

## 15. BRENNEMAN

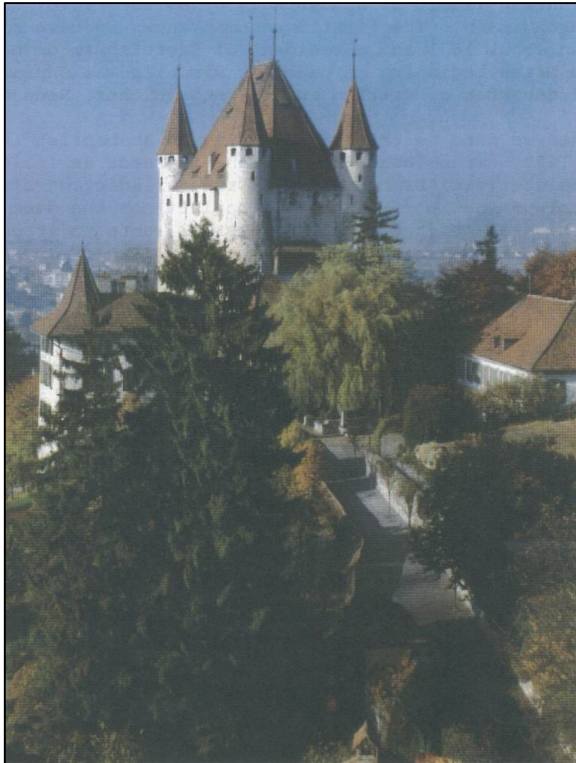
### FAMILY ORIGINS

The Mennonite Brenneman family is undoubtedly of Swiss origin, where the name still exists as Bronnimann. The first Brenneman known to have been Anabaptist was Melchior, born about 1631 and a resident of Steffisburg or nearby Ober-Diessbach. (1) (see Notes below) His wife was Christina Reusser, thought to be the daughter of Steffan and Elsbeth (Eicher) Reusser. (2)

The first reference we find to this Brenneman as an Anabaptist is dated the 28th of October, 1659. Translated, it reads as follows:

"The Anabaptist Melcher Bronnimann from the jurisdiction of Steffisburg is imprisoned in the Thun castle. Neither the bailiff nor the dean of Thun got him to renounce the Anabaptist teaching. He still wants to attend the preaching. The government orders that the recently issued mandate against Anabaptists (of Aug. 9, 1659) with regard to the punishment not be used yet against Bronnimann, but to try further through amicable exhortation to bring about his conversion. If this does not help, the proposed punishment shall be imposed."(3)

Was this "proposed punishment" banishment from Switzerland? Perhaps, because thirteen years later,



Melchior Brenneman, whom we presume was the same man, appeared on a refugee list sent from the Palatinate, Germany, to their Dutch brethren asking for assistance in providing relief for these immigrants. The item on the list describing the Brenneman family is as follows:

"Melchior Breinman (Brenneman), 40 years old, the wife 35 years have 7 children; the oldest 15, the youngest 1 1/12 years. They have brought 1 horse, one quilt and 1 mattress [tick or pad], and 43 Reischstaler [the money of the day] with them." (4)

On the same list as Brenneman, were 74 other heads of households or older single people. Few had as much of this world's goods as did the Brenneman family. The details of Melchior's imprisonment and release as well as the flight to the Palatinate of this particular group of refugees have not been recorded. Another group which arrived in Krefeld, Germany, reported that they could no longer stay in Switzerland because of the severe edicts, increased threats, and fear. For more than a year they had not one night of rest in their own homes. One can only guess that the Brennemens had similar experiences.

### Thun Castle

Photo: Verlag Arthur Baur, Hilterfingen, Switzerland

The city of Thun is located on the northeast end of Lake Thun in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland.

Anabaptist Melchior Brenneman was imprisoned in this castle in 1659.

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According to the above-mentioned list, the Melchior Brenneman family was located at Griesheim. In September of 1677, William Penn, an English Quaker, visited this area encouraging immigration to his proposed colony in the New World (which came to be known as Pennsylvania). Although Melchior, the prisoner and refugee, is never heard of again, it was, no doubt, his sons Melchior and Christian who migrated to Pennsylvania in 1709.

It is believed that Melchior, the prisoner and refugee, was the ancestor of the Canadian Brennemens, but through which line is not known. The Canadian branch of Brennemens arrived in 1820, more than 100 years after Melchior and Christian migrated to Pennsylvania.

## NICOLAUS BRENNEMAN- FATHER AND SON

About 1750, a Nicolaus Brenneman came to the Hof Karlshäusen, in Baden, Germany (southeast of the town of Karlsruhe, which is not far from the northeast tip of Alsace, France). This Nicolaus was not likely a son of Melchior but could have been a grandson. He was accompanied by a younger Nicolaus who is presumed to be his son, together with whom, and his stepson Hans Kendel/Kennel, he was leaseholder of Estate Karlshäusen. Nicolaus Jr. married Barbara Kurz/Kurtz, daughter of Jacob Kurz, a leaseholder at Karlshausen since 1743.

Nicolaus Jr. (born in 1736) is to have moved to the vicinity of Darmstadt where he appeared on the estate Braunshardt, near Weiterstadt about 1760. (5) It was here that their son Johannes/John Brenneman was born in 1766. We now believe that this Johannes was the Canadian Brennemens' immigrant ancestor, but it was not always so.

When Albert Gerberich compiled his Brenneman genealogy in the 1930s, he made an effort to include the Canadians, but his informants gave him very scant information. John Brenneman, although he was one of the first ministers in the Amish-Mennonite community, had been largely forgotten. According to the story told by David Brenneman, the youngest son of the youngest son, John (his grandfather) had died in Germany. The widow and her children, of whom he could remember only four (but not their names) had come to Pennsylvania where they lived a few years before coming to Canada.

In his book, Gerberich included a list of Nicolaus Brennemann's children along with their birthdates. Among them was "Johannes Brennemann, born March 30, 1766, N.f.r. (No further record)." (6) Immigrant John Brenneman's age at the time of his death would indicate that this is the same person. Gerberich did try to speculate which of Nicolaus's children or grandchildren may have gone to Canada. Among those he suggested were his half brother Peter (7) and a nephew Christian, but we have found no record of either of these having been here. In 1884 a Jacob Brenneman was here visiting from Iowa and died here, but otherwise all the Brennemens found in Ontario, and their relatives in many other parts of the North American Continent, are descended from Johannes. During the past century a few of Peter Brenneman's descendants have joined new Amish settlements in Ontario, but that took place since the publication of Gerberich's book.

A discussion on why Gerberich may have considered that Peter's descendants came to Canada, titled "The Descendants of Peter Brenneman in Canada" will be found near the end of this Brenneman Introduction.

This Brenneman Family Genealogical Introduction will be divided into the following sections:

1. The Nicolaus Brenneman Family (1736-17890)
2. The John Brenneman Family (1766-1848)
  - a) John Jr. and Magdalena (Schultz) Family
  - b) Daniel and Catherine (Sommer) Brenneman) Family
  - c) Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman Family
3. Helena/Magdalena (Brenneman) Bender Family
4. Brenneman Land Holdings

## BRENNEMAN FAMILY ANCESTRY

*Though we do not have a documented chain, we give the following Brenneman Family Ancestry, but ask that readers understand that further research is needed before using this chart as proof of ancestry. The first four generations of the Broenneman Family were found on-line as Descendants of Benedict Broenneman from metroevents.us*

### Generation I

**Benedict Broenniman**, b. 1524 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland

m. Adelheid Hüsler on Oct 7, 1549 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland.

b. 1527 in Belp, Canton Bern, Switzerland.

Children (all born in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland)

1. Peter Broenniman b. Jan 5, 1551
2. Benedict Broenniman b. Feb 3, 1553; m. Eva Fisher
3. **Peter H. Broenniman** b. Aug 9, 1554 m. Anna Entzen
4. Christian Broenniman b. 1556; m. Magdalena Fundeli
5. Dorothea Broenniman b. Jan 12, 1556

### Generation II

**Peter H. Broenniman** b. Aug 9, 1554 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland.

m. Anna Entzen on Jun 9, 1577 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland.

b. 1551 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland.

Children (all born in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland unless otherwise stated)

1. Hans Broenniman b. Nov 16, 1578 in Belp, Bern, Switzerland m. Anna Forster
2. Elsbeth Broenniman b. Apr 10, 1580
3. Hieronymuss Broenniman b. 1582 (place unknown) m. Anna Freiburghaus
4. **Peter E. Broenniman** b. Apr 12, 1584
5. Christian Broenniman b. Jan 2, 1586
6. Benedikt Broenniman b. Apr 4, 1586
7. Barbli Broenniman b. Jan 28, 1588
8. Peter Broenniman b. Jul 1, 1589 (place unknown)
9. Elsie Broenniman b. Aug 17, 1589
10. Magdalena Broenniman b. Aug 8, 1591
11. Anna Broenniman b. Apr 28, 1594

### Generation III

**Peter E. Broenniman** b. Apr 12, 1584 in Zimerwald-Belp, Bern, Switzerland.

m. \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

1. **Niclaus (Melchior) Brannimann** b. Jun 23, 1605 in Zimmerwald, Canton Bern, Switz.  
d. 1634 in Canton, Bern, Switzerland
2. Benedict Broenniman was born about 1610.

### Generation IV

**Niclaus (Melchior) Brannimann** b. Jun 23, 1605 in Zimmerwald, Canton Bern, Switzerland

d. 1634 in Canton, Bern, Switzerland.

m. \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

1. **Melchior (The Exile) Brenneman** b. 1631 in Seftigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland  
d. 1672 in Cheriessum, Rhein-Hessen, Germany.  
m. 1655 to Christina Reusser, dau. of Steffan Reusser and Elsbeth Eicher
2. Jacob Brannimann b. 1633 in Eggiwil, Canton Bern, Switzerland  
m. Anna Steiner

*Albert Gerberich's imposing The Brenneman History (1938) has suggested a connection between Melchior Brönniman, the Exile, of Oberdiessbach (just south of Munsingen) and the known ancestors of the families that came to Southern Ontario and Central Illinois. (This page is updated with Joseph Peter Staker's research- 2018)*

### Generation V

#### **Melchior Brenneman, the Exile** (a weaver)

- b. 1631 at Seftigen, Switzerland (five miles west of Steffisburg) or Oberdiessbach
- d. ?1678 (1672) in Cheriessum, Rhein-Hessen, Germany.
- m. Sept. 10, 1655 at Buchholterberg (marriage registered at Wichtrach)

Christina Reusser, a daughter of Stefan Reusser and Elsbeth Eicher of Steffisburg, Switzerland

- b. Dec. 18, 1636 at Oberdiessbach

Children:

1. Christian Brenneman bapt. 1656 at Steffisburg; d. 1757 Montgomery Co. Penna.; m. Susanna Levering
2. Hans Brenneman bapt. 1658 at Steffisburg; d. 1710; m. Anna Beutler(?);
3. Elsbeth Brenneman, baptized in 1661/62 at Oberdiessbach
4. **Adam Brenneman**, b. 1663/73 at Enckenbach in the Pfalz; m. Katherine Wurtz
5. Steffen Brenneman, baptized in 1663 at Oberdiessbach; d. 1753
6. Verena/Anna Brenneman, baptized in 1665 at Oberdiessbach
7. Melchior Brenneman, the Pioneer, bapt. in 1668 at Oberdiessbach; d. 1737 Lancaster Co. Penna  
1m. unknown; 2m. Elizabeth Stehman
8. Barbara Brenneman, bapt. May 5, 1670 at Oberdiessbach

In 1671 Melchior had his property confiscated and given to the state church. He was banished from Canton Bern. He and Christina, and 7 children, went north to the village of Griesheim, four miles west of Darmstadt, Hesse, where 53 Swiss Mennonite families eventually found refuge. Sons Melchior and Christian emigrated to America before 1717.

### Generation VI

#### **Adam Brenneman**

- b. 1663/73 at at Enckenbach in the Pfalz.

m. Katharina Würtz of Mönchhof,

They farmed at Fischbach (near Kaiserslautern) in the early 1700s

Children: *(this list is quite uncertain; birth order unknown)*

1. Johannes Brenneman m. Anna Beutler (?) (lived at Enckenbach)
2. Unidentified son who lived at Friedelsheim
3. Abraham Brenneman, who "left Enckenbach and probably lived for some time at Friesenheim."
4. Jacob Brenneman, lived at estate Braunschardt, Darmstadt
5. Anna Maria Brenneman
6. Katherina Brenneman

*Gerberich proposed that one of the above four sons, probably Jacob, was the father of Nikolaus, the next figure in the chain. It is also possible that Nikolaus was the unidentified son of Adam Brenneman. Though it is assumed, there is no documentation for connecting Nikolaus Brenneman to the above family.*

### Generation VII (assumed connection; no documentation)

**Nikolaus Brenneman.** *It is assumed that he may have been a son of Adam Brenneman, or a grandson*

- b. ca 1696 *[or a grand-nephew of Melchior Brenneman, the Exile*

In 1750 Nikolaus became leaseholder, together with son Nikolaus and step-son Hans Kendel, of the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürren, an adjunct farm to the Katharinentaler Hof.

- d. Feb. 12, 1785 on the Braunschardt estate at Wieterstadt (in his son's home)

1m. \_\_\_\_\_

2m. Widow Kendel/Kennel (first husband was a Kendel/Kennel);

Children:

1. **Nikolaus Brenneman** (1736-1789) 1m. Barbara Kurtz; 2m. Magdalena Unzicker  
*(no record of mother's name) (His family line continues on the next page)*

Step-children *(children of Widow Kennel)*

1. Johann/Hans Kendel/Kennel, 1m. Anna Steiner; 2m. Magdalena Altemus
2. Maria Kendel/Kennel m. Ulrich Fischer [arrived in Philedelphia Sept. 23, 1752]

**Generation VIII**

**Nikolaus Brenneman**, son of Nikolaus Brenneman and \_\_\_\_\_

b. ca 1736; d. May 5, 1789

1m. Dec. 1, 1756

Barbara Kurtz, dau. of deacon Jakob Kurtz (for Kurtz ancestry, see KURTZ Family Introduction)

b. ca 1736 on the Katharinentaler Hof; d. 1770 on the Braunshardt estate

Nikolaus must have lived on the Karlshäuserhof at Dürren for 10 years before he leased the Braunshardt estate at Weiterstadt in 1760. Too close to be a coincidence, Weiterstadt is adjacent to Greisheim, the place where Melchior Brenneman found refuge in 1671

2m. Feb. 2, 1771

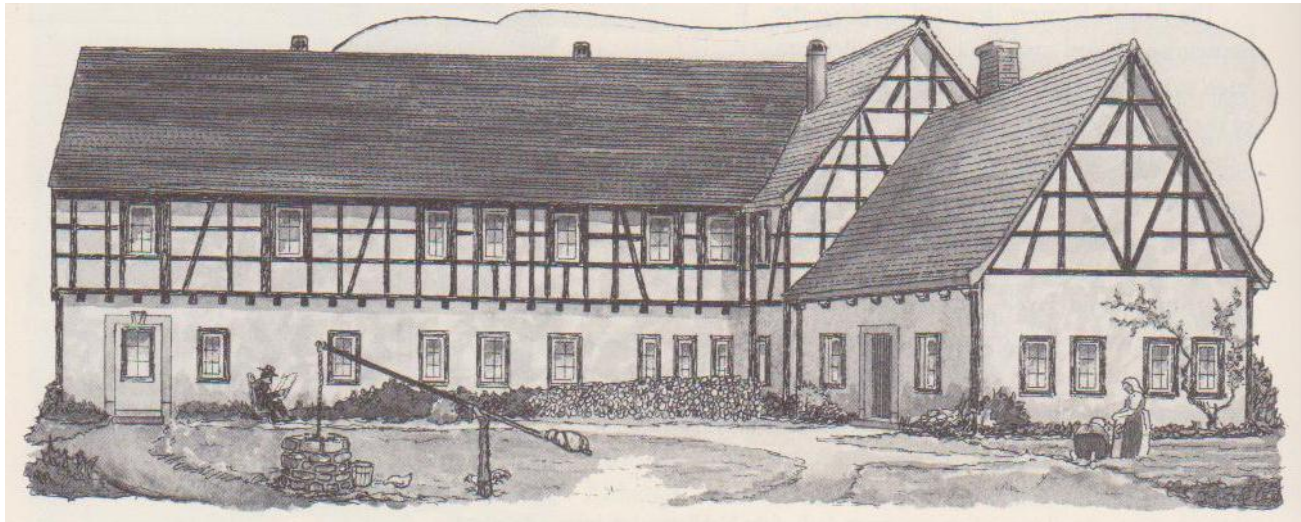
Magdalena Unzicker, b. ca.1750 in Erzhausen (adjacent to Weiterstadt)

Children of Nikolaus Brenneman and Barbara Kurtz

1. Jakobina Brenneman m. Jakob Güngerich
2. Samuel Brenneman m. Marie Schwartztraub
3. Jakob Brenneman (died young)
4. Jakob Brenneman m. Anna Güngerich
5. Johannes/John Brenneman m. wife's name unknown
6. Daniel Brenneman m. Marie Bender

Children of Nikolaus and Magdalena Unzicker

1. Christian Brenneman m. Babara Jotter
2. Barbara Brenneman
3. Elizabeth Brenneman m. Jacob Staehly
4. Peter Brenneman m. Magdalena Guengerich
5. Valentin Brenneman
6. Katherine Brenneman m. Johann August Imhof



*Sketch scanned from Unser Leit - Story of the Amish, page 192, by Leroy Beachy 2011 Millersburg, Ohio [Used by permission]*

***The Estate Münsterhof***

Münsterhof is located near Driesen, about 8 km northeast of Grünstadt, Germany. The Amish tenants, Jacob Miller, David Holly, and Johannes Kendel, settled there in 1764. The spacious residence of the Münsterhof provided more than enough room for the families for the several Amish tenant farmers that lived there. For many years an upstairs room served as a worship place for the Amish congregation which included the tenants of the adjoining Holiday Hof and Herfinger Hof, as well as Rosenthalhof, which was located several kilometres distant. Both the Münsterhof and the nearby Rosenthalhof were former Catholic cloister lands confiscated by the Protestants during the Reformation. Johannes Kendel (Hans Kennel), one of the Amish Munsterhof tenants has been identified as the step-son of Nicolas Brenneman. By 1830, Johannes Kendel and his family bid farewell to the Herfingehof and headed for America.

