

9. BIER

Nothing, except his name, is known of Jacob Bier, the progenitor of the Biers in Wilmot Township, Ontario. His wife was Barbara Ingold, daughter of Jakob Ingold and Elisabeth Baumann. The Ingolds lived at Probfeld, near Karlskron, on the Danube Marsh near Ingolstadt, Bavaria. Barbara had given birth to a son Jacob Ingold before her marriage. (1) (See Notes below) After their marriage, Barbara and Jacob Bier lived near Dachau, west of Munich, where their two known children were born.

When the Biers arrived in Canada and whether Jacob was with them or whether Barbara was a widow by then is not known. Christian was married by 1853 and daughter Barbara in 1857.

Barbara (Ingold) Bier had two sisters who came to Canada -- Catherine married to Christian Schantz and Magdalena married to Joseph Gascho. Catherine and Christian Schantz were probably in Canada by 1849, and it may be that the Biers accompanied them. No passport or ship passenger list for either the Biers or the Schantzes have been found. We have found the passenger list for the Gaschos who arrived in 1851, but the Biers do not appear on that list.

In 1863 Jacob Ingold, son of Barbara (Ingold) Bier, was granted a passport at Neuburg, Bavaria, to travel to Canada in North America, but by that time the Bier children were already married in Canada, and it is likely that Barbara was here also. In the 1861 census, Widow Barbara Bier, age 61, born in France, was in the Joseph Jacobs home. Although her age is not quite correct, nor was she born in France, it is likely that this person was Barbara (Ingold) Bier.

The Bier family identified with the Reformed Mennonite Church with which several Amish families had affiliated already in the 1850s. Both the children, Christian and Barbara had married into these Reformed families. The Bier family, including Widow Barbara, is buried in the Reformed Mennonite Cemetery (known as Hostetler's) near New Hamburg. There is no tombstone for Jacob. This could indicate he did not come to Canada, or that he did not join the Reformed Mennonite Church and is buried elsewhere.

THE JACOB AND BARBARA (INGOLD) BIER FAMILY

Jacob Bier, birth, death, and parentage not known (2)

m. in Bavaria

Barbara Ingold, dau. of Jakob Ingold and Elisabeth Baumann

b. ca.1796, Lindelbrunnerhof, near Annweiler, Palatinate

d. 13 June 1881, bu. Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, New Hamburg, Ontario

Children:

A. Christian Bier, b. 4 Apr 1832, near Dachau, Bavaria

d. 4 Aug 1900, bu. Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, New Hamburg

1m. Anna Zimmerman (ca.1823-1 Aug 1876)

dau. of Jacob Zimmerman and Elizabeth Becking

2m. Catherine Alion (1850-1881)

3m. Margaret Moerschfelder (1847-1917)

(all buried Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, New Hamburg)

To first marriage (Christian Bier and Anna Zimmerman):

1. Christian Bier, b. 19 Apr. 1855
d. 26 Oct. 1939, bu. Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, Kingwood
m. 1876 to Veronica Yost (1854-1922)
For family list, see the Genealogy of John Yost and Katherine (Kohl), 1798-1982, by Lyle E. and Erma Yost, Hesston, Kansas, 1982, Volume I, page 9
2. Peter Bier, b. 19 Dec. 1860, d. 1952
m. Catherine Green, (1865-)
3. Lydia Bier, b. 1869, d. 1963
m. Charles Hildebrand (1872-)

To second marriage:

4. Frederick Bier, b. 21 Aug. 1879
5. Sara Bier, b. 23 July 1883

To third marriage

6. Emmanuel Bier, b. 7 May 1890

- B. Barbara Bier, b. ___ Apr 1836, near Dachau
d. 1 ___ 1869, bu. Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, New Hamburg
m. 18 Aug 1857, by F. W. Bindeman
Peter Jacobs, son of Joseph Jacobs and Catherine Schwartzentruber
b. 17 Dec 1836, Wilmot Township
d. 16 Nov 1916, bu. Reformed Menn. Cemetery, Wellesley Twp.
Peter 2m. 2 Aug 1870 at Philipsburg to
Sophia Schram, dau. of Frederick and Anna Schram
b. 4 July 1849, Mecklenburg, Germany
d. 1 Dec 1925, bu. Reformed Mennonite Cemetery, Wellesley

