

SPENLER

ORIGIN

The name Spenler is not a very common name. Perhaps it also has other forms. In a telephone directory in Thun, Switzerland, I found the name Spengler, which may be a variant of the same name. It is likely that the family came from Switzerland, but no connection has been found.

THE SPENLERS IN FRANCE

I found one Spenler family in Lorraine, France. In the French records this name had various spellings. One of the most common one was "Spalner." Several immigrants to Canada came from this extended Spenler family, but only one male.

The head of this extended family was Pierre/Peter, usually called Spalner. His first name was usually given as "Mader." This was evidently a nickname, but its meaning eludes me. His wife was Marie Legère, which may be the French translation for the name Lichti or Luethi. Peter operated a mill in Sotzeling. This little village is found in the Department of Moselle, about midway between St. Avold and Lunéville, towns which are found on most maps of France. Peter and Marie both died at Sotzeling.

Peter and Marie had a son John Peter (he always signed his name "Peter") who succeeded his father as miller. He married Barbara (also known as Elisabeth) Jantzi. Barbara and another sister were the only members of this large Jantzi family who did not migrate to America -- to Lewis County, New York, or to Canada. Peter and Barbara had a large family, many of whom died in infancy. One daughter Madeleine married Peter Jantzi and came to Canada. Peter was a brother to Michael whose descendants spell their name Yantzi. Peter and Madeleine had no surviving descendants. After Peter's death, Madeleine married Christian Besinger. They had three children who did not survive beyond age ten.

Peter and Marie's daughter Catherine married the widower Christian Jantzi, father of Barbara/Elisabeth who married their son John Peter Spenler. After Christian Jantzi died, Catherine accompanied her children to America -- first to Lewis County, then to Canada.

Marie Spenler, dau. of Peter and Marie, married Christophe Kennel. Two of their children migrated to America. Christophe/Christian Kennel also married into the Jantzi clan. Marie Kennel married Peter Widrick. Both of these families migrated to Lewis County, but the Kennels went to Canada a few years later.

But who was Peter Spenler, the sole male Spenler immigrant to Canada? Since we do not have a birth date for him, he is not easily identified. The Spenler family calculated his birth to be about 1811. His age in the 1851 census record was 38, making his year of birth about 1813. The only Peter Spenler born at that time in the extended Spenler family list is John Peter, born December 26, 1813, at Sotzeling, to Madeleine Spenler, daughter of Peter and Marie. I am assuming that this person is the immigrant Peter and have assigned him that birth date. His story will be continued on page 4 following the extended Spenler family list.

THE FAMILY OF PETER SPENLER AND MARIE LEGERE(1)

(See Notes on page 7)

Pierre/Peter (Mader) Spalner/Spenler, b. ca.1752
d. Dec 1802, Sotzeling, Moselle, France
Marie Legere (Lichti/Luethi), b. ca.1757
d. 25 Dec 1815, Sotzeling

I. Marie Spenler, b. ca.1779
d. 6 Dec 1815, Sotzeling
m. ca.1800

Christophe Kennel, son of Christophe Kennel and Catherine Schertz
b. ca.1775
d. 26 Jan 1807, Sotzeling

1. Christophe Spenler Kennel, b. 16 Mar 1800, Sotzeling
m. 12 Jun 1823, Bistroff, Moselle
Magdalena Jantzi, dau. of Christian Jantzi and Anne Farny
b. 23 Dec 1802, Bistroff

See the JANTZI file for further details on this family.

