

MEYER / MAYER

ORIGINS

The name Meyer and its various forms is a very common name. The Amish Mennonites of that name belong to an extended family which lived in the Montbéliard area of France. No doubt, this family was of Swiss origin. In the various documents, members of this family spelled their name Maier, Meier, Mayer and Meyer. The two spellings Mayer and Meyer are used by the two branches of the family in Canada today. Meyers is a later addition found among the Meyer clan. The Mennonite Moyers who came from Pennsylvania use the spelling Moyer. Of course, not all Meyers and Myers in Canada are of Mennonite origin.

THE MEYERS IN FRANCE

Susanna Catherine, daughter of Jacob and Catherine Meyer, brought her birth certificate with her to Canada. It was issued in Montbéliard, Department of Doubs. Research in the Montbéliard archives led to the discovery of the extended Meyer family.

The progenitors of this Meier/Meyer family were Hans, born about 1735, and his wife, Catherine Lichti. They died at Montbéliard in 1795 and 1792, respectively. Their two known daughters, Anne and Catherine, married Jacob Frey and Joseph Frey respectively. Their youngest son Peter died at the age of eleven when he fell into the saw at his father's sawmill.

The other known son of Hans and Catherine was also named Hans and he married Mary Gerig. Seven children were found in the records for this couple. It was children of this couple who emigrated to Canada.

From research done in various sources, I have compiled a list of this extended Meyer family. Those who emigrated to Canada are indicated by bold print. In addition to my research, further details were discovered by Joe Springer, Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen, Indiana, and others were submitted by Carol E. Liechty, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

AN EXTENDED MEYER/MAYER FAMILY

Hans Meyer, b. ca.1739, Montbéliard, Department of Doubs, France
d. 14 Feb 1795, Montbéliard
m.

Catherine Lichti, b. ca.1733
d. 23 Jan 1792, Montbéliard

A. Anne (Annli) Meyer, b. 20 Aug 1770, Montbéliard
d. 28 Jan 1810, Chatenois, Bas-Rhin (Lower Alsace)
m. 29 May 1792, Montbéliard

Jacob Frey, son of Jacob Frey
b. ca.1750
d. 5 Oct 1835, Morvillars, Territory of Belfort

1. Anne Frey, b. ca.1796, Morvillars?

- m. Jan 1823 (publication of marriage at Morvillars)
 - Jean/John Weis, son of Catherine Weis
 - 2. Elizabeth/Barbara Frey, b. 27 Jun 1799, Chatenois
 - d. 17 Mar 1885, Stark Co., OH
 - m. 11 Apr 1826, Morvillars, Belfort
 - Andrew Baecher, son of Hans Baecher
 - b. 11 Sep 1788, Saales, Bas-Rhin
 - d. 10 Apr 1862, Stark Co. OH
 - 3. Jacob Frey, b. ca. 1808; d. 20 Aug 1809
- B. Hans Meyer, b. 26 Aug 1773, Montbéliard (date of bapt. (Huekel))
- d. 24 Dec 1834, Montbéliard
 - m. 10 Aug 1792, Aux Gouttes, Montbéliard
- Mary Gerig, dau. of Michael Gerig of Belfort
- b. ca.1776, Belfort
 - d. 21/27 Dec 1814, Montbéliard, buried Mont-Chevis
1. **John Meyer**, b. 9 Feb 1799, Montbéliard (baptized in 1815) (1) (See Notes on page 11)
 - d. 22 Nov 1872, Wilmot Township, Canada
 - m. before May 1829, Canada

Catherine Brenneman, dau. of John Brenneman (wife's name unknown)

 - b. 1811, Neuhof near Worms, Germany
 - d. 28 Feb 1872, Wilmot Township

a. John Meyer, b. ca.1839 (in 1851 Wilmot census only)

No known survivors

More details on this couple on pages 4 and 5
 2. Michael Meyer, b. 15 Dec 1800, Montbéliard (baptized in 1816)
 - (was called John in the birth record)
 - m. 27 Apr/14 May 1826

Françoise (Veronica) Eicher, dau. of Peter Eicher

(Did this family migrate to Ohio?)

 - a. Hans Meyer, b. 11 Feb 1827, Montbéliard
 - b. Michael Meyer, b. 21 Jan 1829, Montbéliard
 3. Peter Meyer (baptized in 1817)
 - m. Mariann/Anna Stucki
 4. **Christophe/Christian Mayer**, b. 1 May 1805, Montbéliard
 - d. 19 Apr 1868, Wilmot Township?
 - m. in Pennsylvania

Magdalena Petersheim, dau. of George Petersheim and Christina Nissley (Mattie)

 - b. 1803, Germany
 - d. 1855-58, Wilmot Township

Christian Mayer, 2m. after 1861 to Elizabeth King of Mifflin County, PA

 - a. Johannes/John P. Mayer (1834-1868) m. Magdalena Litwiller
 - b. Joseph P. Mayer (1835-1909) m. Magdalena (Lena) Erb
 - c. Veronica (Frena) Mayer (1837-1878) m. Christian Gingerich
 - d. Joel Mayer (1839-1917) m. Magdalena Roth
 - e. Jacob Mayer (age 10 in 1851 census only)
 - f. Susanna Mayer (1843-1916) m. Jacob N. Kropf

g. Christina Mayer (age 3 in 1851 census only)
This family is found in more detail on pages 5 to 8.

5. **Jacob Meyer**, b. 21 Mar 1808, Montbéliard (baptized in 1823)
d. after 1861, (in Wilmot Twp. census in 1861)
m. 15 Dec 1836, Montbéliard(2)

Catherine Marguerite Charpiot, b. 26 Sep 1812, France
d. 26 Jul 1901, Hay Township

- a. **Jacob Frederick Meyer** (1839-1931) m. Barbara Brenneman
b. **Catherine Meyer** (ca.1840-before 1872) m. John Bennet
c. Peter Frederick Meyer (1843-1850)
d. Christophe Meyer (1845-1853)
e. Elise Susanne/Catherine Meyer (1846-1852)
(in birth record second name is Susanne, in death record Catherine)
f. **Susanne Catherine Meyer** (1848-1905) m. Menno Oesch
g. **Emile Meyer** (1850-)
(called Michael in the 1861 Wilmot census -- no further record)
h. Elise Emilie Meyer (1854-1855)

This family is found in more detail on pages 8 to 11.

6. Maria Meyer, b. 15 Mar 1810
m. 14 Dec 1837 to Hans Schmuckli/Schmucker

7. Joseph Meyer, 6 Jan 1812, Montbéliard

- C. Catherine Meyer, b. 20 May 1779, Montbéliard
d. 29 Mar 1858, Montbéliard?
m. 26 Mar 1799

Joseph Frey, son of Jacob Frey, died at Voujeaucourt

1. Jacques Frey, b. 16 Sep 1801?; d. 3 Feb 1862
m. Mary Graber, dau. of Daniel Graber and Marie Frey
a. Verena Frey, b. 11 May 1824; d. 2 Sep 1908
m. Apr 28, 1842 to Christian Aeschliman
b. Christian Frey, b. 12 Dec 1827; d. 30 Dec 1869
1m. to Magdalena Short
2m. to Elizabeth Conrad
c. Mary Frey, m. to Joe Stutzman
d. Catherine Frey, b. 6 July 1838; d. 15 Jul 1911
m. Apr 3, 1862 to Christian Freyenberger
e. Lydia Frey, b. 4 Jun 1843; d. 15 Feb 1917
m. to Joseph J. Nafziger
2. Catherine Frey
m. 1831 to Nicolas Schott
3. Françoise Frey, b. 1813
4. Christophe Frey, b. ca.1820, Grand Charmont

d. 21 Jul 1859, Montbéliard
(Carol Liechty varies this list with the births taking place between
1801 and 1807.)

D. Peter Meyer, b. ca.1781, Montbéliard
d. 12 Mar 1792

SOME OF THE MEYERS/MAYERS COME TO CANADA

Both John and Christian, sons of Hans and Mary (Gerig) Meyer came to Canada before 1830. Whether they crossed the ocean together or separately is not known. John arrived in Canada (probably in 1824) and by May of 1829 he had married Catherine Brenneman, daughter of Preacher John Brenneman.(3) Christophe (known as Christian) stopped off in Pennsylvania where he met Magdalena Petersheim but was also in Canada by 1830.

