

OTTO

According to researcher Hermann Guth, the Amish Mennonite Ottos of Wittgenstein and Waldeck, Germany, were native to that area, and that through marriage one of them joined the Mennonites.(1) (See Notes on page 4)

Unfortunately, we are unable to link the Ottos who came to Canada with those found by Hermann Guth.

ANDREAS OTTO AND CATHERINE OTTO AND HER HUSBAND CHRISTIAN GINGERICH MIGRATE TO CANADA

Andreas/Andrew Otto, born about 1809 in Hesse, Germany, arrived in Baltimore the third quarter of 1831.(2) On the same ship were Christian and Catherine Gingerich, listed immediately before Andrew Otto. From other sources we know that Catherine was born an Otto. Thus, we presume Andrew and Catherine were brother and sister.

Since the Gingerichs had two children born in Pennsylvania, we know that they did not come to Canada immediately. It is also quite likely that Andrew did not come straight to Canada either.

In 1840, however, Andrew was married to Barbara Roth in Wilmot Township by Bishop John Oesch.(3) Both were said to be residents of Wilmot at the time. The identity of Barbara is a question. A Joseph Roth (wife's name not known) settled in South Easthope Township, and it is believed that Barbara may have been a daughter of his.(4)

In the 1842 census the Henry Otto family was listed on Lot 3, Concession IV, North Easthope Township. By the 1845 census the name was changed to Andrew -- Henry had probably been an error. In 1857, the Canada Company lease contract for this lot was transferred from Joseph Leis to Andrew Otto, and the same year Andrew obtained the deed from the Canada Company.(5) By that time they had seven children.

In 1876, Andrew and Barbara sold the farm to their daughter Maria (known as Mariah) and her husband Jacob Fierling (also Fairling). The farm was in the Fierling family until 1962.

At the time of the 1881 census, Andrew and Barbara were living with their son David's family in South Easthope. Andrew died in 1885 and Barbara in 1893. They are buried in the 19th Line Cemetery, East Zorra (near Punkeydoodles Corner).

THE FAMILY OF ANDREW AND BARBARA (ROTH) OTTO(6)

Andrew Otto, b. ca.1809, Hesse, Germany
d. 3 Nov 1885, S. Easthope Township
m. 9 Feb 1840, Wilmot Township

Barbara Roth, b. 15 Dec 1812 (estimate), France
d. 21 Dec 1893, S. Easthope Township

- 1) Catherine Otto, b. 1840
m. 1864 to Paul Lobsinger and lived in the U.S.
- 2) David Otto (1842-1929)
m. 1867 to Christina Becker
They resided on Lot 3, Concession I, South Easthope Township
- 3) Magdalena Otto (1843-1931)
m. Christian Schultz (1841-1887)
son of John E. Schultz and Magdalena Zimmerman(7)
both buried New Hamburg Reformed Mennonite Cemetery (Hostetler's)
- 4) Christian Otto(8), b. 1846; d. ?
1m.
Maria Anna Kuntze, b. ca. 1841
d. 10 Nov 1875, N. Easthope
bu. Christner Cemetery, Wilmot Township
2m. 22 Jan 1877, New Hamburg
Susanna Ruthig, dau. of Johannes and Mariann Ruthig
b. ca.1853
d.
both reported as Reformed Mennonite
3m. 15 Jan 1884, New Hamburg
Elizabeth Christner, dau. of Peter and Catherine Christner
Christian reported as German Reformed; Elizabeth as Mennonite
A tombstone for Christian has not yet been found.
- 5) Maria (known as Mariah) Otto (1849-1926)
m. 1872 to Jacob Fierling (also Fairling)
The Fierlings took over the Andrew and Barbara Otto farm in North Easthope.
children: Sarah Otto (1873-1956) m. Rudolph Lichty Roth
David Otto (1875-1962) m. Amelia Carrie Zurrbrigg
Moses Otto (1882-1960) m. Amelia (Millie) Eva Niebergall
Moses and Millie bought the Otto homestead in 1913.
- 6) Elizabeth Otto, b. 1 Apr 1850
m. 24 Feb 1870, near Stanford, McLean Co., Ill.
Jacob Valentine Otto, son of Daniel Otto and Barbara Naffziger
- 7) Barbara Otto, b. 14 May 1853, Perth Co., Ont.
2nd wife of
Christian Daniel Otto, son of Daniel Otto and Barbara Naffziger

The marriages of Elizabeth and Barbara to Ottos in Illinois is most interesting. They were also recorded by John M. Byler in his *Amish Immigrants of Waldeck and Hesse*.(9) John used Hermann Guth's research, but did not indicate where the two Otto families might connect. He does indicate that Barbara Naffziger, the mother of the two Illinois Otto men who married the two Canadian Otto women was the daughter of Peter Naffziger and Barbara Beck who spent a few years in Canada in the 1820s. How did these two Otto families get to know each other, or were they related and had never lost contact?