2. Anne Kennel, b. 1 Jul 1801, Sotzeling
d. 6 Nov 1815, Neunkirch, near Sarreguemines, Moselle

3. Marie Kennel, b. 22 Dec 1803, Dedeling
m. 19 Jan 1828, Grostenquin, Moselle
Pierre/Peter Vittrich, b. 20 May 1796, Grostenquin
See the WUTHERICH/WIDRICH/WITTRIG file for further details on this family

4. Catherine Kennel, b. 28, Mar 1806, Sotzeling
d. 12 Dec 1849, Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle
m. 26 Oct 1831, Amelecourt
Jean/John Rouvenach, son of Christophe Rouvenach and Marie Blaser
b. 11 Mar 1811, Longeville, near St. Avold, Moselle
a. Christophe Rouvenach, b. 1834, Sotzeling

II. Anne Spenler

1. Joseph Spenler, b. 29 May 1802, Sotzeling
2. Madeleine Spenler, b. Sept 1805; d. 18 Nov 1805, Sotzeling

III. Jean/John Spenler, b. ca.1785
d. in America
m. 21 Feb 1808, Sotzeling
Suzanne Elisabeth Marguerite d'hil?

1. Suzanne Spenler, b. 20 Sep 1808, Sotzeling
2. Jean/John Spenler, b. 1810, Haboudange; d. 11 Feb 1840, Sotzeling
3. Christophe Spenler, b. 29 Nov 1813, Haboudange, Moselle
4. Marie Spenler, b. 25 June 1816, Haboudange
The particulars about this family coming to America are not known.

IV. Catherine Spenler, b. ca.1787

d. 12 Sep 1861, Wellesley, ON
m. 21 Jun 1817, Bistroff, Moselle
Christian Jantzi, previously m. to Anne Farny
b. 18 Oct 1766, Brandelfing, Gros-Rederching, Moselle
d. 15 Nov 1828, Belgrad, near Bistroff

1. Barbe Spenler, 28 Apr 1806, Sotzeling
2. Catherine Jantzi, b. 26 Mar 1818, Bistroff
3. Christian Jantzi, b. 16 Mar 1820 "
4. Peter Jantzi, b. 10 Sep 1822 "
5. Nicholas Jantzi, b. 11 Apr 1824 "
6. Elisabeth/Freni Jantzi, b. 4 Jun 1826; d. 3 Feb 1828, Bistroff
7. Freni Jantzi, b. 15 Mary 1828, Bistroff

V. Madeleine Spenler, b. ca.1789

1. Jean Pierre (Peter) Spenler, b. 26 Dec 1813, Sotzeling
It is assumed that he was the immigrant to Canada.
His story begins on the next page.

2. Andre Spenler, b. 16 Sep 1822, Bistroff

VI. Jean Pierre (Peter) Spenler, b. 6 Sep 1793, Sotzeling
d. France
m. 9 Apr 1816, Bistroff

Barbe/Elisabeth Jantzi, dau. of Christian Jantzi and Anne Farny
b. 9 May 1797, Bistroff
d. 10 Oct 1865, Sotzeling

1. Christophe Spenler, b. 27 Dec 1816; d. 16 Jan 1817, Sotzeling
2. Elisabeth Spenler, b. 6 Dec 1817, Sotzeling
a. Jean Michel Spenler, b. 24 June 1845, Sotzeling
3. Chrisophe Spenler, b. 2 Aug 1819; d. 24 Feb 1820, Sotzeling
4. Jean/John Spenler, 18 Aug 1821; d. 26 Dec 1865, Sotzeling

5. Madeleine Spenler, b. 15 Aug 1823, Sotzeling
d. after 1881, Canada
m. Mar 1847, Sotzeling

Peter Jantzi, son of Michel Jantzi and Barbe Beller

b. 26 Nov 1831, Valmont, Moselle
d. 18 Jul 1854, Wilmot Twp., Canada
a. still born child, b. 29 Dec 1847, Sotzeling
b. Barbe Jantzi, b. 6 Jan 1849, Sotzeling; died in France
See the JANTZI/YANTZI/YANCEY file for further details.

Madeleine, 2m. 1854/55, Wilmot Twp., Canada

Christian Besinger, son of Jean/John Boesiger and Marie Roth

b. 24 Aug 1819, Boron, Territory of Belfort, France
a. Christian Besinger, b. 28 Aep 1855, Wilmot Twp.
m. Catherine Steinman
-- three children, all died before age 10
b. Magdalena Besinger, b. ca.1862, Wilmot Twp.
m. John E. Schwartzentruber

-- no children

See the BESINGER file for further details.