One usually finds John's name spelled Meyer, but he and Catherine have no known descendants. Christian tended to spell his name Maier, and this family now consistently spells it Mayer. When speaking in the German dialect, it was frequently pronounced "Moyer" and sometimes spelled that way.

The last Meyer family to migrate to Canada was that of Jacob and his wife Catherine Charpiot (proper spelling uncertain). It had been believed that the widow came with her son Jacob Frederick and her daughter Susanna Catherine. Another son Michael was raised by relatives in Ohio. However, a ship passenger list for this family has been found, and it includes the following: Meyer, Jacques, age 47; Catharine, age 41; Jacques, age 17; Catherine, age 16; Emil, age 6 and Susanne, age 8. At this time, Mother Catherine was not a widow. Also there was a daughter Catherine about whom we had not known anything. Emile, who was born in 1850, was also with the group. The family sailed from Le Havre, France, and arrived in New York on May 21, 1856.(4) We shall look at this family more carefully after a more detailed discussion of John and Christian and their families.

JOHN AND CATHERINE (BRENNEMAN) MEYER IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

When Samuel S. Wilmot made a report of the settlement in the German Block of Wilmot Township in 1830, he listed a Christian "Moyer" on Lot 4 and a John "Meyer" on Lot 6, both on the south side of Snyder's Road. John had completed his settlement duties and qualified for his 50-acre grant. This lot had first been claimed by Christian Erb, and perhaps he had done some work on it, making it easier for John to complete it. Christian "Moyer," however, had not done any work on his lot. It may also be that the two brothers concentrated on completing the work on one lot before starting on the other.

In 1831 John received his patent to the front 50 acres, indicating that he likely came in 1824. Theoretically, Europeans from the continent could not get title to their land until they had been in the country for seven years or more. Land was not issued to aliens, and citizenship could not be obtained until after a seven-year residency in the country. This law was not always strictly adhered to, but in this case it may give us a clue to the year of John's arrival in Canada.

John and Catherine sold various small acreages at the northwest corner of their lot, and soon a small village called Petersburg was established at this crossroads. One of these sales was a school deed, but the school was eventually located on the opposite side of the road. In 1854, John and Catherine received their deed from the University of Toronto for the rear 150 acres.(5)

According to the 1851 census, John and Catherine had a son John, age 12, but we have found no further record of him. Catherine died in February and John in November of 1872. According to John's Will Probate, he had been living with his nephew Joel Mayer at the time of his death. His heirs were not identified as children or grandchildren -- more on the disposal of his estate later. Although there are no tombstones, it is assumed that Catherine and John were buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery, on the corner of the Brenneman homestead on Blead's Road.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND CATHERINE (BRENNEMAN) MEYER

John Meyer, b. 9 Feb 1799, Montb  liard
d. 22 Nov 1872, Wilmot Township, Canada
m. before May 1829, Canada
Catherine Brenneman, dau. of John Brenneman (wife's name unknown)
b. 1811, Neuhof near Worms, Germany
d. 28 Feb 1872, Wilmot Township

1) John Meyer, b. ca.1839 (in 1851 Wilmot census only)

CHRISTIAN AND MAGDALENA (PETERSHEIM) MAYER IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

When Christian travelled to America we do not know but, as mentioned earlier, he stopped in Pennsylvania and became acquainted with Magdalena (known as Mattie) Petersheim. She had immigrated with her parents Georg Petersheim and Christina Nissley from near Appenrod in the Kingdom of Hesse, Germany, in 1810. The date and even the place of their marriage is not known. Christian appeared on the 1830 survey report of Wilmot in 1830. In the 1831 census he appeared as a lone male on Lot 11, South Snyder's Road, and in 1832, they were male and female on that lot. So, did Christian go back to Pennsylvania between the two censuses, or had they come to Canada single and were married here?

Although Christian "Moyer" had claimed Lot 4, South Snyder's Road, he did not get ownership of this property. In 1833 Christian Farni received his patent to the front 50 acres of Lot 11 on the same side of the road, and sold it the same year to Christian Mayer who, according to the census was already living there in 1831. This is the lot on which the largest of the Baden Hills is located. Probably Farni had built a cabin and perhaps a shelter for animals; so that Christian and Mattie could move in.

In 1845, Christian Mayer declared his intention to purchase the rear 150 acres of this lot, and in 1856, he made his final payment and his deed was issued by the University of Toronto. The lots in Wilmot Township were not regular rectangles with square corners. The less than 60-degree angles were especially difficult to get into with farm equipment. In 1865, Christian Mayer and Daniel Wing, his neighbour to the east exchanged some acreages at their corners -- in an effort to make them more square, no doubt.

This farm is one of the most outstanding ones in the township -- not for its qualities as a farm, but because on it is the largest of a series of four hills, called the Baden Hills and sometimes referred to simply as the Sand Hills. This hill has an elevation of 1429 feet while the surrounding area is 1189. In fact, southern Ontario has few other hills that can compete with this one. Today there is a television tower of 715' on top of what had been Mayer's hill. The Mayer family had a ski resort in their back yard and didn't know it! They probably knew nothing about skis, but some of the grandchildren (now deceased) remembered sledding on the hill.

In 1849, Christian and Mattie Mayer had a new log house built for their family of seven. By the time of the 1861 census, Christian was a widower, but the date of Mattie's death has not been found -- nor that of their son Jacob and daughter Christina. From a letter written by son John to his cousin Christian Miller in Pennsylvania, we gather that Mattie died sometime before September, 1858.(6) The Petersheim genealogy indicates that Christian married Elizabeth King of

Mifflin County, Pennsylvania after Mattie's death, but gives no date. No documentation for this marriage has been found.

In 1866, Christian served as a witness when a document was drawn up between Jacob Kropf (the grandfather of Jacob N. Kropf married to Susanna Mayer) and the trustees of the cemetery on the Kropf property at the east end of Baden. It was also in 1866 that Christian divided the farm, selling the south half with the farm buildings and a right of way to Snyder's Road to daughter Susanna and her husband Jacob N. Kropf. The north half was sold to son Joel and his wife Magdalena (nee Roth), where new buildings had to be constructed. It is assumed that both Mattie and Christian, who died in 1868, are buried in the cemetery mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph, although no markers remain. What happened to Christian's second wife is not known.(7)

THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN AND MAGDALENA (PETERSHEIM) MAYER

Christian Mayer, b. 1 May 1805, Montbéliard, Doubs, France
d. 19 Apr 1868, Wilmot Township
m. 1831/32, Pennsylvania or Canada

Magdalena (Mattie) Petersheim, dau. of George Petersheim and Christina Nissley
b. 1803, Hesse, Germany
d. 1855-58, Wilmot Township

Christian Mayer, 2m. after 1861 to Elizabeth King, Mifflin County, PA

Children:

Grandchildren:

1) John P. Mayer

b. 11 Apr 1834 Wilmot
d. 31 Mar 1868 "
m. 4 Oct 1853 "

Magdalena Litwiller

b. 18 Jan 1831 Wilmot
d. 31 May 1916 "

dau. of Peter Litwiller
and Elizabeth Lichti

{ Christian Mayer (1855-1921) m. Barbara Spenler
John L. Mayer (1858-1931) m. Mary Jutzi
Peter Mayer (1859-1932) m. Mary Ann Reeve
Elizabeth Mayer (1862-1922) m. Christian
Honderich

2) Joseph P. Mayer

b. 31 May 1835 Wilmot
d. 21 Mar 1909 Kalona, IA
m. 3 Dec 1861 Wilmot

Magdalena (Lena) Erb

b. 6 Feb 1832 Wilmot
d. 4 Jan 1916 Kalona, IA

dau. of Christian Erb
and Elizabeth Schultz

{ Infant (10 Nov 1862)
Barbara Mayer (1863-1912) m. Joseph J Borntreger
Magdalena Mayer (1865-1932) m. Gideon C. Bender
Daniel Mayer (1867-1869)
Jacob Mayer (1870-1880)
Bena Mayer (1873-1880)

3) Veronica (Frene) Mayer

b. 11 Mar 1837 Wilmot
d. 14 Feb 1878 "
m. 18 Apr 1910 "