THE NICOLAUS BRENNEMANN FAMILY

*This family outline was developed using Gerberich's Brenneman genealogy and the research of Hermann Guth and J. Virgil Miller (8). Some additional information was added by Helmut Gingerich, Bavaria, Germany*

**Nicolaus Brennemann Sr.** (ca.1697-2 Dec 1785) of Karlshausern, Baden, Germany  
died on Hof Braunshardt, Hesse-Darmstadt

↓

**Nicolaus Brennemann Jr.** (1736-7 May 1789)

1m. Dec 1756 to Barbara Kurtz ( ? -1770) dau. of Jacob Kurtz

2m. Feb 1771 to Magdalena Unzicker

Children to first marriage:

1) Jacobina Brennemann (20 Dec 1757-1836)

m. Jacob Güngerich (1753/5-1817) of the Albacherhof near Lich (Guth)

2) Samuel Brennemann (7 Dec 1759 - 20 July 1834) (minister) leased estate Bellnhausen near Itzenhain

m. 3 Mar 1786 to Marie Schwarzentruher (1765- May 5, 1829)

dau. of John Schwarzentruher ("the Austrian") (Guth)

Children:

1. Johannes Brennemann (1788-1827)

m. Margarethe Otto (1800-1858)

widow migrated with children to McLean Co., Ill.

2. Christian Brennemann (1790- )

m. Helene Gungerich

3. **Helena/Magdalena Brennemann** (1797-1877)

m. 30 Mar 1816 on the Fiddemuhle

**Jacob Bender** (ca.1791-1843) son of Jakob Bender of Bodenhausen

*The Bender family came to America in 1831 and to Canada in 1832.*

*Further details of Bender Family below.*

4. Maria Brenneman (1804-1854)

m. Jakob Gungerich

5. Jacob Brennemann (1807-1847)

1m. Catharina Guengerich (1813-1834)

2m. Anna Hildebrand

son Otto Brennemann migrated to Granville, Ill. in 1920

grandson Otto Brennemann migrated to Bartlett, Ill. in 1923

6. Katharina Brenneman (1817-1889)

m. 1859 Nikolaus Hoos (1821-1898)

3) Jacob Brennemann (1 Feb 1762-Mar 1763)

4) Jacob Brennemann (4 July 1764-17 May 1848)

m. 1788 to Anna Gungerich (1768-1842) dau. of Peter Gungerich

Farmed at Wohra, Waldeck, Germany.

*Descendants in Butler Co., Ohio and Tazewell Co., Illinois*

Children:

1. Peter Brenneman (1789-1792)

2. Marie Brenneman (1792-1836)

m. 1814 to Johannes Bender ( -1833)

migrated to Butler Co., Ohio, in 1832 with seven children

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3. Peter Brenneman (1794-1850)  
m. 1818 to Jacobine Holly (1797-1852)  
migrated to Butler Co., Ohio, in 1850 with nine children
4. Katharine Brenneman (1796-1799)
5. Michael Brenneman (1798-1866)  
m. 1822 to Elise Guengerich (1805-1884)  
migrated to Ill., 7 miles south of Peru, in 1851, had eight children
6. Helene Brenneman, b. 26 April 1800 at Wohra d. 5 July 1831 (*information via Helmut Gingerich, Bavaria*)
7. Johannes Brenneman (1802-1820) unmarried
8. Daniel Brenneman (1804-1884)  
m. 1826 to Elizabeth Jutzi (1804-1879)  
migrated to Warren Co., Ohio, in 1832, to Tazewell Co., Ill. in 1854; thirteen children
9. Christian Brenneman, b. ? June 1806 at Wohra d. 11 June 1806 (*information via Helmut Gingerich, Bavaria*)
10. Joseph Brenneman (1807-1890)  
m. Elise Unzicker (1816-1853)  
migrated to Putnam Co., Ohio, in 1852
11. Jacob Brenneman b. 1809 d. 16 Feb. 1895 at Danvers, Illinois  
m. 1840 to Christine Guengerich in America  
Jacob migrated in 1834, Christine in 1839; six children born in Putnam Co., Ohio

### 5) **Johannes Brennemann** (30 Mar 1766 - 21 Oct 1848)

m. to \_\_\_\_\_ ( ? - 22 Sept 1842)

*Migrated with 6 children to U.S.A. in 1820, to Canada in 1823; Further details on this family below.*

Children:

1. Elizabeth Brenneman (1800-1844)  
m. Peter Gardner
2. John Brenneman (1805-1877)  
m. Magdalena Schultz
3. Daniel Brenneman (1807-1876)  
m. Catherine Sommer
4. Magdalena Brenneman (ca.1809-1882)  
m. George Helmuth
5. Catherine Brenneman (ca.1811-1872) b. New Baiern, Worms, auf Neuhoff  
m. John Meyer
6. Jacob Brenneman (ca.1813-1888)  
m. Lydia Leonard

### 6) **Daniel Brennemann** (10 Sept 1769-16 May 1842)

m. 20 Feb 1803 to Maria Bender (1782-1856) probably a sister to Jacob Bender who married Helena Brenneman, dau. of Samuel Brenneman

*Migrated to U.S.A. (Somerset Co., Pa.) in 1825; Son Christian is to have visited in Canada in 1844. (9)*

Children:

1. Jacob Brenneman (1805-1806)
2. Jacob Brenneman (1806-1880)  
m. Catharine Engle  
Amish Mennonite minister, lived near Accident, Md., fourteen children
3. Maria Brenneman (1809-1891)  
m. 1840 Benedict Beachey (1818-1894)  
lived near Grantsville, Md.

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4. Anna Brenneman (1811-1840)  
m. 1831 Daniel Yutzy (1805-1884)
5. Catharine Brenneman (1813-1870)  
m. Joel B. Miller (1811-1885)  
their farm straddled Maryland/Pennsylvania line
6. Johannes Brenneman (1815-1816)
7. Elizabeth Brenneman (1816-1890)  
m. 1842 Thomas Lee
8. Lena (Lehnge) Brenneman (1819-1863)  
m. Daniel Yutzy (previously married to Anna Brenneman)
9. Christian B. Brenneman (1821-1898)  
m. 1848 Hannah Plank (1829-1903)  
spent 1844 with uncles in Canada; settled in Wayne Co., Ohio
10. Barbara Brenneman (1827-1895)  
m. 1847 Joseph J. Swartzendruber (1821-1877)  
Joseph Swartzendruber, ordained Amish Mennonite bishop in 1869 in Iowa,  
buried in Lower Deer Creek Cemetery, near Amish, Iowa

Children to second marriage:

- 7) Christian Brennemann (1772-1828)  
m. May 21, 1809 Barbara Jotter  
Christian and Barbara eventually farmed the estate Braunshardt.  
Children:
  1. Jacob Brennemann (1810- )  
married and lived at Dillingen, Germany, where his mother died; moved to Nieder Erlenbach
  2. Peter Brenneman (1812- )  
was married but had no children, owned a mill at Homberg an der Ohm
  3. Elisabeth Brennemann (1814- )  
m. \_\_\_\_\_ Naffziger  
migrated to U.S.A., possibly to Illinois
  4. Christian Brenneman (1815- )  
married and farmed at Riechelsheim in the Odenwald
  5. Johannes Brennemann (1819- )  
married and leased a farm at Ober Erlenbach, Germany; a son was still living there in 1933
- 8) Barbara Brennemann (1 Jan 1774- ) no further record (Gerberich)
- 9) Elisabeth Brennemann b. 9 Dec 1776 died 1817 on Albacherhof (Guth)  
Bavarian genealogists give her death date as: 3 May 1851 at Gassenbacherhof  
m. to Jakob Staehly from Frankisch-Grumbach  
*Elisabeth was the recipient of a letter written by her brother Johannes from Pennsylvania in 1820. (10)*
- 10) Peter Brennemann (1780- )  
m. 10 Mar 1806 to Magdalena Guengerich (Gerberich)  
*Gerberich thought their children (of whom there were eight) may have come to Canada, but no trace of them has been found here.*

Children:

1. John Brenneman (1807-1864)  
died unmarried in Holmes Co., Ohio
2. Peter Brenneman (1810-1889)  
m. Barbara Hershberger  
moved from Holmes Co., Ohio, to Johnson Co., Iowa; a descendant, Nathan Brenneman, lives in the Amish community north of Lindsay, Ontario. (11)



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3. Marie Brenneman (1812-1878)
    - m. Solomon Miller (1816-1910)  
lived northwest of Walnut Creek, Holmes Co., Ohio
  4. Christian Brenneman (1814-1884)
    - m. 1838 Mary Miller (1819-1895) in Somerset So., Pa.  
moved to Ohio and later to Pulaski, Davis Co., Iowa. (12)
  5. Elisabeth Brenneman (1816-1818)
  6. Jacob Brenneman (19 Dec 1817-25 Nov 1884)
    - m. Elizabeth Bontrager ( -1892)  
lived in Iowa; died in Canada in 1884 from cancer in the face, while visiting their relatives; buried in Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, Baden, Ont. (info. from tombstone and death records). Elizabeth is buried in Johnson Co., Iowa. They had no children.
  7. Daniel Brenneman (1819- )  
Gerberich says he lived in Canada, but no trace has been found
  8. Elizabeth Brenneman (1822-1888)
    - m. Daniel J. Gingerich (1818-1877)  
Gingerich-Brenneman record by Nettie Beachy, Wellman, Iowa; published by Mennonite Publishing House, 1930
- 11) Valentin Brennemann b. 20 Oct 1786 (Gerberich)  
died 1809 at Gross-Gerau (Guth)
- 12) Katharina Brennemann b. 15 Jun 1789 (Gerberich)  
m. to Johann August Imhof from Wilensteinerhof (Guth)  
son of Christian Imhof and Jakobine Kinzinger

### NOTES:

- 1) *The Brenneman History*, by Albert H. Gerberich. Scottsdale, Pa.: Mennonite Publishing House, 1938, page 1. Photocopies of parts of Gerberich's book are found in the BRENNEMAN History by Gerberich file.
- 2) Davis, page 315. *Emigrants, Refugees, and Prisoners* - Volume I, by Richard W. Davis. Provo, Utah; published by the author, 1995, pages 99-102. Photocopies of some of the relevant pages of Davis's book are also found in the BRENNEMAN files. A set of Brenneman Family Group Sheets were received from Arlis Kipfer of Eatonville, WA. The compiler may have used Davis's book.
- 3) "Berner Taufer" handwritten notes by Isaac Zuercher, copy in Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. Copies of the Bronnimann entries are in the BRENNEMAN files.
- 4) *Letters from Our Palatine Ancestors, 1644-1698, Pennsylvania 300th Anniversary Issue*, compiled by G. F. Newman and C. L. Groff. Copyright, 1984 by Gary T. Hawbaker, Hershey, Pa., page 42.
- 5) I have selected what I consider the more likely order of events from two sources, which basically agree except for a few minor points. They are:
  - a) *Amish Mennonites In Germany*, . . . by Hermann Guth. Published by Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society, Metamora, IL and Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA., 1995, page 114
  - b) *Both Sides of the Ocean: Amish-Mennonites From Switzerland to America*, by J. Virgil Miller. Published by Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 2002, page 188.
- 6) Gerberich, page 857. Gerberich wrote a letter to historian Joseph C. Fretz in 1931 concerning a Christian and Martin Brenneman who had at one time lived in Lincoln County, Ontario. He also mentioned having correspondence from Moses Brenneman from Baden, Ontario, whose grandfather John Brenneman was an Amish-Mennonite minister. It was Moses' great-grandfather who was the minister, but Moses probably did not know the

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difference since his grandfather had died before Moses was born. (copy of this letter in the BRENNEMAN (old file) I discussed the likelihood that Johannes Brenneman, born in 1766, was the immigrant to Canada in my article "The Brenneman Family in Canada," in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. V, No. 1, January, 1986. (photocopy in BRENNEMAN files)

- 7) Gerberich, page 889
- 8) See Note #1 for Gerberich and Note #5 for Guth and Miller.
- 9) Gerberich, page 879
- 10) This letter was brought to my attention by Charlan Graff, Lincoln, Nebraska. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure a copy of it before the death of its owner, Dr. Axel Staehly of Germany.
- 11) Letter from Nathan Brenneman, Cameron, Ontario, Dec. 9, 2002.
- 12) "Christian Brenneman (b. 1814) -- Amish Mennonite Minister in Pulaski, Iowa: The Family in Original Documents. Part I" by Anne Augspurger Schmidt-Lange in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. XV, No. 3, July 1996. Christian Brenneman, the subject of this article, was the son of Peter.

### THE JOHN BRENNEMANN FAMILY

## THE JOHN BRENNEMAN FAMILY COMES TO AMERICA

Where Johannes Brenneman and his wife (name unknown) were living when their six known children were born has not been determined. When daughter Catherine died in 1872, her civil death registration gave her place of birth as Worms, "auf Neuhoff." A detailed map of the area around Worms shows no Neuhoff, and efforts to find the family thus far have not been fruitful.

During the third quarter of 1820, the Ship James (or Janus) arrived in Baltimore from Bremen, Germany. On board were Schwartzentrubers, Schlabachs, Gingerichs, and Brennemens. (1) (See Notes below) The Brennemens headed for Pennsylvania. A letter written by Johannes Brenneman in 1820 from Reading, Pennsylvania, to his sister, Elisabeth (Brenneman) Staehly in Germany also confirms the presence of the Brenneman family in Pennsylvania by that time. (2)

In 1821, young Ludwig (later known as Louis) Jüngerich (another form of Gingerich) and his father came from Westphalia, Germany, to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Young Ludwig was soon writing home to his relatives. The Brennemens were mentioned in three of his first letters. In 1822 he wrote, "...Brenneman, the brother of the Brenneman (Jacob) in Wohra, is our friend, and his luck will soon turn around." (3)

The second reference was to Louis's uncle Christian Iutzi who was married to Maria Sommer, sister to Louis's mother: "...Cousin Brenneman, whom both of us know is in Canada, and, as I have learned from his various communications, all goes quite well with him, thank goodness! "This last statement may reflect Louis's dim view of the prospects in Canada mentioned in one of his letters. (4)

The third reference is found in a rather lengthy description of how the Mennonites help the new immigrants by giving the lodging and work and even pay their fare if they have come indentured due to lack of funds. About the Brennemens, Louis wrote: "Entire families often can find shelter with them (the Mennonites in Pennsylvania) , as was the case with Johann Brenneman and a hundred more .Members of the congregation paid their passage and picked them up from the ports of entry. Within a fw years, the newcomers reimbursed members of the congregation and earned enough more besides to make a start for themselves. I consider this individual fortunate who, having, arrived here without paying for his passage is taken in by such people and does not need to be redeemed like a slave." (5)

Whether one should read into the above description that the Brennemens were among those who were unable to pay their fare or whether they simply had no other resources and were given work by the Mennonites so they could get on their feet financially is not clear. One can assume they were among the very poor.

In the same letter, Louis informed his relatives that the Pennsylvania Mennonites were asking that immigrants bring with them a letter of recommendation from the elders of their respective congregations, because they had been deceived by some people who pretended to be Mennonites.

There is no record of a meeting between the Brenneman family and Christian Nafziger, who made his famous scouting trip to Upper Canada in the summer of 1822, but one can speculate that Christian's trip inspired the Brennemens and others to move on to the Canadian frontier.

## **THE BRENNEMANS SETTLE IN CANADA**

According to the naturalization records, the Brennemens arrived in Canada in October of 1823. No doubt, they were hosted by one of the Mennonite families in Waterloo until the survey of the German Block (the central part of Wilmot Township) was made early in 1824. John Brenneman then selected Lot 13, South Bleam's Road, and the family set to work. By this time he was 58 years old. Either he was in very good health, or his family rallied around him. Probably both were true. The same year (1824) Bishop John Stoltzfus came from Pennsylvania to ordain leaders for the Amish-Mennonite group which was gathering in Upper Canada. John Brenneman was one of those ordained as a minister. (6)

The John Brenneman family was listed in the Waterloo Township assessment record in 1825. They had four oxen and two cows and were assessed for 22 pounds. They probably moved to Wilmot Township after that, but no census was taken in that township until 1831.