6. Marie Spenler, b. 1824; d. 28 Nov 1830, Sotzeling

7. Anne Spenler, b. 6 Dec 1827; d. 22 May 1831, Sotzeling
8. Catherine Spenler, b. 10 Apr 1830, Sotzeling
9. Suzanne Spenler, b. 16 Nov 1831, Sotzeling
10. Joseph Spenler, b. 10 Dec 1833; d. 13 Dec 1836, Sotzeling
11. Joseph Spenler, b. 14 Feb 1838, Sotzeling
12. Pierre Spenler, b. 17 May 1840 "

VII. Christophe Spenler, b. ca.1795; d. 22 Jan 1816, Sotzeling

VIII. Joseph Spenler, b. 7 May 1797; d. 26 Jul 1800, Sotzeling

IX. Elisabeth/Barbe Spenler, b. 26 May 1800, Sotzeling
 d. 2 Mar 1869, Jarville, Muerthe-et-Moselle
 m. 5 Jul 1821, Chateau-Voue, Moselle
 Joseph Sommer, b. 1796, Destry, Moselle
 1. Joseph Sommer, b. 26 Mar 1829, Einville? Meurthe-et-Moselle
 2. Marie Sommer, b. 3 Jun 1832, Bezange-la-Grande, Meurthe-et-Moselle
 3. Catherine Sommer, b. 2 Oct 1834 "
 4. Benjamin Sommer, b. 6 Aug 1840 "
 Family was at Tons, Vosges in 1847 census and at Jarville in 1856 census

X. Marguerite Spenler, b. 12 Nov 1803; d. 8 Dec 1809, Sotzeling

Note: Names of persons who emigrated to America are underlined.

PETER SPENLER, IMMIGRANT TO CANADA

Peter's possible identity has already been discussed. When and how did he get to Canada?

In May, 1831, Michael Jantzi, Peter's cousin left Sotzeling for America. On a little piece of paper he wrote that if it does not go well he will write to Hans Jantzi (Michael's brother), if it goes ordinary, he will write to Hannes Miller, and if it goes very well, he will write to Peter Spenler. Peter was then 18 years old. To whom Michael wrote we do not know!

Many of Peter's relatives and acquaintances arrived in America in the 1830s and 1840s. Peter's name has not yet been found on a ship passenger list, but it is likely that he arrived in the mid 1830s and that he first went to Lewis County, New York.

In July of 1839 John Jantzi and John Gerber had arrived from Lewis County and negotiated a lease with the Canada Company for Lots 14 and 13 (respectively), Concession III in Block B, Wilmot Townshp. At the same time Peter Spenler took out a lease for Lots 13 and 14, Concession IV. Because of the direction of the Wilmot-Wellesley boundary, these two lots comprised only 80 3/14 acres. It seems a bit strange that Peter was leasing land at this time, because he was not yet married.

In 1840, Christian Kennel leased Lot 15 in Concession IV (56 acres), and Christian and Peter swapped acreages. In 1848, Peter transferred the lease to Lot 15 to Christian Lichti who then got the deed.(2) Peter never obtained a deed to this property.

In 1848, when Peter gave up his lease on Lot 15, Conc. IV, in what became known as the "Amish Settlement," he was still not married. But even before he gave up

the least in Wilmot, Peter had purchased the east half of Lot 33, Concession XV, East Zorra, Oxford County. That is where he may have met Catherine Kennel for she had a brother who had settled on the 16th Line in East Zorra, a few farms south of Peter's location. They married in October of 1851, and Peter may have set up a shingle-making business in Baden almost immediately.

It was not until 1853, however, that Peter purchased 9 1/4 acres from John and Christine Haist. Most of this acreage was at the east end of Lot 14, on the south side of Snyder's Road, but there was also a small piece on the north side of the road. When Haist had purchased two acres in 1850, they were identified as Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Village of Cambro. A few registered land sales are the only record that the east end of what is now Baden was once called Cambro. In 1860 Peter Spenler acquired another 41 plus acres from Peter Erb who was the owner of the rear 150 acres of Lot 14.