Christian L. Gingerich

b. 5 May 1831 Wilmot
d. 12 Apr 1910 "

son of Jacob W. Gingerich
and Veronica Litwiller

{ Magdalena Miller (ca.1855-1881) m. Christian L.
(step-daughter) Zehr
Daniel Gingerich (1866-1929) m. Veronica Lichti
Barbara Gingerich (1868-1970)
Veronica Gingerich (1870-1906)
Christian Gingerich (1872-1879)
Jacob Gingerich (1874-1942) m. Lydia Lehman
Samuel Gingerich (1878)

Christian 1m. Barbara
(Helmuth) Miller

- 4) Joel Mayer
b. 13 Mar 1839 Wilmot
d. 21 Nov 1917 "
m. 16 May 1865 "
Magdalena Roth
b. 15 Aug 1842 Ohio
d. 30 Nov 1927 Wilmot
dau. of John Roth and
Magdalena Nafziger
- 5) Jacob Mayer
b. ca.1841 Wilmot (in 1851 census only)
d. before 1861 "
- 6) Susanna Mayer
b. Jun 1843 Wilmot
d. 5 Sep 1916 Baden
m. 15 Mar 1864 Wilmot
Jacob N. Kropf
b. 1842 Wilmot
d. 27 Oct 1889 Wilmot
son of Henry Kropf
and Anna Nafziger
Susanna 2m. John Mast
- 7) Christina Mayer
b. ca.1848 Wilmot (in 1851 census only)
d. before 1861

THE CHILDREN OF CHRISTIAN AND MAGDALENA (PETERSHEIM) MAYER ESTABLISH HOMES OF THEIR OWN

John P. Mayer married Magdalena (known as Mattie) Litwiller, daughter of Bishop Peter Litwiller and Elizabeth Lichti, in 1853. The same year, they purchased Lot 8, Concession II, Block B, Wilmot Township, northwest of St. Agatha. John died in 1868, less than a month before his father, leaving Mattie with four children. He was buried in the cemetery close to his home, which is now known as the St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery. Mattie carried on with the farm for many years, selling it in 1890 to son John, married to Mary Jutzi. John and Mary moved to Pigeon, Michigan, and sold the farm to John's cousin Catherine and her husband Isaac Wagler. Mattie died in 1916 and is also buried at St. Agatha.

Joseph P. Mayer married Magdalena (Lena) Erb in 1861. Lena was the daughter of Christian Erb and Elizabeth Schultz. They are said to have moved to the Goshen area in Indiana in 1869. After daughter Barbara married Joseph J. Borntreger in 1882 and moved to Hartford, Lyon County, Kansas, Joseph, Lena and daughter Magdalena soon followed. Magdalena married Gideon C. Bender there. Drought and grasshoppers devastated the crops during the next several years. The Mayers and Borntregers moved to Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1894. This Amish Mennonite settlement was located midway between Washington, D.C., and Harrisonburg, Virginia. Other Canadian families in this settlement included Kropfs, Roths and Waglers. Joseph wrote four letters from Hartford, Kansas, to Christian Miller,

his cousin in Pennsylvania (Christian's mother was Franey (Petersheim) Miller, sister to Joseph's mother Mattie (Petersheim) Mayer) between October 1887 and March 1, 1992. He wrote two during 1894 from Opal, Fauquier County, Virginia. (8)

The settlement in this part of Virginia had a brief existence, and in 1898, the Mayers and Borntragers moved to Fayette County, Illinois. In 1905, the Borntragers left for Bloomfield, Montana, but the Mayers returned to Kansas and then went to live with daughter Magdalena and her family at Kalona, Iowa. Joseph died there in 1909. Lena then went to be with Barbara in Montana, but returned to Iowa after Barbara's death. Lena died in 1916. Both Joseph and Lena are buried in the Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Cemetery, Kalona, Iowa. (9)

Veronica (Frene) Mayer married **Christian L. Gingerich** in 1865. Christian was a widower with two Miller step-daughters, although one of them probably died before his marriage to Veronica. Christian had purchased the south 50 acres of Lot 17, South Snyder's Road from his first wife's husband's estate (John Miller) in 1862 and sold them in 1887. Christian is remembered as a woodworker, living at the west end of Baden -- probably at the north end of the lot which he owned between 1862 and 1887. Christian is buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, and likely Veronica is too, but no tombstone has survived. (10)

Joel Mayer married Magdalena Roth in 1865. She was born to John Roth and Magdalena Nafziger in Butler County, Ohio, and came to Canada with her widowed mother who then married Christian Wagler. When Joel's father Christian sold the farm in 1866, Joel purchased the north half allowing for a right of way to the south half which was purchased by Jacob N. Kropf, married to his sister Susanna. No doubt, Joel and Magdalena built a new set of buildings closer to Snyder's Road on the northwest side of the largest of the Baden Hills. In 1872, Joel provided a home for his uncle John Meyer after the death of his wife. John's will stipulated that Joel should be "well rewarded for nursing him." (11)

In 1895, the Joel Mayer property was sold to Joel's nephew, Peter L. Mayer, son of John who died when Peter was only a lad. Peter established a mission at Baden, which eventually became a Mennonite church but later amalgamated with the Geiger Mennonite Church to form the Wilmot Mennonite Church on Bleam's Road. The former Baden Mission building was destroyed by fire and the site has been replaced by new homes.

Joel and Magdalena retired in the village of Baden. They are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, west of the village.

Susanna Mayer married **Jacob N. Kropf**, son of Henry Kropf and Anna Nafziger, in 1854. (By the way, Anna was a sister to Magdalena (Roth) Mayer's mother.) Susanna and Jacob probably remained with her parents, and bought the south half of the farm, along with the homestead buildings, from her father in 1866. This property included the southwestern slope of the largest of the Baden Hills.

There is some question concerning the death date of Jacob. His death was registered as 1889 -- the family had given 1884. The cause of his death was consumption (probably T.B.) Probably because of Jacob's illness, Alfred Kaufman as assignee and Susanna Kropf sold the farm in 1888. Susanna is then said to have remarried to **John Mast**, and they lived in Baden. No doubt, Jacob was buried in the Kropf family cemetery at the east end of Baden. Susanna and John may be buried in Fairmont Cemetery, south of Baden.

JACOB AND CATHERINE MARGUERITE (CHARPIOT) MEYER IN CANADA

After the discovery of 1856 the passenger list containing the family of Jacob and Catherine we had to revise our story. We looked more carefully at the census records. There beside John and Catherine Meyer, were Jacob and Catherine Meyer with children Susan and Michael. Emile, born in 1850, Emil, age 6 on the passenger list in 1856, and Michael, age 10, in the Wilmot census, must be one and the same person.

Catherine, daughter of Jacob and Catherine, was already married to John Bennet and was there too with a husband and two infant daughters. All three family units were probably living on John and Catherine Meyer's property, south of the crossroads known as Petersburg.

Jacob Frederich Meyer was also already married to Barbara Brenneman, and they may have been in Huron County by the time of the 1861 census. Susanna married Menno Oesch of Hay Township in 1864, and that is where they resided.

Jacob does not appear in any further records; so he may have died sometime in the 1860s, whether in Wilmot or in Huron County, we do not know. Michael does not appear again either; so perhaps he went to live with one of his uncles or aunts in Ohio. According to family tradition, one of Jacob Frederick's descendants visited an "Uncle Michael" in Ohio. Catherine (Charpiot) Mayer lived with her daughter Susanna in Hay Township. She died in 1901 and is buried in the Blake Mennonite Cemetery.

THE FAMILY OF JACOB AND CATHERINE (CHARPIOT) MEYER

Jacob Meyer, b. 21 Mar 1808, Montbéliard, Doubs, France
 d. after 1861 (in Wilmot Twp. census in 1861)
 m. 15 Dec 1836, Montbéliard?