Children of Peter Jacobs and Barbara Bier

1. Christian Jacobs (ca.1859-)
m. _____
2. Elizabeth Jacobs (ca.1860-) moved to Brandon, Man.
m. _____ Porter
3. Jonas Jacobs (ca.1860-)
m. 16 Dec 1884, Wellesley, Ont.
Susanna Weber, dau. of Carl Weber and Philipina Knorr

Children of Peter Jacobs and Sophia Schramm:

4. David Jacobs m. 26 Dec 1893 to Minnie McCardle (Stratford, Ont.)
5. Eli Jacobs m. Jessie _____ (Toronto, Ont.)
6. Peter Jacobs, m. 21 Mar 1900 to Emma Hammer (Holly, Michigan)
7. Alexander Jacobs m. Mary _____ (Bridgeport, Ont., then England)
8. Sarah Jacobs m. Christian Gatecke (Kitchener, Ont.)

See the JACOBS Family Genealogical Introduction for more details on this family.

THE RESIDENCES OF CHRISTIAN BIER

Christian Bier's (b. 1832) first wife was Anna Zimmerman whose family had taken up residence in South Easthope Township (Lot 8, Concession III) in 1836. Anna's brother Christian purchased a lease agreement from Anthony Kratzer on Lot 9, Concession II in 1844, and in 1853 he sold/transferred it to Christian Bier who acquired a deed from the Canada Company at the same time.

In 1854, Christian and Anna sold 11 acres to Nicholas Roth, another settler in the neighbourhood, and in 1865, they sold the remaining 89 acres to John Hartleib, who lived beside them on Lot 10. From 1861 to 1865, Christian also owned the neighbouring lot -- Lot 9, Concession I.

In 1864 Christian and Anna had purchased the west half of Lot 19, South Snyder's Road in Wilmot Township. It was here that Anna died 1876. Christian then married Catherine Alion and she died in 1881. Christian's third wife was Margaret Moerschfelder.

In 1876 Christian purchased Lot 19 across the road from their farm, perhaps in anticipation of his son Christian's marriage to Fanny Yost the following year. No doubt, Christian and Fanny took up residence here, but in 1880 they purchased a farm in Mornington Township (the east half of Lot 14, Concession IV) -- perhaps to be closer to Fanny's family.

This left Christian Sr. and the younger sons to farm the 300 acres in Wilmot. When Peter married Catherine Green in 1886, they probably moved into the house across the road, purchasing the farm from Peter's father in 1894. Peter and Catherine's son Elmer got ownership of the farm in 1919, selling it in 1926 to Noah S. Bender.

In 1900 Christian Bier Sr. died, and in 1901, his executors and Widow Margaret sold the farm on the south side of Snyder's Road to Peter Wolf. It is thought that Peter Wolf's wife was a Bier- perhaps Sara. Margaret lived until 1917. Christian and his three wives are buried at Hostetler's, the Reformed Mennonite Cemetery between Baden and New Hamburg.

NOTES:

1) Barbara Ingold had a son Jacob (1829-1888), born out of wedlock to Jakob Stalter, hired man at Helmannsberg. Son Jacob emigrated to Canada in 1863, married Catherine Oberheimer/Oppenheimer, and raised a family near New Hamburg, Ontario. (See the Ingold Family Introduction for more details)

2) Helmut Gingerich, researcher from Bavaria, found the following: Karlskron churchbook registered the death of Jacob Bier, Mennonite, residing Probfeld # 10, died Sept 11, 1839, aged 37 years. This is likely our Jacob Bier who married Barbara Ingold, but we will let other researchers find the proof. If this is indeed our Jacob Bier, then Barbara Ingold Bier did emigrate to Canada as a widow.

Sources of Information:

1) Bavarian research: Rudolf Ingold
Neunstetten/Am Wasen 20
91567 Herrieden, Germany

2) *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope, 1827-2000*, Jim Hagarty, editor, published by the South Easthope History Book Committee, [Stratford, Ont.], pages 28, 150.

3) Gail Milton, Eston, Saskatchewan, who is interested in the Zimmerman family, supplied a more detailed list of the Berger/Bier family which is found in the BIER file.