Peter Sommer, an uncle of Louis Jüngerich (whose correspondence we have already noted), came to Canada and claimed Lot 19, North Snyder's Road. His correspondence with Christian Iutzi, first in Germany, then in Butler County, Ohio, continued to report on the Brennemens. In 1829 he wrote: "Old Brenneman greets you, and he is well off with wife and children, as Hans got married in February of 1826 to a daughter of one named Schultz. He soon got sick and was laid up until now. He can walk a little with crutches. Liz (Elizabeth) Brenneman married to [Christian] Bender, Catherine to one named Hans Meier [Meyer], Magdalena to one named George Helmuth." (7)

When the Brenneman family arrived in Canada, the oldest daughter was 23 and the youngest son was 10. The Brenneman sons, except Jacob the youngest, and young men who became sons-in-law claimed their own lots in this newly surveyed block. By the time of Samuel Street Wilmot's 1830 survey report, all of these had built log cabins on their property, although not all of them had completed all of their settling duties. All of them except Jacob, the youngest, had also married by 1830. Their stories will follow.

Little was remembered about John Brenneman and his ministry. In fact, we had even been led to believe that he had died in Germany. Careful scrutiny of the early newspapers reveals that he was quite alive and well in Canada, assisting at several funerals and sometimes he preached the funeral sermon.

The following story printed in a German newspaper, published in Berlin (now Kitchener), gives us an interesting glimpse of the old Brenneman couple. By this time John was 74 years old.

"Saturday, the 11th April 1840

Thunderstorm -- miraculous life preservation

On Friday evening, the 3rd April, about 9 o'clock, thunder (lightning) struck the residence of the old Teacher (Minister) Brenneman, in Wilmot, just as the old man and his wife were on their knees, saying their evening prayers. The lightning flash entered the chimney, travelled down the stove pipe into the stove, and out the door (of the stove) and hit both old people, who were knocked

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stunned to the floor, and remained unconscious for a while. We are happy to know that neither Mr. Brenneman nor his wife suffered any harm. The Lord preserves, Whom He pleases"(8)

If little is known of John Brenneman, even less is known of his wife. Her name, either given name or surname, has not appeared on any documentation found thus far. From the correspondence between Louis Jüngerich, Peter Sommer, and Christian Iutzi, one might suppose that she was related to one of these families. However, the Gingerich, Sommer and Iutzi family lists do not enlighten us. John Brenneman Jr. recorded his mother's death date in the family Bible, calling her his "children's grandmother." She died the 22nd of September, 1842, at the age of 69 years and nine months.

In 1843, the year after his wife's death, John Brenneman sold 80 square perches of the northeast corner of his farm to the trustees of School District number five for a "School Scit (sic), School House and Burying Ground, . . . for all denominations of Christians."(9) It is believed John's wife and others had been buried here prior to this date, including son-in-law Christian Bender, who died in 1830 or 1831.

John Brenneman was still active in his ministry at the time of his death in 1848, at the age of 82. Again the story was told in the newspaper:

"On the 21st of October, John Brenneman Senior [died] in Wilmot at the age of 82 years, 6 months; leaving behind 5 children, 26 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Old as Mr. Brenneman was, his end was very sudden, brought on by a mishap. The Friday before, Mr. Jacob Kropf [deacon] called on him, to take him along to visit a sick woman. As Mr. Brenneman opened the yard gate for Mr. Kropf, the wind blew it around again, which frightened the horse and he sprang forward trampling the old man under his feet and broke one of his legs. The carriage caught on the gate, broke it and went over it and fortunately protected Mr. Brenneman from further injury. On Friday it did not appear that there was any danger to his life, but on Saturday, he obviously became worse and died the following night. This happened at his son John's place."(10)

John Brenneman Sr. obtained the patent to the front 50 acres of his lot in 1835. Although John Jr. had claimed a lot on the north side of Bleam's Road before 1830, the 1838 census indicates he had moved to his father's place by that year. In 1846, John Sr. was issued a deed for the rear 150 acres by King's College, the owner of the land in the German Block, the central part of Wilmot Township. (11) The year John died (1848), son John built a substantial stone house. A permanent barn had already been built in 1844, but John Sr. still maintained ownership, and it was almost 20 years later that the surviving Brenneman siblings signed a Quit Claim in John Jr.'s favour, and the farm became officially his. (12) It was the finding of this deed which named all of the surviving children of John Brenneman Sr. that first confirmed the family outline.

Immigrant John Brenneman Farm
Lot 13, South Bleam's Road, Wilmot Township
1835 - Crown Patent for front 50 acres
1843 - Deed from John Brenneman to School Trustees for School House and Burying Ground . . . "for all denominations of Christians"
1846 - Deed from King's College for rear 150 acres
1848 - Immigrant John Brenneman died
1867 - Quit claim deed, heirs of John Brenneman to John Brenneman [Jr.]
1880 - Executors of John Brenneman [Jr.] to Christian Jantzi [son-in-law]
1898 - farmer divided (north half & south half) Between Jantzi sons, Christian B. & John B.



## NOTES:

- 1) In my own note from the manuscript copy of the list, I interpreted the name of the ship as *Janus*. The printed version of the lists calls it the *James*. Only initials of first names are given, and the ages for the Brenneman parents are not correct, but the children's ages correspond to the children of the immigrant Brenneman family. (List in BRENNEMAN Documents file)
- 2) Letter from Charlan Graff, Feb. 14, 1996. (In BRENNEMAN Documents file) Also see "Die Mennoniten Mädchen, An Oil Painting By An Unknown Artist" by Dr. Charlan Graff in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. X, No. 3, July 1991.
- 3) "Trans-Atlantic Advice: An 1822 Letter, by Louis C. Jüngerich (1803-1882)" in *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, July 1996, page 7, Letter No. OKCILC.23
- 4) "Where Freedom Flourishes:' More Observations on the United States by Louis C. Jungerich (1803-1882)" in *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, Vol. XX, No. 1, page 21, Letter No. OKCILC.25
- 5) "The View of Louis C. Jungerich (1803-1882) in 1826: It is Best to Come to this Country Well Prepared" *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*, Vol. XX, No. 3, page 5, Letter No. OKCILC.26 The above three letters are from a collection of letters preserved by Christian and Maria (Sommer) Iutzi and their descendants. The collection has been named the OLGA KENNEL / CHRISTIAN IUTZI LETTER COLLECTION (OKCILC) and has been catalogued by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine who has translated with explanatory comments many of these letters. The letters quoted above by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, Ursula Roy, and David J. Rempel Smucker were published in *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*.
- 6) For a discussion on this ordination, see "Goldsmith, Brenneman, Kropf: First Amish Ordinations in Canada" by Lorraine Roth in *Mennogespräch*, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, Sept. 1984, Vol. 2, No. 2.
- 7) Peter Sommer letter OKCILC.27, translated by Lorraine Roth, but unpublished. (Filed in Sommer/Iutzi letter Collection in legal-size file drawer)
- 8) *Canada Museum*, undated clipping photocopy in BRENNEMAN, documents file)
- 9) Instrument No. 260, School Deed, Township of Wilmot, County of Waterloo, Lot 13, South Bleam's Road, registered 5 July 1843 (photocopy of deed in BRENNEMAN Document files)
- 10) *Der Deutsche Canadier*, 3 November 1848
- 11) For the circumstances around which the early settlers acquired their land in Wilmot Township, see *The Amish and Their Neighbours, The German Block, Wilmot Township, 1822-1960* by Lorraine Roth. Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, Waterloo, Ontario, 1998, pages [1]-35.
- 12) From film 22958 Pt. 6: Ontario, Waterloo, Deeds 1866-1868 No. 2743. Recorded 8 Feb. 1867. This deed was first drawn to my attention by Mrs. Ervin (Arlis) Kipfer, then of Tacoma, Wash. (Photocopy in BRENNEMAN documents file)



***The house built on Immigrant John Brenneman's farm. It was built in 1848, the year Immigrant John died, for his son John Jr. and Magdalena Schultz. The foundation of an outdoor back oven now contains a herb garden.***

***Photo by Verna Schwartzentruber, 1997***

**THE IMMIGRANT JOHN BRENNEMAN FAMILY LIST**

**John/Johannes Brenneman**, son of Nicolaus Brennemann and Barbara Kurtz

b. 30 Mar 1766, on the farm Braunshardt near Darmstadt, Germany

d. 21 Oct 1848, Wilmot Township

m. in Germany

Wife's Name Unknown, b. ca. 1772

d. 22 Sept 1842, Wilmot

Children:

Grandchildren:

1) Elizabeth Brenneman

b. 23 Mar 1800 Germany

d. 23 Dec 1844 Wilmot

m. before May 1829

Christian Bender

d. 1830/31 Wilmot

2m. Peter Gardner

b. ca.1807 Lehrbach, Germany

d. 21 Aug 1882 Wilmot

} no children

2) John Brenneman, Jr.

b. 15 July 1805 Germany

d. 10 Apr 1877 SEasthope

m. Feb 1826 Wilmot

Magdalena Schultz

b. 9 Feb 1805 Alsace

d. 8 Aug 1880 Wilmot

dau. of Henry Schultz

{ Catherine Brenneman (1827-1906) m. Benedict Roth  
Daniel Brenneman (1830-1845)  
Barbara Brenneman (1832-1918) m. Jacob F. Meyer  
Elizabeth Brenneman (1833-after 1881)  
Maria Brenneman (1834-1905) m. Jacob Gingerich  
Magdalena Brenneman (1836-1921) m. Joseph Gerber  
John S. Brenneman (1838-1905) m. Barbara Gingerich  
2m. Catherine Lebold  
Veronica Brenneman (1840-1927) m. Christian G. Jantzi  
Jacob S. Brenneman (1842-1880) m. Anna/Nancy Schwartzentruber  
Lydia Brenneman (1845-1910) m. Michael G Jantzi  
Daniel Brenneman (1851-1932) m. Marie Boshart

3) Daniel Brenneman

b. 6 Sept 1807 Germany

d. 30 Apr 1876 Wilmot

m. 1 Aug 1830 Wilmot

Catherine Sommer

b. 4 Mar 1802 Germany

d. 8 Jan 1870 Wilmot

Parents unknown

{ Leah Brenneman (1831-1832)  
John Brenneman (1832-1867) m. Catherine Schlegel  
Christian Brenneman (1834)  
Daniel Brenneman (1835-1866) m Barbara Litwiller  
Jacob Brenneman (1836-1837)  
Joseph Brenneman (1838-1901) m. Magdalena Schlegel  
Barbara Brenneman (1839-1862) m Nicholas K. Roth  
Peter Brenneman (1840-1873) m. Catharine Kuepfer  
Catherine Brenneman (1843-1891) m. John F. Roth

4) Magdalena Brenneman

b. ca.1809 Germany

d. 18 Feb 1872 E.Zorra

m. 1826 Wilmot

George F. Helmuth

b. 14 Jan 1799 Germany

d. 7 July 1882 E.Zorra

son of Johannes Helmuth  
and Johaneti Himmelmann

{ Catherine Helmuth (1828-1911) m. James Leonard  
Barbara Helmuth (1831-1864) 1m. John Miller; 2m. Chr. Gingerich  
John Helmuth (1833/4-1899) m. Catherine Oesch  
Daniel Helmuth (1835-1914) m. Catherine Schwartzentruber  
Jacob Helmuth (1837-1894)  
Mary Helmuth (1839-1923) m. Joseph O. Gingerich  
Joseph Helmuth (1841-1921) m. Mary Strahm  
Christian Helmuth (1844-1905) m. Dorothea Strahm  
Menno Helmuth (1847-1918) m. Augusta Kube  
Samuel Helmuth (1849- ) m. Wilhelmina Wagner  
Noah Helmuth (1855-1922) m. Anna Roth

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### 5) Catherine Brenneman

b. ca.1811 Germany  
d. 28 Feb 1872 Wilmot  
m. before May 1829 Wilmot

John Meyer

b. 9 Feb 1799 Montbeliard  
d. 22 Nov 1872 Wilmot  
son of Hans Meyer and  
Mary Gerig

John Meyer (ca.1839-before 1872)

### 6) Jacob Brenneman

b. ca.1813 Germany  
d. 14 Jun 1888 SEasthope  
m. 3 May 1840 Wilmot

Lydia Leonard

b. ca.1825 Ireland  
d. 21 Aug 1884 SEasthope  
Parents unknown

John L. Brenneman (1843-1918) 1m. Magdalena Schrag  
2m. Anna Wittrig

Katherine Brenneman (1845-1928) m John G. Jantzi

Daniel L. Brenneman (1847-1916) m Magdalena Zehr

Barbara Brenneman (1849-1931) m. John H. Bender

Jacob L. Brenneman (1851-1898) m. Magdalena Steinman

Lydia Brenneman (1856-1929) m. Christian Roi

Joseph L. Brenneman (1858-1929) m. Katherine Roi

Christian L. Brenneman (1860-1939) m. Catherine Roth

Magdalena Brenneman (1864-1896) m. Daniel Schwartzentruber

David L. Brenneman (1866-1955) 1m. Elizabeth Zehr

2m. Catherine Yantzi

Brief stories for each of John Brenneman's children and family lists giving more details on grandchildren follow. Family lists will be given for John, Daniel, and Jacob only. First we will give the brief stories for the daughters. Elizabeth and Catherine had no survivors, hence no family lists. Magdalena's family list will appear in the HELMUTH Family Genealogical Introduction.

## ELIZABETH BRENNEMAN AND CHRISTIAN BENDER AND PETER GARDNER

Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, married Christian Bender, about whom not much is known. No doubt, he was from Germany. Christian and Elizabeth had settled diagonally across the corner from the John Brenneman homestead. Unfortunately, Christian died an early death, and by the time of the 1831 census, Elizabeth was listed as the head of the household on this property. She later married Peter Gardner, another immigrant from Germany, and Peter became the claimant and owner of the property. Elizabeth herself died in 1844 without any surviving children. No doubt, Christian and Elizabeth were among the early burials on Elizabeth's father's farm (now the Wilmot Centre Cemetery) although there are no tombstones. Peter Gardner was buried at Wilmot Centre and does have a tombstone. (See also the BENDER and GARDNER Family Introductions)

## MAGDALENA BRENNEMAN AND GEORGE HELMUTH

Magdalena, the fourth child of the immigrant John Brenneman, married George Helmuth in 1826. George was from Mengringhausen, near Arolsen, in the Principality of Waldeck, Germany. George had claimed Lot 22, South Bleam's Road, but in the 1829 census, George and his wife and oldest daughter were still listed in Waterloo Township. By 1830 a log cabin had been built on the Bleam's Road property and in 1838 George received the Crown patent for the front 50 acres. George and Magdalena sold this property in 1842 and in



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1845 purchased the rights to the rear 150 acres of Lot 18, North Bleam's Road from Magdalena's brother John. In 1854, the rights were transferred back to John.

Thus, in the 1851 census, the George Helmuth family was still listed in Wilmot, but by 1861 they appeared in East Zorra. From 1855 to 1862 they owned the east half of Lot 31, Concession XII, on the 13th Line, south of Tavistock. Several of their sons and daughters settled in East Zorra or neighbouring South Easthope Township. George and Magdalena are buried in the community cemetery on the 15th Line of East Zorra. (For more details on this family of 11 children, see the HELMUTH Family Genealogical Introduction.)

## CATHERINE BRENNEMAN AND JOHN MEYER

When Catherine's death was reported in 1872, her place of birth was given as "Neu Baiern, Worms, auf Neuhoff, Germany." It was hoped that this would lead to the discovery of the residence of this Brenneman family before coming to America. We know where Worms is, but have not found a Neuhoff near there. There is a Neuhoff closer to Darmstadt. Research at Worms or Darmstadt, with this bit of information, may eventually turn up some family records.

Catherine married John Meyer, an immigrant from the Montbeliard area of France. John had claimed Lot 6, South Snyder's Road, and in 1831 received the Crown Patent for the front 50 acres. In 1839 he sold an acre to John Ernst who built a multipurpose building which is now known as the Blue Moon Hotel, a famous landmark in the hamlet of Petersburg. In 1848 John and Catherine also issued a deed for a school. In 1854 the University of Toronto issued a deed to John Meyer for the rear 150 acres. In 1866 John and Catherine sold the 200-acre lot except the parcels sold earlier to various entrepreneurs such as John Ernst.

A son John appeared in the 1851 census, born about 1839. Since neither he nor any descendants were mentioned in John's estate settlement, he probably did not survive beyond childhood. Catherine died in February and John in November of 1872. A possible place for their burial is the Lutheran Cemetery at Petersburg, which would have been close to their home, although they may have been living with other relatives at the time of their death. No tombstones have been found. (For further details, see the MAYER/MEYER Family Introduction.)

