

## 10. BIRCKELBACH

The presence of Hannes Birckelbach and his family in Canada came to light when Joseph Springer of the Mennonite Historical Library in Goshen, Indiana, sent a copy and translation of a letter written by John S. Schwartzentruber to his cousin Johannes Gungerich in 1831. (1) (Notes below) In this letter, John Schwartzentruber referred to his brother-in-law, Hannes Birckelbach. He reported his visit to his cousin Christian Schlabach in the Glades (Somerset County, Pennsylvania) and others in Walnut Creek, Ohio. On his return to Canada, he sold his horse to Hannes Birckelbach. He indicated that the Birckelbach household as well as others were planning to leave Upper Canada – probably for Butler County, Ohio.

John "Bartleban" (in 1830) or "Berklebaugh" (in 1831) and his family were found in the Waterloo Township census. In 1831 the household consisted of two adults and two children -- one male and one female. According to John M. Byler, the Birkelbach family was listed in the 1840 census of Wayne Township, Butler County, Ohio. Byler also recorded the marriage of Birkelbach's widow, Mary, to John Vongunden/Gundy, a widower with four children, in 1843. (2)

The Gundys moved to Charleston Township, Lee County, Iowa in 1851. After John's death, Mary moved to McLean County, Illinois. Mary was living with her son Christian Birckelbaw when she died in 1892. (3)

### THE FAMILY OF JOHN BIRCKELBACH AND MARIA (SCHWARTZENTRUBER) (BIRCKELBACH) VONGUNDEN

**Hannes/John Birckelbach**, (6) b. date and place unknown

- d. 1841, Wayne Township, Butler Co., OH
- m. 1829, likely in Canada

**Maria Schwartzentruber**, dau. of Christian Schwartzentruber and Catherine Miller

- b. 11 Oct 1804, Hesse, Germany
- d. 5 May 1892, Dry Grove Township, McLean Co., Illinois, bu. Lanz Cemetery
- Mary/Maria 2m. 20 Aug 1843, Trenton, Butler Co., Ohio, by Bishop Joseph Goldschmidt  
to John Vongunden/Gundy, of La Broque, Salm, a widower with four children  
son of Ulrich von Gunde and Elizabetha Nuehauser of Salm

b. 1791, Baden, Germany

d. 1865? or 1858 (4), Lee Co., Iowa

John Vongunden, 1m. 1817 to Anna König (died in childbirth circa 1831)

dau. of Johannes König and Barbara Roth

John Vongunden's children from the first marriage were Barbara, Anna, and John; a fourth child Joseph died before the second marriage

#### Children of John Birckelbach and Maria Schwartzentruber:

1) Katherine Birkelbaugh, b. Aug. 29, 1830, Waterloo Township, Canada

- d. Aug. 14, 1904, Flanagan, Illinois
- m. Oct. 17, 1847, Butler Co., Ohio

Johannes Peterschmidt, (John P. Schmidt) (Amish Mennonite minister)

- b. 12 Oct 1820, Bendorf, Haut Rhin, (Alsace), France; d. Jan. 21, 1904, Flanagan, Illinois  
son of Johannes/Jean Peter Schmidt (b. 1794) and Christine Schwarz  
grandson of Jacob Peterschmidt and Barbara Lauber

BIRCKELBACH

2) son listed in 1831 census, died before 1840 census in Ohio

3) Elizabeth Birkelbaw, b. 1833, Wayne Township, Butler Co., OH  
d. 3 Nov, 1913, bu. North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery  
m. 20 Dec 1849

Christian K. Miller, son of Michael Miller and Magdalena King  
b. 29 May 1826

d. 18 Feb 1904, bu. North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery, Danvers Twp., McLean Co., Illinois

Children:

1. Magdalena B. Miller (1852-1928) m. Joash H. Stutzman
2. Mary B. Miller (1855-1922) m. Joseph P. Slonaker
3. Samuel B. Miller (1857-1928) m. Nina Guthrie
4. Katie B. Miller (1859-1913) m. Joseph E. Stuckey
5. Christian B. Miller (1862-1826) m. Elizabeth A. Spencer
6. Joseph B. Miller (1865-1925) 1m. Minnie Filckil, 2m. Anna Unclebee
7. Anna B. Miller (1867-1896)
8. Emanuel B. Miller (1870-1938) m. Maude E. Sparks
9. Fannie E. Miller (1872-1946)
10. Infant Miller (1875-1876)

