. 28 Sept 1855, Wilmot Township
d. 15 Jan 1889, Wilmot (near Wellesley)
1m. 20 Feb 1881, Wilmot

Catherine Steinmann, dau. of Christian Steinmann and Maria Honderich
b. 8 Nov 1858, Wilmot
d. 2 Nov 1927, bu. Mornington A. M. Cemetery, Poole
2m. to John F. Roth, 17 Dec 1893

Children:

1. Solomon Besinger, b. 31 Dec 1881, Wellesley Township
d. 7 Dec 1901, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
2. Mary Ann (Marie) Besinger, b. 7 July 1883, Wellesley Township
(registered as Mary Ann) d. 4 July 1895, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
3. Christian Besinger, b. 27 May 1886, probably in Wellesley Township
d. 3 May 1895, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery

B. Magdalena Besinger, b. ca.1862, Wilmot Township
d. 25 Apr 1881, Wilmot, probably Steinmann Menn. Cem.
m. 1 Feb 1881, Wilmot

John E. Schwartzentruber, son of Michael Schwartzentruber and Barbara Erb
b. 8 May 1857, Wilmot
d. 8 Aug 1950, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
2m. to Veronica Zehr
3m. to Christina Brenneman

C. Barbara Besinger, b. 28 Feb 1863, Wellesley Twp. (Wellesley Church Book)
d. 25 Jul 1863, Wellesley Twp. (Wellesley Church Book)

Children of Peter Jantzi and Magdalena Spenler

- a) stillborn child, b. & d. 29 Dec 1847, Sotzeling
- b) Barbe Jantzi, b. 6 Jan 1849, Sotzeling; d. in France

THE CHRISTIAN BESINGER FAMILY FINALE

Daughter Magdalena married John E. Schwartzentruber on February 1, 1881 and died of consumption (probably T.B.) on April 15/25. Magdalena and John lived on one of the Schwartzentruber homesteads on the south side of Snyder's Road, between Petersburg and the Baden Hills. John remarried two more times.

John is buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, west of Baden, but Magdalena has no tombstone. She may have been buried in the Kropf burial ground at the east end of Baden.

Son Christian purchased the west quarter of Lot 8, Concession VI in the West Section of Wellesley Township in 1877. He married Catherine Steinman in 1881 and purchased another quarter of the same lot. Christian and Catherine had three children before he succumbed to consumption at the age of 33. The farm was sold in 1889. Although Christian still had ownership of the farm in 1889, he is reported to have died in Wilmot. Where he is buried is not known.

Catherine married John F. Roth, a widower in New Hamburg, in 1893, who, no doubt, took in her children as well. Solomon Besinger reached the age of 20, but his sisters died younger. The cause of their deaths is not known. Three tombstones in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery are the only visible witness to the presence of the Besinger family in Ontario.

NOTES:

- 1) In the 1861 census he is called Peter, but in the Bible he was called Christian, and all other references indicate it was the same person. Perhaps his name was Christian Peter.
- 2) This date should probably be August 24. The artist may have made the mistake and copied Catherine's date twice. But perhaps this date should be August 15 – sources vary.
- 3) The Besinger Bible records have been reproduced in *The Family History and Genealogy of Christian Steinman(n) and Veronica Eyer*, by the Christian Steinma(n) Family Book Committee; Lorraine Roth, editor, Baden, Ontario, 1990, pages 85, 86.
- 4) The Bible had given the date as August 15, but that may have been the artist's error.
- 5) This Bosiger family information is taken from *The Hablutzel/Ablitzer Connection: Ancestors and Descendants* by Kent Richard, 1996, pages 17, 21, 22.
- 6) A copy of the Will Probate was secured by Valerie Agresta, descendant of Joseph and Veronica (Boesiger) Lichty. A copy is found in the BESINGER file.

BARBARA BÖSIGER/BOSICKER AND JOHN ALBRECHT



In the mid-1800's, the John and Barbara Albrecht family appeared in official records of Ontario. They identified with the Amish Mennonite community. However, Barbara's birth name has just recently (2008) been discovered. At the time of her death, John did not divulge her maiden name, but reported she was born in Alsace. It was their son, Henry's death record in 1891 which gave her name as "Bosicker"- the more correct spelling was probably "Bösiger." This record reported her birth place as Germany - Alsace is more likely correct.

Record for the children indicate they were born in Bavaria - one in Saxony but that may have been because they didn't know the difference between Bavaria and Saxony. Since we know of no Albrechts in Alsace, but the Bösiger name is quite common, it is likely that Barbara and John met and married in Bavaria.

◀ *Map of Germany, showing Bavaria*

The children of John and Barbara (Bosicker) Albrecht were born in Bavaria.

credit: mapsofdallas.blogspot.com

The time of arrival of this family in Canada is uncertain. Daughter Magdalena married in Canada in September of 1851, but she may have preceded the rest of the family. Son Henry purchased land in the northern part of Wilmot Township in 1860, and in the 1861 census John and Barbara were living with Henry and his wife Mary at this location.

