RUBY/RUBI/ROBY

THE NAME AND FAMILY ORIGINS

The origin of the name Ruby (also spelled Rubi and Roby in some old documents) is difficult to determine. Since it is probably safe to assume that Joseph Ruby, the immigrant to Canada, was of Swiss descent, there are at least three possibilities, some of which do not sound very convincing. Evidently there is a Swiss idiom "rub" which means "kraushaarig" (curly-haired).(1) (see Notes on page 10) In Switzerland, surnames frequently derive from the name of the place of one's origin. In the Canton of Bern there is a place called Rybi.(2) Another explanation is that the name means "renewer" and that the Ruby [Heimat] (place of citizenship) was Grindelwald, high in the Alps, or Oppligen, south of the city of Bern.(3) Was the first Ruby a curly-haired person, was he from Rybi, or was he a renewer from Grindelwald or Oppligen? The choice is yours!

Although the name Ruby is not very common, it is a name which no doubt stems from several different sources, probably not even one nationality. Among Jacob R. Bender's papers there was a mimeographed manuscript describing a British Ruby family who came to America.(4) Even though this family may have originally come from continental Europe, there is probably no connection with the family of Joseph Ruby.

Several Ruby families in Germany with whom there has been contact, trace their ancestry back to Switzerland and even into the areas from which the Anabaptists came.(5) Research on Joseph Ruby's ancestors between France and Switzerland is lacking; so we are not able to determine whether Joseph may have had a common ancestry with these particular families in Germany.

We have copies of two notes from the Archives in Bern, Switzerland, in which "Caspahr Rubi" and "Madlena Rubi," the "old schoolmaster's widow" were accused of attending Baptist (that is, Anabaptist) meetings in Aeschi in 1729.(6) Aeschi is located southwest of Lake Thun, and is also the area from which the Anabaptist/Mennonite Kennels came. Joseph Ruby's ancestors may very well have been from this area.

Apparently the Rubys were among the Anabaptists who fled from the persecutions in their native Switzerland during the 1600s and 1700s. Since the Thirty Year's War (1618-1648) had depleted the population and destroyed much of central Europe, these areas welcomed new immigrants to help rebuild the country.

THE RUBY FAMILY IN FRANCE

The oldest reference to Rubys in France which I have found, is a reference to a Jean/John ruby and his son Benedict who were the farmers for Melchior La Motte , captain of a regiment at the Chateau D'Angeot in the Belfort area. They were there from 1731 to 1739. (7) Whether Jean and Benedict are connected genealogically to the Ruby family which was found at a little settlement, known as les Quelles, in the Vosges Mountains sometime before 1854, is not known, but it certainly is a possibility.

The oldest reference to the Rubys in France is found in the marriage record of "Benoit Roby" (Benedict Ruby) in 1810 at les Quelles. This document gives his father's name as Pierre (Peter) Ruby and his date of death as May 9, 1754, also at les Quelles. His mother's name was "Barbe Joder," and she died on January

19, 1795. Another document gives Peter's name as Christian, but the document giving the name Peter is considered the most reliable. Peter probably was a relatively young man when he died in 1754, because his wife lived another 41 years. His son Benedict was born after Peter's death.

We do not know when the family arrived at les Quelles, but obviously it was before 1754. We know of only two sons of Peter and Barbara, and they were Peter and Benedict. Peter Jr. would eventually be the grandfather of immigrant Joseph. (8)

CHECK WITH STAKER'S RUBI FAMILY IN #4

IMMIGRANT JOSEPH RUBY'S EXTENDED FAMILY

Pierre Roby, b. ? probably in Switzerland
d. 9 May 1754, les Quelles, la Broque, Department of Bas-Rhin
Barbe Joder, b. ? d. 19 Jan 1795, les Quelles (Lower Alsace)
(spellings are those found in original records)

A. Barbe Roby, b. ca. 1743
d. 15 Jan 1811, les Quelles
m. Jacques Mosimann

B. Pierre Roby, b. ca.1751
d. 24 Dec 1806, les Quelles
m. Marie Sommer, b.
d. 14 Nov 1798

1. Marie Rubi, b. ca.1876, les Quelles
m. (as 2nd wife)
Joseph Sommer, son of Jean/John Sommer and Barbe Husser
b. 1773/4
(four children to this marriage)

2. Chretien/Christian Rubi, b. 28 Mar 1779, les Quelles
d. 25 Feb 1817 "
1m. 16 Jan 1806, la Broque
Elisabeth Sommer, dau. of Jean/John Sommer and Barbe Husser
b. 20 Nov 1779, Bambois, Salm
d. 6 Jan 1814, les Quelles
Chrétien's 2m. 9 Oct 1815, la Broque
Elisabeth Zehner (Zehnder), dau. of Nicolas Zehner and Marie Stuker

a. **Pierre/Peter Rubi**, b. 8 Dec 1806, les Quelles
b. Marie Rubi, b. 23 Mar 1808, les Quelles
d. 26 Aug 1809 "
c. **Chretien/Christian Rubi**, b. 18 May 1810, les Quelles
d. Jean/John Rubi, b. 19 July 1812, les Quelles
d. 20 July 1812 "
e. **Joseph Ruby**, b. 12 July 1813, les Quelles
f. Marie Rubi, b. 3 Sept 1816, les Quelles
d. 26 Sept 1816 "
g. Jean/John Rubi, b. 3 Sept 1816 "
d. " " " "

C. Benoit/Benedict Rubi, b. 14 Aug 1754, les Quelles
d. 12 Apr 1816, "
1m. Barbe Brunne?
2m. 23 Nov 1810, les Quelles

Barbe Marie Kreipieller, dau. of Christian Kreipieller and Anne Augsbourg (Kraybill) b. ca.1758, Salm?, la Broque

1. Pierre Rubi, b. 1781
   m. 1799 to Marie Verly
2. Anne Rubi, b. 1782
   m. 1800 to Jean/John Loesch?
3. Chretien/Christian Rubi, b. ca. 1780
   d. after 1830
   m. Barbe Chirik (Shirk?)

   a. Jean/John Rubi, b. 5 May 1818, les Quelles
   b. Joseph Rubi, b. 5 May 1818 "
      d. 25 " " "
   c. Chrétien/Christian Rubi, b. 20 Nov 1819, les Quelles
   d. Barbe Rubi, b. 5 June 1821, les Quelles
   e. Elisabeth Rubi, b. 1 Jan 1823 "
      d. 15 Mar 1829 "
   f. Magdelaine Rubi, b. 1 Nov 1824 "
   g. Rosalie Rubi, b. 14 Nov 1826 "
   h. Marie Rubi, b. 16 Sept 1829 "

4. Barbe Rubi, b. 9 May 1786, les Quelles
   m. 19 Jan 1809, Plaine, Department of Vosges
   Jacques/Jacob Sommer, b. ca. 1777/81
   d. 8 Dec 1830, les Quelles

   a. Chrétien/Christian Sommer, b. 19 Dec 1809, les Quelles
      d. 25 Apr 1832, la Broque
   b. Barbe Sommer, b. 25 Jan 1812, les Quelles
      d. 20 Nov 1815 "
   c. Joseph Sommer, b. 24 Apr 1814 "
   d. Marie Sommer, b. 5 Feb 1817 "
   e. Jacques Sommer, b. 9 May 1819 "
   f. Elisabeth Sommer, b. 15 Oct 1822 "
   g. Pierre Sommer, b. 1 Jan 1827 "
      d. 29 July 1828 "

5. Benoit Rubi, b. 1788
6. Marie Rubi, b. ca.1793; d. 1796, la Broque
7. Elisabeth Rubi, b. 12 Nov 1794, la Broque
   m. Joseph Loesch, d. 7 Jan 1821, Boersch, Bas-Rhin
   2m. 1822 to Jean/John Bacher, b. 1780
8. Marie Rubi, b. 9 Aug 1797, la Broque
9. Madeleine Rubi, b. 22 June 1800 "

LES QUELLES IN THE KINGDOM OF SALM

It seems that the Ruby family remained at les Quelles during their sojourn in France. This was rarely the case among the Anabaptists. Generally they found themselves moving from one farm to another. Joseph Ruby was born in 1813, fifty-nine years after his great-grandfather's death. About 25 years later he would leave his home in the mountains of eastern France for the plains of South Easthope and East Zorra in Canada.