Catherine Marguerite Charpiot, b. 26 Sep 1812, France
 d. 26 Jul 1901, Hay Township

Children:

1) Jacob Frederick Meyer
 b. 2 Apr 1839 Montbéliard
 d. 11 Jun 1931 N.Hamburg
 m. 1 Mar 1859 Wilmot
 Barbara Brenneman

b. 6 Nov 1832 Wilmot
 d. 17 Sep 1918 N.Hamburg
 dau. of John Brenneman
 and Magdalena Schultz

2) Catherine Meyer
 b. ca.1840 France
 d. before 1872
 m. 22 Jan 1858 Waterloo

John Bennet
 b. ca.1839 Wilmot
 d.
 son of Noah and Barbara Bennet

Grandchildren:

Magdalena Meyer (1860-1955) m. Menno
 Schwartzentruber
 Catherine Meyer (1861-1943) m. Menno Gascho
 John Meyer (1864-1954) m. Leah Gascho
 Barbara Meyer (1865-1940) m. Joseph E.
 Schwartzentruber

Susanna Meyer (1867-1928) m. Daniel Schrag
 Jacob Meyer (1869-1960) m. Mary Kipfer
 Veronica Meyer (1871-1909) m. Jacob Kipfer
 Menno Meyer (1873-1952) m. Barbara Leis
 Lydia Meyer (1876-1964) m. David Gingerich

Barbara Bennet (1859-1922) m. John Erb (12)
 Catherine Bennet (ca.1860-1876)

(continued)

3) Peter Frederick Meyer
 b. 14 Jan 1843 Dung, near Montbéliard
 d. 3/4 Jun 1850 Montbéliard

4) Christophe Meyer
 b. 18 Oct 1845, Harlseim, Basel, Switz.
 d. 27 Apr 1853, Montbéliard

5) Elise Susanne/Catherine Meyer
 b. 21 Sep 1846 Bart, near Montbéliard
 d. 25 Jun 1852 Montbéliard

6) Susanna Catherine Meyer
 b. 19 Sep 1848 Montbéliard
 d. 23 Apr 1905 Hay
 m. 7 Feb 1864 Canada
 Menno Oesch
 b. 30 Dec 1836 Wilmot
 d. 3 Dec 1910 Hay
 son of John Oesch
 and Barbara Schultz

Jacob Oesch (1864-1943) m Mary Schwartzentruber
 John Oesch (1868-1944) m. Anna Theiler
 Catherine Oesch (1869-1907) m. Henry Brenneman
 Barbara Oesch (1870-1971) m. Samuel Roth
 Rudolph Oesch (1874-1958) m. Elizabeth Oesch
 Moses Oesch (1877-1957) m. Lydia Shantz
 Anna Oesch (1879-1956) m. Herman Walters
 Menno Oesch (1881-1910)

7) Emile/Michael Meyer (Emil on 1856 ship passenger list,

b. 22 Nov 1850 Montbéliard Michael in 1861 census in Wilmot
d. ? may have gone to Ohio -- no further record)

8) Elise Emily Meyer
b. 9 Mar 1854 Montbéliard
d. 15 Jul 1855 "

THE SURVIVING CHILDREN OF JACOB AND CATHERINE (CHARPIOT) ESTABLISH THEIR HOMES

Jacob Frederick Meyer and Barbara Brenneman were married in 1859. Barbara was the daughter of John and Magdalena (Schultz) Brenneman on whose farm the Wilmot Centre School and Cemetery were and are still located. The cemetery is still in use as a community cemetery. The school is being used as a private school (in 2007).

About 1861, Jacob and Barbara moved to Stanley Township, Huron County, accompanied, no doubt by Jacob's mother and sister. In 1857, John Brenneman had purchased Lot 5, Concession XIII, a 153-acre lot from John Schwartzentruber. John Brenneman's two sons-in-law, Jacob L. Gingerich and his wife Mary occupied the north half and the Meyers, the south half. These properties are a few miles north of the hamlet of Blake. The Meyers did not obtain ownership of their land until 1880, after the death of John Brenneman, and in 1882 they sold their portion to Jacob and Mary Gingerich as well.

It was also in 1882 that their oldest daughter Magdalena married Menno Schwartzentruber. They lived in Hay Township -- perhaps with Jacob and Barbara Meyer, somewhere on the Goshen Line. Menno died in 1908, and in 1910 Magdalena moved to Kitchener with her two daughters. Jacob and Barbara moved to Baden in 1915 to live with daughter Susanna and her husband Daniel Schrag and a year later they went to live with their daughter Catherine and her husband Menno Gascho at New Hamburg. When they moved back to the Baden area, Jacob and Barbara joined the Geiger Mennonite Church. Barbara died in 1918, but Jacob lived to the ripe old age of 92, passing away in 1931. They are buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery, beside Barbara's birthplace. (13)

Catherine Meyer, the second child of Jacob and Catherine, has been somewhat elusive. Her birth did not show up in the records at Montbéliard; so we do not know where she was born. We eventually found her marriage to **John Bennet** in 1858 in F. W. Bindeman's marriage record book, confirming that she was, indeed, the daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Charpiot) Meyer, although one needs to have a good imagination to get Charpiot out of "Chaepis." At the time of the 1861 census, they were living south of Petersburg in close proximity to her uncle John and Catherine Meyer as well as her parents. Catherine and John Bennet already had two infant daughters.

We do not find any of the above Meyers in the 1871 census -- either because they were missed when the census was taken or we missed them when we searched the census. In 1872, Catherine (Brenneman) Meyer died in February and her husband John Meyer died in November. John's Will stipulated that a third of his estate was to go to the children of Catherine and John Bennet -- "Catharine first wife of John Bennet and daughter of Jacob Meyer." So, Catherine (Meyer) Bennet had also died by 1872. For whatever reason, her uncle John took the responsibility to provide for his niece's children. He did add a note that if the children

died before reaching the age of 21, their portion should fall back to the estate.(14) Daughter Catherine Bennet died of "consumption" at age 16. Barbara survived and, no doubt, received her inheritance.

Susanna Catherine Meyer married **Menno Oesch** of Hay Township in 1864. Menno was the son of John and Barbara (Schultz) Oesch. They farmed on the Goshen Line (the east part of Lot 28, Concession XI), east of the Blake Amish Mennonite Church where they were members. This farm was passed on in the Menno Oesch family for several generations. In 2004 the buildings were no longer in use.

Descendants often remarked that Susanna could speak French better than either German or English. Since there were a few French-speaking people in the area, she may have had some opportunities to use her preferred language. Susanna and Menno are buried in the Blake Mennonite Cemetery -- now known as Lakeview.(15)

Emile/Michael Meyer was registered as Emile at Montbéliard in 1850, as Emil, age 6 on the ship passenger list in 1856, and as Michael, age 11, in the 1861 census in Wilmot. According to family traditon, Michael was raised by relatives in Archbold, Ohio, and someone from the Jacob Frederich Meyer family had visited him, but contact had been lost. In an effort to establish a contact, I had submitted an article on the Meyer/Mayer family in Canada to *Mennonite Family History*, but no information concerning Michael was received.(16)

Notes:

- 1) The baptismal dates were recorded in the Montbéliard Church Record book. (give complete reference once Springer's book is published)
- 2) This date and place was found by Joe Springer (letter of 28 Nov 2000) in the Basel (Holee) *Geburtsbuch*, but not recorded at Montbéliard.
- 3) Peter Sommer, a resident of Wilmot, wrote to his sister and brother-in-law, Christian Iutzi in Germany (later to migrate to Butler County, Ohio) in May 1829 and, among other things, reported the marriage of "Old" Brenneman's daughter Catherine to a certain "Hans Meier." (OKCILC.27 -- #27 of the collection of letters saved by the Christian Iutzi family)
- 4) The Meyers sailed on the Ship *Rattler* from Le Havre, France, to New York, landing on May 21, 1856. There were many other familiar family names on board,

such as Graber, Roth, Riche/Rich, and Egly. None of the family groups are familiar to me, however.

5) For more details on the early Amish Mennonite settlement in Canada, see *The Amish and Their Neighbours, The German Block, Wilmot Township, 1822-1860* by Lorraine Roth. Waterloo, Ontario: Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, 1998.

6) Copies of a number of letters written by the Mayers and Gaschos to their cousin Christian Miller in Pennsylvania were sent to Lorraine Roth at the time the Petersheim book was being researched. The Mayer letters are in the Mayer legal file. The Gascho letters are in John Gascho's file.

