

26. EIER / EYER / OYER

The Eyer name is said to originate in Homberg and Riggisberg, Switzerland. (1) (See Notes below) A Benedict Eyer was listed as an Anabaptist in Ste. Marie-aux-Mines, France, in 1708. Later the Eyers (sometimes spelled Oyer), presumably descendants of Benedict, were found in northern Alsace, Baden and the Palatinate, Germany, and finally in Bavaria.

Two women with the maiden name of Eier settled in the Amish Mennonite community in Southern Ontario, Canada. The Eier Family Introduction will be divided into two sections.

1. Veronica Eyer and Christian Steinman
2. Fannie Aier/Oyer and Peter Yost

VERONICA EYER AND CHRISTIAN STEINMAN

The Eier/Eyer name is represented in Canada by Veronica Eier, the wife of Christian Steinman. The Steinman family was aware that Christian's wife's name was Veronica Eier, but had interpreted it as Oyer since that is the common spelling of the name in America. Correspondence with Hermann and Gertrud Guth of Saarbrucken, Germany, however, did not help in establishing any family connections as long as we were asking for the identity of Veronica "Oyer."

While doing the Steinman(n) genealogy, a letter written in 1851 by Peter Holly from Butler County, Ohio, turned up in the papers submitted by the family. In it, Peter Holly informed the Steinmans that there was an Eier family inheritance available in Bavaria and they should appoint a power of attorney to collect it. He also mentioned a brother Christian Eyer in Butler County, Ohio, and a brother-in-law, Jacob Hieser/Hisser in Illinois. A copy of this letter was sent to the Guths who then recognized the family and furnished us with a family list. This was published in the Steinman(n) genealogy, as well as a translation of the Holly letter to Christian Steinmann.(2)

It is believed that Veronica's father was Jakob Eyer, a minister, living on the Stillerhof, near Lansberg, Bavaria. The Guths were not able identify Jakob Eyer's wife name, but the marriage record (3) of daughter Magdalena Eyer and Jacob Hiesser lists her as Magdalena Birki. Veronica Eyer, who later married Christian Stenman, was the youngest of six known children. Jakob Jr. and Andrew remained in Bavaria while Christian emigrated to Butler County, Ohio, and Magdalena and her husband Jacob Hisser/Hieser went to Illinois.

Jakob Eyer lived for a time on the Felsenbrunnerhof estate, and probably daughter Veronica was born there in April 1801. The Felsenbrunnerhof estate, including more than 600 Morgan of rough fields, is located in the Trulben community



in the present district of Pirmasens. Christian Eyer, a Mennonite, leased the Felsenbrunnerhof after 1775, and he died there in 1829. This Christian Eyer was an uncle to Veronica Eyer, who was probably born on Felsenbrunnerhof, and who later married Christian Steinmann.



View of Riggisberg village,
Canton Bern, Switzerland

Population approx. 2500

*'Heimat' of the Eyer/Eier family, and
birthplace of Benedikt (Bentz Sr.) Eyer
in ca. 1687.*

Credit; Roland Zumbühl, 2007, at Picswiss
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THE BENEDIKT EYER FAMILY

Benedikt is considered the great-grandfather of Veronica Eyer Steinmann

Some of the information in this family chart is tentative and without documented proof of family connections.

BENEDIKT (BENTZ SR.) EYER, thought to be born before 1687 at Riggisberg, Switzerland

In 1708 Benedikt's name appeared on the list of followers of Jacob Amman at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines.