To say that the Rubys were in France in the 1700s is not quite technically correct. France had acquired Alsace-Lorraine in the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 at the close of the Thirty Year's War, but there were still a number of independent kingdoms or principalities in the region. Salm was one of these. In 1793, toward the end of the French Revolution, it was annexed to France.(9) By the time Joseph came on the scene, Salm was part of France, and Joseph learned French in addition to his native German.

Les Quelles is the modern French name of the little community in the Kingdom of Salm in which the Ruby family lived. From la Broque, the town where the residents of Salm registered their births, marriages and deaths, one follows a winding road up into the Vosges Mountains. In the old documents one finds it spelled aux Quelles or aux Quevelles, and Joseph even spelled it "Igwell." The community is still in existence. People by the name of Neuhauser were operating a guest house and restaurant at les Quelles in the 1980s and '90s, and a couple by the name of Bacher lived in a house with a Rubi date stone and an old cemetery nearby.(10)

JOSEPH RUBY IS BORN

Twenty years after the French "take-over" of the Principality of Salm, Joseph Ruby was born. The date was July 12, 1813 -- at 8 a.m. By 11 o'clock, his father Christian and Uncle Benedict had made their way down the mountain path to the village of la Broque to register the birth. The scribe at the registry office wrote the name Joseph Roby, but Christian signed his name Rubi, and Benedict signed, "Bentz Rubi." Christian was then 34 years old, and his wife was Elisabeth Sommer.

Joseph was only six months old when his mother died. The extended family list above indicates that he had two older brothers -- another brother and a sister had died. Joseph's father married again, and they had twins who also died. Then Joseph's father died when Joseph was only three and a half years old.

The records reveal that there were other Ruby and Sommer relatives living at les Quelles. No doubt the step-mother or other relatives took care of the orphaned children. No stories of Joseph's childhood have been passed down to his descendants. What became of the step-mother is also not known.

JOSEPH RUBY COMES TO CANADA

The 1952 edition of the Christian Ruby genealogy gave the date of Joseph Ruby's arrival in Canada as 1838.(11) The previous year Joseph had purchased a bilingual New Testment -- French on one side, German on the other.(11)

One wonders what brought this single, orphaned, young man to Canada. It may be that he was accompanied by his brother Christian. This possibility will be discussed at greater length when we get to the story and family of Christian Ruby on pages 12 and 13.

When Joseph arrived in Canada, the land in central Wilmot had been taken by the settlers who had arrived since the mid 1820s; so Joseph looked for land further west. A wife could be easily found among the settlers of Wilmot. Joseph chose

Magdalena Roth, daughter of Michael Roth and Magdalena Lichti. They were married November 17, 1840 by Bishop John Oesch. The Berlin newspaper, called the *Canada Museum*, carried an announcement of the marriage. Magdalena had come to Canada with her parents, arriving in New York on July 12, 1827. Magalena was then seven years old. The Roths lived just west of what is now Baden.

The year of their marriage (1840) Joseph took out a lease on Lot 13, Concession IV of South Easthope, on the north side of the Townline where the Sebastapol Road meets the Townline. This was Canada Company land, which the settlers could lease, their rents going toward the purchase price. This is where Joseph and Magdalena built a cabin and cleared the land. Joseph acquired his deed in 1853, indicating that he had completed his payment for the land. In 1857, a permanent frame house, using bricks for filler in the walls, was built and, with many changes, is still in use in 2010.

Daughter Mary married Jacob M. Bender, and they took up residence across the Townline in East Zorra. In 1878, Joseph Ruby and Jacob M. Bender exchanged properties, and from then on the homestead became a Bender farm, passed down through several generations until 1996.

JOSEPH RUBY, MINISTER AND BISHOP

The Amish Mennonite congregation of South Easthope and East Zorra was organized in 1837. New settlers kept coming from Europe and the young people from Wilmot also looked for land on the frontier; so the South Easthope and East Zorra settlement as well as the congregation grew rapidly.

Several men who had been ordained in Europe served the congregation in the early days. However, they still depended on bishop oversight from Wilmot. In those days most of the religious ceremonies -- communion, baptism, marriage, etc. -- were not carried out without the services of a bishop. In 1849 two additional ministers were ordained. In 1852 another ordination was held and Joseph Ruby was ordained minister and John S. Wagler deacon.

In 1853, 14 years after they began meeting in South Easthope and East Zorra, the congregation finally ordained its own bishop. There were at least four active ministers at that time -- Dr. Peter Zehr, Daniel Schrag, Joseph Baechler and Joseph Ruby. No doubt the lot was used to decide which of these four would be ordained to the office of bishop, and the lot fell on Joseph Ruby.

A few items pertaining to Bishop Joseph Ruby's era remain. One of these is his marriage record book with entries from 1858 to 1869. This particular form of recording marriages was prescribed by the government. The bishop was supplied with a book in which he kept a record for himself. A copy of the same data was sent to the bureau of statistics at the end of each year. This record was meticulously kept by Joseph and included ages of bride and groom, their place of birth and residence, names of both sets of parents including mothers' maiden names, names of witnesses and their place of residence, and the date of the marriage. Joseph's knowledge of French is seen in this record when he wrote the name Gascho as "Cachot." He evidently knew that the Gaschos were originally French and used that form of the name.

Another indication of Joseph's knowledge of French was his New Testament with French on one side and German on the other. Some of us remember bilingual Testaments in our homes, but ours had German on one side and English on the other. Joseph's account book has also been preserved and is an indication of

his business ability. Three large, old Bibles have also been located – one of them a 1744 Strassburg edition of the Froschauer Bible.(12)

In 1883 the South Easthope/East Zorra Amish Mennonite Congregation decided to build a meetinghouse. Both Wilmot and East Zorra were very large congregations which could not possibly be contained in the homes for services. It was, however, the Amish tradition to meet in homes and barns. There was a great deal of resistance from the conservative elements in the Amish constitutency across North America to the use of meetinghouses. On the other hand, there was also resistance to dividing into smaller groups when they lived in such close proximity to each other. Before 1880, a few Amish had built meetinghouses in such far-away places as Illinois, but in the 1880s there seems to have been a rash of meetinghouse-building across North America. East Zorra led the way in Ontario in 1883. The other congregations followed and by 1886 the five Amish-Mennonite congregations had all built a meetinghouse--perhaps Poole was still in the process. Since Joseph Ruby was then 70 years old, one wonders whether he had some reservations and simply agreed to what the majority wanted, or whether he was an initiator in the project. At any rate, he donated a New Testament for the new meetinghouse.

From reading the writings of those who have researched the era when Joseph Ruby served the congregation -- Fred Lichti, Orland Gingerich and Hugh Laurence -- one gets the impression that the church community prospered. Although those who knew Joseph Ruby personally are no longer with us, one still hears appreciative comments from those who are his biological or faith descendants. This man who had all the odds against him from infancy became the revered pioneer bishop of a large and prosperous congregation. Perhaps it is because of the difficulties he had to overcome in his early life that he was uniquely prepared to serve God and the church in this way.

Magdalena died in 1887 and Joseph ten years later. Both are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line, as are many of their descendants.

JOSEPH RUBY AND MAGDALENA ROTH FAMILY

Joseph Ruby, son of Christian Ruby and Elizabeth Sommer
b. July 12, 1813, les Quelles, Commune la Broque,
Canton Schirmeck, Dept. Bas-Rhin (Lower Alsace)
d. Jan 18, 1897, South Easthope Township (Bible Record((12)(e)
m. Nov 17, 1840, Wilmot Township, Waterloo County, Canada
Magdalena Roth, dau. of Michael Roth and Magdalena Lichti
b. Apr 5, 1818, Hirtzbach, Haut-Rhin
d. Feb 3, 1887, South Easthope Township

Children:	Grandchildren:
1) Christian Ruby b. 16 Sep 1841 SEhope d. 7 Oct 1913 E.Zorra m. 2 Oct 1866 SEhope Anna Roth b. 16 Dec 1842 SEhope d. 26 Sep 1919 E.Zorra dau. of Christian Roth & Catherine Freienberg	Catherine Ruby (1867-1929) m. Jacob Schlegel Joseph R. Ruby (1869-1926) m. Katherine Lebold Christian Ruby (1870-1934) m. Magdalena Jutzi John Ruby (1872-1966) m. Barbara Baechler Jacob Ruby (1874-1906) m. Laura Gingerich Anna Ruby (1877-1919) m. Jacob R. Zehr Samuel Ruby (1878-1939) m. Mary Roth Nicklas Ruby (1880-1935) m. Sarah Brenneman Daniel Ruby (1882-1934) m. Mary (Roth) Lichti Magdalena Ruby (1884-1949) m. Noah S. Bender