7) The genealogy of the Christian Mayer family is found in *Descendants and History of Georg Petersheim Family* by Petersheim Descendants. Gordonville, Penna.: Pequea Publishers, 1979, pages 418-[454]. The statement about Christian's second marriage is found on page 418, at the end of #4205.

8) A list of these letters is taken from "Research Note: A Treasury of Nineteenth Century Documents Concerning Amish from Lancaster County and Europe" by David J. Rempel Smucker, in *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 1999. Most of the letters cited in this collection had been preserved by Christian Miller and included correspondence from his Petersheim relatives in Canada -- the Mayers and Gaschos. We do not have copies of Joseph Mayer's letters.

9) The story of the movements of the Joseph P. Mayer family is told in *From Hazelbrush to Cornfields, The First One Hundred Years of the Amish-Mennonites in Johnson, Washington and Iowa Counties of Iowa, 1846-1946* by Katie Yoder Lind. Kalona, Iowa: Mennonite Historical Society of Iowa, 1994, page 336.

10) For more details on the Veronica and Christian L. Gingerich family, see *Gingerich family history & genealogy, 1825-2000* by Alvin Gingerich et al, Baden, Ontario, 2000, pages 28-60.

11) John Meyer died in 1872. His will stipulated that Joel should be "well rewarded for nursing him." Notes on the Will appear at the end of this summary introduction.

12) What is known about the family of Barbara Bennet and John Erb is found under "Miscellaneous Meyer/Mayer Notes" at the end of this introduction. Also see the ERB file.

13) For more details on Jacob Frederick's family, see *Family History and Genealogy of Jacob Frederick and Barbara (Brenneman) Meyer*, by Ruby (Gingerich) Hammer, Baden, Ont., 1978. Remember that the introductory pages (2 and 3) need revision.

14) "Miscellaneous Meyer/Mayer Notes" contains some notes on the Will of John Meyer.

15) Copies of Susanna's birth certificate and a translation are found at the end of this file. The genealogy of Susanna and Menno Oesch are found in the *Menno Oesch* section of *the John and Barbara (Schultz) Oesch Family History and Genealogy*, Volume II by Lorraine Roth, Kitchener, Ont., 1964-69.

16) "The Meyer/Mayer Family in Canada" by Lorraine Roth in Mennonite Family History, Vol. VI, No. 1, January 1987. Responses were received to this article, which added some details for other members of the family, but nothing concerning Michael.

Additional items and documents in this file:

"Family Chronicle" - Birth and marriage record of Menno Gascho and Catharina Mayer and the births of their children, including 3 male infants, not mentioned in any genealogies.

"Miscellaneous Meyer/Mayer Notes - mostly concerning John Meyer's Will and his beneficiaries

"Correspondence (mostly Mayer and Gascho) from MILLER Collection" - from the Mayers and Gaschos in Canada to their Petersheim relatives in Pennsylvania - dates and summaries of letters.

Photocopy of page 336 *From Hazelbrush to Cornfields* re Joseph and Lena Mayer

Christian Mayer and John Meyer correspondence with University of Toronto re their land purchases - notes

Meyer/Mayer information gleaned by Joe Springer for his publication of the Montbéliard Church Record book (still in process)

Printout of ship passenger list with Meyer family on board (highlighted)

Photocopy of Susanne Catherine Meyer's birth certificate from Montbéliard, brought with her when she immigrated with her parents in 1856.

Translation of the above birth certificate

Sources of Information:

Research by the Jean Hueckel family, Coutenans, France

Research by Lorraine Roth in the Archives at Montbéliard, France

Montbéliard Mennonite Church Record Book (publication in process)

The Jacques Frey family by Louetta M. Miller

Elizabeth/Barbara Frey and Andrew Baecher by David R. Smucker

Further notes by Carol Liechty and Joe Springer

Addresses of persons supplying information

Louetta M. Miller
19111 Co. Rd. B
Archbold, Ohio 43502

Carol E. Liechty
(Mrs. J. Benjie)
606 S. Harrison Place
Mt Pleasant, Ia. 52641

David J. R. Smucker
734 Main Street
Akron, Pa. 17501

Joe Springer
Mennonite Historical Library

Goshen College
Goshen, Ind. 46526

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
April, 2008

*****The following had all the different spellings of surnames on the file from Conrad Grebel which I copied.

FARMS ON SOUTH SIDE SNYDER'S ROAD, PETERSBURG TO BADEN

Lot 8 Christian Schwartzentruber (see picture pages)

Lot 9 Michael Schwartzentruber (see picture pages_

Lot 10 Luginbill (1835-
Daniel Wing (1849-1872) W. pt.
John Wing (1872-1876) W. pt.
Nicolaus Wagler (1876-
Daniel Wing (1849-1884) E ½
Zurgrigg (1884-) (became Earl Litwiller farm)

Lot 11 Christian Farni (1833- Lot with largest and most easterly of the
Christian Mayer (1833/39 Baden Hills
U. of T. Christian Moyer/Mayer (1845 front
U. of T. Christian Mayer (1856- rear
Christian Mayer (1856-1866) S ½ and right of way
Jacob Kropf (1866-1888/89) (Southwestern slope)
(Wife; Susanna Mayer
Joel Mayer (1866-1895) N ½, reserving right of way
(Northwestern slope)
Peter L. Meyer (1895-1900) N ½
(Son of John P. Mayer,
Nephew of Peter L. Meyer)

The lowest, most westerly of the Baden hills is across from the Kropf property and cemetery, on the north side of Snyder's Road.

--*1912--B & S, John Schwartzentruber, bachelor, to Christian
Schwartzentruber, 100 ac., E ½
--*1914--B & S, John E. Schwartzentruber to Theobald S. Dietrich,
100 ac., W ½
--*1930--Grant, Christian Schwartzentruber to Solomon Swartzentruber
100 ac., E ½
--*1961--B & S Solomon Swartzentruber to Nelson W. Swartzentruber
1 ac.
--*1962--B & S Solomon Swartzentruber to Elroy Swartzentruber

99 ac., E ½

--*1988-B & S, Elroy and Alta Swartzentruber to Jake R & Zorka Halapir

Lot 10 SSR

Front -- *1834 -Patent, Crown to John Lugibull, 50 ac.

Book C1 -- 1850 - B & S, John and Catherine Lugibuhll to Daniel Wing, 50 ac.
#1890

Rear --**/49 --1835 --sold to John Lugenbiel

--1849 -transfer John Lugenbill to Daniel Wing

Book C3 --1854 -Deed Poll, U.Of T.to Daniel Wing, rear ¾
#336

--*1865 - B & S, Daniel Wing to Christian Mayer, 1.38 ac.

(see Lot 11 for exchange sale of angles of their lots)

--1872 -- B & S, Daniel Wing to John Wing 92/1/34, (W pt)

--*1876-- John Wing to Nicolaus Wagler, " "

--*1884-Daniel Wing to Jacob Zurbrigg, 100 ac., E 1/2

Lot 11 SSR

Front -- *1833 --Patent, Crown to Christian Farni , 50 ac.

L(73) -1833/39 -B & S, Christian Farni, Woolwich, to Christian Mayer, 50
#680 ac., 100 pds 10 sh.

Rear --**/49 -1845 - sold to Christian Moyer/Mayer

Book C2 - 1856 -Deed Poll, U. of T.to Christian Mayer, rear ¾, 187 pd, 10 sh
#848

--*1865 --B & S, Christian Mayer to Daniel Wing ,1.38 ac.

(see lot 10 for exchange sale of angles of their lots)

--*1866 --B & S, Christian Mayer to Jacob Kropf, 97.16 ac.,pt of
S ½ & right of way

--*1866-B & S, Christian Mayer to Joel Mayer, 99.92 ac.,N ½
resg. right of way

--*1888/89 -B & S, Alfred Kaufman (assignee) and Susanna Kropf to
Jacob Seip, 97.16 ac., S ½ and right of way

--*1895-- Convey., Moses Springer, assignee, to Peter L. Meyer

--*1900-B & S, Peter L. Mayer to John Lorentz, 99.92 ac., N ½

Lot 12 SSR

Front -- *1850 --Patent, Crown to Christian Geiszler, 50 ac.