## JOHN JR. AND MAGDALENA (SCHULTZ) BRENNEMAN

John Brenneman Junior, married Magdalena Schultz in 1827. Magdalena arrived in Canada with her widowed father and other family members from Bavaria in 1824. John Jr. laid claim to Lot 18, North Bleam's Road and built a cabin. Shortly after their marriage, John became very ill and for a long time was unable to do much work on his property.<sup>(1)</sup>(notes on page 16) He must have recovered, however, as his subsequent prosperity as a farmer would indicate. By 1838 he had moved to his parents' farm, but did not sell Lot 18 until 1854. It wasn't until 1867 that the rest of the family signed a Quit Claim to Lot 13, South Bleam's Road in favour of John Brenneman Jr.

Illness and accident in pioneer days were forever present in the lives of the settlers. In 1845, John and Magdalena's oldest son, Daniel, suffered a fatal accident while hauling a log to the sawmill. The story was reported in the newspaper as follows:

"Misfortune. -- The family of Mr. John Brenneman in Wilmot, last Monday was placed into deep sorrow. Daniel, the 16-year-old son of Mr. Brenneman, on Monday noon took a log to the sawmill on a two-wheeled wagon. The oxen were likely hard to guide and got too

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close to a stump, and perhaps the road was also somewhat sloping, so that the cart-load turned over and over, and before the young lad realized it, it hit him and cut the upper part of his head right off. He was, of course, instantly dead. The oxen and cart-load were unharmed."

(2) The sawmill was likely Hamacher's across the sideroad.

John and Magdalena built a permanent barn on Lot 13 in 1844. Few barns were dated, but this one had John and Magdalena's names and the date carved into the foundation. Unfortunately, the barn burned almost a hundred years later. Another barn was constructed on the same foundation in 1943, leaving the date stone intact.

In 1848, John and Magdalena had a two-storey stone house built with a walk-in basement, giving it the appearance of three storeys -- at least from the southwest side. It was not the first nor the largest stone house built in the German Block, but was the first built by an Amish Mennonite family. The facade had a door and three windows on the lower floor and four windows on the second. The gable ends had two windows on each floor with two small ones in each gable in the attic. An outdoor bake oven had its own foundation on the south side of the house.

In 1846 John bought the south half of Lot 13, Concession I, Block A, just south of his own farm, and in 1855 another 10 acres of Lot 14. He made timber agreements with J. Schwartzentruber and J. Steinman on two different acreages. By 1867 he had sold both of these properties to various purchasers.

For land for his children, John went further afield. He bought two farms in South Easthope and two (one lot divided into two farms) in Stanley Township, Huron County, on which several of his children settled. It was daughter Veronica and her husband Christian G. Jantzi who got the Wilmot Centre farm.

John and Magdalena were living with their son John S. in South Eashope at the time of John's death in 1877. Magdalena died in Wilmot in 1880. It is believed they are buried at Wilmot Centre, although there are no tombstones. It would also be possible that John's final resting place is the cemetery at the corner of the 19th Line, East Zorra, which would have been less than a mile from where he died.

The Brenneman family farm on Lot 13 was passed down to a daughter, Veronica, married to Christian G. Jantzi. It was then divided between their two sons, John and Christian. The southern section is still in the family, and was again passed down through a daughter in a subsequent generation, and is in possession of Doris (nee Jantzi) and her husband Rod Weber in 2010. The north half with the stone house built in 1848 (and well preserved) and the barn rebuilt in 1943 in owned by the Mahlstedt family who immigrated from Germany. Hans, the father of the family, died in 2002, but his widow still resides there with her children when they are at home. Unfortunately, the barn is not being used and is falling down.



*The two-storey stone house with a walk-in basement entrance was built for John and Magdalena (Schultz) Brenneman in 1848 on the Immigrant John Brenneman farm located south of Wilmot Centre School and Cemetery. The stone wall around the patio is a recent addition.*

*Present owners: the Hans and Therese Mahlstedt Family (2007)*

*Photo by Verna Schwartzentruber (1997)*

**THE FAMILY OF JOHN JUNIOR AND MAGDALENA (SCHULTZ) BRENNEMAN**

**John Brenneman Jr.**, son of John Brenneman and \_\_\_\_\_

- b. 15 July 1805, Hesse, Germany
- d. 10 Apr 1877, SouthEasthope Township
- m. 1827, Wilmot Township

**Magdalena Schultz**, dau. of Henry Schultz

- b. 9 Feb 1805, Frenzheim?, Alsace
- d. 8 Aug 1880, Wilmot Township

Children:

- 1) Catherine Brenneman
  - b. 5 Aug 1827 Wilmot
  - d. 15 Mar 1906 SouthEasthope
  - m. 1846 Wilmot
- Benedict Roth
  - b. 19 Feb 1820 Dornach,France
  - d. 20 Mar 1896 SouthEasthope
  - son of Nicholas Roth and Anna Shantz

Grandchildren:

- John Roth (1847-1905) m. Anna Zimmerman
- Catherine Roth (1849- ) \_\_\_\_\_ Kalbfleisch
- Magdalena Roth (1851-1918) m. Conrad Hansuld
- Benedict Roth (1853-1879)
- Barbara Roth (1855-1877)
- Nicholas Roth (1857-1930) m. Barbara Luckhardt
- Anna/Nancy Roth (1859-1926) m. Matthew Harrison
- Veronica Roth (1860-1928) m. William H. Harris
- Wilhemina/Minnie Roth (1864-1930) m. Samuel Sararas
- Matilda Roth (1865-1948) m. Henry Berlette
- Lavina Roth (1867-1934) m. William Toman

- 2) Daniel Brenneman
  - b. 20 Mar 1830 Wilmot
  - d. 8 Sept 1845 Wilmot

- 3) Barbara Brenneman
  - b. 6 Nov 1832 Wilmot
  - d. 17 Sep 1918 Wilmot
  - m. 1 Mar 1859, Wilmot
- Jacob Frederick Meyer
  - b. 1 Apr 1839 Montbe.FR
  - d. 11 Jun 1931 Wilmot
  - son of Jacob Meyer and Catherine Charpuit

- Magdalena Meyer (1860-1955) m. Menno Schwartzentruber
- Catherine Meyer (1862-1943) m. Menno Gascho
- John Meyer (1864-1954) m. Leah Gascho
- Barbara Meyer (1865-1940) m. Joseph E. Schwartzentruber
  - Joseph 1m. Barbara Schrag
- Susanna Meyer (1867-1928) m. Daniel Schrag
- Jacob Meyer (1869-1960) m. Mary Kipfer
- Veronica Meyer (1871-1909) m. Jacob Kipfer
  - Jacob 2m. Emma Gascho
- Menno Meyer (1873-1952) m. Barbara Leis
- Lydia Meyer (1876-1964) m. David Gingerich

- 4) Elizabeth Brenneman
  - b. 18 Aug 1833 Wilmot
  - d. before 1891 Wilmot?

- 5) Maria Brenneman
  - b. 26 Sep 1834 Wilmot
  - d. 25 Jan 1905 Hay Twp.
  - m. 18 Sep 1859 Wilmot
- Jacob L. Gingerich
  - b. 12 Jan 1833 Wilmot
  - d. 4 Feb 1890 Hay Twp.
  - son of Jacob W. Gingerich and Veronica Litwiller

- Leah Gingerich (1856-1942) m. Menno Kipfer
- Magdalena Gingerich (1860-1890) m. Joseph Oesch
- Veronica Gingerich (1862-1926) m Nicholas Kennel
- Daniel Gingerich (1864-1929) m. Lydia Gingerich
- John Gingerich (1866-1936)
- Nancy Gingerich (1869-1953)
- Jacob Gingerich (1872-1960) m. Susan Albrecht
- Christian Gingerich (1874-1965) m. Anna Baechler
- Mary Gingerich (1876-1955) m. Christian Schrag

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6) Magdalena Brenneman  
 b. 15 Mar 1836 Wilmot  
 d. 18 Nov 1921 W.Branch,MI  
 m. 17 Feb 1861 Wilmot  
 Joseph Gerber  
 b. 4 May 1838 LewisCo.,NY  
 d. 10 Jan 1910 W.Branch,MI  
 son of John Gerber and  
 Magdalena Nafziger

Magdalena Gerber (1860/1-1902) m. John Nafziger  
 John Gerber (1863-1928) m. Anna Jantzi  
 Peter Gerber (1865-after 1881)  
 Mary Gerber (1867-1941) m. Solomon Jantzi  
 Joseph Gerber II (1869-1940) Magdelena Kropf  
 Daniel Gerber (1871-1929) m. Catherine Jantzi  
 2m. Rachel Ropp  
 Jacob Gerber (1873-1943) m. Magdalena Jantzi  
 Christian Gerber (1876-1957) m. Veronica Jantzi  
 Veronica Gerber (1878-1966) m. Menno K. Jantzi

7) John S. Brenneman  
 b. 9 Jul 1838 Wilmot  
 d. 25 Mar 1905 SEasthope  
 1m. 26 Apr 1859 Wilmot  
 2m. 1873 Wilmot  
 Barbara Gingerich  
 b. 15 Nov 1840 Wilmot  
 d. 3 Jan 1872 SEasthope  
 dau. of Jacob W. Gingerich  
 and Veronica Litwiller  
 Catherine Lebold  
 b. 7 Oct 1849 Wilmot  
 b. 17 Dec 1929 SEasthope  
 dau. of Jacob Lebold  
 and Magdalena Blank

Veronica Brenneman (1860-1908) m. Joseph Oesch  
 Joseph 1m. Magdalena Gingerich  
 Christian Brenneman (1862-1940) m. Barbara Erb  
 Magdalena Brenneman (1864-1894) m. Menno Leis  
 Menno 2m. Veronica Schwartzentruber  
 Barbara Brenneman (1866-1950) m. John Schwartzentruber  
 Jacob Brenneman (1867-before 1871)  
 Mary Brenneman (1869-1871)  
 Anna Brenneman (1871-1875?)  
 Lydia Brenneman (1874-1941) m. Moses Litwiller  
 Noah Brenneman (1875-1933) m. Mary Kropf  
 Aaron Brenneman (1877-1950) m. Catherine Erb  
 John Brenneman (1879-1951) m. Catherine Zehr  
 Moses Brenneman (1880-1942) m. Annie Salzman  
 Daniel Brenneman (1882-1953) m. Lydia Schwartzentruber  
 Catherine Brenneman (1884-1961) m. Peter Schwartzentruber  
 Leah Brenneman (1886-1924) m. Menno Wagler  
 Sarah Brenneman (1891-1954) m. Menno Wagler

8) Veronica Brenneman  
 b. 7 Jun 1840 Wilmot  
 d. 11 May 1911 Wilmot  
 m. 9 Mar 1862 Wilmot  
 Christian G. Jantzi  
 b. 7 Feb 1837 Wilmot  
 d. 23 Jan 1901 Wilmot  
 son of John Jantzi  
 and Elizabeth Gerber

John B. Jantzi (1863-1943) m. Nancy Schultz  
 2m. Fannie Brenneman  
 Christian B. Jantzi (1865-1939) m. Barbara Wagler  
 Mattie Jantzi (1867-1895) m. Joseph Brenneman  
 Joseph 2m. Lydia Steinman

9) Jacob S. Brenneman  
 b. 7 Feb 1842 Wilmot  
 d. 7 Dec 1880 SEasthope  
 m. 22 Mar 1864 Wilmot  
 Anna/Nancy Schwartzentruber  
 b. 2 Feb 1845 Butler Co.  
 d. 21 Nov 1901 Wilmot  
 dau. of John S. Schwartzentruber and Catherine Blank  
 Anna 2m. to Jacob Bast

John Brenneman (1865-1930) m. Barbara Oesch  
 Catherine Brenneman (1866-1953) m. Moses Z. Wagler  
 Magdalena Brenneman (1869-1948) m. Christian G. Erb  
 Nancy Brenneman (1871-1875)  
 Samuel Brenneman (1875-1950) m. Mary Erb

4 children born to second marriage

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10) Lydia Brenneman

b. 31 Mar 1845 Wilmot  
d. 30 Nov 1910 Wilmot  
m. 5 Feb 1865 Wilmot

Michael G. Jantzi

b. 16 Jan 1839 Wilmot  
d. 29 Jan 1875 Wilmot  
son of John Jantzi  
and Elizabeth Gerber

John B. Jantzi (1866-1950) m. Magdalena Wagler  
2m. Mary Wagler  
Magdalena Jantzi (1867-1924) m. Joseph Nafziger  
Elizabeth Jantzi (1868-1920)  
Jacob B. Jantzi (1870-1926) m. Fannie Jantzi  
Peter Jantzi (1872)

11) Daniel Brenneman

b. 11 Oct 1851 Wilmot  
d. 14 Dec 1932 Albany, OR  
m. 8 Feb 1876 Wilmot

Marie/Mary Boshart

b. 25 Mar 1857 Wellesley  
d. 22 Mar 1947 Albany, OR  
dau. of Christian E.  
Boshart and Catherine  
Buerge

Jacob Brenneman (1876-1946) m. Barbara Stauffer  
Catherine Brenneman (1878-1951) m. Ephraim Martin  
Christian K. Brenneman (1880-1919) m. Alvina E. Engle  
Moses E. Brenneman (1881-1959) m. Orpha M. Mishler  
Sarah Brenneman (1883-1884)  
Mary Ann Brenneman (1885-1977) m. L Irvin Kenagy  
Rachel Brenneman (1887-1892)  
Aaron Brenneman (1890)(3)  
Daniel H. Brenneman (1891-1988) m. Beatrice G. Hanke  
Emma R. Brenneman (1893-1936) m. Chris M. Widmer  
Emanuel Brenneman (1897-1919) m. Elvera? Beck  
Amanda M. Brenneman (1897-1939) m. Samuel E. Eicher  
Ida E. Brenneman (1901-1935) m. Milton Martin



Barn Date Stone on Foundation under Forebay Photo: Mahlsted  
transcription: Translation:  
JOHN BRENNEMAN JOHN BRENNEMAN  
UND AND  
MAGDALENA BRENNEMAN MAGDALENA BRENNEMAN  
NEMAN AND DEN 11 JUNY NEMAN the 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE  
JHM JAHR IN THE YEAR  
1844 1844

BRENNEMAN

**THE FAMILIES OF JACOB BRENNEMAN  
AND ANNA/NANCY SCHWARTZENTRUBER  
AND JACOB BAST**

Jacob Brenneman, son of John Brenneman Jr. and Magdalena Schultz

b. 7 Feb 1842, Wilmot Twp.

d. Dec 1880, South Easthope Twp.

m. 22 Mar 1864 Wilmot Twp.

Anna/Nancy Schwartzentruber, dau. of John S. Schwartzentruber & Catherine Blank

b. 2 Feb 1845, Butler Co., Ohio

d. 21 Nov 1901, Wilmot Twp.

Anna's 2m. 14 Feb 1882 to Jacob Bast,

son of George Bast & Magdalene Ernst

b. 12 Mar 1857

d. 14 Sept 1932

Jacob Bast's 2m. 9 Apr 1907 to Katherine Spenler,

dau. of Peter Spenler & Elizabeth Steinman

b. 16 Aug 1880

d. 7 Oct 1942

Children born to Jacob and Anna (Schwartzentruber) Brenneman:

John Brenneman (1865-1930) m. Barbara Oesch

Catherine Brenneman (1866-1953) m. Moses Z. Wagler

Lena Brenneman (1869-1948) m. Christian G. Erb

Samuel Brenneman (1875-1950) m. Mary Erb

Children born to Jacob and Anna (Schwartzentruber) Bast:

Leah Bast (1883-1955) m. Joseph Schlegel

Jacob Bast (1885-1965) m. Catherine Albrecht

Daniel Bast (1886-1967) m. Mary Jutzi

Moses Bast (1888-1959) m. Magdalena Mayer

Children born to Jacob and Katherine (Spenler) Bast:

Norman Bast (1908-1983)

Elmer Bast (1909-1968) m. Violet Gingerich

Emma Bast (1911- ) m. Michael Bender

Lydian Bast (1914- ) m. Henry Walsh

Emanuel Bast (1916- ) m. Reta Janelle

*Outlines prepared by Lorraine Roth, Waterloo, Ontario  
Jacob Brenneman reunion, October 5, 1997*

## THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND MAGDALENA (SCHULTZ) BRENNEMAN FAMILY ESTABLISH THEIR HOMES

**Catherine Brenneman** married **Benedict Roth**, who took over his father's lease on Lot 9, Concession III in South Easthope Township. Benedict acquired the deed in 1852. Probably in an effort to treat his children alike, John Brenneman Jr. purchased this farm from Benedict, and then deeded it back to Catherine (both transactions in 1864). The Roths must not have liked that arrangement; so in 1866, Catherine sold the farm to her brother Jacob and he sold it back to Benedict. Catherine and Benedict are buried in the South Easthope Cemetery, south of Shakespeare. (4)

**Daniel Brenneman's** accident which caused his death at age 15 has already been mentioned. It is presumed that he was buried in the cemetery on the family farm, which is now known as the Wilmot Centre Cemetery.

