

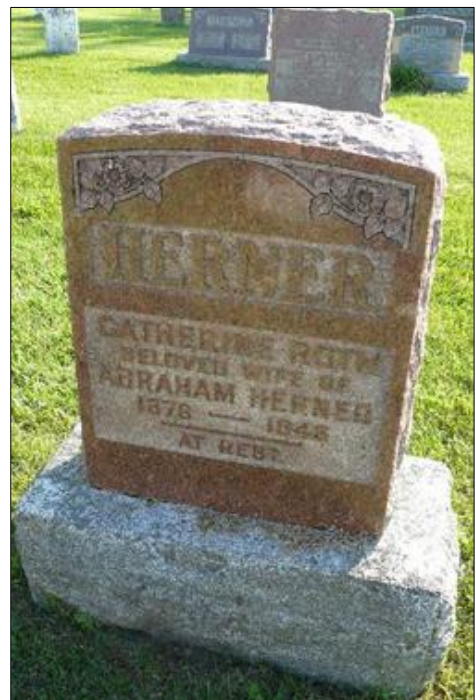
40. HERNER

Abraham Herner, who would later join the Amish Mennonites, was born to a Lutheran family, Peter and Sarah Herner. When his father died, the children were taken into the homes of neighbours and friends. At the age of eight Abraham was in the Nicholas Lichti home (1861 census). It seems that Nicholas and Abraham "adopted" each other, and this is where Abraham stayed. In the 1871 census he was still in the Lichti home. Evidently, the Lichti family treated Abraham as a son although his name was never changed.

He joined the Amish Mennonite Church and married Magdalena (known as Mattie) Kennel in 1874. Abraham and Mattie adopted Nancy Golden. In the 1881 census she is listed as a child of Abraham and Magdalena with the name Anna. (Nancy was a nickname for Anna.) Mary Singbail, age 10, and George Jafason, age 12, were listed as "servants" in the home. Apparently Abraham and Mattie continued the tradition of the Lichti family to make a place for children who did not have a home.

Magdalena died in December of 1893. The following year, Abraham married Katherine (Katie) Roth. They farmed in the second concession, Block B, of Wilmot Township, about midway between Erb Street and the Wilmot/Wellesley boundary (Lot #11, Concession 11). Abraham and Katie had five children including a set of twins.(2) Their children did not wander far from the home base.

Also appearing in the early Wilmot Township records was another Herner family, Samuel and Mary Herner, who identified as Mennonite (1)(Notes below) The Mennonite Herner family is found in *A Biographical History of Early Settlers and their Descendants in Waterloo Township* by Ezra E. Eby, 1895-1896. This Samuel Herner (1809-1882), son of Frederick Philip Herner and Sarah DeMoss, married Mary Shantz (1814-1875) daughter of Isaac and Esther (Bechtel) Shantz. They had 12 children.



Grave Markers of Abraham Herner and his second wife, Catherine Roth, are both found in St. Agatha Mennonite Church Cemetery

▲ CanadaGenWeb-Cemetery, courtesy Doug Smith 2012
 Findagrave, courtesy Scott Buschlen ►

ABRAHAM AND MAGDALENA (KENNEL) AND KATHERINE (ROTH) HERNER FAMILY

ABRAHAM HERNER, son of Peter and Sarah Herner (marriage record)

- b. 15 Apr 1854, Canada
- d. 10 Oct 1925, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery
- m. 22 Nov 1874 by Bishop Peter Litwiller
at the home of Christian K. Lichty
- 2m. 15 Nov 1894 by Bishop John Gascho

MAGDALENA KENNEL, dau. of Michael Kennel and Maria Lichti

- b. ca. 1857, Wilmot
- d. 5 Dec 1893, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery (no tombstone)

KATHERINE ROTH, dau. of Christian B. Roth and Anna Kuepfer

- b. 23 Apr 1876, Wilmot
- d. 17 Apr 1946, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery

Children:

1) Nancy (Golden) Herner, b. 15 May 1870, Wilmot

- d. 1940, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery
- m. 1 Oct 1890 by Bishop John Gascho

Nicholas S. Lichti, son of Nicholas Lichti and Barbara Schmidt

- b. 12 May 1870, Wilmot
- d. 1946, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery

This family appears in *Nicholas Lichti, Ancestors and Descendants, 1985*, by [Willis Lichti, New Hamburg, Ontario], pages 56-83.