Elias R. Ruby (1886-1960) m. Mary Bender

2) Magdalena Ruby
b. 12 Dec 1842 SEhope(genealogies)
5 Apr.1843 (Bible record)(12)(e)

d. 27 Aug 1856 SEhope

Magdalena Bender (1866-1886)
John R. Bender (1867-1952) m. Anna Zehr
Catherine Bender (1869-1947) m. Peter S. Zehr
Mary Bender (1871-1926) m. John Lebold
Joseph R. Bender (1873-1948) m. Bena Zehr
Jacob R. Bender (1875-1947) m. Veronica Schwartzentruber
David R. Bender (1878-1963) m. Barbara Wagler
Christena Bender (1880-1920) m. Joseph Baechler
Barbara Bender (1883)
Anna Bender (1884-1938) m. Noah Ramseyer
Lydia Bender (1886-1940) m John B Schwartzentruber
Sarah Bender (1890-1972) m. Joel Schwartzentruber

3) Mary Ruby
b. 10 Feb 1845 SEhope
d. 2 Feb 1916 E.Zorra
m. 11 Oct 1864 SEhope
Jacob M. Bender
b. 4 Jun 1842 Wilmot
d. 14 Jul 1914 E.Zorra
son of John Bender
& Catherine Miller

4) Catherine Ruby

b. 14 Nov 1846 SEhope
d. 26 Jul 1927 Wilmot
m. 28 Mar 1871 SEhope
John M. Bender
b. Jun 1847 Wilmot
d. 8 May 1917 Wilmot
son of John Bender
& Catherine Miller

Anna Bender (1872-1945)
Joseph J. Bender (1875-1958) m. Catherine Kropf
John J. Bender (1878-1948) m. Rebecca Wagler
Samuel J. Bender (1881-1949) m. Veronica Baechler
Moses J. Bender (1885-1974) m. Catherine Roth

5) Barbara Ruby
b. 20 Feb 1849 SEH
d. 25 Feb 1915 E.Z.
m. Dec 3, 1872 SEH
Michael K. Yantzi
b. 22 Aug 1947 FR
d. 6 Jul 1917 E.Z.
son of Michael B.
Yantzi and
Jacobena Kennel

Magdalena Yantzi (1873-1958) m. Menno R. Ropp
Joseph Yantzi (1875-1890)
Jacobena Yantzi (1877-1962) m. Solomon Streicher
Anna Yantzi (1878-1963) m. Christian Schlegel
2m. Menno B. Ropp
Catherine Yantzi (1880-1961) m. David Brenneman
Daniel R. Yantzi (1882-1929) m. Catherine Schlegel
Barbara Yantzi (1884-1959) m Joseph Schwartzentruber
Christian R. Yantzi (1886-1968) m. Nancy Bender
Michael R. Yantzi (1888-1958) m. Nancy Iutzi
Jacob R. Yantzi (1890-1975) m. Mary Iutzi
Noah R. Yantzi (1892-1971) m. Lena Zehr

6) Elizabeth Ruby
b. 30 Sep 1851 SEhope
d. 19 Apr 1929 E.Zorra
m. 28 Sep 1875 SEhope
Joseph M. Bender
b. 15 Jan 1851 Wilmot
d. 2 May 1915 E.Zorra
son of John Bender
& Catherine Miller

Daniel Bender (1877-1923) m. Barbara Iutzi
John Bender (1878-1970) m. Magdalena Zehr
Joseph Bender (1880-1904)
Solomon R. Bender (1882-1957) m. Rachel Iutzi
Christian R. Bender (1884-1964) m. Fannie Erb
Magdalena Bender (1886-1978) m. Noah Z. Wagler
Aaron Bender (1888-1938) m. Delilah Ruby
Ezra Bender (1890-1969) m. Katie Lebold
2m. Clara (Ruby) Bender
Catherine Bender (1893-1972) m. Christian Lebold
Annie Bender (1895-1988) m. Christian Baechler

7) Joseph Ruby
b. 30 Sep 1853 SEhope
d. 28 Mar 1937 Thurman,CO
m. 30 Nov 1875 SEhope
Elizabeth Yantzi
b. 1 Apr 1854 WaterlooCo.
d. 31 Jan 1925 Thurman,CO
dau. of Michael B. Yantzi
and Jacobena Kennel

- Barbara Ruby (1876-1956) m. David Rediger
- Magdalena Ruby (1878-1956) m Joseph Unternahrer
- Aaron Ruby (1880-1959) m. Catharine Schwartzentruber
- Elizabeth Ruby (1883-1901)
- Michael Ruby (1886-1942) m. Lydia Schertz
- Catharine Ruby (1887-1958) m. Sherman L. Proaps
- Bena Ruby (1894-1967) m. Melvin R. Roberts

8) Nicklaus/Nicholas Ruby
b. 27 Sep 1856 SEhope
d. 26 Nov 1932 Ellice
m. 25 Jan 1881
Barbara Bender
b. 16 Aug 1860 E.Zorra
d. 13 Feb 1925 Ellice
dau. of Jacob Bender
& Christena Schlegel

- Christena Ruby (1883-1937) m. Moses Ropp
- Noah Ruby (1885-1961) m. Veronica Kropf
- Jacob Ruby (1887-1942)
- Joseph Ruby (1889-1984)
- David Ruby (1891-1964)

9) Anna Ruby
b. 5 Jul 1863 SEhope
d. 29 Mar 1938 SEhope
m. 14 Feb 1899 E.Zorra
Peter Y. Zehr (14)
b. 28 Jul 1867 E.Zorra
d. 24 Aug 1935 SEhope
son of Joseph C. Zehr
and Katherine Yoder

- Step-children::
- Susanna Zehr (1895-1981)
- Barbara Zehr (1898-1985) m. Michael Ropp
  - Children:
- Lena Zehr (1899-1978) m. Joshua Ruby
  - 2m. Andrew Zehr
- Ezra Zehr (1901-1980) m. Anna Roth

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH AND MAGDALENA (ROTH) RUBY ESTABLISH HOMES OF THEIR OWN

Of Joseph and Magdalena's nine children, eight of them survived childhood and married. **Christian Ruby**, the oldest, married Anna Roth, daughter of Christian Roth and Catherine Freienberg, also residents of South Easthope. At the time of their marriage in 1866, Christian and Anna purchased a farm on the 15th Line of East Zorra (west half of Lot 27, Concession XV). In 1887, they also purchased the east half of Lot 29, Concession XIV, which they sold to son Joseph, married to Katherine Lebold. The homestead was sold to son Samuel and Mary (nee Roth) in 1910. Christian and Anna are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line.(15)

Mary Ruby married **Jacob M. Bender**, son of John Bender and Catherine Miller of Wilmot. Michael Roth, Mary's grandfather owned the west half of Lot 36 (a small lot), Concession XV in East Zorra Township, and John Bender, Jacob's father, had purchased the west half of Lot 35 in the same concession. These properties were directly across the Townline from the Ruby homestead. This is where Mary and Jacob settled after their marriage in 1864.

Joseph Ruby sold the homestead to daughter Mary and her husband Jacob M. Bender, and the Benders moved to South Easthope. The Ruby farm then became a Bender farm for four generations. No doubt, Joseph and Magdalena remained with Mary and Jacob and their family, for they died in South Easthope.

Jacob M. Bender was ordained deacon in 1871, minister in 1883, and bishop in 1887 in the East Zorra Amish Mennonite congregation. The vote for bishop was unanimous, and the customary lot was not used. Son Jacob R. Bender (married to Veronica Schwartzentruber) succeeded his father, both on the farm and in the ministry, although he was never ordained bishop. Mary and Jacob are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery.(16)

Catherine Ruby married **John M. Bender**, brother to Mary's husband Jacob. They probably remained on the Bender homestead in Wilmot after their marriage in 1871, but purchased the north part of Lot 27, South Bleam's Road, beside the Bender homestead in 1877. They probably also had part of the original Bender lot (#26). The farm buildings were built on the road between what is now the 7 & 8 Highway and Punkeydoodles Corner -- across the road from South Easthope Township. In 1915, Catherine and John sold the farm to son Joseph and his wife Catherine (nee Kropf). Catherine and John are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery.