**Barbara Brenneman** married **Jacob Frederick Meyer**, and they were recipients of land purchased by Barbara's father in Stanley Township, Huron County. They received ownership of the south part of Lot 5, Concession XIII in 1880, but sold it two years later. They purchased Lot 20 on the North Boundary Concession of Hay Township. After selling it in 1916, they moved back to New Hamburg and lived with their daughter Catherine and her husband Menno Gascho the rest of their lives. They are buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery. (5)

**Maria Brenneman** married **Jacob L. Gingerich**, and they also settled in Stanley Township on the north part of Lot 5, Concession XIII. They bought their share of the lot from Maria's father in 1877. Grandson, Ephraim Gingerich and his wife Elsie (nee Martin) are the owners in 2005. Maria and Jacob are buried in the Blake Mennonite Cemetery in Hay Township, not far south of their farm.(6)

**Elizabeth Brenneman** remained unmarried. When her father drew up his Will in 1876, he stipulated that his wife Magdalena and his daughter Elizabeth should continue to occupy the dwelling in which they were then living in South Easthope. He also directed that after the death of Magdalena, Elizabeth should live with one of her brothers or sisters "at her own choice or pleasure" and that his executors should annually pay her the interest on one thousand dollars, and if that should be insufficient, then part of the principal, and it should be paid to the party with whom she made her home. (7) Elizabeth's mother died in 1880, and at the time of the 1881 census, she was living with her sister Veronica and her husband Christian G. Jantzi on the Brenneman homestead at Wilmot Centre. She was not living with Veronica in the 1891 census, but neither have we found a record of her death. No doubt, she was buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery on the homestead farm.

**Magdalena Brenneman** married **Joseph Gerber**, but this time it was the Gerber father that purchased the farm and not Magdalena's. John Gerber purchased the north half of Lot 10, Concession III in Mornington Township from the Crown in 1861, the year Magdalena and Joseph were married. No doubt, they took up residence there, but did not get ownership until 1881. In 1882, Joseph and Magdalena also purchased part of the adjoining Lot 9. Joseph was ordained minister, then bishop for the Mornington Amish Mennonite Congregation. In 1893, Joseph and Magdalena joined a number of mostly Canadian Amish Mennonites who sought to establish a new community in Nobles County, Minnesota. This community, however, was rather short-lived. Joseph and Magdalena and several other families moved to West Branch, Michigan, where Joseph died in 1910 and Magdalena in 1921. (8)

The Helmers had purchased Lots 1 & 2, Concession I, South Easthope (the northeast corner of the township) and divided them into north and south. In 1859, John Brenneman Jr. purchased the south half of both lots. Son **John S. Brenneman** had just married Barbara Gingerich, and they settled on this property. John S.'s second marriage was to Catherine Lebold. In 1879, John and Catherine gained ownership of the farm, selling it to their son John in 1910. John and Catherine (nee Zehr) had no children, and in 1835 sold the farm to John's brother Aaron. The farm is still in the Brenneman family -- owned by John and Shirley Brenneman

## BRENNEMAN

at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. John S. and Catherine (Lebold) Brenneman are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, west of Baden. Barbara (Gingerich) Brenneman is believed to be buried at the 19th Line Cemetery, East Zorra, near Punkeydoodles Corner, south of the John S. Brenneman farm. (9)

**Veronica Brenneman** married **Christian G. Jantzi**, and they remained on the Wilmot homestead with her parents, purchasing the farm from the Brenneman estate at the time of Magdalena's death in 1880 (John had died in 1877). The Jantzi's divided the farm into north half and south half. The south half is still owned by Doris (nee Jantzi) and Rod Weber in 2007. Veronica and Christian G. Jantzi are buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery. (10)

**Jacob S. Brenneman** married Anna (known as Nancy) Schwartztruber in 1864, and by that time Jacob's father had purchased the north part of Lots 1 & 2, Concession I, South Easthope. Jacob and Nancy took up farming beside Jacob's brother John. Jacob died in 1880. His widow married Jacob Bast, and in 1882, they purchased the farm from the Brenneman estate. It is not known where Jacob was buried -- the 19th Line Cemetery, East Zorra, at Steinmann's or at Wilmot Centre. Anna and Jacob Bast are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery. (11)

**Lydia Brenneman** was born to Catherine Brenneman and was a granddaughter of John and Magdalena, but was raised by them and included in John's will. She married **Michael G. Jantzi**, brother to Veronica's husband. John and Elizabeth (Gerber) Jantzi, Michael's parents, of Lot 14, Concession III, Block B., Wilmot Township divided the lot into east half and west half. Michael and Lydia built new buildings on the west half and took up farming there. Michael died in 1875 – ten years after they were married. Lydia continued to operate the farm. This was during the time when Amish Mennonites held their worship services in their homes. Although widows were exempt from hosting the services, Lydia insisted on taking her turn. In 1880, Lydia purchased the farm from her father-in-law, selling it to her son John B. Jantzi in 1892. (12) From the 1881 census we learn that William Beilstein, age 22, from Sweden, worked for Widow Lydia Jantzi. In 1887 William Beilstein married Leah Boshart, daughter of Christian E. Boshart and Catherine Buerge. Lydia, widow of Michael Jantzi, lived about a kilometre southeast of the Christian E. Boshart home; so that is how Leah and William became acquainted

**Daniel Brenneman** was born to Barbara Brenneman and was also a grandson of John and Magdalena, raised by them and included in John's will. At the age of 21, Daniel spent about a year in Ohio and Indiana, working as he went. After returning to Canada, he met and married Maria Boshart, daughter of Christian E. and Catherine (Buerge) Boshart, who lived near Wellesley. Daniel and Maria lived with her parents for about a year, then moved to Hay Township and lived near Blake for about four years. They returned to Wellesley and Daniel built a house across the Nith River (known by the locals as Smith's Creek) from the Boshart farm (Lot 12, Concession I, East Section) Wellesley Township. In 1890, the Bosharts decided to move to Nebraska and sold the whole lot to Daniel and Maria. Ten years later, Daniel and Maria followed the family to Nebraska and eventually moved all the way to Albany, Oregon. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery, near Albany. (13)

### NOTES:

- 1) Peter Sommer letter, 10 July 1829 (OKCILC.27) (filed in the Sommr/Iutzi Letter Collection in a legal-sized file)
- 2) *Deutsche Canadier*, 11 September 1845 (transcription and translation in BRENNEMAN Documents file)
- 3) Aaron died May 13, 1890, age 3 months in Wellesley Township and was buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery on Settlement Road in Wilmot township-just across the road from the Daniel Brenneman farm.
- 4) For more details on Catherine and Benedict Roth's family, see the ROTH Introduction. This family is featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope, South Easthope Township, 1827-2000*, published by the South Easthope Book Committee, Editor Jim Hagarty, pages 219-222.



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- 5) See *Family History and Genealogy of Jacob Frederick and Barbara (Brenneman) Meyer*, by Ruby (Gingerich) Hammer, Baden, Ontario, 1978.
- 6) See *GINGERICH Family History & Genealogy, 1825-2000*, compiled by Alvin Gingerich, et al, Baden, Ontario, 2000, pages 61-197.
- 7) A transcription of John's Will is found in the BRENNEMAN Document file.
- 8) For more on Magdalena and Joseph Gerber, see the GERBER Introduction.
- 9) See *GINGERICH Family History & Genealogy, 1825-2000*, pages 219-268 for first marriage. See *The Jacob LEBOLD and Magdalena BLANK Family, 1800-1993*, . . ., compiled by Lorraine Roth and John Bradley Arthaud, pages 41-52 for the second marriage. This family is also featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope* (see #3 for full reference), pages 17-19.
- 10) See *Family History and Genealogy of John Jantzi and Elizabeth Gerber*, compiled by Mrs. Menno W. Kuepfer and Lorraine Roth, Shakespeare, Ontario, 1974, pages 114-120.
- 11) A partial genealogy of this family is found in *John Schwartzenruber, 1727- 1958*, by Peter Swartzenruber, Westmoreland, N.Y., 1957, pages 31, 42, 43, 77-79. This family is also featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope* (see #3 for full reference), page 17.
- 12) See *Family History and Genealogy of John Jantzi and Elizabeth Gerber*, pages 155-186. (See Note #9 for full reference)
- 13) See *Christian E. Boshart and Catherine Buerge Family History and Genealogy*, by Lucile Boshart-Carr, Shirley Jantzi-Boshart, Lorraine Roth, Newport, Oregon, 1978, pages 194-293.

### DANIEL AND CATHERINE (SOMMER) BRENNEMAN

Daniel Brenneman, the second son of immigrant John, claimed Lot 23, South Bleam's Road, across the river which is now named the Nith, but which the early settlers called "die Schmidtskrick" (Smith's Creek). According to S. S. Wilmot's 1830 survey report, Daniel had already built a log cabin. By the time he married Catherine Sommer in August of 1830, the cabin must have been ready for occupancy. Catherine is also believed to be from Germany, but her parentage remains unknown.

Daniel is credited with constructing the first bridge across the Nith River by cutting down a tree to straddle the stream, giving him ready access to his brother-in-law George Helmuth's property on the east side of the river.

Daniel and Catherine had nine children, but three of them died in infancy. Three of their adult children died prior to both their parents and a fourth died prior to his father's death in 1876. Only two of them outlived both of their parents. (1) (see Notes below) At least four of the children are known to have died of tuberculosis.

The Daniel and Catherine Brenneman farm was divided between their son Joseph and their daughter Catherine who was married to John F. Roth. The village of New Hamburg and the 7 & 8 Highway had both encroached on what had been the Roth property. What was left of it and the Joseph Brenneman farm have in recent years been sold out of the family.

It is not known where Daniel and Catherine are buried. They may be buried in the Wilmot Centre Cemetery or in the New Hamburg cemetery which was located on the north side of Bleam's Road, across from their farm. The latter cemetery was moved to Riverside in the 1930s. The surviving tombstones were installed at Riverside, but there was none for Daniel and Catherine.

**FAMILY OF DANIEL AND CATHERINE (SOMMER) BRENNEMAN**

**Daniel Brenneman**, son of John Brenneman and \_\_\_\_\_

b. 6 Sep 1807, Hesse, Germany  
d. 30 Apr 1876, Wilmot Township  
m. 1 Aug 1830, Wilmot

**Catherine Sommer**, parentage unknown

b. 4 Mar 1802, Germany  
d. 8 Jan 1870, Wilmot

Children:                      Grandchildren:

1) Leah Brenneman

b. 19 Sep 1831 Wilmot  
d. 26 Aug 1832 Wilmot

2) John Brenneman

b. 17 Sep 1832 Wilmot  
d. 30/31 Oct 1867 SouthEasthope  
m. 20 Sep 1853 SouthEasthope

Catherine Schlegel

b. 8 Sep 1830 Heims, France  
d. 25 Jan 1892 East Zorra  
dau. of Nicolaus Schlegel  
and Barbara Roth

{ Anna Brenneman (1854-1859)  
Daniel S Brenneman (1854-1926) m Elizabeth Brunk  
Catharine Brenneman (1859-1914) m. Samuel B. Iutzi/Yutzi  
Nicolaus Brenneman (1862-1935) m. Catherine Erb  
Barbara Brenneman (1864-1866)  
Joseph Brenneman (1866)

3) Christian Brenneman

b. 9 Feb 1834 Wilmot  
d. 14 Aug 1834 Wilmot

4) Daniel Brenneman

b. 25 May 1835 Wilmot  
d. 28 Dec 1866 Wilmot  
m. 5 Jan 1858 Wilmot

Barbara Litwiller

b. 1837/38 Wilmot  
d. 18 Aug 1871 Wilmot  
dau. of Peter Litwiller  
and Elizabeth Lichti

{ Catherine Brenneman (30 May-18 Oct 1859)  
Peter Brenneman (1861-1936) m. Leah Oesch  
Elizabeth Brenneman (1862-1947) m. Joel Schwartzentruber  
Daniel Brenneman (1865-1928) m. Catherine Oesch

5) Jacob Brenneman

b. 25 July 1836 Wilmot  
d. 28 Oct 1837 Wilmot

6) Joseph Brenneman

b. 18 Apr 1838 Wilmot  
d. 19 Sept 1901 Wilmot  
m. 24 May 1858 SouthEasthope

Magdalena Schlegel

b. 10 May 1835 Heims, France  
d. 12 Dec 1905 Wilmot  
dau. of Nicolaus Schlegel  
and Barbara Roth

{ Daniel S. Brenneman (1859-1932) m. Catherine Ropp  
Barbara Brenneman (1860-before 1871)  
Catherine Brenneman (1866-1933) m. Menno Schultz  
Anna Brenneman (1866-1929) m. Christian H. Steinman  
Christina Brenneman (1867-1935) m. John E. Schwartzentruber  
Nicolas Brenneman (1869-1894)  
Joseph Brenneman (1871-1933) m. Magdalena Jantzi  
2m. Lydia Steinman  
Jacob Brenneman (1874-1927) m. Mary Steinman

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7) Barbara Brenneman

b. 18 June 1839 Wilmot  
d. 24 Sept 1862 East Zorra  
m. 10 Dec 1861 Wilmot

Nicholas K. Roth

b. 21 Jan 1841 Heims, France  
d. 18/19 Mar 1923 East Zorra

son of Joseph Roth and Anna Kauffman

Nicholas 2m. to Barbara Roth

Nicholas 3m. to Mary Steinman

} no children to this marriage

8) Peter Brenneman

b. 5 Oct 1840 Wilmot  
d. 1 Apr 1873 Wilmot  
m. 19 Feb 1861 Wilmot

Catharine Kuepfer

b. 13 Dec 1837 Wilmot  
d. 11 Jun 1898 East Zorra  
dau. of Jacob Kuepfer  
and Marie Lichti

Catherine 2m. to Nicholas F. Roth

{ Leah Brenneman (1862-1877)  
Daniel Brenneman (1863)  
Jacob Brenneman (1864)  
Menno Brenneman (1865)  
John Brenneman (1866-1867)  
Henry Brenneman (1868-1938) m. Catherine Oesch  
2m. Magdalena Bender  
Marie Brenneman (1870-1871)  
Samuel Brenneman (1872-1873)

9) Catherine Brenneman

b. 30 Sep 1843 Wilmot  
d. 8 Nov 1891 Wilmot  
m. 28 Feb 1864 Wilmot

John F. Roth

b. 14 May 1841 SEhope  
d. 10 Jan 1918 Wilmot  
son of Christian Roth  
and Catherine Freienberg

John 2m. to Catherine (Steinman) Besinger

{ Benedict/Benjamin Roth (1869-1949) m. Barbara Lichti  
Catherine Roth (1870-1955) m. Rudolph Schwartzentruber  
Anna Roth (1874-1937) m. Christian Lichti  
*(Benedict and Anna were born to Nicholas F. Roth  
and Anna Schlegel, raised by John & Catherine.)*

**DANIEL AND CATHERINE (SOMMER) BRENNEMAN FAMILY RESIDENCES**

**John Brenneman**, Daniel and Catherine's oldest son, married Catherine Schlegel of South Easthope. Her father Nicolaus had purchased Lot 23, Concession II, South Easthope from his brother-in-law Christian Wenger; so John and Catherine took up farming here. The property was located at #2294, Line 33 (formerly known as Pork Street) west of the Tavistock-Shakespeare highway. John bought the lot from his father-in-law in 1858. Already suffering from tuberculosis, John sold the west 50 acres in 1866. He died the following year, but Catherine remained on the farm until 1872 when the east half was also sold. By that time their three children who had survived infancy were adults and able to be on their own. Catherine was buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery (16th Line), but it is not known whether John was buried there. He may have been buried in the South Easthope Cemetery, south of Shakespeare, which would have been very close to their home. (2)

**Daniel Brenneman** married Barbara Litwiller. In 1856, Daniel Brenneman Sr. purchased the west half of Lot 32, Concession XVIII (on the 18th Line) in East Zorra Township, Oxford County. It is quite likely that Daniel Jr. and Barbara took up farming here. Bishop Joseph Ruby recorded the births of their four children

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between 1859 and 1865 as taking place in East Zorra. When Daniel became too ill, they may have left the farm and returned to Wilmot since his will indicated he was living in Wilmot. Daniel died in 1866 and Barbara in 1871, both of tuberculosis. Their oldest daughter had died in infancy, but the three boys found homes in the Amish Mennonite community and eventually married and established homes of their own. It is not known where Daniel and Barbara are buried, but probably in either the New Hamburg or Wilmot Centre cemetery. (3)

**Joseph Brenneman** married Magdalena Schlegel, sister to Catherine who married Joseph's older brother John. Joseph and Magdalena remained on the home farm (Lot 23, South Bleam's Road). In 1876, the Daniel Brenneman estate sold the southern half to Joseph and Magdalena and the north part to daughter Catherine and her husband John F. Roth. In 1891, Joseph and Magdalena also purchased the north half of Lot 23 in Block A, just south of their farm. This farm was deeded to their son Jacob S. Brenneman married to Mary (nee Steinman) in 1899. In 1921, Jacob and Mary sold it to their son Joseph S. Brenneman in 1921. Joseph and Magdalena are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery. (4)