4) Accompanying this Introduction to the BIER family are some excerpts from the story "FROM THE WOLVES TO THE ROTHES, The Story of Lot 19, North Snyder's Road, Wilmot Township." The whole story can be found in the BIER file, or requested in digital format from bwjantzi@gmail.com

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL BIERS IN CANADA

Two Bier Women in the Berger/Riggenbach Family

Cartherine Bier, wife of Christian Berger - We have recently discovered a Berger/Riggenbach family register which seems to include two Bier women. Christian Berger's wife was Catherine Biehr. (1) (see below) This name is difficult to decipher, but a number of circumstances lead us to believe that it may be Bier. In one of the census records her place of birth is said to be Bavaria. Christian Berger was first mentioned in the business journal of Joseph Ruby of South Easthope Township in 1848. Catherine's birth in Bavaria and the Bergers' appearance in Canada in 1848, would make it possible for the Bier family described above and Catherine to be related and to have come to Canada at the same time.

Catherine Bier was born about 1825 (estimate from age in census record and at death); so she is not a daughter of Barbara (Ingold) Bier, but she might have been a daughter of Jacob Bier by a previous marriage, or a niece of his.

A Brief List of the Christian Berger and Catherine Bier? Family

Christian Berger, (ca.1813-1861)

m. 24 Nov 1847, Europe?

Catherine Bier?, (ca.1825-1891)

2m. to Jacob Riggenbach, (ca.1831-1869)

Children:

- 1) Barbara Berger, (1849-1877), m. Christian Christner
- 2) Samuel Berger, b. 4 Jun 1850
- 3) Jacob Berger, b. 14 Jun 1852
- 4) Magdalena Berger, b. 3 Sep 1854
- 5) Christian Berger, b. 7 Sep 1856
- 6) Joseph Berger, (1857-1859)
- 7) John Berger, b. 12 Jun 1859
- 8) Catherine (Katie) Riggenbach, (1863-1887) m. _____ Schiebel/Schidel?
- 9) Maria Riggenbach, b. 9? May 1866
- 10) Anna Riggenbach, (1869-1959) m. John Egli

Magdalena Ebersol - The other possible Bier woman in the Berger/Riggenbach family register was Magdalena Ebersol (her married name). Only her death date and age are given with no indication what her relationship to the rest of the people in the register might have been. Magdalena was born about 1801, putting her into the same generation as that of Jacob Bier, father of Christian and Barbara, immigrants to Canada.

The Bergers lived in North Easthope Township, Perth County, from 1855 to 1861 -- not far from the home of Christian and Magdalena Ebersol. Magdalena was Christian Ebersol's second wife, and we did not know her identity. In 1861, the Bergers disappeared from the Canadian scene, and from clippings accompanying the family register, we gather they went to Illinois. Christian Berger died and Catherine (supposedly born a Bier) then married Jacob Riggenbach. She had children to both marriages. Magdalena's husband, Christian Ebersol, died in 1862, and after the sale of the property in 1863, Magdalena disappeared from the records in Canada. Thus we suppose she went to join her relatives in Illinois, and her date of death in the fall of 1881 was recorded in their family register. Interestingly enough, the Ebersol family was then able to settle the estate, which they did in the spring of 1882.

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Since Christian Berger had died before Magdalena Ebersol left Canada, we assume that Magdalena was related to Catherine rather than to Christian, but because of the age difference, we suppose they were aunt and niece rather than sisters.

A brief list of the Christian Ebersol Family

Christian Ebersol, son of John Ebersol and Barbara Zwalter

b. 1 Mar 1788, Rhodes, France d. 25 Mar 1862, Wilmot Township

1m. 29 Oct 1812, Imling, France

Susanna Neuhauser (ca.1777-1849), widow of Christian Blank

2m. 1849-1861, Wilmot

Magdalena Bier? b. ca.1801; d. 21 Oct 1881, perhaps in Illinois

Children of Christian Ebersol and Susanna Neuhauser

1. Christian Ebersol (1814-1890) m. Elizabeth Stoltzfus
2. Joseph Ebersol (1816-1862)
3. Susanna Ebersol (1822-1906) m. Emile Arthuad

NOTES:

1) The record of this Berger/Riggenbach family came to us via Milton Gascho of Kokomo, Indiana, who received it from Irene (Egli) Mays. Milton was trying to track down the family of John and Magdalena (Gascho) Egli who had moved from Canada to Illinois in 1867. One of the Riggenbach daughters had married one of the Egli sons.