Barbara Ruby married **Michael K. Yantzi**, son of Michael B. Yantzi and Jacobena Kennel. After their marriage in 1872, they probably rented the farm in Wilmot Township on which the Hillcrest Mennonite Church now stands. In 1891, they purchased the west half of the properties (Lots 35 & 36, Concession XV, East Zorra) from Joseph Ruby's estate, creating one farm from the two properties. In 1905, they sold this farm to daughter Magdalena and her husband Menno R. Ropp.

Barbara and Michael then purchased a farm on the 7 & 8 Highway on the North Easthope side of the road (Lot 6, Concession I). In 1916, they also purchased Lot 7 in the same concession, and in 1918 the Yantzi estate sold this farm to son Noah R. Yantzi and the home farm to son Michael R. Yantzi. Lloyd Yantzi, son of Michael R. was the last of the family to own the homestead.

Michael Yantzi was ordained deacon in 1883, minister in 1902, and bishop in 1914 in the East Zorra Amish Mennonite congregation. His death in 1917 cut short his ministry as bishop. Barbara and Michael are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line. (17)

Elizabeth Ruby married **Joseph M. Bender**, brother to Jacob M. and John M. who were married to Elizabeth's sisters. Elizabeth and Joseph remained on the Bender homestead in Wilmot, obtaining ownership in 1888. This farm was located on the west side of the Nith River, on the south side of Bleam's Road. Elizabeth and the executors sold the farm to Samuel Luckhardt in 1918. Elizabeth and Joseph are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line.(18)

Joseph Ruby, Jr. married Elizabeth Yantzi, sister to Michael K. Yantzi. They were married in 1875, and in 1877 purchased a farm in Blandford Township, still in Oxford County, but to the east of East Zorra Township, and some distance from the main Amish Mennonite settlement. In 1887, they sold the Blandford Township farm, and early in 1889 Joseph Ruby packed up his family, against the wishes of his parents, we are told, and moved to Colorado. Christian and John Kennel, cousins of Elizabeth's had made the move a few years earlier. Joseph and Elizabeth spent the rest of their lives in the Thurman area, and are buried in the Thurman Mennonite Cemetery.

In 1988, Marie Ruby, granddaughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Yantzi) Ruby compiled a history and genealogy of this family.(19) Life in Thurman, Colorado, was not easy, and because of drought, people moved elsewhere, and the settlement did not prosper. Some of the next two generations, however, remained in the area until the mid 1950s. Aaron, the oldest son, Marie's father eventually moved his family to Pigeon, Michigan.

Nicholas Ruby married Barbara Bender, daughter of Jacob Bender, uncle to the other Benders who married Nicholas's sisters. They were married in 1881 and probably settled on the east half of the properties owned by his father in East Zorra, obtaining ownership in 1891. In 1895, they sold the farm to Nicholas's older brother Christian, who sold it to his son Nicholas, who sold it to his son Isaac. The laneway for this farm, carved out of parts of two lots, was on the Townline.

Nicholas and Barbara then took out a Canada Company lease on the east half of Lots 3 and 4, Concession XIII, in Ellice Township. They obtained the deed in 1923. Daughter Christena and her husband Moses Ropp purchased the farm from her father's estate. Nicholas and Barbara are buried in the Poole Mennonite Cemetery (Poole North).(20)

Anna Ruby married **Peter Y. Zehr** as his second wife in 1899. Peter had been married to Barbara Brenneman and was living on the 15th Line in East Zorra (the southwest quarter of Lot 24, Concession XIV). Barbara died after having given birth to two daughters. Anna and Peter sold this farm in East Zorra in 1901 and purchased Lot 12, Concession III on "Pork Street" in South Easthope. They moved on January 3 -- in time for son Ezra's birth on January 11 in their new location. Ezra and his wife Mary (nee Roth) purchased the farm from Anna and Peter in 1933, and it is still in the Zehr family. Anna and Peter are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery 16th Line.(21)

2 pages of photos follow

JOSEPH RUBY'S BIBLES

In addition to the New Testaments already mentioned previously, there are three known Bibles which belonged to him. The oldest one is a 1744 Strassburg printing of the Zurich Froschauer Bible. This Bible contains the names of Joseph ruby and Joseph M. Bender, but no further indications of ownership. The second one was published in Philadelphia, but no date given. It passed from Joseph Ruby to his eldest son, Christian. It contains family records. The third one is published in Reutlingen, Germany, in 1854; so was purchased (probably from an itinerant salesman) in Canada. It contains a few records. For a study of these Bibles, see "JOSEPH RUBY BIBLES" in the RUBY, Documents, Notes, Correspondence, etc. file.

Notes:

1) "Uber die Entstehung und die Bedeutung des Names Ruby, Rubi, Rubin" by Robert Ruby in *Mitteilungen des Familienverbandes Ruby, -i, -in*, Jahrgang 2, Im Dezember 1957, Heft 2, pages 23,24.

2) "Swiss Place and Family Names" by Adalbert Goertz in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. VI, No. 2, April 1987, page 52.

3) *Was Isch Dini Nahme? What is Your Name?* by Delbert L. Gratz. Morgantown, Pa.: Masthof Press, 1995, page 20.

4) This manuscript is found in the RUBY Documents, Notes, Correspondence, etc. file.

5) Laverne and Nelda Lichti had several copies of the Ruby newsletter cited in Note 1. Some notes on these articles are found in the RUBY, Documents . . . file

6) Isaac Zuercher's notes on Anabaptists taken from "court" records of Bern, Switzerland. (photocopy of the Ruby notes in RUBY Document . . . file)

7) "Les Anabaptistes du Belfortain Revisites" by Robert Baecher in *souvenance Anabaptiste menonitisches gedächtnis*, Bulletin of the French Mennonite Historical Society, numéro 27 – 2008, page 23, (reference to Rugys on page 30)

8) Records of Joseph Ruby's birth and other family vital statistics were found by Lorraine Roth in the archives at Strasbourg, France. The Sommer family connections were made with the aid of the research and compilation of the *Lineage and Descendants of Joseph Sommer and Elisabeth Barbe Garber . . .* by Grace Hildy Croft Christensen. Provo, Utah, 1991.
A photocopy of the birth record of Joseph Ruby and a translation as well as an extended Sommer family chart are found in the RUBY, Documents . . . file.

9) See "The French Revolution and its Aftermath" at the end of the RUBY file.

10) In 1988 Laverne and Nelda Lichti visited les Quelles and found a house which had been in the Ruby family. The oldest part of the house was built in 1747 with an addition built in 1840. It is quite possible that Joseph was born in this house. A corner stone on the new part has the name Ruby engraved on it. The Bacher, occupants of the house at that time, sent a photocopy of Joseph Ruby's birth record as well as a map (in three sections) of the les Quelles area. (Maps found in Ruby, Documents. . . file)

11) *Genealogy of the Late Christian Ruby and Anna Roth Ruby . . . 1952*, First Edition [by Elmer Ruby, Milverton, Ont. and F.V. Bender, New Hamburg, Ont.], page 1.

12) Joseph Ruby's books and their present locations are as follows:
    a) Bilingual New Testament (French and German)
       Call No. BS2129, 1819 in the Conrad Grebel University College Archives
       (photocopies, transcriptions and translations of title page and Joseph's inscription are found in the RUBY Document file)
       (a copy of the inscription was used in the set of East Zorra Mennonite Church historical bulletins)

    b) Marriage record book is in the East Zorra Mennonite Church archives. A photocopy and transcription are found in the Mennonite Archives at Conrad Grebel University College. (in the Early Amish Collection, IV - Western Ontario Mennonite Conference)
       These records have been transcribed and are in Lorraine Roth's EAST ZORRA BIRTH, DEATH, MARRIAGE, etc. files

    c) The account book is located at East Zorra with a photocopy at Conrad Grebel--in the file cited in b). A summary of this book is found in the RUBY Document file.

d) The New Testament placed in the first meetinghouse in East Zorra by Bishop Joseph Ruby is located in the East Zorra Mennonite Church archives. (photocopy of inscription, transcription and translation in RUBY, Documents . . . file)

e) JOSEPH RUBY BIBLES

Notes, transcriptions and translation on the following known Bibles will be found in the RUBY, Document. . . file

I. A Martin Luther translation, printed in Philadelphia (no date)
II. Th 1854 edition printed in Reutlingen, Germany
III. A 1744 reprint of the 1536 Zurich Froeschauer Bible

13) At the time of Magdalena's birth, the Michael Roth family was living on the Granzele farm with their vital statistics registered at Hirtzbach. Either they lived somewhere else between her sister's births in 1815 and 1820,or they failed to register Magdalena's birth in 1818.