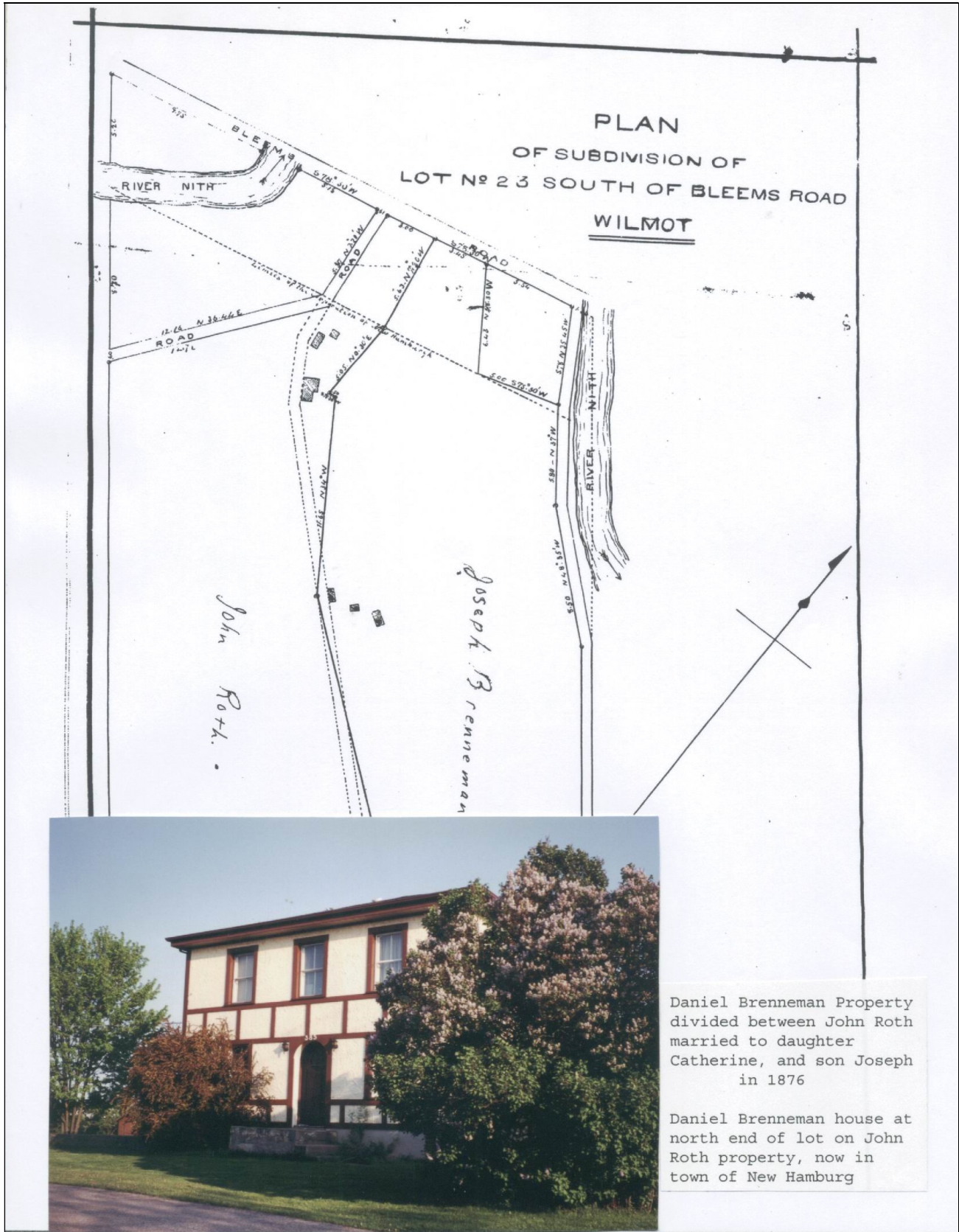
**Barbara Brenneman** married **Nicholas K. Roth** from East Zorra in 1861, but she died less than a year later. Nicholas married again in 1866, and in 1870 Daniel Brenneman Sr. sold him his East Zorra property (the west half of Lot 32, Concession XVIII). Nicholas and his third wife are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery (16th line), but it is not known where Barbara is buried. If Barbara and Nicholas were living on Daniel Brenneman's East Zorra property, she might be buried in the 19th Line Cemetery, because it would not have been very far from their home.

**Peter Brenneman** married Catherine Kuepfer, daughter of Jacob and Maria (Lichti) Kuepfer, in 1861. It is not known where they lived until 1870 when they purchased part of the east half of Lot 5, Concession I, Block B, Wilmot Township, north and east of St. Agatha. This property would have been across the concession road from Catherine's sister Anna, married to Christian B. Roth. Peter and Catherine had eight children, and when Peter died of tuberculosis in 1873, only two of them were living. A few of them may have died of T.B., but some died of other causes.

Catherine (Kuepfer) Brenneman married again to Nicholas F. Roth, brother to John F. Roth who was married to Catherine Brenneman. She went with him to Iowa where he had lived during his previous marriage. Catherine had another son, but when Nicholas died in 1882, she returned to Canada with her son (also named Nicholas) who died in 1887. She had retained ownership of the farm in Wilmot after Peter's death and did not sell it until 1885. By this time only Henry (known as Henner) Brenneman survived of Catherine's nine children. He was married and lived in East Zorra, just west of Punkeydoodles Corner. No doubt Catherine spent her last years with Henry, and he buried her in the cemetery on the hill (19th Line, East Zorra). Although there is no tombstone, the logical burial place for Peter's burial would have been what is now the St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery. (5)

**Catherine Brenneman** and her husband **John F. Roth** obtained ownership of the north part of the Daniel Brenneman homestead. Catherine and John had no children of their own. John's brother Nicholas lived in Iowa, and when his wife died he went to Iowa on the train and brought Baby Anna along back with him. Nicholas then came back to Canada, married Catherine's brother Peter's widow and took her back to Iowa. When Nicholas died, John went to Iowa again and brought back 13-year-old Benedict (also known as Benjamin). In the meantime they had also adopted a daughter Catherine. Several other children found a welcome in the John Roth home, including Henry, Peter and Catherine's son. (6)

After Catherine's death in 1891, John married Catherine (Steinman) Besinger who had also had three children who died young. John and the two Catherines are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery.



Daniel Brenneman Property divided between John Roth married to daughter Catherine, and son Joseph in 1876

Daniel Brenneman house at north end of lot on John Roth property, now in town of New Hamburg

## NOTES:

- 1) This family list is based on the record found in the Daniel and Catherine Brenneman family Bible, in possession of Kenneth Gascho, Zurich, Ontario, until sold to his cousin Earl Brenneman of Embro in 2005.
- 2) See *The Family History and Genealogy of Nicolaus and Barbara (Roth) Schlegel*, by Henry and Mae Yantzi, New Hamburg, Ontario, 1986, pages 19-44. This family is also featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope, South Easthope Township, 1827-2000*, pages 172-174.
- 3) See *Family tree of Daniel & Barbara Brenneman up to June 1979*, compiled by Lily Mae Yantzi, Glen Allen, Ont. and *Peter Litwiller and Elizabeth Lichti Family History and Genealogy*, by Mary and Earl Litwiller, Petersburg, Ontario, 2nd Edition, 1998, pages 314-339.
- 4) See *The Family History and Genealogy of Nicolaus and Barbara (Roth) Schlegel*, by Henry and Mae Yantzi, New Hamburg, Ontario, 1986, pages 67-97.
- 5) See *Family History and Genealogy of Jacob and Marie (Lichti) Kuepfer*, by Mrs. Menno W. Kuepfer, et al, Kitchener, Ontario, 1976, pages 144-154. For Catharine's 2nd marriage, see *Nicholas F. Roth Family History and Genealogy . . .* by Olivia Roth, Baden, Ontario, 1990, page 15.
- 6) See *Family History and Genealogy of Benjamin S. and Barbara (Lichti) Roth, Anna Roth and Christian Lichti, Catherine Roth and Rudolph Schwartzenruber, . . .*, by Mrs. Olivia Roth and Mrs. Verdella Harloff, New Hamburg, Ontario, 1984, pages 1-46.

## JACOB AND LYDIA (LEONARD) BRENNEMAN

Jacob Brenneman, the youngest of the John Brenneman family, was about ten years old when the family arrived in Canada. In 1840, the newspaper published in Berlin (Kitchener) announced the marriage of Jacob Brenneman and Catharina Lendi, both from Wilmot. (1) (see Notes below) This is probably Jacob Brenneman and Lydia Leonard, with her name given incorrectly. Lydia was born in Ireland, but her parentage or her precise date and place of birth are not known. We are quite certain that James Leonard, who married George and Magdalena (Brenneman) Helmuth's daughter was Lydia's brother, but lack documentary proof.

By the time Jacob was ready for a farm, Wilmot Township was filled with settlers. New immigrants and the children of the Wilmot settlers were having to look for new territory. The southeast end of the Huron Tract (later part of Perth County) and the northeast end of Oxford County became prime settlement areas for the Amish Mennonites having to look beyond Wilmot. Jacob and Lydia were among those who settled in South Easthope Township. They did not purchase their land, Lot 5, Concession II, until 1854, but Jacob was already occupying it on the 1842 assessment list with 60 acres under cultivation. No doubt, they were renting from James Clyne who had purchased it from the Canada Company.

Jacob, as well as his brother John, also bought several farms on which to settle his sons in both South Easthope and in East Zorra, Oxford County. The property in East Zorra was comprised of Lots 35 and 36, Concession XIX (a total of 116 and a half acres), in the northeast corner of the township – at Punkeydoodles Corner. At first son John resided here, but eventually the lots were divided between Joseph and David. The northwest corner of Lot 36 became designated as a cemetery and was deeded by Jacob and Lydia to the trustees of a cemetery board – Christian Bender and others – in 1872. Jacob and Lydia are said to be buried here, but there are no tombstones.

The homestead farm in South Easthope was sold to son Christian L. Brenneman. It remained in the family for two more generations, but since there were no sons, it was always through a daughter. Christian and Catherine's daughter Mattie and her husband Joseph Z. Steinmann were followed by their daughter Florence and her husband Reuben Kennel. (3) The farm was then divided into north and south and at present even the house and barn are under different ownership. In 2010, Robert and Nancy (Wagler) Lebold own the house and Nancy's father Leander has now sold the barn and a shop on the south part of the land to his son Mark.

THE JACOB BRENNEMAN HOMESTEAD

Lot 5, Concession II, South Easthope, was purchased by James Clyne from the Canada Company in 1841. Since Jacob Brenneman appeared on this lot in the 1842 census, he must have rented it from Clyne, purchasing it in 1854. Jacob was married to Lydia Leonard who was born in Ireland. After Lydia's death Jacob sold the farm to their son Christian and his wife Catherine (nee Roth). From then on the farm was passed on to daughters and sons-in-law -- first to Mattie Brenneman and her husband Joseph Z. Steinman, then to Florence Steinman and her husband Reuben Kennel. In 1955 the land was divided between Alvin Schlegel (north half) and Ezra Zehr (south half) including the buildings. In 2002 it is divided into four parcels with Robert and Nancy (Wagler) Lebold as owners of the house and Leander Wagler owning the barn and the south part of the land.



(photo taken in 1999)

In the 1861 census Jacob and Lydia Brenneman were living in a frame house. It is believed that the rear part of the house (without the closed-in first floor addition) is still this original structure with the front part of the house facing the road added later.



(photo taken in 2000)

The date the Brenneman barn was built is not known. The South Easthope - East Zorra Amish Mennonite congregation had their worship services in homes and barns, as did all Amish. In 1883, the congregation built a meetinghouse on the 16th Line in East Zorra Township. According to tradition the last service before meeting in the new meetinghouse was held in the Jacob Brenneman barn and Dr. Peter Zehr preached the sermon.

**FAMILY OF JACOB AND LYDIA (LEONARD) BRENNEMAN**

**Jacob Brenneman**, son of John Brenneman and \_\_\_\_\_

b. ca. 1813, Hesse, Germany  
 d. 14 Jun 1888, South Easthope Township  
 m. 3 May 1840, Wilmot Township

**Lydia Leonard**, parentage unknown; had a brother James Leonard

b. ca. 1825, Ireland  
 d. 21 Aug 1884, South Easthope

CHILDREN:

GRANDCHILDREN:

1) John L. Brenneman

b. 10 Dec 1843 SEhope  
 d. 23 Dec 1918 E.Zorra  
 1m. 22 Nov 1864 E.Zorra  
 2m. 23 Feb 1869 SEhope  
 Magdalena Schrag  
 b. 18 Oct 1842 E.Zorra  
 d. 10 Feb 1867 E.Zorra  
 dau. of John Schrag and  
 Magdalena Schwartztruber  
 Anna Wittrig  
 b. 17 Mar 1850 E.Zorra  
 d. 27 Aug 1910 E.Zorra  
 dau. of Joseph Wittrig and Anna Gascho

Lydia Brenneman (1866-1961) m. Jacob S. Wagler  
 Magdalena Brenneman (1869-after 1930)m. William Dick  
 Jacob Brenneman (1871-1872)  
 Catherine Brenneman (1875-1939) m. Abram Nahrgang  
 Joseph Brenneman (1877-1882)  
 John Brenneman (1877-1882)  
 David Brenneman (1879-1902)  
 Barbara Brenneman (1881-1962) m. John R. Brenneman  
 Alexander Brenneman (1883-1943)  
 Anna Brenneman (1885- ) m. Hugo Peterson  
 Eli Brenneman (1887-1888)  
 Amos Brenneman (1889-1893)

2) Katherine Brenneman

b. 4 Feb 1845 SEhope  
 d. 14 Jan 1928 Wellesley  
 m. 10 Oct 1865 SEhope  
 John G. Jantzi  
 b. 4 Feb 1841 Wilmot  
 d. 1 Jun 1926 Wellesley  
 son of John Jantzi  
 and Elizabeth Gerber

Magdalena Jantzi (1866-1921) m. Daniel H. Bender  
 Lydia Jantzi (1868-1957) m. Joseph W. Steckly  
 Barbara Jantzi (1870-1941) m. Jacob W. Steckly  
 2m. Peter Steckly  
 John B. Jantzi (1871-1959) m. Dorothea Bast  
 Catherine Jantzi (1874-1952) m. David J Schwartz  
 Jacob B. Jantzi (1877-1971) m. Magdalena Wagler  
 2m. Fannie Lichti

3) Daniel L. Brenneman

b. 30 Oct 1847 SEhope  
 d. 28 Dec 1916 SEhope  
 m. 30 Nov 1869 SEhope  
 Magdalena Zehr  
 b. 23 Oct 1846 SEhope  
 d. 25 May 1895 SEhope  
 dau. of Dr. Peter Zehr and Barbara Roth

Barbara Brenneman (1870-1898) m. Peter Y. Zehr  
 Peter 2m. Anna Ruby  
 Anna Brenneman (1874-1947) m. Menno Kuepfer  
 Menno 1m. Emma Gabel  
 Peter Brenneman (1876-1954) m. Mary Oesch

4) Barbara Brenneman

b. 15 Sep 1849 SEhope  
 d. 5 Aug 1931 E.Zorra  
 m. 16 Jan 1872 SEhope  
 John H. Bender  
 b. 5 Aug 1849 Wilmot  
 d. 28 Apr 1934 E.Zorra  
 son of Christian Bender and Catherine Honderich

Jacob B. Bender (1875-1956) m. Magdalena Ramseyer  
 Lydia Bender (1878-1947) m. Aaron Eby  
 Magdalena Bender (1880-1962) m. Christian R. Iutzi



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5) Jacob L. Brenneman

b. 8 Nov 1851 SEhope  
d. 7 Oct 1898 SEhope  
m. 12 Jan 1875 SEhope

Magdalena Steinman

b. 1 Mar 1855 France  
d. 16 Mar 1927 SEhope

dau. of John Steinman and Magdalena Kauffman

{ Barbara Brenneman (1876-1938) m. Joel L. Erb  
Sarah Brenneman (1884-1977) m. Nicholas Ruby

6) Lydia Brenneman

b. 7 Apr 1856 SEhope  
d. 5 Apr 1929 E.Zorra  
m. 25 Mar 1886 SEhope

Christian Roi

b. 21 Jun 1859 E.Zorra  
d. 5 Mar 1932 E.Zorra

son of Louis Roi and Magdalena Erb

{ Emerson Roi (1888-1962) m. Sarah Helmuth  
Simon Roi (1891-1966) m. Catherine Brenneman  
Lydia Roi (1893-1954) m. Solomon Brenneman  
Norman Roi (1897-1989) m. Christena Bender

7) Joseph L. Brenneman

b. 1 Jul(4) 1858 SEhope  
d. 26 Dec 1929 E.Zorra  
m. 13 Nov 1883 E.Zorra

Katherine Roi

b. 14 Oct 1857 E.Zorra  
d. 14 Mar 1940 E.Zorra

dau. of Louis Roi and Magdalena Erb

{ Jacob Brenneman (1884-1886)  
Matilda Brenneman (1886-1890)  
Emerson Brenneman (1889)  
Ida Brenneman (1890-1983)  
William Brenneman (1894-1953) m. Mary Roth  
Mary 2m. Daniel Lichti  
Mahlon Brenneman (1898-1899)