In 1728 he leases the estate Steinisch in Langensteinbach, Baden-Durlach

d. 1754 on Steinich estate, Baden, Germany

probably married twice, but the names of his wives are unknown

Children: (probably had more than those listed)

1. Rudolf Eyer – leaseholder in 1751 in Jöhlingen; from 1754 leaseholder on castle estate Remchingen

m. Veronika Kurtz, dau. of Jakob Kurtz of Katherinthalerhof

Children of Rudolph and Veronika (Kurtz) Eyer:

a) Daniel Eyer

m. 1785 to _____ Dettwiler in Zweibruchen

b) Jakob Eyer, leaseholder in Renchingen in 1818

c) Christian Eyer (1757-1812)

m. Verena Jordy

d) Barbara Eyer m. Johannes Kempf in 1798

e) Elisabeth Eyer m. Peter Kennel

2. Benedikt (Bentz Jr.) Eyer

1m. Jacobine Kurtz, dau. of Jakob Kurtz of Katherinthalerhof

2m. Magdalena Roggy, d. 1777, of Diefenbacherhof in Alsace

Children of Benedikt and Jacobine

a) Elisabeth Eyer, b. 1757

m. Johannes Roggy

b) Jakob Eyer (1758-1818)

m. Katharina Shenk, dau of Christian Schenk and Barbara Imhof

c) Barbara Eyer, b. 1760

m. Johannes Holly, son of Jorg/George Holly and Barbara Burki

d) Jakobine Eyer, b. 1772

m. Daniel Holly, (1761-1823) son of Jacob Holly and Marie Kurtz

Driven from his estate in the French Revolution; later he was estate manager in Langsdorf near Giessen

Children:

- 1) Elise Holly m. Michael Guengerich
- 2) Barbara Holly
- 3) Jakobine Holly m. Peter Brenneman
- 4) Katharine Holly m. Peter Holly*
(writer of 1851 letter to Christian and Veronica (Eyer) Steinmann)
- 5) Magdalena Holly m. Peter Kennel
- 6) Marie Holly m. Michael Iutzi*
- 7) Johannes Holly* 1m. Marie Iutzi; 2m. Helene Iutzi
** Immigrants to Butler County, Ohio*

3. Christian Eyer, in 1748 on the Steinerhof, Langensteinbach

m. Anna Brennemen

Children:

- a) Anna Eyer , d. 1804 at Felsenbrunnerhof
m. _____ Müller
- b) Christian Eyer, b. 1759 at Königsbach; d. 1829 at Felsenbrunnerhof
1m. Magdalena Nafziger
2m. Elisabeth Stalter
- c) Jakob Eyer (probable son of Christian Eyer)
in 1803 identified as the farmer from Zweibrücken; elder of congregation at Mergenthou
Lived on Stillerhof near Landsberg, Bavaria

m. Magdalena Birki (3)

Children:

- 1) Jacob Eyer, b. 1789 probably on Felsenbrunnerhof
d. 1840 unmarried on the Stillerhof
- 2) Andreas Eyer, b. 1790/91 probably on Felsenbrunnerhof
d. Jan. 18, 1857 on the Stillerhof
1m. Katherina Hochstättler; 2m. Maria Müller
 - (i) Peter Eyer (1832-1909) d. in Aumühle
 - (ii) Jakob Eyer (1833-1836) Stillerhof
 - (iii) Christian Eyer (1840-1866)
m. Elisabeth Ingold (1836-1904)
Elisabeth 2m. to Joseph Christner
son Andreas/Andrew Eyer (1866-1910)
Migrated to U.S.A. in 1890
 - (iv) Magdalena Eyer b. 1842; m. Joseph Ringenburg
 - (v) Jakob Eyer (1850-1886) m. Maria Sutter
 - (vi) Andreas Eyer (1852-1905) m. Maria Sutter (widow of Jakob Eyer)

3) Christian Eyer, in Butler County, Ohio in 1851

4) Magdalena Eyer, b. 1788; d. Oct. 19, 1851 in Tazewell Co., Illinois

m. on Nov. 25, 1816 at Arzbach bei Dachau

Jacob/Nicholas Heisser, first wife was Katherine Oesch

b. 1788, son of Nicolaus Hiser and Katharina Hiser

(i) Barbara Eyer (1808-1894) (born out of wedlock)

m. Andrew Burcky, son of Andrew Burcky

(ii) Joseph Heiser b. Mar. 1, 1818 in Bavaria; d. Nov. 9, 1892 in Illinois

m. 1851 to Barabara Schrag/Schrock,

dau of Christian Schrag and Elizabeth Birkey

Jacob Heisser 1m. ca.1813 to Katherina Esch, d. May 14, 1816 at Arzbach bei Dachau