2) A photocopy of the original record is in the BERGER file. Clippings sent by Irene (Egli) Mays to Milton Gascho in 1984 concerning Anna Ringenbach/ Riggenbach are in the EGLI file.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
May, 2011

~ Reformatted and Updated
by Bruce W. Jantzi
2016

Land Record for Christian Bier in Wilmot Township, adjacent to Steinman Mennonite Church

Lot 19 NSR North Snyder's Road, Wilmot Township

Front -- *1842 – Patent, Crown to Peter Summer/Sommer, 50 ac.

Book C1 – 1848/49 – B & S, Peter and Magdalena Sommer to Christian Gascho

#944 50 ac. 250 pd.

Rear -- **/49 – 1846 – sold to Peter Sommer

-- 1845 – transfer Peter Sommer to Joseph Boshard

-- 1849 – Peter Sommer offer to purchase

-- *1854/57 – Deed Poll, University of Toronto to Peter Sommer , 150 ac.

-- *1856/57 – B & S Peter Sommer to Christian Gascho, rear ¾

-- *1867/68 – B & S Christian Gascho to David Gascho, 200 ac.

Bier -- *1876 – B & S, David Gascho to Christian Bier, 200 ac.

Ownership -- *1894 – B & S, Christian Bier to Peter Bier, 200 ac.

-- *1919 – B & S, Peter Bier to Elmer H. Bier, 200 ac.

-- *1926 – B & S, Elmer H. Bier to Noah S. Bender, 200 ac.

No small parcels sold until 1923

A Brief History of Lot 19, North Snyder's Road

Mennonites from Pennsylvania had moved into Waterloo Township shortly after 1800. Wilmot Township, immediately to the west, was a Crown Reserve and not open to settlement. When Christian Nafziger arrived in Canada looking for land on which to settle his family and others of the Amish Mennonite faith still in Europe, the Waterloo Mennonites convinced the government of Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario) to survey part of Wilmot Township on which to settle the Amish. One of the arguments for opening the township for settlement was because the wolves were coming over into Waterloo and killing their sheep and chickens. In other words, they wanted an Amish settlement as a buffer zone between them and the wolves!

In 1842, Peter Sommer received the Crown deed to the front 50 acres of his lot, and in 1848, he and his wife Magdalena sold this portion to Christian Gascho who brought his family from Somerset County, Pennsylvania, to Canada. In 1867, David Gascho, the third son of Christian and Christina Gascho, married Barbara Gerber, and purchased this farm (Lot 19) from his parents. In 1876, David and Barbara sold the 200-acre farm to Christian Bier and moved to Wellesley.

The Bier Era - Christian Bier was born in Bavaria, and by 1853 he had married Anna Zimmerman whose family resided in South Easthope Township in the Huron District. By 1865, they had liquidated their land holdings in South Easthope and had moved to Lot 19, on the south side of Snyder's Road, across from the Gascho farm. In 1876, Christian purchased the Gascho farm as well. No doubt, it was son Christian and his wife Fanny Yost who took up residence here until they left for Mornington Township. Christian Sr. married Catherine Alion and son Peter married Catherine Green. Peter purchased the farm on the north side of the road from his father in 1894. Peter and Catherine Bier's son Elmer purchased the farm in 1919, selling it to Noah S. Bender in 1926.

The Benders remember that water was pumped by means of a hydraulic ram from a spring near the road to Phillipsburg. A water tank had been installed in the barn with water directed into metal-lined troughs in the dairy section of the stable. This device, no doubt, was installed by the Biers.

The Nith River divides this 200-acre farm, making the north section inaccessible during periods of high water. Animals and wagons, horses, and even tractors could pass through the shallow parts of the river during dry seasons. The Benders also remember a trestle bridge spanning the river to allow pedestrian crossing during high water periods. Whether this dates back to the Gascho era or to the ingenuity of the Biers is not known.

Kenton and Sandra Roth are the present owners (2015) of Lot 19 North Snyder's Road, acquiring it in 1987.

Excerpts from: FROM THE WOLVES TO THE ROTHS, by Lorraine Roth
The Story of lot 19, North Snyder's Road, Wilmot Township



Brick house built on Lot 19 NSR by Christian Gascho in 1856

(Photo by Lorraine Roth, 2006)