Rear -- **/49 --1840 -- sold to Joseph Jacobs

--1853 -- assignment/transfer Joseph Jacobs to John Brubacher

Book C2 --1853 -- Deed Poll, U. Of T. to John Brubacher, 150 ac.,93 pd, 15 sh
#103

#208 --1854 -- B & S, John and Catherine Brubacher to Nicholas Klein
10/0/19, S pt

#209 --1854 -- B & S John and Catherine Brubacher to David Kropf
90 ac. pt of S 100

#210 --1854 - B & S, John & Catherine Brubacher to Christian Geisler
50 ac. S ½ of N 100

-- *1857/73? - B & S, Niclaus Klein to David Kropf, 10/0/19, S pt.

␣*****Not in new files

DOC ␣+-␣d--

OB< ␣␣Miscellaneous Meyer/Mayer Notes␣

Notes of Will of John Meyer -- d. Nov 23, 1872, Wilmot

-- had resided at Joel Meyer's

-- exors. -- Jacob Brenneman of SEhope

-- Joseph Schultz, Wilmot

-- Joel "Meyers" shall be well rewarded for nursing him

-- 1/3 part to go to children of Catharine and John Bennet (Catharine first wife of John Bennet and dau. of Jacob Meyer)

-- if children die before 21, their share shall fall to estate and be divided among relatives

-- probate -- Sept 19, 1872 (this must be date of Will, not Probate)

-- witnesses: John Gascho, Joel Meyer

The Jacob Meyer family arrived in New York on May 21, 1856 on a ship named

␣Rattler␣. They were listed as follows: Meyer, Jacques, 47, farmer

Catharine, 41, farmer

Jacques, 17, farmer

Catherine, 16, farmer

Emil, 6, child

Susanne, 8, child

The Meyers in the 1861 Wilmot census list:

Bennet, John, 21, b. Canada, farmer, Mennonite, 2 storey frame house

" Catherine, 20, b. France

children: Barbara, 2

Catherine, 1

Meyer, John, 62, b. France, labourer, Mennonite, 2 storey frame house

" Catherine, 48, b. Germany

Meyer, Jacob, 53, b. France, farmer, Mennonite, 1 storey log house

" Catherine, 47, b. France

children: Susan 13, b. France

Michael, 11, b. "

Bennet/Meyer marriage:

John Bennet, 19, b. & residing in Wilmot, son of Noah & Barbara Bennet
m. Jan 22, 1858 by F. W. Bindeman
Cathr. Meyer, 18, b. in France, residing in Wilmot
dau. of Jacob Meyer & Cath. "Chaepis"

Bennet/Erb marriage and known children:

Barbara Bennett, dau. of John Bennett and Catherine Meyer
b. 13 Jan 1859
d. 3 Apr 1922, Hay Township
m. 22 Sept 1874, Wilmot Township
John Erb, son of Christian Erb and Elizabeth Schultz
b. 13 Apr 1835, Wilmot
d. ?

Children: Katie Erb (ca.1875-) b. Huron County
m. 4 Oct 1898, at Baden, to Louis Gies

Josiah Erb (1885-) m. Stanley Township

(over)

The following Bennets may, or may not be related to the foregoing:

Henry Bennett, d. 15 Feb 1882, age 10 days, in Wilmot Township
information by John Bennett, Lutheran

John G. Troyer, son of Sarah Ann Bennet and John Troyer, m. 1892
(did not note location, but it was probably Hay Twp.)

Translation of Susanna Meyer's Birth Certificate:

Department of Doubs
Town of Montbeliard

Certificate

Imperial
Stamp

of the Register of Birth of the Town of Montbeliard
Department of Doubs

Susanne Catherine
Meyer

Born the
19th September
1848

The year one thousand eight hundred forty-eight, the twentieth September, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the Town Hall, before me Charles Samuel Sahler mayor and registrar of the Town of Montbeliard appeared Mr. Jacques Meyer, domestic, age 40 years, resident of Montbeliard, who presented to us a child of the feminine sex, born yesterday at six o'clock in the evening in his residence on Besancon Street, of him and of Catherine Charpiot his wife, age 37 years, of said residence, and to this child he has delared he wishes to give the names Susanne Catherine. The said declaration and presentation made in presence of Mr. Georges Frederick Beleney, bailiff, age 36 years, and Jean Georges Frederic Goll, farmer, age 51 years, the first one resident at Montbeliard and the second at Grand Charmont. And the father and the two witnesses have signed before us and after the reading: Signed in the Register: Jacques Meyer, G. F. Beleney, J. G. F. Goll, and C. S. Sahler.

Certified true copy delivered by us
Mayor of the Town of Montbeliard, the 1st March 1856

The Mayor

C S Sahler

Seen by us President of the law court
of Montbeliard for the certification of
the signature of Mr. Sahler Mayor of the
Town of Montbeliard, the 25 Mar 1856

Stamp
of
Montbeliard

signature illegible

Translated from the French
by Lorraine Roth, January, 1978

MAYER CORRESPONDENCE

At the time the Petersheims were working on their genealogy (late 1970s), someone sent me copies of the following letters written by members of the Mayer family to Christian Miller, son of Franey (Petersheim) and Christian Miller. Franey was a sister to Magdalena Petersheim, married to Christian Mayer. Thus, the Mayers who were writing the letters were cousins of Christian Miller, Jr. These letters were part of a large collection of correspondence and documents which had been saved by the Miller family.

The letters contain the usual pious sentiments and reports on weather, crops, and prices. The latter would warrant study -- such as 10 cents for butter and 8 cents for eggs. Persons mentioned will be noted here.

- 1) Wilmot Township, Oct. 29, 1853, from John Mayer to Christian Miller (transcription and translation only)
 - greets Miller's wife and children and his mother, "my dear aunt", Susan and her husband and all good friends and relatives
 - reported that Joel got one foot into the threshing machine and pinched off all the toes. He is getting better, but he was very sick.
 - John was hoping that John Petersheim and Christian's mother would come to visit
 - reported his marriage to Magdalene Litwiller on the 4th of October 1853
 - sends greetings from "Dadi" and "Mami" (Christian Mayer and Magdalena (Petersheim) and from his brothers and sisters
 - also from cousin Christian Gaschos (wife was Christina Petersheim) and from "Dadi Litwillers" (John's in-laws)

- 2) Wilmot Township, September 25th 1858, from John P. Mayer to Christian Miller (copy of original, transcription and translation)
- greets Miller's wife and children, his sister Susana and her husband (Franey must have died in interval), Cousin John Petersheim and wife and children, Aunt Anna Petersheim and children and all friends and relatives
 - reported receiving Miller's letter of 7th August
 - sorry to hear that John Petersheim is not well
 - John Gascho is better again and can work, "Bevle" (Barbara, John's wife) is better again but not well, David is better again but can't work much
 - sends greetings to those mentioned earlier and to Aunt Anna Petersheim and her children and to Aunt Magdalena King and her children
 - sends greetings from "Dadi" (so Magdalena has died), from his brothers and sisters, his wife and children
 - his address is now Waterloo County, Wilmot Township, Saint Agatha Post Office, Canada West (Ontario was known as Canada West until 1867)
- 3) Baden, December 2 1861? (should probably be 1865), from Christian and Frene Gingerich, to Christian Miller, wife and children (transcription and translation -- 1861 is obviously the wrong year, but I do not have the original to see whether it was transcribed incorrectly -- Veronica Mayer and Christian Gingerich were not married until 1865.
- reports they got home all right; so they must have been to Pennsylvania for a visit -- perhaps a "wedding trip"
 - "Our Magdalena [Christian's step-daughter] and Ernst [perhaps hired help] were very glad to see us."
 - Daniel Steinman's wife's funeral was yesterday (died in 1865)
 - Joel Erb's wife is also very bad (did not die until 1931!)
 - went to church with the sleigh today
- John "Meiers" want to come tomorrow (could be uncle John or brother John)
 - "David Gascho [cousin] and "Sussi" are also at home now" -- must have been on a trip too
- (continued)
- 4) Baden, Waterloo Co., Canada West, April 4, 1865, Joel Mayer to Christian Miller, wife and children
- complains about having to "sit in the house" because he fell and hurt his knee
 - is all alone today because everyone else had gone to [New] Hamburg to buy wedding clothes -- his sister was "announced" last Sunday and is getting married to Christian Gingerich on Easter Tuesday, the 18th April
 - all are invited to come -- if they don't come, he would like a letter
 - sends greetings to Henry "Ummel" (probably Umble), his wife and children (Henry was married to Susan Miller, sister to Christian

A list of documents and letters from the above-mentioned collection was published in *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* , Vol. 22, No. 1, January 1999, as "Research Note: A Treasury of Nineteenth Century Documents Concerning Amish from Lancaster County and Europe" by David J. Rempel Smucker. This article lists only the writers and the person/s to whom addressed and the date, but not the contents of the letters. Nor does it reveal where the collection is now kept.