3 children

- 5) Elizabeth Eyer (thought to belong here) m. Noah Augsburger
- 6) Veronica Eyer, b. Apr 1801, perhaps on the Felsenbrunnerhof
 d. 13 Mar 1883 in Wilmot Twp. Ontario, Canada
 m. before 1821, Bavaria, Germany
 Christian Steinmann, son of Jacon Steinman and Barbe von Kennel
 b. 1792, Marienthal, Moselle, France d. 10 Nov 1865, Wilmot Twp., Canada
 (see below for family list)

4. Abraham Eyer, after 1763 a co-leaseholder in Dürrenbüchig near Bretton
 m. _____

5. Susanne Eyer, d. 1770 in Königsbach
 m. Christian Kauffman

6. Hans Jakob Eyer (probably belongs here) in 1754 was a leaseholder in Hohenwettersbach
 b. ca1746/49
 m. Jacobée Reglé/Roguy, b. ca 1750.

7. Barbara Eyer, (probably belongs here) on estate Steinisch in 1728
 m. Joseph Oesch

8. Maria Eyer (probably belongs here)
 m. Hans Oesch, in 1755 was a co-leaseholder of Steinisch

Note: This family chart was compiled by Bruce W. Jantzi, using the information found in Amish Mennonites in Germany by Hermann Guth and Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois by Joseph Peter Staker. I also used the Eyer family outline compiled by Lorraine Roth. She had used the article, The Eyers in Felsenbrunnerhof in Mennonite Family History, April 1990, and from the section Holly (page 24) in The Amish Mennonites of Waldeck and Wittgenstein, both by Hermann Guth. Since some of the information here is noted as probable or possible, one should be careful when using this family information as a proof of ancestry.



Map of section of Germany
 showing the village of Langensteinbach (near the city of Karlsruhe)
 Christian Eyer was born in 1748 on the Steinerhof in Langensteinbach
 Credit: MCMC-own work, Creative Commons
 Karlsruhe – Mühlacker Railway line in blue

THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN STEINMAN/N AND VERONICA EYER

Christian Steinman/n, son of Jacob Steinman and Barbe von Kennel

- b. 1792, Marienthal, Moselle, France
- d. 10 Nov 1865, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
- m. before 1821, Bavaria, Germany

Veronica Eyer, dau. of Jacob Eyer and Magdalena Birki

- b. Apr 1801, perhaps on the Felsenbrunnerhof, near Pirmasens in the Palatinate, Germany (photo on page 1)
but moved with her parents to the Stillerhof, near Landsberg, Bavaria
- d. 13 Mar 1883, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery

Children:

Grandchildren:

1)

Jacob Steinman

- b. 1 Apr 1821 Bavaria
- d. 4 Feb 1839 Wilmot

2)

Christian Steinman/n

- b. 24 Aug 1824 Bavaria
- d. 26 Aug 1910 Wilmot
- m. 8 Dec 1850 Wilmot

Maria Honderich

- b. 1 Aug 1829 Wilmot
- d. 6 Nov 1910 Wilmot
- dau. of Christian Honderich
and Margaret Gingerich

- Christian H. Steinman (1851-1903) m. Barbara Jutzi
2m. Anna Brenneman
- John H. Steinmann (1853-1942) m. Susanna Gascho
- Joseph H. Steinmann (1855-1919) m. Mary Zehr
2m. Catherine Schmidt
- Daniel H. Steinmann (1857-1935) m. Barbara Gascho
- Catherine Steinmann (1858-1927) m. Christian Besinger
2m. John F. Roth
- Elizabeth Steinman (1860-1929) m. Peter Spenler
- Veronica Steinmann (1862-1896) m. Samuel Nafziger
- Jacob Steinmann (1865-1880)
- Mary Steinman (1867-1947) m. Nicholas Nafziger
- Leah Steinman (1869-1945) m. Samuel Nafziger
- Barbara Steinman (1871-1948)