14) Peter Y. Zehr was first married to Barbara Brenneman.

15) See *The Christian Ruby Family*, compiled by Delmer Bender, New Hamburg, Ontario, 1989.

16) See the *Genealogy of Jacob M. and Maria (Ruby) Bender* by Mrs. Esther Schwartzentruber et al, 1973.

17) See *The Family History and Genealogy of Michael B. Yantzi and Jacobena (Kennel) Yantzi* by Henry and Mae Yantzi, New Hamburg, Ontario, 1991. The family of Barbara (Ruby) and Michael K. Yantzi are found on pages 15-85.

18) See *The Joseph M. Bender Family* by Delmer & Lauretta Bender et al, [New Hamburg, Ontario, 1987].

19) *The Genealogy of the Joseph Ruby Sr. Family*, compliled by Marie Ruby, [Pigeon, Michigan,] 1988.

20) All of the families with Bender connections are found in *Genealogy of Jacob and Magdalena Bender . . .*, Third Edition, by Jacob R. Bender, Tavistock, Ontario, 1946. The family of Barbara (Bender) and Nicholas Ruby is found on pages 47, 48.

21) See *Peter Y. Zehr and Barbara Brenneman and Anna Ruby Family History, Memories and Genealogy* by Edna Yantzi et al, Tavistock, Ontario, 2003.

There is a note that page 12 (next page is blank so there are no new files for the rest of these notes.

22) "The Amish Mennonites in Canada" by Jacob R. Bender in *A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario* by L. J. Burkholder, Markham, Ont., 1935, page 226.

23) Joseph Ruby had a brother Christian born in 1810 and a second cousin Christian, grandson of Benedict Rubi, born in 1819. If he was Christian's

brother, he would have been 32 at the time of his marriage in 1842, and if he was his cousin, he would have been about 23. Either case is possible.

24) The sale was advertised in the *Deutsche Canadier*, April 8, 1847.

25) Recent research by Joe Springer of the Mennonite Historical Library and Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, has discovered the marriage record of Maria Ernst and Jacob Peterschmitt. It appears that when Maria brought her daughters to Canada, they shortened the surname to Schmitt or Schmidt. It also appears that Maria was the daughter of Jacob Peterschmitt by a previous marriage, making her a stepdaughter or stepsister of the other Schmitt women. This information from a letter from Joe Springer to Lorraine Roth, dated December 5, 2005.

26) Copies of the correspondence from Dr. Boullee (formerly of New Hamburg) and Joseph Megli (formerly of Wellesley Township) were received from a Megli descendant, Wendy Wild, formerly of Calgary, Alberta. A photocopy of Anna Ruby and John Megli in the RUBY Document . . . file was taken from *A Megli Memorial* by Althea N. Mohar, Newton Kans., 1979.

27) Baptismal records from the Church Record of H. W. Peterson, 1833-35.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
April 2007 (minor revisions)

ADDITIONAL RUBYS IN SOUTH EASTHOPE

Since all Rubys of Amish Mennonite descent in Canada can trace their ancestry back to Joseph, there has been little thought that perhaps others of his family had also come to Canada. In the 1881 South Easthope census, 74-year-old Peter Ruby was in the Joseph Ruby household. This, no doubt, was Joseph's brother. He has not been found in an earlier census, but that may have been an oversight -- either on the part of the enumerator or on the part of those of us who have done the research. There is no indication that Peter had been married or that he had children. Peter’s death on August 2, 1884 was reported by Jacob M. Bender.

In his chapter "The Amish Mennonites in Canada" in L. J. Burkholder's *A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario*, Jacob R. Bender mentioned Christian Ruby in his list of pioneers in the East Zorra congregation.(1) I had simply expected him to be the son of Joseph but, obviously, the son was not a pioneer; so Jacob R. Bender must have had knowledge of a Christian Ruby, but I am not

aware that he left anything in writing concerning either Christian or Peter. So, we have had to piece together the Christian Ruby story from the gleanings in the available records. I am assuming that Christian Ruby was the older brother of Joseph, although a cousin by the same name could also have been the Christian we are about to reveal.(2)

CHRISTIAN RUBY AND MARIA SCHMITT

Documentation for both Christian Ruby and his wife Maria Schmitt is very scant. Christian appeared in Peter Litwiller's account book in January of 1838 when Litwiller lent him five dollars. This might indicate that the two young Ruby men came to Canada at the same time. There are two more references to Christian Ruby in Litwiller's account book dated in 1841.

In the 1839 and 1840 census, Christian Ruby is listed, as a single male, on Lot 16, North Snyder's Road with 25 acres cleared and 75 uncleared. This is part of Michael Roth's lot, who is listed with 40 acres cleared and 60 uncleared. Since Joseph Ruby married a daughter of Michael Roth, one wonders whether it was Joseph, erroneously called Christian, on this lot.

We have found a record of Christian and Maria's marriage in 1842, but it gives no information except that Maria's name was Schmitt. We then find Christian Ruby in the 1843 assessment and census of South Easthope. He was located on Lot 16, Concession IV; Joseph Ruby was on Lot 13, also concession IV. Christian had a wife and a male child. Of his 100 acres he had cleared only three, but he had two oxen, two cows and one "horned cattle" (steer). By 1845, two daughters had been added to the family.

There is no census record for 1846, the year their twin daughters were born. In 1847, Christian was replaced by Joseph Ruby on Lot 16. "Maria Robi" advertised a sale of Christian Robi's things to be held at deceased Joseph Jantzi's place in Wilmot on April 17, 1847.(3) Although it is nowhere stated, it is assumed that Christian Ruby had died.

In 1850, Peter Zehr, medical practitioner and minister of the Amish Mennonites, purchased the lot from the Canada Company and sold it the same year to John S. Wagler. It is supposed that Peter may have acted as an executor on behalf of Christian's family.

By the time of the 1851 census, Christian and Maria's four daughters were all found in foster homes in Wilmot. Thus it is assumed that by this time Maria had also died or had left the community. It is only through their marriage records that we are able to confirm that they were, indeed, the children of Christian and Maria.

Why was the Christian and Maria Ruby family lost to the memory of the Joseph Ruby family. Or, does such a memory still exist? Mary did not have descendants, and the other girls went to Nebraska. The son probably did not survive, but perhaps he did, and we lost him too.

The Christian and Maria (Schmitt) Ruby family, as we have been able to piece it together from the scant documentation follows on the next page.

THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN AND MARIA (SCHMITT) RUBY

Christian Ruby, probably son of Christian Rubi and Elisabeth Sommer
b. 18 May 1810, les Quelles, la Broque, Bas-Rhin
d. 1846/47, probably in South Easthope Township
m. 3 May 1842, Wilmot Township, by Bishop John Oesch
Anna Maria Schmitt, dau. of Jacob Peterschmitt and Katharina Schad/Schott(22)
b. 27 Jan 1810, Ueberstrass, Haut-Rhin (Alsace)
d. 1847-1851?, perhaps in Wilmot

Children: 1) Son, b. ca.1843, probably South Easthope Township
(listed in 1843-1845 South Easthope census)
-- no further trace of this son has been found

2) Mary Ruby, b. ca. 1844, S. Easthope; d. ?
m. 19 Sep 1901, Wilmot
Christian S. Kipfer, son of Christian Kipfer and Barbara Schmidt
b. 6 Jun 1839; d. 30 Mar 1928
(This was Christian's 3rd marriage; his children were from 1m.)

2) Elizabeth Ruby, b. ca. 1845, S. Easthope Twp.
(with her sister Barbara at Plymouth, Nebraska, in 1879)
- two daughters – Susanna and Maryann, married to John M. Daub

3) Barbara Ruby, b. 25 May 1846, S. Easthope Twp.(5)
m. 13? Oct 1868, by Lutheran minister, Philipsburg
Henry Loth, son of John Loth and Anna Elisab. Much/Merch
(lived at Plymouth, Nebraska and perhaps elsewhere)

4) Anna Ruby, b. 25 May 1846, S. Easthope Twp.
m. 9 Sep 1878, Philipsburg, ON
John Megli, son of Joseph Megli and Elizabeth Luckhart
(lived at Plymouth, Nebraska and Oklahoma)

Mary Ruby was in the Nicholas and Anna (Ernst) Lichti home in the 1851 census. Anna's mother was Mary's stepmother. Mary eventually married Christian S. Kipfer whose mother was Mary's mother's stepsister. In 1851 Elizabeth was in the Christian and Catherine Roth home -- no known relationship. Barbara and Anna, the five-year-old twins were in the home of Jacob and Barbara (Litwiller) Gardner. The Gardners had no children of their own, but had several foster children.