In the 1851 census Peter and Catherine were already listed in the neighbourhood in which they bought the above-mentioned acreage. Since they were living in a one-storey log house, they may have been renting a log cabin from one of the settlers who had built a more substantial house by that time. By the time of the 1861 census they were living in a one-storey frame house which had been built in 1840. In 1861 and 1871 Peter's occupation was listed as farmer.

In 1863 Peter and Catherine purchased another half acre from Jacob Ross on the north side of the road. According to family tradition, Peter built a house on that property which was still in use in 1971. Five children were born to Peter and Catherine.

Catherine died on Christmas Day in 1875 at the age of 56. She is probably buried in the cemetery on Lot 13, on the north side of the road, a short distance east of their home. There is no tombstone. Peter was blind in his latter days, and at the time of his death was staying with the youngest daughter Barbara and her husband Christian Mayer. They were living north of the Poole school, Poole, Ontario. He died in 1893 at the age of 82 and is buried in the Poole Mennonite Cemetery (Poole North). His grave also is not marked.(3)

PETER AND CATHERINE (KENNEL) SPENLER FAMILY

Peter Spenler, presumed to be the son of Madeleine Spenler and
(Jean Pierre) grandson of Peter Spenler and Marie Legere
b. 26 Dec 1813, Sotzeling
d. 3/6 Nov 1893(4), bu. Poole Mennonite Cemetery, Poole, ON
m. 14 Oct 1851, Canada

Catherine Kennel, dau. of Jean/John Kennel and Elisabeth Salzmänn
b. 24 Mar 1818, St. Avold, Moselle
d. 25 Dec 1875, probably bu. in cemetery at east end of Baden

Children:

1) John Spenler
b. 21 Sep 1852 Baden, ON
d. 6 Jun 1928 Baden
m. 14 Dec 1880 Wilmot
Magdalena Daub
b. 11 Apr 1858(5)

Grandchildren:

Leah Spenler (1881-1946)
Noah Spenler (1883-1968) m. Ida Mae Grimmer
Aaron Spenler (1885-1888)
Emma Spenler (1883-1954) m. James Wood
Nancy Ann Spenler (1891-) m. Thomas Griffin
Katherine Spenler (1892-1935) m. Fred

d. 28 Nov 1905 Baden
dau. of John and
Barbara Daub

Michalofski

Clara Spenler (1895-1954) m. Anthony Promaperger
David Spenler (1897-1927)

2) Elizabeth Spenler
b. 4 Feb 1854 Baden, ON
d. 7 Feb 1931 Morning.
m. 30 Jan 1872 Wilmot
Joseph Wagler
b. 16 Feb 1849 Wilmot
d. 22 Jul 1916 Morning.
son of Christian Wagler
and Maria Wagler

{ Catharine Wagler (1872-1937) m. Jonathan Kuepfer
Maria Wagler (1875-1939) m. Daniel Zehr
Magdalena Wagler (1877-1941) m. Jacob B. Jantzi
Barbara Wagler (1879-1893)
Elizabeth Wagler (1880-1944) m. Albert Roth
Peter Wagler (1882)
Fannie Wagler (1883-1955) m. Jacob S. Kuepfer
Annie Wagler (1885-1925) m. Enoch Streicher
Gideon Wagler (1887-1957)
Leah Wagler (1888-1934) m. John C. Gingerich
Rachel Wagler (1890-1973) m. Josiah G. Sittler
Elias Wagler (1892-1893)
Rebecca Wagler (1898-1980) m. John C. Brubacher

3) Catherine Spenler
b. 15 Aug 1855 Baden, ON
d. 25 May 1946 SEasthope
m. 8 Jan 1878 Wilmot
Christian H. Bender
b. 1851 Wilmot
d. 1934 Wilmot
son of Christian Bender
and Catherine Honderich

no children

4) Peter K. Spenler
b. 22 Apr 1857 Baden, ON
d. 8 Jun 1935 Morning.
m. 18 Mar 1879 Wilmot
Elizabeth Steinman
b. 19 Aug 1861, Wilmot
d. 5 Nov 1929 Morning.
dau. of Christian Steinman
and Maria Honderich