3)

Catherine Steinman

- b. 20 Mar 1827 Wilmot
- d. 4 Dec 1912 East Zorra
- m. 2 Oct 1847 Wilmot

Jacob S. Erb

- b. 6 Dec 1826 Waterloo
- d. 13 Aug 1898 East Zorra
- son of John/Hans Erb and
Veronica Schwartzentruber

- John S. Erb (1850-1918) m. Mary (Schwartzentruber) Gascho
- Christian S. Erb (1852-1894) m. Anna Springer
- Daniel S. Erb (1853-1937) m. Catherine Roth
- Veronica Erb (1855-1884) m. Joel Schwartzentruber
- Jacob S. Erb (1858-1937) m. Veronica Kennel
2m. Magdalena (Kennel) Erb
- Joel S. Erb (1861-1935) m. Catherine Gingerich
- Moses S. Erb (1862-1936) m. Catherine Albrecht
- Catherine Erb (1865-1929) m. Nicholas Brenneman
- Barbara Erb (1867-1937)

4)

Joseph Steinman

- b. 1829 Wilmot
- d. 1901 Archbold, Ohio
- m. Ohio

Barbara Rupp

- b. 1841 GermanTwp., Ohio
- d. 1921 Archbold, Ohio
- dau. of Christian Rupp
and Christina Stuckey

- Jacob Steinman (1868-1940)
- Mary Elizabeth Steinman (1870-1958)
- Veronica Steinman (1875-1945) m. George W. Miller
- Nancy Steinman (-) m. Henry Heer
- Anna Maud Steinman (1880-1953) m. Frederick A. Schroeder

5)

Daniel Steinmann

- b. 29 Sep 1831 Wilmot
- d. 9 Apr 1905 Wilmot
- 1m. 31 Oct 1854 Wilmot
- 2m. 21 Jun 1870 Wilmot
- 3m. 27 Feb 1877 Wilmot

Elizabeth Gardner

- b. 15 Feb 1832 Wilmot
- d. 21 Dec 1865 Wilmot
- dau. of Michael Gardner and Maria Stutzman

Anna Ramseyer

- b. 22 Mar 1845 StarkCo., Ohio
- d. 3 Oct 1873 Wilmot
- dau. of Joseph Ramseyer and Barbara Klopfenstein

Susanna Lebold

- b. 17 Apr 1839 Wilmot
- d. 20 Apr 1896 Wilmot
- dau. of Jacob Lebold and Magdalena Blank

- Veronica Steinman (1855-1937) m. Solomon Bender
- Jacob Steinman (1856-1944) m. Barbara Miller
- Noah G. Steinmann (1860-1933) m. Leah Schwartzentruber
- 2m. Elizabeth (Jantzi) Iutzi
- Christian G. Steinman (1862-1936) m. Veronica Gingerich
- Daniel G. Steinmann (1864-1919) m. Katherine Jantzi
- David G. Steinmann (1865-1949) m. Nancy Schwartzentruber
- Joseph R. Steinmann (1872-1937) m. Catherine Schaefer
- John L. Steinmann (1877-1947) m. Leah Gerber
- Katherine Steinmann (1879-1928) m. Peter Baechler
- Moses L. Steinmann (1880-1952) m. Catherine Gerber

For further details on the Veronica Eyer and Christian Steinman family, see the Steinman(n) genealogy (4) and the STEINMAN Family Genealogical Introduction.

FANNY AEIR/OYER AND PETER YOST

A Fanny "Aeir," age 19, appeared in the Joseph Schlatter home in the 1851 East Zorra census. Jacobena Ingold arrived in Canada with a Gascho family from Bavaria, and they were here by the time of the 1851 census. Jacobena had given birth to a daughter Veronica out of wedlock. Her father was Christian Eier/Eyer. No doubt, this Fanny "Aeir" was Jacobena's daughter and had found work with the Schlatter family who had a number of young children.