Through correspondence between Joseph Megli (formerly of Wellesley, but then living in Nebraska) and Dr. Boullee (formerly of New hamburg, but then living in California) we learn that Elizabeth, Barbara, and Anna were all living in Plymouth, Nebraska. Barbara and Anna were married in Phillipsburg, Ontario, although John Megli was already a resident of Nebraska. According to an 1879 letter, Elizabeth was with Henry and Barbara Loth. (6)

Notes:

1) "The Amish Mennonites in Canada" by Jacob R. Bender in *A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario* by L.J. Burkholder, Markham, Ont.,1935, page 226.

2) Joseph Ruby had a brother Christian born in 1810 and a second cousin Christian, grandson of Benedict Rubi, born in 1819. If he was Christian's

brother, he would have been 32 at the time of his marriage in 1842, and if he was his cousin, he would have been about 23. Either case is possible. We are assuming he was Joseph's brother.

3) The sale was advertised in the *Deutsch Canadier*, April 8, 1847.

4) Recent research by Joe Springer of the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, has discovered the marriage record of Maria Ernst and Jacob Peterschmitt. It appears that when Maria brought her daughters to Canada, they shortened the surname to Schmitt or Schmidt. It also appears that Maria was the daughter of Jacob Peterschmitt by a previous marriage, making her a step-daughter or step-sister of the other Schmitt women. This information from a letter from Joe SPringr to Lorraine Roth, dated December 5, 2005.

5) Copies of the correspondence from Dr. Boullee and Joseph Megli (formerly of Wellesley Township) were received from a Megli descendant, Wendy Wild, formerly of Calgary Alberta. Wendy has also done much research on this Ruby and the Megli families – copies found in respective Ruby and Megli document files.

6) Elizabeth was reported living with her sister Barbara at Plymouth, Nebraska, in 1879. She had two daughters out of wedlock, but is never known to have married. Susanna was born in 1879 in Toronto, Ontario, but is not known to have married. Mary Ann married John M. Daub. In the 1920 census Elizabeth was living with her sister Mary Ann and her family at Plymouth, Jefferson County, Nebraska.

A photocopy of Anna Ruby and John Megli in the Christian and Maria (Schmidt) Ruby, Notes, research, etc. file was taken from *A Megli Memorial* by Althea N. Mohar, Newton, Kans., 1979.

OTHER RUBYS IN WILMOT

On the 1830 survey of the German Block in Wilmot Township, Michael Ruby was listed on Lot 2, South Snyder's Road. Two of Michael and Barbara's children were baptized in 1833. In 1834 both parents and a son died of cholera. In 1835 daughter Barbara was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berlin/Kitchener.(see Note)

David Shantz, acting as guardian for the surviving Ruby children claimed the patent for the front 50 acres of Michael's lot in 1835 and sold it to Mathias Fry the following year. The ancestry nor the descendants of this Michael Ruby are known, but he was not likely of Amish Mennonite ancestry. One occasionally finds Rubys in the records who may be descendants of this family.

Note: Baptismal records from the church Record of H.W. Peterson, 1833-35.

Additional Items in RUBY, INTRODUCTION< File:

Two unnumbered photo pages

"THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH" (including several drafts)

"AN ORPHAN BOY BECOMES BISHOP'"(including several drafts)

A STUDY OF THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SEVERAL CANADIAN AMISH MENNONITES AND PETER GRABER, then of Allen County, Indiana, (1865-1872)

- the RUBY letters only in this file

RUBY LAND HOLDINGS (not in file sent to MHL Goshen)

Additional Files:

RUBY, Documents, Notes, Correspondence, etc.

Christian and Maria (Schmidt) Ruby
-notes, research, etc.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
November, 2010

****This story was at beginning of new files also.

AN ORPHAN BOY BECOMES BISHOP

JOSEPH RUBY IS BORN

Christian Ruby left his wife and infant son and wound his way down the sloping, winding trail to the town of La Broque. There in the town hall he registered the birth of his son on July 12, 1813. He and his wife Elizabeth (nee Sommer) had decided to call him Joseph.

As Christian made his way back up the mountain trail to Les Quelles, their little settlement nestled up in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France, he had lots of time to think. Perhaps he thought of his grandfather Peter Ruby who had come to this remote spot to escape the persecution of their people (the Anabaptists) in Switzerland. Christian never knew his grandfather because he died very young -- before his uncle Benedict was born. He remembered grandmother Ruby well. She was Barbara Joder. He was 18 when she died. Christian used to listen to the stories Grandmother Barbara told about the hard times in Switzerland and their flight to France. The ruler of these hills had allowed them to live relatively peacefully and according to their conscience.

Since the Revolution more than 20 years ago, however, things were different. Some things were better. They were no longer treated as foreigners, but since they were under Napoleon's rule, he allowed no exemptions from military service. What was the future of their people?

Christian may have had some worries about the world and the future, but his concern at the moment was probably that this new son would live. Elizabeth had given birth five children since their marriage. Thus far, Pierre and Chretien survived. Maria lived several months but Johannes only one day. Joseph seemed healthy enough, but Christian was concerned. It was hard for Elizabeth to bury their two little ones in their little community graveyard.

Joseph lived, but it was Elizabeth that Christian should have been concerned about, for six months later she died. Christian buried her beside her little ones. Both Ruby and Sommer relatives were close by to take care of his three little ones. In October of 1815 Christian married Elizabeth Zehnder. Almost a year later she gave birth to twins -- a boy and a girl -- and they named them Maria and Johannes. But these babies also did not survive. Johannes lived less than one day and Maria only 23 days.

For all of these occasions Christian made the little journey down the hill to register the events with the registrar. But on February 25, 1817, less than a year and a half after his second marriage, Christian died and someones else made the trip down the hill to register his death at La Broque.

Joseph was then three and a half years old. He had a stepmother, lots of uncles, aunts and cousins; so one hopes that his childhood was reasonably happy

and secure. Did Joseph ever tell his grandchildren about his childhood in the hills around Les Quelles? What a pity that these stories have been lost!

JOSEPH RUBY COMES TO CANADA

The 1952 edition of the Christian Ruby genealogy gave the date of Joseph Ruby's arrival in Canada as 1838. One wonders how this single, orphaned, young man got to Canada. Since his mother was a Sommer, was he related to the Sommers who came to Canada? The John Sommer family who came to Canada via Lewis County, New York, about the same time as Joseph do not seem to be closely related, and they were from Lorraine. Perhaps they knew each other and perhaps they didn't. We do find, however, that several of the Wagler immigrants' wives and the widow of Andrew Herrfort were first cousins to Joseph through his mother, but they came to Canada considerably later than Joseph did.

About 1848, Joseph began using a journal to record his items of business. In it he recorded: "In the year 1854, the 23rd August, I, Joseph Ruby collected money for the widow Ana Sommer [Herrfort](as was the French custom, he used her maiden name) and her two sons to send to Germanay [France] to let them come to America."

JOSEPH RUBY TAKES A WIFE

When Joseph arrived in Canada, the land in Wilmot was generally taken by the settlers who had been arriving since the mid 1820s; so Joseph had to look for land further west. A wife, however, could be found among the settlers of Wilmot. Joseph chose Magdalena Roth, daughter of Michael Roth and Magdalena Lichti as his bride. They were married November 17, 1840 by Bishop John Oesch. The Berlin newspaper, called the "Canada Museum," carried an announcement of the marriage. Magdalena had come to Canada with her parents on the Brig *Abby Jones* which sailed from Le Havre, France and arrived in New York on July 12, 1827. Magalena was then seven years old.

Joseph and Magdalena settled on Lot 13, Concession IV of South Easthope, on the north side the Townline where the Sebastopol Road and the Townline meet. No doubt, Joseph, who was then 27 years old, had already cleared some of this land and had built a small cabin for his new bride.

JOSEPH RUBY -- FIRST BISHOP AT EAST ZORRA

The Amish Mennonite Congregation of South Easthope and East Zorra had just been organized in 1837. New settlers kept coming from Europe and the young people from Wilmot also looked for land on the frontier; so the South Easthope and East Zorra settlement as well as the congregation grew rapidly.

Several men who had been ordained in Europe served the congregation in the early days. However, they still depended on bishop oversight from Wilmot. In those days most of the congregational ceremonies -- communion, baptism, marriages -- were not carried out without the services of a bishop. In 1849 two additional ministers were ordained. In 1852 another ordination was held and Joseph Ruby was ordained minister and John S. Wagler deacon.