CATHERINE OTTO AND CHRISTIAN GINGERICH

Catherine Otto and her husband Christian Gingerich had two children when they landed in Baltimore. Two more were born in Pennsylvania. The fifth child, born in Canada, may have been born in South Easthope Township. The family was listed in that township on an 1842 assessment list. Christian purchased Lot 3, Concession II from the Canada Company in 1847 and sold it again in 1863. No doubt, it was then that they moved to Hay Township.

In 1863, Christian and Catherine purchased Lot 16, Concession XIII in Hay Township, but sold it the same year to their daughter Lydia married to Andrew Gascho. In 1865, they purchased Lot 12, Concession X from Andrew Gascho, selling it to their son Jacob in 1868. Catherine died in 1886 (of "senility") and is probably buried in the Blake Mennonite Cemetery, although there is no tombstone. Christian's date of death has not yet been found.

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE OTTO AND CHRISTIAN GINGERICH

Catherine Otto, b. ca.1801, Germany
d. 29 Jul 1886, Hay Township, Huron County
m. 1822, Germany
Christian Gingerich, b. ca.1801, Germany
d.

Children: 1) Christian O. Gingerich (1827-1915) m. Barbara Schwartzentruber
Resided in East Zorra Township, Oxford County
2) Helena/Magdalena Gingerich (1829-1911) m. Charles Hartleib
Resided in East Zorra and in Huron County
3) Lydia Gingerich (1831-1906) m. Peter Steckly
2m. Andrew Gascho
Resided in Hay Township, Huron County, and in Michigan
4) Jonas Gingerich (1834-1923) m. Catherine Steckly
Resided in Missouri, Jonas died in California
5) Margaret Gingerich (1837-1926) m. Daniel Erb
Resided in Hay Township; moved to Seward County, Nebraska
6) Joseph O. Gingerich (1839-1890) m. Mary Helmuth
Resided in East Zorra Township
7) Andrew Gingerich (ca.1842-after 1868)
8) Jacob O. Gingerich (1843-1899) m. Magdalena Schantz
Resided in Hay Township

(For further details on this family, see the GINGERICH file)

OTHER OTTO FAMILIES AMONG THE EARLY SETTLERS

It is important to note that not all Ottos in the Wilmot/East Zorra area are descendants of Andrew and Barbara (Roth) Otto. There was another Otto family (or perhaps more) whose connections, if any, we do not know.

Russel Fierling, an adopted son of David O. Fierling was married to Clara Maria Anna Otto who was not related to Jacob Fierling's wife Maria.(10)

Daniel P. Otto, son of Jacob S. and Caroline (Pletsch) Otto, was married to Anna (Annie) Roth, dau. of Daniel D. and Catharine (Jantzi) Roth. They were residents of East Zorra and Tavistock.(11) These Ottos also were not descendants of Andrew and Barbara. Anna, of an Amish Mennonite family joined the United Church when she married Daniel Otto.

Notes:

1) *Amish Mennonites in Germany . . .* by Hermann Guth. Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society, Metamora, IL, and Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 1995, pages 131-133.

2) National Archives, Washington, D.C., ships arriving in Baltimore, Microfilm series M-596, Roll #2. John M. Byler gives the precise date, July 8, 1831. The source of his information is not known.

3) The marriage was announced in the February 15th issue of the *Canada Museum*, the German newspaper printed in Berlin (now Kitchener).

4) See the ROTH file for more information on the Joseph Roth family, pages 49-53.

5) The Otto family is featured in *The Hills of Home; North Easthope Township History, 1827-1997*. Published by the North Easthope History Book Committee, Writer-Editor Dean Robinson, pages 228,229.

6) The family list is taken from the North Easthope book, with additional details found in the civil registrations of marriages and deaths.

7) See the SCHULTZ file for further details.

8) According to the North Easthope History, Christian was first married to Maria Anna Kuntze and then to Elizabeth Christner. Christian's marriage records to Susanna Ruthig and to Elizabeth Christner gave his parents' names as Andrew and Barbara Otto and each time indicated he was a widower. So, Christian must have been married three times.

9) *Amish Immigrants of Waldeck and Hesse*, by John M. Byler, Bellville, Ohio, 1993, pages 115, 118.

10) *North Easthope History*, page 229 (a photocopy of this page is found following this Introduction)

11) *Nicholas L. Roth and Anna Dienner Family History and Genealogy* by Edna Yantzi et al. Tavistock, Ontario, 2002. The Daniel P. Otto family is found on pages 22-24.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
March 2010

Not included in Summary:

Additional notes:

- 2) David Otto (1842-1929)
dau. Lydia, d. 5 Oct 1868 (5 wks), bu. Christner Cemetery
dau. Barbara Otto
m. Dec 27, 1891 at New Hamburg
Levi Bushlin, res. Huron Co., Mich. both Evang. Association
- 3) Christian Schultz, b. 12 Nov 1841; d. 31 Aug 1887

Check Hostetler Cemetery for Otto and related families

□