{ Christian S. Spenler (1880-1952) m. Anna Beller
Katherine Spenler (1880-1942) m. Jacob Bast
Mary Spenler (1881-1938) m. George Poole
Elizabeth Spenler (1883-1961) m. Norman Beachy
Fannie Spenler (1885-1962) m. Daniel R. Yutzi
Peter S. Spenler (1887-1935) m. Mattie K. Zehr
Barbara Spenler (1888-1971) m. Samuel D. Beachy
Moses Spenler (1889)
Leah Spenler (1891-1966) m. Rudolph Bellar
2m. Armond Hobbs
Lydia Spenler (1895-1964)
Daniel Spenler (1896-1905)
Bena Spenler (1897-1935)
Magdalena Spenler (1900)

5) Barbara Spenler
b. 4 Sep 1859 Baden, ON
d. 19 Sep 1921 Baden
m. 10 Jun 1879 Wilmot
Christian Mayer
b. 18 Jan 1855 Wilmot
d. 11 Jan 1921 Baden
son of Johannes P. Mayer
and Magdalena Litwiller

{ Sarah Mayer (1882-1965) m. Jacob Gerig
Elizabeth Mayer (1885-1934) m. Eli Kennel
Magdalena Mayer (1889-1955) m. Moses Bast

THE SPENLER CHILDREN ESTABLISH HOMES OF THEIR OWN

John Spenler married Magdalena Daub and they remained in Baden. In 1882 and 1884, John purchased his father's property, but sold it all in 1884. John

bought part of an acre of Lot 16 (along Charlotte St. and Miller St., Baden), on the south side of Snyder's Road, but I failed to note the date.(6) John was a carpenter/builder and mason. He built many houses in Baden as well as in Berlin (now Kitchener). Magdalena died in 1905, leaving John a widower for about 23 years. They are both buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery.

Elizabeth Spenler married **Joseph Wagler** in 1872, and about three years later they moved to Lot 18, Concession X, Mornington Township. This farm had been purchased by Elizabeth's father. In 1881, Joseph and Elizabeth became the owners and remained there the rest of their lives. They were members of the Old Order Amish Church and are buried in the Amish Cemetery on the 7th Line in Mornington Township.

Catherine Spenler married **Christian H. Bender** in 1878. In 1874, Christian's father had purchased the north half of Lot 25, Concession I, Block A, Wilmot Township, and this is probably where Catherine and Christian H. began farming. This farm was just east of Punkey Doodles Corner. They had no children, and after Christian's death in 1934, the farm was sold to Melvin and Mabel Bender with the agreement that Catherine would be permitted to remain living there. After her health failed she was cared for by Christian's nephew Andrew B. Zehr and his wife. They are both buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery.

Peter K. Spenler married Elizabeth Steinman in 1879, and the following year they purchased the north half of Lot 18, Concession 9 in Mornington Township. In 1891 Peter was ordained a minister in the Mornington Amish Mennonite congregation. In order to be closer to the meetinghouse, Peter and Elizabeth sold the first farm and bought another one on the Third Line (parts of Lots 14 and 15, Concession III). When the congregation divided in 1903, they went with the more conservative group who built a meetinghouse west of Poole. After selling the farm to their son Peter S. Spenler in 1918, they retired on a small plot adjacent to the farm. They are buried in the Mornington Amish Mennonite Cemetery (Poole West).

Barbara Spenler married **Christian Mayer** farmed on the Third Line in Mornington Township (part of Lot 14, Concession III), west of Barbara's brother Peter's farm. They farmed here from 1882 to 1896, but then moved to a farm northeast of St. Agatha and still later to Baden. They are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery.

Notes:

1) The Peter and Marie Spenler family outline was put together from the records found by Lorraine Roth in the archives at Metz, capital of the Department of Moselle. A number of details were added from research done by Maurice Hébert of Luneville, France.