Children of Abraham Herner and Katherine Roth

2) Benjamin Herner, b. 19 Jan 1896, Wilmot

- d. 30 Dec 1966, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery
- m. 4 Mar 1919 by Bishop Daniel Steinmann

Gertrude Litwiller, dau. of John R. Litwiller and Magdalena Schwartzentruber

- b. 9 Aug 1897, Wilmot
- d. 4 Jan 1978, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery

This couple appears in the *Peter Litwiller and Elizabeth Lichti Family History and Genealogy*, 2nd Edition, by Mary and Earl Litwiller, Petersburg, Ontario, 1998, page 198.

3) Abraham Herner, Jr., b. 11 Oct 1897, Wilmot

- d. 6 Oct 1976, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery
- m. 1 Oct 1919 by Bishop Daniel Steinmann

Elizabeth Everatt, dau. of John Everatt and Catherine Brunk

- b. 10 Oct 1900, Wilmot
- d. 8 Sept 1973, bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery

This family appears in *The Family History and Genealogy of Joseph and Catherine (Boshart) Jantzi, Christian and Catherine (Boshart, Jantzi) Riser*, . . . , by Ruth Y. Ryan and Lorraine Roth, Kitchener, Ontario, 1982, pages 365, 366.

4) Noah Herner, b. 4 July 1899, Wilmot,

- d. June 1, 2000, buried in Shantz Mennonite Church Cemetery
- m. 17 Feb 1934

Violet Shantz, dau. of Herman S. Shantz and Sarah Ann Schmitt

- b. 11 Mar 1908
- (no children)

HERNER

- 5) Anna Herner, b. 3 Apr 1902, Wilmot (twin to Christian)
d. 27 Sept 2002 (age 100), bu. St. Agatha Mennonite Cemetery
m. 29 Aug 1924
Aaron Kropf, son of Rudolph Kropf and Catherine Lichti
b. 14 Feb 1903; d. 31 May 1967, bu. St Agatha Menn. Cemetery
Children: 1. Wilbert and Audrey Kropf, Waterloo (in 2002)
2. Verdella and Anthony Vandepol, St. Clements (in 2002)
This couple is found in *The Descendants of Jacob Kropf & Magdalena Rothaker* by Jamie Kropf, [Kitchener, Ontario], 2001, page 31.
- 6) Christian Herner, b. 3 Apr 1902, Wilmot (twin to Anna)
d. 27 May 1945, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
m. 24 Nov 1920 by Bishop Daniel Steinmann
Edna Iutzi, dau. of Jacob Z. Iutzi and Catherine Roth
b. 2 Nov 1902, Wilmot
d. 29 Oct 1972, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery
This family appears in the *George Iutzi and Catherine Miller Genealogy, 1801-1992*, by Maurice and Velma Witzel, Kitchener, Ontario, pages 135-137.
Their son Harley Herner founded Herner Wood Products Ltd. in Baden, Ontario. Herner Wood Products was sold after the tragic deaths of Harley and Ruth Herner in 2007.

Notes:

- 1) The Mennonite Herner family is found in *A Biographical History of Early Settlers and their Descendants in Waterloo Township* by Ezra E. Eby, 1895-1896. Revised edition by Eldon D. Weber, 1971, page 195.
- 2) The Herner story was obtained through an interview with Annie Kropf, census records, marriage records, and the genealogies mentioned. Katherine (Roth) Herner's story is told in *Willing Service: Stories of Ontario Mennonite Women* by Lorraine Roth. Waterloo, Ontario: Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, 1992, page 215

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
January, 2010

~ Reformatted and Updated by Bruce W. Jantzi, October 2020