That list contains the following letters written by Joseph P. Mayer. This list is of interest, because it reveals where Joseph and his family were living at the time he penned these letters.

Hartford, Lyon Co., Kans., 1887, October 8, Joseph P. Mayer to Christian Miller

"	"	"	"	November 21,	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	1888,	November 11	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	1892,	March 1	"	"	"	"	"	"
Opal,	Fauquier Co.,	Va.,	1894,	January 22,	Joseph Mayer to	Christian Miller				
"	"	"	"	December 23,	"	"	"	"	"	"

The above letters and lists are in the legal file drawer, entitled MAYER
 Many letters were also written by John Gascho, son of Christian Gascho and
 Christina Petersheim. Hence, the Mayers and Gaschos were cousins.

CORRESPONDENCE (mostly Mayer and Gascho) from MILLER COLLECTION

At the time the Petersheims were working on their genealogy (late 1970s),
 someone sent me copies of a number of letters and related papers. Most of them
 were written by members of the Mayer and Gascho families of Canada to Christian
 Miller, son of Franey (Petersheim) and Christian Miller of Pennsylvania. Franey
 was a sister to Magdalena Petersheim, married to Christian Mayer, and Christina
 Petersheim, married to Christian Gascho. Most of the Gascho letters were
 written by John, bishop in Wilmot (1872-1909), and they have been transferred to
 his file. These letters were part of a large collection of correspondence and
 documents which had been saved by the Miller family.

The letters contain the usual pious sentiments and reports on weather, crops,
 and prices. The latter would warrant study -- such as 10 cents for butter and 8
 cents for eggs. Persons mentioned will be noted here.

The earliest letters were written by Johannes Guth to Jacob Guth, but reflect
 the Canadian scene at a very early date.

- 1) January 27 1819, Johannes Guth, Waterloo Township, Upper Canada, Grand River
 addressed to Jacob Guth, Lancaster County (original only)
 -- written to Christian and Jacob Guth

(accompanied by a note that Christian Guth's farm was inherited by Franey (Petersheim) Miller for taking care of them in their old age)
-- letter gives conditions and costs of settling in Canada

- 2) November 4 1824, Johannes and Magdalena Guth, Waterloo Township, Halton County, Upper Canada, to Christian and Jacob Guth
 - one can now buy a 200-acre lot for 40 dollars and with all expenses 50
 - by next spring a crowd of "haeftler" (people with hooks and eyes -- hence Amish) are moving in
 - built a barn 72 x 46
- 3) Wilmot Township, Oct. 29, 1853, from John Mayer to Christian Miller (transcription and translation only)
 - greets Miller's wife and children and his mother, "my dear aunt", Susan [Christian's sister] and her husband and all good friends and relatives
 - reported that Joel got one foot into the threshing machine and pinched off all the toes. He is getting better, but he was very sick.
 - John was hoping that John Petersheim and Christian's mother would come to visit
 - reported his marriage to Magdalene Litwiller on the 4th of October 1853
 - sends greetings from "Dadi" and "Mami" (Christian Mayer and Magdalena (Petersheim) and from his brothers and sisters
 - also from cousin Christian Gaschos (wife was Christina Petersheim) and from "Dadi Litwillers" (John's in-laws)
- 4) Wilmot Township, September 25th 1858, from John P. Mayer to Christian Miller (copy of original, transcription and translation)
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 - reported receiving Miller's letter of 7th August
 - sorry to hear that John Petersheim is not well
 - John Gascho is better again and can work, "Bevle" (Barbara, John's wife) is better again but not well, David is better again but can't work much
 - sends greetings to those mentioned earlier and to Aunt Anna Petersheim and her children and to Aunt Magdalena King and her children

(continued)

 - sends greetings from "Dadi" (so "Mami" has died), from his brothers and sisters, his wife and children
 - his address is now Waterloo County, Wilmot Township, Saint Agatha Post Office, Canada West (Ontario was known as Canada West until 1867)
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 - Daniel Steinman's wife's funeral was yesterday (died in 1865)
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 - went to church with the sleigh today
 - John "Meiers" want to come tomorrow (could be uncle John or brother John)
 - "David Gascho [cousin] and "Sussi" are also at home now" -- must have

been on a trip too

- 6) Baden, Waterloo Co., Canada West, April 4, 1865, Joel Mayer to Christian Miller, wife and children
 - complains about having to "sit in the house" because he fell and hurt his knee
 - is all alone today because everyone else had gone to [New] Hamburg to buy wedding clothes -- his sister was "announced" last Sunday and is getting married to Christian Gingerich on Easter Tuesday, the 18th April
 - all are invited to come -- if they don't come, he would like a letter
 - sends greetings to Henry "Ummel" (probably Umble), his wife and children (Henry was married to Susan Miller, sister to Christian)
- 7) A map showing locations of Amish farmers, (Petersheims and others) with some hand-written commentary

The following document and two letters are a unit:

- 8) This document states that a mortgage was granted to Joseph Schrag and his wife [Elizabeth Diener] for a farm (Lot 4, Concession II, [South] Easthope, County of Perth, Province of Canada,* memorial recorded Oct. 3, 1863, by Andrew Miller and wife Elizabeth, Leacock Township, Lancaster County. Evidently, the mortgage is being transferred to Christian Steinman of Wilmot Township, Waterloo County, for 2,200 dollars lawful money of the United States by way of a bargain and sale, drawn up in the City of Lancaster, 23rd April 1867. Witnessed by Geo Anderson and Simon P.? Eby Signed Andrew Miller, Elizabeth Miller made her mark.

*note: the Province of Ontario did not come into being until July 1, 1867

- 9) Baden, 12 June 1872, from Christian Steinman to Christian Miller. Evidently Steinman had written to Christian Miller to underwrite the transfer of mortgage from Andrew Miller to Steinman. Christian Miller was one of Andrew Millers "managers," and seems to have been worried about signing. Steinman explains that it was no risk, because Andrew Miller had long ago received the money via Jacob Steinman, but it was a legal requirement.

Evidently, Jacob Steinman was old and weak in mind or he could explain things to Christian Miller. Christian Steinman asks whether Jacob is well.

- 10) Wilmot Township, Waterloo Co., 17th July 1872, Christian Steinmann to Christian Miller
Steinman is still asking for papers to be signed. Joseph Schrag has sold his place but cannot draw any money as long as the mortgage is not discharged.

Relationships in above document and letters: Andrew Miller and Christian Miller (married to Franey Petersheim) were brothers. They had sponsored and taken care of their sister's children, the Dieners, and brought them from Europe to Pennsylvania. One of the Diener nieces (Elizabeth) had married Joseph Schrag who took her to Canada. Christian Steinman was not related, but was acquainted with the Pennsylvania folks, because his brother Jacob lived there. He was both a minister in the Amish Mennonite congregation in Wilmot and a businessman farmer and well able to supply a mortgage.

11) Die Sonnen Uhr" [The Sun Dial] with editorial comments by Joseph F. Beiler, (probably in "The Diary", August ?)

Joseph F. Beiler was one of the persons working on the Petersheim research, and he probably added this article in this collection for good measure.

It tells the story of a bishop, Mose Hartz in the Conestoga valley, who perhaps did not practice shunning as most Amish thought it should be.

I haven't been able to figure out the significance of the sun dial -- it may simply be the title of the monthly feature.

Lorraine Roth
Waterloo, Ontario

old version

THE MEYER (MAYER) FAMILY IN CANADA

In 1856 Widow Catherine Meyer and her two children migrated to Canada. Her children were Jacob Frederick (born 1839) and Susanna (born 1848). The children brought with them their birth certificates issued in Montbeliard, France. From these we learned their place and date of birth and the names of their parents.