In 1853, fourteen years after a congregation began meeting in South Easthope and East Zorra, they finally decided to ordain their own bishop. There were at least four active ministers at that time -- Dr. Peter Zehr, Daniel Schrag, Joseph Baechler and Joseph Ruby. No doubt the lot was used to decide which of these four would be ordained to the office of bishop, and the lot fell on Joseph Ruby.

A few items pertaining to the Joseph Ruby era remain. One of these is his marriage record book with entries from 1858 to 1869. This particular form of recording marriages was prescribed by the government. The bishop was supplied

with a book in which he kept a record for himself. A copy of the same data was sent to the bureau of statistics at the end of each year. This record was meticulously kept by Joseph and included ages of bride and groom, their place of birth and residence, names of both sets of parents including mothers' maiden names, names of witnesses and their place of residence, and the date of the marriage. Joseph's knowledge of French is seen in this record when he wrote the name Gascho as "Cachot." He evidently knew that the Gaschos were originally French and used that form of the name.

Another indication of Joseph's knowledge of French was his New Testament with French on one side and German on the other. Some of us remember bilingual Testaments in our homes, but ours had German on one side and English on the other. Joseph's account book has also been preserved and is an indication of his business ability.

From reading the writings of those who have researched the era when Joseph Ruby served the congregation -- Fred Lichti, Orland Gingerich or Hugh Laurence -- one gets the impression that the church community prospered. Although those who knew Joseph Ruby personally are no longer with us, one still hears appreciative comments from those who are his biological or faith descendants.

This man who had all the odds against him from infancy became the revered pioneer bishop of a large and prosperous congregation. Perhaps it is because of the difficulties he had to overcome in his early life that he was uniquely prepared to serve God and the Church in this way.

EPILOGUE

In the Stratford "Beacon," July 23, 1875 the following accident was reported: "Rev. Joseph Ruby, Mennonite minister, had the misfortune to fracture his leg by breaking a hay fork."

In 1878 Joseph Ruby and his son-in-law Jacob M. Bender exchanged farms. Jacob had been located on the west half of Lots 35 and 36, Concession XV in East Zorra (across the county road from the Rubys). What was originally the Joseph Ruby farm in South Easthope then became a Bender farm. The East Zorra farm was divided in 1891 between Nicholas Ruby, Joseph's youngest son and son-in-law Michael K. Yantzi.

Joseph and Magdalena's second son, Joseph, had married Elizabeth Yantzi and had bought a farm in Blandford Township some distance east of the main Amish settlement. In 1889 Joseph Ruby II packed up his family, against the wishes of his parents we are told, and moved to Colorado. Descendants of this family preserved a letter written by Father Joseph in 1896 to his son and family. A copy and translation will be found elsewhere in the RUBY, Documents, etc. file.

In 1883 the East Zorra Amish Mennonite Congregation decided to build a meetinghouse. Both Wilmot and East Zorra were very large congregations which could not possibly be contained in the homes for services. It was, however, the Amish tradition to meet in homes and barns. There was a great deal of resistance from the conservative elements in the Amish constituency across North America to the use of meetinghouses. On the other hand, there was also resistance to dividing into smaller groups when they were in such close proximity to each other. A few Amish had built meetinghouses in such far-away places as Illinois before 1880, but in the 1880s there seems to have been a rash of meetinghouse building across North America. East Zorra led the way in Ontario in 1883. The other congregations followed and by 1886 the five Amish Mennonite congregations had all built a meetinghouse. Since Joseph Ruby was then 70 years old, one wonders whether he had some reservations and simply

agreed to what the majority wanted, or whether he was an initiator in the project. At any rate, he donated a New Testament for the new meetinghouse.

On February 3, 1887 Joseph's wife died. Perhaps this caused Joseph to ask to have someone else be ordained to the office of bishop. The congregation chose his son-in-law Jacob M. Bender. Joseph lived another ten years, passing away on January 18, 1897 at the age of 83. Joseph and Magdalena are buried in the cemetery, beside which the East Zorra meetinghouse had been built.

Notes:

1) The above is an expanded version of "An Orphan Boy Becomes Bishop" which appeared on an East Zorra Mennonite Church bulletin in 1987.

2) Records of Joseph Ruby's birth and other family vital statistics were found in the archives at Strasbourg, France- with copies in the RUBY Documents, Correspondence,etc. file.

3) A detailed description of Life in France just prior to Joseph's birth is found in the RUBY, Documents, etc. file.

4) Records of ship passenger lists are found in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

5) Locations of Joseph Ruby's record books are as follows:

a) Marriage record book is in the East Zorra Mennonite Church archives. A photocopy and transcription are found in the Mennonite Archives at Conrad Grebel College.

b) The New Testament is located at the Mennonite Archives at Conrad Grebel College.

c) The account book is located at East Zorra with a photocopy at Conrad Grebel.

6) In 1988 Marie Ruby compiled an interesting family history of the Joseph Ruby family who migrated to Colorado -- "The Genealogy Of The JOSEPH RUBY SR. FAMILY."

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
November, 2010

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH

One hopes that the Ruby family was isolated enough in their little mountain enclave to have escaped the horrors of the French Revolution (1789-1793). Life, however, would never be the same after that, and even the little principality of Salm would be affected. Throughout France, celebrations were held in the fall of 1792 in every city, town and village, and every adult male was expected to swear allegiance to the new constitution. The Anabaptists were invited to do

this also, thus gaining full citizenship rights. It seems that generally the Anabaptists were quite willing to accept the new Republic, but swearing, of course, was another matter. In most cases the local authorities were satisfied with their "promise" of allegiance.

Since Salm was not a part of France, this celebration did not take place there. However, plans were underway to annex this little kingdom to France, and in March of 1793, three government delegates were sent to effect this little take-over and to administer the "oath of allegiance." One of these delegates, named Goupilleau, kept a journal, and thus we have the story of his experience at Salm.

At a reception in their honour an Anabaptist was present, and Goupilleau noticed him. To the swearing-in ceremony, the Anabaptists had sent three delegates (probably their ministers), and Goupilleau noted in his journal, "according to their principles the Anabaptists do not make any oaths." Evidently, their "promise" was acceptable. On this occasion the Anabaptist delegation took with them an interpreter, and Goupilleau wrote in his journal, "they speak only German, with the exception of one who murders it [the French language] a little." On that occasion the Anabaptists gave the government delegate "the book which contains the text of their principles." No doubt this was the Dortrecht Confession of Faith. They took this opportunity to explain to the government official their stance on military service. Up until this time, the Mennonites had been able to negotiate for military exemption. In fact, universal military conscription as we know it today did not exist except in Switzerland. However, the Constitution would change all that. All men were now equal and free, but that would mean that all were also responsible to take up arms to defend their territory, and the Anabaptists knew this would come, and were preparing to negotiate. Again Goupilleau wrote in his journal, "They abhor blood and never fight; they will pay volunteer men in their place; but they do not leave their homes."

Goupilleau was so impressed with the Anabaptists that he arranged to visit the old minister Jacob Kupferschmidt. In his journal, Goupilleau compared them to the Quakers and found them similar, "except that they don't quake." He wrote, "I believe in my soul that these are the best men who inhabit the earth." He left them "almost with tears in his eyes, and regretting that he was not born among these good citizens."(1)

Although we have no indication what part, if any, the Ruby family played in this drama. Joseph's father, Christian, was 14 years old, and perhaps 14-year-olds were not allowed to go to public celebrations, but one would guess he would have listened with both ears when the adults talked about it. Peter, Joseph's grandfather, would have been one of Jacob Kupferschmidt's members and, no doubt, would have helped to build the house in which the Parisian delegate was entertained. He reported that the house was new and "well built." Kupferschmidt's house had burned a few years previously and the brethren had built their minister a new one.

The Anabaptists exchanged addresses with Goupilleau. No doubt, they were counting on him to support them and plead their case in Paris. Although documentation for the delegation to Paris several months later does not name the delegates, one would suspect that the Mennonites in Salm had a great deal to do with arranging it. The response was not signed by Goupilleau but by one of the other delegates who was present at the activities at Salm. It certainly indicates a very favourable view of the Anabaptists.

It is not certain to whom the response was directed, but probably to local officials who would be responsible for recruiting their citizens for army service. The response to the delegates' visit is as follows:

"The Anabaptists of France, citizens, have sent several delegates to inform us that their sect and their ethics prohibit them from bearing arms, and to request that they be used in the army for any other service.