8) Christian L. Brenneman

b. 23 Dec 1860 SEhope  
d. 14 Jan 1939 SEhope  
m. 22 Mar 1887 SEhope

Catherine Roth

b. 9 Feb 1863 E.Zorra  
d. 20 Jul 1930 SEhope

dau. of Peter K. Roth and Magdalena Schwartzentruber

{ Veronica Brenneman (1888-1957) m. John Yantzi  
Magdalena Brenneman (1889-1976) m. Joseph Steinman  
Sarah Brenneman (1895-1980) m. Jacob Steinman

9) Magdalena Brenneman

b. 20 May 1864 SEhope  
d. 15 Nov 1896 E.Zorra  
m. 16 Nov 1886 SEhope

Daniel Schwartzentruber

b. 29 Jul 1859 SEhope  
d. 2 May 1932 E.Zorra

son of Jacob Schwartzentruber and Catharine Roth

{ Jacob Schwartzentruber (1887-1963) m. Sarah Jantzi  
Catherine Schwartzentruber (1889-1969) m. Simon Leis

10) David L. Brenneman

b. 7 Nov 1866 SEhope  
d. 8 Dec 1955 Wilmot  
1m. 1 Dec 1887 E.Zorra

Elizabeth Zehr

b. 25 Mar 1869 E.Zorra  
d. 15 Dec 1916 E.Zorra

dau. of Joseph C. Zehr and Katherine Yoder

{ Catherine Brenneman (1891-1977) m. John L. Kropf  
Lydia Brenneman (1893-1981) m. Peter Bender  
Amos Brenneman (1895-1980) m. Clara Zehr  
Annie Brenneman (1898-1991) m. Daniel Zehr  
Lavina Brenneman (1904-1996) m. John Brenneman

*David 2m. see below*

## BRENNEMAN

David L. Brenneman  
2m. 20 Nov 1917 E.Zorra  
Catherine Yantzi  
b. 20 Jun 1880 E.Zorra  
d. 16 Jul 1961 Wilmot  
dau. of Michael K. Yantzi  
and Barbara Ruby



### David L. Brenneman Family

*Seated: David and his second wife Catherine (nee Yantzi)  
Standing: L-R – Lavina (Mrs John Brenneman), Annie (Mrs. Daniel Zehr)  
Amos Brenneman, Lydia (Mrs. Peter Brenneman, Katie (Mrs. John I. Kropf)  
(The mother of the children was Elizabeth (nee Zehr) 1869-1916)*

*Photo by Lorraine Roth, 1948*

## JACOB AND LYDIA (LEONARD) BRENNEMAN FAMILY RESIDENCES

**John L. Brenneman** was first married to Magdalena Schrag who grew up in the neighbourhood on the East Zorra side of the Townline. His second marriage was to Anna Wittrig. John and Magdalena first farmed on John's father's farm at Punkeydoodles Corner. In 1888 John and Anna purchased a half acre near the corner of the 16th Line (Lot 36, Concession XV). They sold this place to their bachelor son Alexander in 1907; so they may have continued to live there until they died. It is supposed John and Anna are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery although there are no tombstones. According to his obituary, John's funeral was at East Zorra; so it is likely he was buried there also. John's first wife may have been buried in the cemetery on the farm on which they were living at the time of her death (19th Line, East Zorra).

**Katherine Brenneman** married **John G. Jantzi** from Wilmot in 1865. The following year, John's father purchased the east half of Lot 34, Concession XV on the 16th Line, East Zorra. No doubt, John and Katherine began farming here, obtaining title to it in 1880. The East Zorra Amish Mennonite congregation built a meetinghouse almost across the road from the Jantzi farm in 1883. When the Wellesley and Mornington congregations decided to build meetinghouses a few years later, a number of members did not agree and established their own fellowships and continued to worship in their homes. These groups became known as the Old Order. John's relatives in Wellesley were among those who withdrew from the meetinghouse churches, and John and Katherine decided to join them. However, that required a move to be closer to the Old Order community. In 1900 John and Katherine sold their East Zorra farm and moved to the Wellesley area with their children, some of whom were already married.

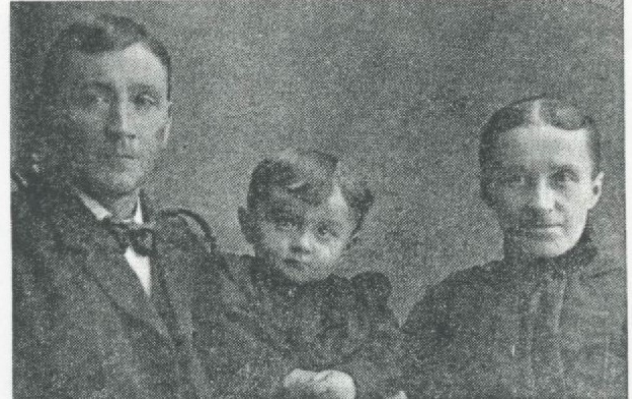
For a while Katherine and John lived with their daughter Catherine and her husband David Schwartz. In 1901 they bought the east half of Lot 5, Concession VIII on the 9th Line (now called Schummer Line) and an additional 50 acres of Lot 6 in the West Section of Wellesley Township. They sold the farm to their son Jacob, but probably remained with him as long as they lived. They are buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery on Settlement Road southeast of Wellesley.

**Daniel L. Brenneman** married Magdalena Zehr in 1869. They probably moved onto the farm across the road (Lot 6, Concession II) from the homestead which Daniel's father had already purchased in 1862. No doubt, they soon built the frame house which had the walls filled with planks stacked one on top of the other. The large Pennsylvania barn with a wide forebay may have been built some time later. Daniel and Magdalena got ownership of the farm in 1875. Magdalena died in 1895, and in 1904 Daniel sold the farm to

BRENNEMAN

his son Peter Z. and Mary (nee Oesch) Brenneman. Daniel continued to live with them until his death in 1916. Daniel and Magdalena are buried in the 19th Line Cemetery, East Zorra.

When the sons of Peter and Mary (Oesch) Brenneman began to marry, they usually stayed with Peter and Mary for a few years. This was the case with Alvin and Viola, Oscar and Vera, and Allan and Minnota. Dan, who never married, also lived at home. In 1952, Peter sold the farm to his daughter Violet and son-in-law Sidney Roth. Peter and Dan and Allan and his family continued to live there until Peter's death in 1954. Sidney rebuilt the barn because the centre beam at the peak of the roof had broken. After 1972, Lorraine and Howard and his wife Shirley Roth continued to own the farm until it was sold out of the family in 1984. There was a fire in the house in 1988, causing considerable damage; so the house was demolished and replaced. (5)



*Anna (Brenneman) Kuepfer Family ►  
(daughter of Daniel L. Brenneman)*

*L-R: Menno Kuepfer, Edward Kuepfer,  
Anna (Brenneman) Kuepfer*



**Peter Z. Brenneman Family (son of Daniel L. Brenneman)**

*Back Row L-R: Alvin Brenneman, Salome (Brenneman) Zehr, Daniel Brenneman, Violet (Brenneman) Roth, Amos Brenneman  
Front Row L-R: Peter Z. Brenneman, Allen Brenneman, \_\_\_\_\_ Brenneman, Mary (Oesch) Brenneman*

**Barbara Brenneman** married **John H. Bender** in 1875. John's father had purchased the east half of Lot 32, Concession XV in East Zorra in 1855. No doubt, John and Barbara took up farming at this location after their marriage, gaining ownership in 1887. In 1902, they purchased the west half of Lot 32, Concession XVI, across the road (the 16th Line). This farm was the second farm south of the East Zorra Mennonite Church. In 1907 they sold it to their son Jacob B. Bender married to Magdalena Ramseyer. In 1935, grandson Lorne Bender purchased the homestead (east half of Lot 32, Concession XV) from the John H. Bender estate. Barbara and John Bender are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line.

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**Jacob L. Brenneman** married Magdalena Steinman in 1875 and the same year father Jacob purchased Lot 17, Concession IV in South Easthope. No doubt, Jacob L. and Magdalena took up residence there, acquiring ownership in 1887. They had only two daughters, and in 1894 they sold the farm to daughter Barbara and her husband Joel L. Erb. Jacob and Magdalena Brenneman are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery.

Barbara and Joel Erb also had only two daughters. Saloma married Daniel Brenneman, great grandson of Daniel and Catherine (Sommer) Brenneman. This generation produced sons (Bruce and Lester) who took over the farm, but again the ownership was passed on to Bruce and Mary Ann's daughter Linda, married to William (Bill) Schumm. (6)

**Lydia Brenneman** married **Christian Roi** in 1886. In 1882 Christian's father Louis had purchased the west half of Lot 25, Concession XIV, on the Cassel Sideroad in East Zorra. Lydia and Christian probably took over this farm at the time of their marriage, purchasing it in 1889. Son Norman, married to Christena (nee Bender), purchased the farm from his parents' estate in 1933.

In 1888, Jacob Brenneman divided his property in East Zorra (at Punkeydoodles Corner) into east and west halves, selling the east half to son **Joseph L. Brenneman**, married to Katherine (nee Roi). Two sets of farm buildings were built. In 1891 Joseph and Katherine sold their farm to Henry Brenneman, son of Joseph's cousin Peter. By that time they had already buried their first three children in the family cemetery on the hill.

Joseph and Katherine then purchased the northeast quarter (50 acres) of Lot 25, Concession XIII, on the Cassel Sideroad. In 1916 they purchased most of the south part of the lot. Joseph and Katherine had six children, but only two survived childhood -- Ida and William. Neither of them were married when William purchased the farm from his parents in 1931. Joseph and Katherine are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16<sup>th</sup> Line.

In 1942, William married Mary Roth of South Easthope. William then sold the farm and both he and Ida joined Mary in her house near Hartleib's school. William died in 1953 as the result of injuries when he was hit by a motorist as he was driving along the road with a tractor at dusk.

**Christian L. Brenneman** married Catherine Roth of East Zorra, took up residence and ownership of the Jacob Brenneman homestead in South Easthope at the time of their marriage in 1887. Christian and Catherine had only three daughters. It was Magdalena (known as Mattie) and her husband Joseph Z. Steinman who became the next owners in 1939. Christian and Catherine are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16<sup>th</sup> Line.

Mattie and Joseph Steinman had only two daughters. The Brenneman homestead farm was passed on to daughter Florence and her husband Reuben Kennel. In 1955, the Kennels sold the farm out of the family and moved to North Easthope.

**Magdalena Brenneman** married **Daniel Schwartzentruber** in 1886 and remained on the home farm until after Christian's marriage. In 1888 they purchased the east half of Lot 32, Concession XVI (17th Line) in East Zorra. Although Magdalena died at a very young age, Daniel remained on the farm with his children, Jacob and Catherine. Jacob married Sarah Jantzi and remained with Daniel, gaining ownership at the time of Jacob's death in 1932. Magdalena and Jacob are buried in the East Zorra Mennonite Cemetery, 16th Line.

**David L. Brenneman**, the youngest of the Jacob and Lydia Brenneman family, married Elizabeth Zehr and purchased the west half of Lots 35 and 36, Concession XIX, East Zorra, from his father in 1887. The 19th Line Cemetery is located at the northwest corner of this farm. David and Elizabeth had four daughters and one son. Evidently Amos had little interest in farming and did not take it over. After Elizabeth's death, David married Catherine Yantzi. In 1834 they sold the farm to John B. Schwartzentruber (who had already purchased the east half from Henry Brenneman in 1915) and retired in Wilmot Township, just south of Punkeydoodles Corner. David was still living at the time of the first Brenneman reunions held in the early 1950s. David, Elizabeth and Catherine are buried in the family cemetery on the 19th Line.



***David L. Brenneman, son of Jacob Brenneman and Lydia Leonard, purchased the west half of Lots 35 and 36, Concession XIX in East Zorra township, Oxford County, from his father in 1887. The barn and silo showing in the photo is the location of the David L. Brenneman farm as it appeared in 2000.***

***In 1872, Jacob Brenneman had deeded the northwest corner of Lot 36, Concession XIX to Christian Bender, Jacob Bender, and John Steinman, acting as trustees of the cemetery – it is likely that burials had already taken place here. The cemetery is located at the corner of the Townline and the 19<sup>th</sup> Line East Zorra. After the building of the Amish Mennonite Meetinghouse on the 16<sup>th</sup> Line, this cemetery was used very little except by a few families who lived in the immediate neighbourhood. In recent years it is being used more extensively again***

*Photo by Lorraine, ca. 2000*

NOTES:

- 1) *Canada Museum*, June 6, 1840
- 2) See the LEONARD and HELMUTH files for further details.
- 3) See *History and Genealogy of Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman Family History, 1843-1963*, by Lorraine Roth, Shakespeare, Ontario, 1963.  
The Jacob and Lydia Brenneman family and their son Christian L. Brenneman are also featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope, South Easthope Township, 1827-2000*, Edited by Jim Hagarty. [Stratford, Ont.]: Published by the South Easthope History Book Committee, 2000, pages 142-144.
- 4) The family record gives July as the month of birth for Joseph L. Brenneman; Bishop Joseph Ruby recorded it as June.
- 5) The Daniel L. and Magdalena Brenneman family is featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope*, pages 144-147.
- 6) The Jacob L. and Magdalena Brenneman family is featured in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope*, pages 301-303.

HELENA/MAGDALENA (BRENNEMAN) BENDER
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Helena Brenneman and her husband Jacob Bender migrated to U.S.A. in 1831, and then to Canada in 1832. Helena Brenneman (called Lena, but also called Magdalena in the Bender family Bible) was the daughter of Samuel Brenneman and Marie Schwartzentruber. Samuel is the brother of John Brenneman, the immigrant to Canada. Samuel was a minister in the Amish Mennonite Church and was a resident of the Fiddemuhle, near Rauschenberg, northeast of Marburg in Hesse, Germany. According to the Bender family Bible, the Fiddemuhle was the place where Lena was married to Jacob Bender.

Lena's mother, Marie Schwartzentruber, was a daughter of Johannes Schwartzentruber, called "the Austrian." Marie had a nephew John S. Schwartzentruber who also migrated to Canada.

### HELENA (BRENNEMAN) BENDER'S EXTENDED FAMILY:

**Samuel Brennemann**, (minister), son of Nikolaus Brenneman and Barbara Kurtz  
 b. 7 Dec 1759 on the Karlshäuserhof estate at Dürrn Dec. 7, 1759  
 d. July 20, 1834 at Itzenhain.  
 m. 3 Mar 1786 at Schaaken to

**Marie Schwarzentruher** dau. of John Schwartzentruber ("the Austrian")  
 b. ca. 1766 at Ernsthäusen (11 miles west of Wohra)  
 d. May 5, 1829 at Itzenhain (four miles east of Wohra).

Leased the manorial estate of Bellnhausen near Itzenhain, Hesse, Germany  
 Later lived on the Fiddemuhle at Wohra, near Rauschenberg, northeast of Marburg

#### Six known children:

- 1) Johannes Brenneman, (1788-1827) m. Margaretha Otto  
*Widow and children migrated to U.S.A.*
- 2) Christian Brenneman (1790- )  
 m. Helena Gungerich, dau. of Vinzenz Gungerich at Burgeln, near Marburg
- 3) **Helena Brenneman** (1798-1877) died in Wilmot Township, Ontario, Canada  
 m. 30 Mar 1816 at the Fiddemuhle  
**Jacob Bender** son of Jacob Bender from Bodenhausen, near Raushenburg, Hesse  
 11 Children – first 8 born in Hesse, Germany, one in Pennsylvania, last two in Wilmot Twp., Ontario  
*Migrated to U.S.A. in 1831, to Canada in 1832*  
 For more details see the BENDER Family Introduction
- 4) Maria Brenneman, b. 1804 at the Fiddemuhle; d. 1854 in Ernsthäusen  
 m. Jakob Gungerich, son of Vinzenz Gungerich at Burgeln, near Marburg
- 5) Jakob Brenneman, (1797-1847) born at Lichtenfels near Dalwigkthal, south Waldeck  
 1m. to cousin Catharina Gungerich from Albacherhof  
 2m. to Anna Hildebrand from Heppenhof near St. Goarshausen  
*Descendants live in Hesse*
- 6) Katharina Brenneman (1817-1889), d. in Neustadt near Itzenhain  
 m. 1859 to Nikolaus Hoos (a school teacher)

References:

- 1) See Gerberich, pages 843-845, for Samuel Brenneman's family.
- 2) Guth, Hermann. *Amish Mennonites in Germany* . . . Morgantown, Pa.: Masthof Press, 1995, pages 41,113,114,119.
- 3) “The Family of Samuel Brenneman and Marie Schwartzentruber Documentation at Hof Bellnhausen in Kurhessen” by Anne Augspuriger Schmidt-Lange, in *Mennonite Family History* , Vol.XX No. 3, July 2001, pages 164-171.