We have not found any record of land ownership for John and Barbara. They usually appeared with either Jacob or Henry's families in the census records.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND BARBARA (BOSICKER) ALBRECHT

John Albrecht, b. Apr 1801 in Germany

d. 25 Mar 1882, Mornington Township, Perth County, Ontario

m. date and place unknown

Barbara Bösicker, b. ca. 1806 in Alsace, France (*according to her death record*)

d. 22 Oct 1888, Mornington Township

Children:

1) Magdalena Albrecht
b. 6 May 1833 Bavaria
d. 6 Dec 1918 Wellesley ON
m. 30 Sept 1851 Canada
Christian E. Kennel
b. 31 Mar 1827 France
d. 16 Apr 1908 Wellesley ON
son of Christian Kennel
and Magdalena Jantzi

2) Jacob Albrecht
b. ca. 1836 Saxony, Germany
d. 1 Mar 1882 Wellesley ON
m. 1856 Wilmot ON
Anna Kennel
b. 19 Mar 1837 Lewis Co, NY
d. 25 June 1910 Pigeon, MI
dau. of Christian Kennel
and Magdalena Jantzi
2m. 28 Feb 1886
Jacob Christner

3) Henry Albrecht
b. 4 April 1839 * Bavaria
4 April 1840**
d. 3 Dec 1921 Mornington Twp.
m. 22 Jul 1860 Wilmot *
Mary Stever
b. 1843 Alsace, FR
d. 29 Oct 1891 Mornington Twp.
dau. of John and
Wilhelmina Stever

Grandchildren:

{ John Kennel (1856-1936) m. Elizabeth Schrag
Barbara Kennel (1859-1943) m. John Bast
Susanna Kennel (1862-1943) m. Peter Yousey
Christian A. Kennel (1865-1937) m. Barbara Schrag
Joseph Kennel (1868-1955) m. Anna Wagner
Magdalena Kennel (1871-) m. John Lehman
Jacob Kennel (-before 1881)
another child reported in obituary

{ Christian Albrecht (1859-1879)
John Albrecht (1860-1936) m. Maria Zehr
Mattie Albrecht (1861-1920) m. Daniel K. Yoder
Barbara Albrecht (1863-1944) m. Joseph S. Ropp
Jacob Albrecht (1864-1927) m. Veronica Ropp
Catherine Albrecht (1866-1926) m. Moses S. Erb
Joseph Albrecht (1867-1951) m. Elizabeth Ropp
Mary Albrecht (1869-1934) m. Christian B. Schwartzentruber
Annie Albrecht (1871-1949) m. C. E. Swartzentruber
Fannie Albrecht (1871-1905) m. Daniel K. Yoder
Daniel Albrecht (1874-1951) m. Mattie Ulrich
Susanna Albrecht (1876-1943) m. Jacob Gingerich
Sarah Albrecht (1878-1957) m. Isaac Plank
Leah Albrecht (1881-1965) m. John S. Erb

{ John S. Albrecht (1861-1944) m. Lena Roth
Jacob Albrecht (1863-1887)
Magdalena Albrecht (1865-1874)
Joseph S. Albrecht (1868-1956)m. Lena Y. Zehr
Henry S. Albrecht (1870-1957) m. Catharine Roth
Christian S. Albrecht (1873-1937) m. Annie Brenneman
Mary Albrecht (1876-ca.1903)
Peter S. Albrecht (1879-1920) m. Catharine Brenneman
Barbara Albrecht (1880-1962) m. Christian Herrfort
Christina Albrecht (1883-1972) m. Alfred Bell
Daniel S. Albrecht (1885-1973) m. Bena Lichty
*1901 census **genealogy

For further details on the John and Barbara (Bosicker) Albrecht family, see the ALBRECHT Genealogical Family Introduction.

Additional Items in BOESIGER / BESINGER file

The files referred to in these notes are kept in Lorraine Roth's Collection in the Archives at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. Digital copies of some of the transliterations and translations of records in Bibles or other old books can be obtained from Bruce W. Jantzi at bwjantzi@gmail.com

- 1) Bösigler family charts, received from Delbert Gratz, Bluffton, Ohio
Correspondence with Gratz concerning the Bösiglers- by whatever spelling
- 2) THE HABLÜTZEL/ ABLIGTZER CONNECTION; ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS
(Le Rapprochement Hablützel /Ablitzer, L'ascendance et Descendants)
by Kent E. Richard, 1996-photocopy of pages 17-24, with Bösiglers (by any spelling) on pages 17, 20-24
- 3) Will Probate for Christian Besinger (1819-1862) married to Magdalena (born Spenler)
- 4) Translations of Family Register of Christian Besinger (1885-1889) and Catherine Steinman, and comments
(photocopy of marriage record of Christian Besinger and Catherina Steinmann-2 copies)
- 5) Summary of land records for Mennonite Boesiger Family
- 6) Abstract of Upper Canada Naturalization Registers, 1843-1850, Mennonite Boesiger entries

Lorraine Roth
Waterloo, Ontario,
June 2008

~ Updated with new research information and re-formatted by Bruce W. Jantzi, 2018
and December 2019