According to family tradition, one of Jacob Frederick's descendants visited an "Uncle Michael" in Ohio. The date of the visit is not known. From this story the family concluded that Jacob and Susanna had a brother Michael who, for some reason or other, went to Ohio soon after the family arrived in Canada.

In my research in the Montbeliard archives in the summer of 1985 I ran across this Meyer family. Jacob Frederick and Susanna had a number of brothers and sisters but records of death were found for all of them except Emile, born in 1850. Was this the "Uncle Michael" who lived in Ohio? Perhaps he was registered as Emile, but the family called him Michael. But that leaves us with the problem of a six-year-old boy going to Ohio.

In the records I also found brothers and sisters for Jacob Meyer, father of Jacob Frederick and Susanna. Among them was a Michael Meyer who had a son Michael. I would be inclined to think that the "Uncle Michael" referred to above was one of these Michaels. That, however, leaves us with the question of what happened to Emile. I suspect that he died, and I simply did not find the record. I did not find the death of Jacob, the father, either.

Jacob Meyer had two older brothers who I think also came to Canada. John would correspond with the one who married Catherine Brenneman and is thought to have no surviving descendants. Christophe or Christian is very likely the one who came to Pennsylvania, married Magdalena Petersheim and then migrated to Canada. Christian's birth record spelled his name Mayer and that is the spelling this particular family has retained. Most of the time the name was spelled Meyer. Both John and Christian came to Canada before 1830.

From the various sources I mention below I have compiled a list of the Meyer (Mayer) family members who came to Canada and their extended family back two more generations. I notice that two Meyer women married Freys. I wonder whether the Ohio Freys are descendants of either of these. I welcome correspondence from people who may find their ancestors in the following list.

THE MEYER (MAYER) FAMILY IN CANADA

	BORN	DIED
Hans Meyer	ca. 1739	Feb 14, 1795
m.		at Montbeliard
Catherine Lichti	1733	Jan 23, 1792
		at Montbeliard
A. Anne (Annli) Meyer	Aug 20, 1770	Jan 28, 1810
m. May 29, 1792 at Montbeliard	at Montbeliard	Chatenois
Jacob Frey, son of Jacob Frey	ca. 1750	Oct 5, 1835
		Morvillars
1. Elizabeth/Barbara Frey	Jun 27, 1799	Mar 17, 1885
m. Apr 11, 1826 in Morvillars, Belfort	at Chatenois	Stark Co. OH
Andrew Baecher, son of Hans Baecher	Sep 11, 1788	Apr 10, 1862
	Saales,Alsace	Stark Co. OH
2. Jacob Frey (Carol Liechty)	ca. 1808	Aug 20, 1809
B. Hans Meyer	ca. 1758	Dec 21, 1814
m. Aug 10, 1794 to		at Montbeliard
Mary Gerig, dau. of Michael Gerig of Belfort	?	?
(Carol Liechty has the above dates as follows:		

Hans Meyer	Aug 26, 1773	?1837
m. Aug 10, 1792 at Belfort?	at Montbeliard	
Mary Gerig, dau. of Michel, Gerig of Belfort	1776?	Dec 21, 1814
	at Belfort	?Montbeliard)
1. John Meyer (baptized in 1815)	Feb 9, 1799	1872
m. in Canada to	at Montbeliard	in Wilmot Twp.
Catherine Brenneman, dau. of John Brenneman	1811	1871
(no surviving children)	in Germany	in Wilmot Twp.
		Ontario, Canada
2. Michael Meyer (baptized in 1816)	Dec 15, 1800	?
(was called John in the birth record)	at Montbeliard	
m. May 14, 1826		
Verena Eicher, dau. of Peter Eicher		
(Did this family migrate to Ohio?)		
a. Michael Meyer	Jan 21, 1829	
	at Montbeliard	
3. Peter Meyer (baptized in 1817)	?	
4. Christophe (Christian) Mayer	May 1, 1805	Apr 19, 1868
m. in Pennsylvania to	at Montbeliard	in Wilmot Twp.
Magdalena Petersheim	1803	1855-58
(family found in DESCENDANTS AND HISTORY	in Germany	in Wilmot Twp.
OF GEORG PETERSHEIM FAMILY by Petersheim		
Descendants, Gordonville, Pa., 1979)		
(family consistently uses Mayer spelling)		

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5. Jacob Meyer (baptized in 1823)	Mar 21, 1808	1855-56
m. in France to	at Montbeliard	in France
Catherine Charpiot	Sep 26, 1812	Jul 26, 1901
(Catherine migrated to Canada in 1856)	in France	in Hay Twp.
a. Jacob Frederick Meyer	Apr 2, 1839	Jun 11, 1931
m. in Canada to	at Bart	in Wilmot Twp.
Barbara Brenneman, dau. of John Brenneman	Nov 6, 1832	Sep 17, 1918
and Magdalena Schultz	in Wilmot Twp.	in Wilmot Twp.
(family found in FAMILY HISTORY AND		
GENEALOGY OF JACOB FREDERICK AND BARBARA		
(BRENNEMAN) MEYER, by Ruby (Gingerich)		
Hammer, Baden, Ont., 1978)		
b. Peter Frederick Meyer	1843	June 4, 1850
	at Dung	at Montbeliard
c. Christophe Meyer	ca. 1845	Apr 27, 1853
	at Harlseim,	at Montbeliard

Switzerland

- d. Elise Catherine Meyer 1846 Jun 25, 1852
at Bart at Montbeliard
- e. Susanna Catherine Meyer Sep 19, 1848 Apr 23, 1905
m. 1864 in Canada to at Montbeliard in Hay Twp.
Menno Oesch, son of John Oesch and Dec 30, 1836 Dec 3, 1910
Barbara Schultz in Wilmot Twp. in Hay Twp.
(family found in MENNO OESCH section of
the JOHN AND BARBARA (SCULTZ) OESCH
FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY, by
Lorraine Roth, Kitchener, Ont., 1964-69)
- f. Emile Meyer Nov 22, 1850 ?
(either Emile died before 1856 or he was
called Michael by the family and was
raised by relatives in Ohio)
- g. Elise Emily Meyer Mar 9, 1854 Jul 15, 1855
at Montbeliard at Montbeliard
6. Maria Meyer (baptized in 1823) ca. 1808 ?
m. Dec 14, 1837
Hans Schmucker (or Schmuckli)
7. Joseph Meyer Jan 6, 1812 ?
at Montbeliard

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- C. Catherine Meyer May 20, 1779 Mar 29, 1858
m. Mar 26, 1799 at Montbeliard ? Montbeliard
Joseph Frey, son of Joseph Frey of Voujeaucourt
1. Jacques Frey Sep 16, 1801? Feb 3, 1862
m. Mary Graber France France
dau. of Daniel Graber and Marie Frey
- a. Verena Frey May 11, 1824 Sept 2, 1908
m. Apr 28, 1842 to Christian Aeschliman France
- b. Christian Frey Dec 12, 1827 Dec 30, 1869
1m. to Magdalena Short
2m. to Elizabeth Conrad
- c. Mary Frey ? ?
m. to Joe Stutzman

d. Catherine Frey m. Apr 3, 1862 to Christian Freyenberger	July 6, 1838	Jul 15, 1911
e. Lydia Frey m. to Joseph J. Nafziger	June 4, 1843	Feb 15, 1917
2. Catherine Frey m. 1831 to Nicolas Schott	?	?
3. Francoise Frey	1813	?
4. Christophe Frey	ca. 1820	1859

(Carol Liechty lists Joseph, Marie, Joseph and Catherine as children of Catherine and Joseph Frey born from 1801-1807.)

D. Peter Meyer (He fell into the saw at his father's sawmill.)	ca. 1781 at Montbeliard	Mar 12, 1792 Montbeliard
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Sources of Information:

Research by the Jean Hueckel family, Coutenans, France
 Research by Lorraine Roth in archives at Montbeliard, France
 Montbeliard Mennonite Church Record Book
 The Jacques Frey family by Louetta M. Miller
 Elizabeth/Barbara Frey and Andrew Baecher by David R. Smucker
 Further notes by Carol Liechty

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