2) Canada Company Records, B-3, MS 729, Reel 2, Vol. 25, page 354, #3576, and page 376, #3724.

3) For a history and genealogy of the Spenler family see *Genealogies of Peter Spenler & Katherine Kennel, 1849-1971*, Compiled by Jacob Spenler and Diane Spenler.

4) The family gives Peter's date of death as November 3, the civil death record as November 6. His age is given as 82, which would indicate his birth took place about 1811. In spite of this discrepancy, I will continue to presume that Peter, the immigrant, was born December 26, 1813 until another Peter with an 1811 birth date is found.

5) According to the family record Magdalena Daub was born at Hakerville, Illinois. The marriage record gave her place of birth as Wilmot.

6) This sale is found on Microfilm Wilmot C-15, #8263, in the Registry Office, Kitchener, Ontario.

List of additional items in this file:

Peter Litwiller's note (in envelope)

"Spenler land Holdings"

Correspondence with Jacob Spenler, including draft of Spenler family list.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
May, 2010

SPENLER LAND HOLDINGS

Wilmot Township, Block B

		Con.	Lot						
Peter Spenler	1839	B-IV	13,14	80 3/4 ac.	lease	Canada Co.			
(m. Catherine	1840	"	"	"	lease/trans.	Chr. Kennel			
Kennel, 1851)	1840	"	15	55 ac.	"	"	"	"	
	1848	"	"	"	"	"			Chr. Lichti

Wilmot Township, German Block

John Spenler, pt Lot 16, S S Rd. (along Charlotte & Miller streets, Baden)
(Magdalena Daub) 1891/93? -- from C.S. Miller, widower
(Microfilm: Wilmot C-15, #8263)

Peter Spenler Lot 14, South Snyder's Road (9 1/4 ac. & pt Lot 14, NSR)
(Catherine Kennel) 1853 -- 9 1/4 ac. from John Haist
1858 -- 10 ac. from David Kropf
1860 -- 41/3/29 ac. from Peter Erb
1863 -- 0/2/0 ac. from Jacob Ross
1882 -- sold 2 ac. to son John Spenler
1884 -- sold last 3 parts to John Spenler (sold again 1884)

Wilmot Township, Block A

Christian H. Bender 1887 A-I 25 N 1/2 100 ac. purch. Christian Bender
(**Catherine Spenler**) 1934 " " " " sale Melvin Bender

East Zorra Township

Peter Spenler 1847 XV 33 100 ac. E 1/2 purch. Merritt
(Catherine Kennel) 1853 " " " " sale Peter E. Gingerich

Mornington Township

Christian Mayer (son of Christian Mayer and Magdalena Petersheim)
m. 1879 to **Barbara Spenler**, dau. of Peter Spenler
and Katherine Kennel
Lot 14, NW 1/4, Con. III, 1882-96

Peter Spenler (wife Catherine Kennel) residents of Wilmot
Lot 18, 87.1 ac. of S 1/2, Con. X, 1865-1881 (sold to son-in-law,
Joseph W. Wagler)

Peter K. Spenler (son of Peter Spenler & Catherine Kennel)
m. 1879 to Elizabeth Steinman
dau. of Christian Steinman & Maria Honderich
Lot 18, N 1/2, Con. IX, 1880-1893 (sold to Henry Albrecht)
Lot 14, NE 1/4, Con. III, 1893-1918 (sold to son Peter S. Spenler)
Lot 15, pt of S 1/2 of N 1/2, Con. III, 1893-1918

Joseph W. Wagler (son of Christian Wagler and Marie Wagler)
m. 1872 to **Elizabeth Spenler**
dau. of Peter Spenler and Catherine Kennel
Lot 18, 87 ac. S 1/2, Con. X, 1881-1914 (sold to son
Lot 17, 50 ac. E 1/2 of S 1/2, Con. X, 1887-1914 Gideon Wagler)
(Gideon, a bachelor sold in 1915 to his sister Elizabeth & Albert Roth)

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