

RICH

The surname Rich (frequently Riche in the old records) was very common among the Anabaptists in southern Alsace. There were Rich immigrants to the United States and a few to Canada, but they left little trace of their being here.

PETER AND BARBARA (SCHLATTER) RICH

Peter Rich was born in 1796 at Montjoie, Department of Doubs, south of Alsace, France. His parents were Nicholas Rich and Maria Eicher. At the time of his marriage in 1796, Peter was farming in Kingersheim, near Mulhouse in Haut-Rhin (Upper Alsace). In 1826, he married Barbara Schlatter at Kingersheim, daughter of Christian Schlatter and Anna Maria Roth of Richwiller, Haut-Rhin.

The births of two children were reported at Kingersheim, but they must have lived in several other places including Switzerland. They sailed on the Ship *Cotton Planter* from le Havre, France, arriving in New York on May 31, 1843. (1) (See Note next page)

They were probably headed for Canada where Barbara's brother Joseph had gone already in 1839. Joseph and his wife Magdalena (nee Christner) whom he married in 1840 had leased a property in South Easthope Township in the Huron District, west of Wilmot Township where the Amish Mennonites had been settling since 1824.

By the time of the 1845 census, Peter's family was listed in South Easthope and the Schlatters had already moved to East Zorra Township, a short distance to the south. Peter was listed on Lot 32, Concession IV (some distance from the main Amish- Mennonite settlement) with only two acres of the 100-acre lot cleared. The family consisted of seven persons: 1 male over age 16, 2 females over 16, and two males and two females under 16.

Peter is said to have died about 1850 and his widow subsequently left for Allen County, Indiana, then to nearby Adams County, and finally to Jefferson Township, Henry County, Iowa. She died in 1885/86 and was buried in Sugar Creek Cemetery in Henry County. Peter and Barbara are said to have had 12 children.

THE FAMILY OF PETER AND BARBARA (SCHLATTER) RICH

Peter Rich, son of Nicholas Rich (b. 1769) and Maria Eicher
farmer at Bottmingen, Canton Basel, Switzerland in 1826
b. 26 Apr 1796, Montjoie, Doubs, France
d. ca.1850, Canada (probably South Easthope Township)
m. 8 Aug 1826, Kingersheim, Haut-Rhin, France
Barbara Schlatter, dau. of Christian Schlatter and Anna Maria Roth
b. 20 Aug 1805, Richwiller (on the Main Street), Haut-Rhin
d. 21 Apr 1885/6, bu. Sugar Creek Cemetery, Henry Co., Iowa

Children:

- 1) Katharina Rich, b. 29 Sept 1827, Kingersheim (on 1843 shiplist)
- 2) Joseph Rich, 2-10 March 1829, Kingersheim
- 3) Barbara Rich, b. 6 Aug 1834, Switzerland?;
d. 14 June 1882, Elkhart Co, IN
1m. 1 Dec 1855 to Isaac Biberstein
2m. 11 Nov 1857 to Christian G. Eash

- 4) Anna Rich, b. ca.1837 (on shiplist)
- 5) Joseph Rich, b. 23 Jun 1838, Switzerland?;
d. 25 Jun 1914, Adams Co., Ohio
m. 28 Nov 1859 to Anna Moser
- 6) Verena Rich, 13 Apr 1839-21 Aug 1840, Neuwiller
- 7) Verene (Fannie) Rich, b. 30 Dec 1841, France;
d. 18 Jun 1911, Henry Co., Iowa
m. 18 Jun 1867 to Joseph Kauffman
- 8) Christian Rich, b. ca.1842, France (but not on shiplist)
(in 1860 Adams Co., census)
- 9) Nicolas Rich, b. 16 Mar 1844, Canada; d. 24 Feb 1920, Henry Co., Iowa
m. 21 Feb 1865 to Anna Huser

Another daughter and two sons, born in Canada, presumed to have died in infancy
(names not known)

Note:

1) For most of the information on this family, I am indebted to the article "Schlatterei: The Scattered Progeny of Christian Schlatter (1743-1829) of Richwiller, Haut-Rhin, France, Part I: Patriarch and Firstborn Son" by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine and Joe Springer in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. XXV, No. 1, January 2006, pages 15,16. A copy of this article is found in the SCHLATTER file.

JOHN AND CATHERINE RICH

We briefly meet another Amish-Mennonite Rich family in the 1861 census of East Zorra Township, Oxford County. John, a labourer, was 35 years old and Catherine 25. Henry, age 66, also a labourer, was living with them. Presumably his name was also Rich. They had a child, age 5, named Joseph. Who these people were, where they came from, and whither they went is not known.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
March, 2010