Lorraine Roth  
Tavistock, Ontario  
July 2010

~ Updated with new research and  
reformatted by Bruce W. Jantzi, 2016



***Burg (Castle) Lichtenfels***

*From Burg Lichtenfels, high up on the mountain overlooking the Orke valley with the hamlet of Dalwigkthal and the estate Hof Sand, the view is breath-taking. The history of Lichtenfels goes back to the end of the 1100s. It was only gradually that Lichtenfels became home of the Dalwigk family.*

***Hof Sand***

*Autumn at Hof Sand, home of the Hessian Bishops, Samuel Yoder and Samuel Brenneman*



*Amish people settled on the Lichtenfels estates in the first half of the 1700s. In the beginning of the 1800s we find Samuel Brenneman and his wife Maria (nee Schwartzentruber from Schaaken) in Lichtenfels, where the couple raised a family. Not only is Lichtenfels important for having brought the first Amish settlers to Waldeck, Lichtenfels also became the spiritual centre of a second Amish congregation in Hesse, For many years, the Lichtenfels Hof Sand, located right at the bottom of the castle mount, was the home of Amish bishop Samuel Yoder (1740-1806). It appears that his Hof Sand colleague, Samuel Brenneman, succeeded him as ‘Hessischer Bishop’ (bishop of the Hesse).*

*Credit for photos and text: Picture Postcards from Waldeck, by Karl-Wilhelm Westmeier*

## BRENNEMAN LAND HOLDINGS

BRENNEMAN Wilmot, German Block (South and North Bleam's Road)

John Brenneman Sr. 1823 immigrant to Canada, wife's name not known

Lot 13, SBR, 1835, Crown Patent to front 50 acres

NE corner, first School and Burying Ground deed, 1843

1846, deed from King's College for rear 150 acres

1867, Quit Claim, heirs of John Brenneman to John Brenneman Jr.

John Brenneman Jr., son of immigrant John Brenneman Sr.

m. 1826 to Magdalena Schultz, dau. of Henry Schultz

Lot 18, NBR, 1835, Crown Patent to front 50 acres

1845, transfer of rear 150 acres to George Helmuth

1854, transfer, Helmuth back to Brenneman

1854, deed from King's College for rear 150 acres

1854, John Brenneman Jr. sold to Hardy, Henderson and Ries

Lot 13, SBR, 1867, from heirs of his father's estate

1880, estate sold to dau. Veronica and son-in-law Christian G. Jantzi

Daniel Brenneman, son of immigrant John Brenneman Sr.

m. 1830 to Catherine Sommer, parentage not known

Lot 23, SBR, 1835, Crown Patent to front 50 acres

1843 to 1855 -- sold various parcels and water rights to New Hamburg entrepreneurs

1853, deed from University of Toronto to Daniel Brenneman

1876, estate sold north part to dau. Catherine and son-in-law John F. Roth

estate sold south part to son Joseph Brenneman

Joseph Brenneman, son of Daniel Brenneman and Catherine Sommer

m. 1858 to Magdalena Schlegel, dau. of Nicolaus Schlegel & Barbara Roth

Lot 23, SBR, south part, 1876, from father's estate

1921, to son Joseph S. Brenneman

Wilmot, Block A

Jacob S. Brenneman 1899 A-I 23 N 1/2 100 ac. purchase Joseph Brenneman  
(Mary Steinman)

Estate 1936 A-I 23 N 1/2 100 ac. sale Noah Brenneman

John Brenneman 1846 A-I 13 S 1/2 100 ac. purchase Puddicombe

(res. of German B.) 1856 A-I 13 14 ac. timber agree. J. Schwartzentruber

(Magdalena Schultz) & 1857 and J. Steinman

1863 A-I 13 S pt 25 ac. sale Ratz

1863 A-I 13 S pt 55 ac. sale Joseph Y. Shantz

1867 A-I 13 S pt 20 ac. sale Bowman

1855 A-I 14 S pt 10 ac. purchase Thompson

(similar agreement with Schwartzentruber & Steinman as Lot 13)

1866 A-I 14 S pt 10 ac. sale Brautigam



BRENNEMAN

Joseph Brenneman	1891	A-I	23	N 1/2 100 ac.	purchase G. Bean
(Magdalena Schlegel)	1899	A-I	23	N 1/2 100 ac.	sale Jacob. S. Brenneman

Wilmot, Block B

Daniel Brenneman	1881	B-III	17	N 1/2 100 ac.	purchase Michael Meyer
(Mary/Marie Boshart)	1890	B-III	17	N 1/2 100 ac	sale George Bast
	1881	B-III	18	1 ac.	purchase Michael Meyer
	1890	B-III	18	1 ac.	sale George Bast
Peter Brenneman	1870	B-I	5	E 1/2 100 ac.	purchase A. Studer
(Catherine Kuepfer (Roth) Estate	1885	B-I	5	less 42 ac. E 1/2 100 ac.	sale A. Kresz

BRENNEMAN Wellesley, East Section

Daniel Brenneman	1890	E-I	12	114 ac.	purchase Chr. E. Boshart
(Mary Boshart)	1900	E-I	12	114 ac.	sale John Hill
(The Brennemens moved to Nebraska)					
Samuel Brenneman	1903	E-V	12	W 1/2 114 ac.	purch. John Erb Est.
(Mary Erb)	1937	E-V	12	W 1/2 114 ac	sale Daniel Brenneman

BRENNEMAN Hay Township

Daniel Brenneman	1891	XV	27	S 1/2	purchase Joseph G. Oesch
	1893	XV	27	S 1/2	sale Henry Dowson
John Brenneman	1886	XIII	28	S pt 40 ac.	purchase John Reith
	1887	XIII	28	S pt 40 ac.	sale John G. Erb
Peter Brenneman	1888	XIII	27	N 1/2	purchase John Oesch Jr.
	1892	XIII	27	pt of N 1/2	sale Joseph G. Oesch
	1894	XIII	27	pt of N 1/2	Menno Oesch

BRENNEMAN Ellice Township

E. Brenneman (I cannot find an E. Brenneman who would have been leasing land in 1898; perhaps the initial is incorrect.)  
 Lot 2, Con. XVI, Can. Co. Lease, 1898-1907  
 E 1/2, Lease Transfer to Simon Kropf in 1907  
 W 1/2, Lease Transfer to J. H. Albrecht in 1907

BRENNEMAN South Easthope Township

Christian L. Brenneman, son of Jacob Brenneman and Lydia Leonard  
 m. 1887 to Catherine Roth, dau. of Peter K. Roth and Magdalena Schwartzentruber  
 Lot 5, Con. II, 1887-1939 from father Jacob to son-in-law Joseph Z. Steinmann

Daniel L. Brenneman, son of Jacob Brenneman and Lydia Leonard  
 m. 1869 to Magdalena Zehr, dau. of Dr. Peter Zehr and Barbara Roth  
 Lot 6, Con. II, 1875-1904, from father Jacob to son Peter Z. Brenneman

BRENNEMAN

Jacob Brenneman, son of John Brenneman, immigrant to Wilmot

m. ca.1840 to Lydia Leonard, b. in Ireland

Lot 5, Con. II, 1854 from James Clyne (already living here in 1842 census)  
 1887, sold to son Christian L. Brenneman  
 Lot 6, Con. II, 1862-1875, sold to son Daniel L. Brenneman  
 Lot 17, Con. IV, 1875-1887, sold to son Jacob L. Brenneman

Jacob L. Brenneman, son of John Brenneman and Lydia Leonard

m. 1875 to Magdalena Steinman, dau. of John and Magdalena Steinman

Lot 17, Con. IV, 1887-1894, from father Jacob to son-in-law Joel L. Erb

Jacob S. Brenneman, son of John Brenneman and Magdalena Schultz

m. to Anna/Nancy Schwartzentruber,

Lots 1 & 2, Con. I, N 1/2, Jacob died 1877; farm was sold to Jacob Bast, who married to Jacob S. Brenneman's widow

John Brenneman, son of John Brenneman, immigrant, resident of Wilmot

Lots 1 & 2, Con. I, S 1/2, 1859-1879, sold to son John S. Brenneman

Lots 1 & 2, Con. I N 1/2, 1863-1882, sold to Jacob Bast, married to widow of Jacob S. Brenneman

John Brenneman, 1832-1867, son of Daniel Brenneman and Catherine Sommer

m. 1853 to Catherine Schlegel, dau. of Nicolaus Schlegel and Barbara Roth

Lot 23, Con. II, 1858-1866, from father-in-law Nicolaus Schlegel

John S. Brenneman, son of John Brenneman and Magdalena Schultz

m. 1859 to Barbara Gingerich, dau. of Jacob W. Gingerich and Veronica Litwiller

2m. ca.1873 to Catherine Lebold, dau. of Jacob Lebold & Magdalena Blank

Lots 1 & 2, Con. I, S 1/2, 1879-1910, sold to son John Brenneman

Peter Z. Brenneman, son of Daniel L. Brenneman and Magdalena Zehr

m. 1899 to Mary Oesch, dau. of John Oesch and Barbara Gascho

Lot 6, Con. II, 1904 from father Daniel, sold to son-in-law Sidney Roth

BRENNEMAN East Zorra Township

Aaron Brenneman	1911	X	31	100 ac. E 1/2	purchase J. Ross
(Catherine Erb)	1935	X	31	100 ac. E 1/2	sale Lorne Brenneman
(moved to home farm in S. Easthope)					
Catherine Brenneman	1907	XVI	25	50 ac. SW 1/4	Q.C. [John Ropp Estate]
(wife of Daniel S.)	1907	XV	25	100 ac. E 1/2	Q.C. Elizabeth Ropp
Estate	1926	XV	25	100 ac. E 1/2	sale Kaufman
Estate	1933	XVI	25	50 ac. SW 1/4	sale Barbara W Brenneman
(wife of John R.)					
Daniel Brenneman*	1856	XVIII	32	100 ac. W 1/2	purchase Christian Gingerich
(res. of Wilmot)	1870	XVIII	32	100 ac. W 1/2	sale Nicholas [K.] Roth
David L. Brenneman	1887	XIX	36,35	W 1/2	purchase Jacob Brenneman
(Elizabeth Zehr,	1934	XIX	36,35	W 1/2	sale John B. Schwartzentruber
Catherine Yantzi)					
Edwin Brenneman	1933	XV	22	100 ac. E 1/2	purchase T.A. Jickling
(Selma Schlegel)	1953	XV	22	100 ac. E 1/2	Nile Brenneman

BRENNEMAN

Henry Brenneman (Magdalena Bender)	1891 1915	XIX XIX	36,35 36,35	E 1/2 E 1/2	purchase Joseph L. Brenneman sale John B. Schwartzentruber
Jacob Brenneman* (lived in SEhope)	1857 1864 1872 1887 1887	XIX XIX XIX XIX XIX	36,35 36 36 36,35 36,35	116 1/2 ac. 10 ac. 1/4 ac. E 1/2 W 1/2	purchase Muerner purchase Gilbert sale Trustees/Cemetery sale Joseph L. Brenneman sale David L. Brenneman
Jacob Brenneman (Catherine Baechler)	1923 1962	XIII XIII	31 31	50 ac. SE 1/4 50 ac. SE 1/4	purchase Joel Schwartzentruber Estate sale _____ Rudy
John Brenneman (Catherine Zehr)	1936 1939	IX IX	25 25	75 ac. NE pt 75 ac. NE pt	purchase Fraser sale Kalbfleisch
John L. Brenneman (Magdalena Schrag, Anna Wittrig)	1888 1907	XV XV	36 36	1/2 ac. E pt 1/2 ac. E pt	purchase Charles Weicker sale Alex. W. Brenneman
John R. Brenneman (Barbara Brenneman)	1926 1962 1963	XVI XVI XVI	25 25 25	1/4 ac. 50 ac. SW 1/4 prob. all above	Purchase Spahr Purchase Barb. Brenneman Estate sale Gladys Becker
Barbara W Brenneman (wife of John R.)	1933 1962	XVI XVI	25 25	50 ac. SW 1/4 50 ac. SW 1/4	purchase Cath. Brenneman Estate Estate sale John R. Brenneman
Joseph L. Brenneman (Catherine Roi)	1887 1891 1891 1916 1931	XIX XIX XIII XIII XIII	36,35 36,35 25 25 25	E 1/2 E 1/2 50 ac. NE 1/4 90 ac. SE pt 90 ac.	purchase Jacob Brenneman sale Henry Brenneman purchase Bale purchase Wettlaufer sale William Brenneman
Moses Brenneman (Katie Roth)	? 1957	XII XII	23 23	E pt E pt	purchase ? Q.C. Lester Albrecht
Noah Brenneman (Mary Kropf)	1914 1927	XVI XVI	23 23	100 ac. S 1/2 100 ac. S 1/2	purchase Christian [N] Kropf sale E. Stock
Solomon Brenneman (Lydia Roi)	1922 1933 1922 1933	XIII XIII XII XII	30 30 29 29	50 ac. NW 1/4 50 ac. NW 1/4 [25 ac.] NE pt [25 ac.] NE pt	purchase Daniel Wagler sale Wilfred Corp purchase Daniel Wagler sale Wilfred Corp
(Lived in S. Easthope between these two locations)					
Estate	1935 1952/57	XII XII	26 26	50 ac. SW 1/4 50 ac. SW 1/4	purchase David M. Bender sale Archie Brenneman (via Odell)
William Brenneman (via Com./Loans)	1931 1942	XIII XIII	25 25	90 ac. E pt 90 ac. E pt	purchase Joseph L. Brenneman sale Joel Schwartzentruber [Jr.]

BRENNEMAN

BRENNEMAN North Easthope Township

D[aniel] Brenneman (probably son of John Brenneman and Catherine Schlegel)  
m. 1877 to Elizabeth Brunk, dau. of Peter Brunk and Catherine Ernst  
Lot 28, Con. XII, 1895-1900 (lease)  
This might also be Daniel L. Brenneman (see below).

Daniel L. Brenneman (probably son of Daniel Brenneman and Barbara Litwiller)  
m. 1886 to Catherine Oesch, dau. of John Oesch and Barbara Gascho  
Lot 30, N 32 ac., Con. XIII, 1907-1913 (sold to son Moses Brenneman)  
Lot 31, all 16 ac., Con. XIII, 1907-1912 (sold to son Moses Brenneman)

BRENNEMAN Mornington Township

Daniel [B.] Brenneman (son of Daniel S. Brenneman & Elizabeth Brunk)  
m. 1903 to Catharine Albrecht, dau. of John S. Albrecht & Magdalena (Lena) Roth  
Lot 10, N 1/2, Con. III, 1909-21

BRENNEMAN DOCUMENT FILE

*(This document file can be found at Conrad Grebel University College Archives, Waterloo, Ontario. Only selected items are listed here.)*

- 1) Bronnimann entries in Isaac Zurcker's "Berner Taufer" Notes
  - a) Melcher Bronniman, 1659 Oct. 28
  - b) Caspar Bierr and Hanns Bronniman, 1709, Febr. 2
  - c) Caspar Bieri and Ulli Bronnimann, 1709, Febr. 19Translations and comments "Concerning Melchior Bronnimann, the Anabaptist" (only the note on Melchior Bronnimann is translated and commented on)
- 2) "Le chateau de Thun" -- a computer print-out by Helen Brenneman, May 2003 (castle in which Melchior Brenneman was imprisoned in 1659)
- 3) "A Look at the Ancestry of Nicolaus Brennemann (1734/36-1789)". Gerberich, Guth, and J. Virgil Miller publications are quoted and commented on.
- 4) Peter Erb transcribed the various items recorded in John Brenneman Jr.'s family Bible. Handwritten translations, an abbreviated typed copy, and another copy with additional information and notes
- 5) Typed carbon copy of John Brenneman Jr.'s Will, dated Feby 1st 1876 and probated 14 May 1877 (copy by Arlis Kipfer, Tacoma, Wash.)
- 6) The Daniel Brenneman (b. 1807) Bible: typed description and comments, handwritten family list
- 7) A brief article: The Descendants of Peter Brenneman b. 1780 (wife: Magdalena Gingerich) in Canada. This is a study of Albert H. Gerberich's speculations and the known facts of whether it truly was the decendants of Peter Brenneman, a younger half brother of Johannes, who came to Canada in the early 1800's. It took until the mid 1950s for the Peter Brenneman family to be represented in Canada by permanent residents.
- 8) Sale of land from Jacob Brenneman (of South Easthope) to Christian Bender, Jacob Bender and John Steinman for a cemetery at the corner of the 19th Line, East Zorra.
- 9) In the legal file drawer: A large collection of various papers, receipts, etc. from both the era of Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman and Daniel L. and Magdalena (Zehr) Brenneman had been preserved. A few of them were reproduced in *Country Roads: The Story of South Easthope, South Easthope Township, 1827-2000*, Published by the South Easthope History Book Committee, edited by Jim Hagarty, [Stratford, Ontario], pages 142-147. Comprehensive lists of these papers are found in this file with photocopies of a few of them. The originals were deposited in the Perth Archives in Stratford.

Lorraine Roth  
Tavistock, Ontario, September, 2003

~ Reformatted and updated by  
Bruce W. Jantzi 2017