In 1859, Peter Yost whose family had arrived in Canada from Darmstadt, Germany in 1853, married a Fannie Oyer, born November 10, 1833 in Germany. These two Fannies are likely to be the same person, although the Yost genealogy has a different date of birth for her. She could have been a niece of Veronica (Eyer) Steinman, but the family list constructed by Hermann Guth, nor the memories of the Steinman family, included her.

Peter and Fannie (Oyer) Yost lived near Musselburg, (near Poole) Mornington Township, Perth County, from the time of their marriage until 1868. They then moved to Reed City, Osceola County, Michigan. Ten years later they moved to a farm near Plymouth, Jefferson County, Nebraska, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Peter and Fannie were members of the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite.

Lyle S. Yost, founder of Hesston Corporation (manufacturer of farm equipment attachments) in Hesston, Kansas, was a descendant of this family. (5)

Peter Yost

son of John Jost
and Katherine Kohl
b. 6 Jan 1837 Darmstadt
d. 26 Mar 1906 Plymouth, Neb.
m. 1859

Fannie (Veronica) Oyer

b. 10 Nov 1833 Germany?
d. 30 Jul 1916 Plymouth, Neb.
(parentage unknown, but
probably Jacobena Ingold
and Christian Eyer)

Peter E. Yost (1861-1939) m. Susanna Megli
Fannie Yost (1862-1933) m. John B. Schrock
Samuel Yost (1865-1950) m. Anna Long
William F. Yost (1868-1944) m. Leah Yost
Catherine Yost (1868-) m. Philip H. Dunn
John E. Yost (1869-1947) m. Lydia Megli
2m. Emma A. Kaufman
David Yost (1871-1950) m. Alice Roseboom
Daniel Yost (1872-1940) m. Louise Boesch
Elizabeth Yost (1875-1973) m. William Wunnenberg
Levi Yost (1876-1927) m. Anne Stastney

NOTES:

- 1) *Was Isch Dini Nahme? What is Your Name?* by Delbert L. Gratz. Published by Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 1995, p. 12.
- 2) *The Family History and Genealogy of Christian Steinman(n) and Veronica Eyer*. Compiled and published by the Christian Steinman(n) Family Book Committee, Baden, Ontario, 1990, pages 370-372.
- 3) The referred to marriage record is noted in *Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois* by Joseph Peter Staker.
- 4) The Veronica Eyer and Christian Steinman family are found in the above genealogy.
- 5) *The Genealogy of John Yost and Katherine (Kohl), 1798-1982* (in two volumes). This third printing was done by Lyle E. and Erma Yost, Hesston, Kansas, 1982, pages 5, 29-38, 165-216, 465-? (the first five generations)

Additional References:

- 1) "The Eyers of Felsenbrunnerhof" by Hermann Guth in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. IX, No. 2, April 1990
- 2) "Discovering Distant Cousins: The Andrew Eyer Family" by J. Virgil Miller (Part I) and Verle Oyer (Part II) in *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, Vol. XVII, No. 2, June 1990
- 3) Letter from Peter Holly, Monroe, Butler County, Ohio, to Christian Steinman, Baden, Wilmot Township, Canada West (Ontario), dated 10 November 1851 (published in the Steinman(n) Genealogy, page 372) (photocopy of the original letter, transcriptions and copies of a translation available)*
- 4) "Eier, Eyer, Family Background" as published in the Steinman genealogy, p. 371, (photocopy)*
- 5) TENTATIVE OUTLINE: HIESER/HEISER FAMILY submitted by Steve Estes, Chenoa, Ill., 1995 (copy)*
- 6) Hieser and Eyer family outlines submitted by Margaret and Verle Oyer, Gibson City, Illinois. (copies)*
- 7) The Eyer family outline printed on page 370 of the Christian Steinmann genealogy with some corrections and additions.*

The files referred to in these notes are kept in Lorraine Roth's Collection in the Archives at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. Digital copies of some of the transliterations and translations of records in Bibles or other old books can be obtained from Bruce W. Jantzi at bwjantzi@gmail.com

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