4) Marie/Mary Birckelbaw, b. 28 Sep 1835, Wayne Twp., Butler Co., OH  
d. 6 Feb 1903, bu. North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery  
m. 8 Aug 1858

Jacob Miller, son of Michael Miller and Magdalena King  
b. 23 Aug 1830

d. 16 Apr 1912, bu. North Danvers Mennonite Cemetery

Children;

1. Phoebe B. Miller (1859-1949) m. John Riesser
2. August Birckelbaw Miller (1864-1927) m. Lydia Maurer
3. Michael B. Miller (1867/68-1936) m. Effie Mae Stevens
4. Ellen B. Miller (1872/73-1944) m. David Reesor
5. Joseph B. Miller (1874-1955) m. Edna Detweiler

5) Christian Louis Birkelbaw, b. 25 Aug 1838, Wayne Twp., Butler Co., Ohio  
d. 19 Mar 1905, bu. Park Lawn Cem., Danvers, IL  
1m. 14 Feb 1864, McLean Co., IL

Elizabeth Miller, dau. of Michael Miller and Magdalena King  
b. 7 May 1841, Ohio

d. 7 July 1873, bu. Lanz Cemetery, McLean Co., Illinois  
2m. 5 Mar, 1874

Mary Gingerich, b. 20 Nov 1836

d. 24 May 1918, bu. Park Lawn Cemetery

Children:

1. Joseph M. Birkelbaw (1865-1929) m. Fannie \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jacob Birkelbaw (1866- ) m. Adda Yoder
3. Michael Birkelbaw ( - 1869)
4. Daughter
5. Daughter

BIRCKELBACH

Children of Maria (Schwarzentruber) Birckelbach and John Gundy:

- 1) Veronica (Fanny/Fronica) Gundy, b. 6 Aug 1844, Ohio  
d. 28 Aug 1932
  - 1m) John K. Miller, son of Michael Miller and Magdalena King  
b. 27 June 1833; d. 2 Aug 1885
  - 2m) Eli Gerber, widower of Jacobina Gundy
- 2) Jacob Gundy, b. 26 Nov 1846, Butler Co, Ohio  
d. 26 Apr 1919, Illinois  
m. 14 Jan 1869, Danvers, McClean Co.,  
Magdalena/Helena Kinzinger, dau. of Michael Kinzinger and Catherine Schwarzentraub  
b. 18 July 1850; d. 29 Nov.1932, Carlock, IL
- 3) Jacobina (Phoebe) Gundy, b. 1850, Ohio; d. 3 Oct 1877  
m. 20 Nov 1873, by Joseph Stuckey  
Eli Gerber, 2m. Veronica Gundy

The Gundy family appears on the 1860 census of Charleston, Lee County, Iowa as John Gundy, 68, Germany; Mary, 52, Hesse-Darmstadt; Fanny, 15, Ohio; Jacob, 13, Ohio; and Phoebe, 9, Ohio.

John Birckelbach has not been found in the European records, but the name "Birckelbaugh" has. (5)

NOTES:

- 1) Letter of John S. Schwarzentruber to Johannes Gungerich, September 11, 1831.  
Original is in Archives of the Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society. A translation by George Unger was printed in *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, June 1988.
- 2) "Birkelbach History" in *Amish Immigrants of Waldeck and Hesse . . .* by John M. Byler (Bellville, Ohio: John M. Byler, 1993), page 32 and Mary's family pages 141,142.
- 3) Mary's obituary is transcribed in "Mary Schwarzendruber Birckelbaw Gundy and Her Husbands" by Steven R. Estes in *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, December 1992, pages 81-83.
- 4) This is the date given in Mary's obituary, but in other accounts of her story she was a widow when she moved to Illinois in 1859. Perhaps the date should be 1856. (See Note #6 in Steven R. Estes' article, listed above) Staker gives the date as 1858.
- 5) "A French Fragment of Lauber Genealogy" by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. XVII, No. 4, October 1998.  
See pages 149,150 for Katherine Birkelbaugh and Johannes Peterschmidt.
- 6) A few dates and notes have been added to this Birckelbach Introduction from *Amish Mennonites of Tazewell County, Illinois*, by Joseph Peter Staker. Staker has Johannes Birckelbach as Christian.

Lorraine Roth,  
Tavistock, Ontario,  
January, 2010

~ Updated and reformatted by Bruce W. Jantzi, 2018