We have seen in them their simple hearts, and we have thought that a good government should use all virtues for the common good. That is why we invite you to use the same gentleness toward the Anabaptists which is their character, to prevent that anyone persecute them, and to give them the service in the army which they ask for, such as trail-blazers or teamsters, or even to permit them to discharge their service in cash."(2)

Local officials, of course, could interpret the above "invitation" as they wished, but at any rate, the Anabaptists had the sympathies of the central government to a rather large extent. Had the Republic been left to find its way through the troubled times caused by the Revolution, perhaps the Anabaptists could have maintained their stance. However, when Napoleon came on the scene, he made the teamsters a division of the army and armed them. The Anabaptists again tried to negotiate, but Napoleon flatly refused. From then on, the Anabaptists of France were likely to be called into the army. No doubt, some of them found some kind of non-combatant service, and perhaps some even managed to get farm leaves. Some became reconciled to this state of affairs, but others began to listen to stories about America, and from 1820 to 1850 large numbers packed their few belongings and followed the trek to America.

Notes:

1) *Les Assemblees Anabaptistes-Mennonites de France* by Jean Séguy. Paris: Mouton, c1977, p. 359

2) *Ibid.*, p. 361

Lorraine Roth

My source of the above story is Jean Séguy's history of the Anabaptist-Mennonites, which is in French.

I wrote the story for my Ruby file, because of my interest in Joseph Ruby, who was born at the little hamlet of Les Quelles in the principality of Salm. Joseph migrated to Canada and became the first bishop of the Amish Mennonite congregation in East Zorra in which I grew up.

This is the extent of my interest in Jacob Kupferschmidt. Although, on Verna Schwartzentruber's and my visit to Les Quelles in 1992, we did take a photograph of the Kupferschmidt home.

RUBY LAND HOLDINGS

<u>South Easthope Township</u>

Christian Ruby	Lot 16, Concession IV 1843, 1845 census
Joseph Ruby, (Magdalena Roth)	Lot 13, Conc. IV, S.Easthope 1842, 1843, 1845 census -- 1840 -- lease contract (Canada Company) -- 1853 -- deed (Canada Company) -- 1878 -- sale to Jacob M. Bender

East Zorra Township

Aaron Ruby	1934	XV	34	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	John E. Lichti
(Selma Yantzi, Laura Schwartzentruber						
Estate	1962	XV	34	" "	sale	Kenneth Ruby
Amos W. Ruby	1935	XV	34	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	John Ruby
(Marion Roth)	1965	"	"	" "	sale	Stanley Roth
Benjamin Ruby	1941	XV	33	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	Chr. Ruby Estate
(Elmina Wagler)	1979	"	"	" "	sale	Royden E. Ruby
Christian Ruby	1866	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	Daniel Bender
(Anna Roth)	1910	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	sale	Samuel Ruby
	1887	XIV	29	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	James Facey
	1905	XIV	29	100 ac. E 1/2	sale	Joseph R. Ruby
	1895	XV	36,35	66 ac. Ept	purch.	Nich. & Barb. Ruby
	1905	"	"	" "	sale	Nich. & Sarah Ruby
	1905	XIV	25	50 ac. SE 1/4	purch.	Falck Est.
	1908	"	"	" "	sale	N. Pletsch
Christian Ruby Jr.	1900	XV	34	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	John Sommer Estate
(Magdalena Iutzi)	1905	XV	34	100 ac. W 1/2	sale	John Ruby
	1904	XV	33	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	David Rudy
Estate	1941	"	"	" "	sale	Benjamin Ruby
Christian L. Ruby	[1930	XVI	25	106 ac. E 1/2[	purch.	Simon B. Zehr
(Annie Brenneman)	1968	"	"	" "	sale	Henry J. Ruby
				(sold it the same year to Arnold J. Zehr)		
	1945	XVII	27	60 ac.	purch.	Kaufman
	1968	"	"	"	sale	Henry J. Ruby
	1953	XV	26	1/2 ac. [SE pt]	purch.	Everett Estate
	1975	"	"	" "	sale	Whealy
Elias Ruby	1908	XIV	26	75 ac. NSW pt	purch.	Jacob Ruby Estate
(Mary Bender)	1911	"	"	" "	sale	Daniel P. Otto
	1911	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	Samuel Ruby
	1914	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	sale	Joseph R. Bender
	1914	XIII	30	50 ac. NE 1/4	purch.	Joseph R. Bender
	1916	"	"	" "	sale	Conrad Hammer
Isaac Ruby	1935	XV	36/35	66 ac. W pt	purch.	Nicholas Ruby
Estate	1967	"	"	" "	sale	Raymond Ruby
(Laura Gingerich, Mary Ann Bender)						
Jacob Ruby	1900	XIV	26	75 ac. NSW pt	purch.	L./N./J.P. Kaufmann
(Laura E. Gingerich)						
Estate	1908	"	"	" "	sale	Eli[as] Ruby
John Ruby	[1905	XV	34	100 ac. W 1/2[	purch.	Christian Ruby
(Barbara Baechler)	1935	XV	34	100 ac. W 1/2	sale	Amos Ruby
	[1928	XVI	30	100 ac. W 1/2[	purch.	Nicklas Est.
				& 50 ac. NE 1/4		
	1964	"	30	same as above	sale	Manuel & Amos Ruby

Joseph Ruby*	1878	XV	36	22 ac. W 1/2	purch.	Jacob M. Bender
(lived in SEhope)	1891	XV	36	pt W 1/2	sale	Nicholas Ruby
	"	"	"	"	"	Michael K. Jantzi
	1878	XV	35	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	Jacob M. Bender
	1891	XV	35	E pt W 1/2	sale	Nicholas Ruby
	"	"	"	W pt "	"	Michael K. Jantzi
Joseph R. Ruby	1905	XIV	29	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	Christian Ruby
(Katherine Lebold)	1925	XIV	29	100 ac. E 1/2	sale	Amos Zehr
Manuel Ruby	1934	XVI	27	100 ac. E 1/2	purch.	Haist
(Mabel Iutzi)	1946	"	"	" "	sale	Eilmer Bender
Nicholas Ruby	1891	XV	36/35	pt W 1/2	purch.	Joseph Ruby
(Barbara Bender)	1895	XV	"	pt W 1/2	sale	Christian Ruby
Nicholas Ruby	1905	XV	36/35	66 ac. W pt	purch.	Christian Ruby [Sr]
(Sarah Brenneman)	1919	"	36	26 ac. E pt	"	Jacob S. Bender
	1935	"	36/35	all of above	sale	Isaac Ruby
Samuel Ruby	1910	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	purch.	Christian Ruby
(Mary Roth)	1911	XV	27	100 ac. W 1/2	sale	Eli[as] Ruby

Wilmot Township

John M. Bender (Catherine Ruby) 1877 Lot 27, 50 ac., N pt., S. Bleam's Rd. from C. Merner
1915 " " " "
(and part of homestead Lot 26) to son Joseph J Bender
1888 Lot 26, S. Bleam's Rd. from John Bender estate
1888 " " to Joseph M. Bender

Joseph M. Bender (Elizabeth Ruby) 1888 Lot 26, S. Bleam's Rd. from John M. Bender
1918 " " est. to Samuel Luckhardt

Blandford Township

Joseph Ruby Jr. (Elizabeth Yantzi) 1877 Lot 3, S 1/2, Conc. XIV from Wm. Ross
1887 " " " to J. O. Facey

North Easthope Township

Michael K. Yantzi (son of Michael Yantzi and Jacobena Kennel)
m. 1872 to Barbara Ruby, dau. of Joseph Ruby & Magdalena Roth
Lot 6, Con. I, 1905-1918 (sold to son Michael R. Yantzi)
Lot 7, Con. I, 1916-1918 (sold to son Noah R. Yantzi)
Lot 6, Centre 40 ac. & SW 10 ac., Con. II, 1905-1918
The farm (Lot 6, Con. I) was passed on to son Michael R. Yantzi and to his son Lloyd who sold it in 1954.

Ellice Township

RUBY, Nicholas (son of Joseph Ruby and Magdalena Roth)
m. 1881 to Barbara Bender, dau. of Jacob Bender and Christena Schlegel

Lots 3 & 4, E 1/2, Con. XIII, Can. Co. Lease in 1895, Deed 1923
Sold to Moses Ropp in 1945? (check)