

## KOENIG/KING

The Koenig/King name is represented among the Amish Mennonites in Canada, but with few descendants (none with the name) up to the present time.

### KOENIG/KING PROPERTIES IN WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP

When the Mennonites from Pennsylvania who were moving into Waterloo Township began soliciting subscribers to another tract of land north of Waterloo -- now Woolwich Township, they found two Amish heads of households ready to make an investment in land on the Canadian frontier -- brothers-in-law Christian Koenig and Christian Stoltzfus. Whether they were thinking of land for their families or whether they were acting on behalf of the Amish community with interest in forming a new colony in Canada is not known. Neither these families, nor the Amish in Pennsylvania eventually settled on the lands that Koenig and Stoltzfus had purchased. Both, however, showed some interest in helping the next generation of Amish Mennonites from Europe become established in Canada.

The Stoltzfus lots were scattered fairly close to the Waterloo Township line and on the west side of the river. Christian Koenig's Lot #58 was on the northeastern side, bordering on Pilkington Township. His Lot #128 was further south but on the east side of the river. Each lot comprised 350 acres.

On the map reproduced in L. J. Burkholder's *A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario* (page 42), Koenig is also credited with Lot 115. This is incorrect. In comparing this map with others, David Luthy has found that some of the numbering is also incorrect.(1) (See Notes on page 4)

According to David Luthy, descendants of Christian Koenig credit him with being a minister, although a record of his ordination has not been found. When Bishop John Stoltzfus, son of Christian, came to Canada to ordain ministers for the new settlement in Wilmot, "Deacon" Christian Koenig is believed to have accompanied him. This oral tradition had been retained by the late Alvin Gingerich.

In 1829, Christian King (probably a son or nephew of the above Christian Koenig) and David Zug/Zook made a trip to Canada. They kept a diary of their visit which included several Amish families in Wilmot and a visit with George Eby in Woolwich. They had hoped to see Christian Koenig's lands, but due to the rainy weather they could not reach them without "getting their feet wet."(2)

Christian Koenig died in 1838. Christian Koenig Jr. had a Sale Bill drawn up, advertising the sale of both of these lots at a public sale to be held on October 9, 1839, at Shoemaker's Mill in Waterloo. (3) Evidently Benjamin Snyder responded to this sale, for on the 11th of October, Christian Koenig, Jr., executor of "the late Christian Koenig his father late of the State of Pennsylvania and now of the State of Ohio," sold Lot 128 (350 acres) to Benjamin Snyder for 50 pounds, British currency.

In 1844 Christian Koenig Jr. died. In 1845, John Hartzler of Pleasant, County of Fairfield, Ohio, "administrator of the Will of the late Christian King," sold Lot 58 (also 350 acres) to Elias Eby and Henry Snider of the Township of Waterloo for 100 pounds, 10 shilling. Note that by 1845, the name Koenig had been anglicized to King and the presence of this King family in Canada came to an end.

MARIA/MARY KOENIG/KING KROPF

On January 7, 1838, Bishop John Oesch of Wilmot married Christian Kropf and **Maria Koenig**, "both of Wilmot."(4) Inquiries concerning an eligible Maria Koenig in the family of Christian Koenig with property in Woolwich Township has not turned up a likely candidate. So, who was Maria Koenig? Was she actually a resident of Wilmot, or was that an error on the part of the reporter? Since there was a good deal of communication between the Amish Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio, and those in Canada, was she perhaps a daughter of Benedict Koenig of Butler County?(5)

Maria's ancestry continued to be a mystery, the Kropf family was well documented. Christian Kropf had immigrated to Canada with his parents, Jacob and Magdalena (Rothacker) Kropf in 1823 after spending a few years in Pennsylvania. Jacob was ordained a deacon in 1824. Although he laid claim to a lot in Wilmot, the family lived in Woolwich for several years. When Joseph Goldschmidt left Canada for Butler County, Ohio, the Kropf family moved to Wilmot and Jacob bought Goldschmidt's property along with a mill which he had established beside the lot which Jacob had claimed.

Jacob Kropf eventually gained ownership of both lots (a total of 400 acres) on the north side of Snyder's Road -- enough land to set up his four sons. The frontage of these lots would eventually be part of the east end of the village of Baden.

The Kropf family, however, suffered a number of casualties, including the deaths of four of their six children between 1840 and 1855. Two of them had surviving children. In 1853, the sawmill burned to the ground. It was rebuilt and David, the youngest of the Kropf sons, was the miller.

Jacob sold part of the property to son Christian and his wife Maria in 1858. In 1866, however, they sold it to Christian's brother-in-law, who had been married to Christian's sister. No doubt, this was the time when Christian and Maria (King) Kropf moved to the United States along with their children, the oldest of whom were already married. According to family tradition, they went first to Indiana, then to Ohio, then Iowa, and finally to Schuyler County, Missouri.

Christian and Maria's son Jonathan may have accompanied his parents to the United States, but he returned to Canada and married Mathilda Hostetler in 1876. After her death in 1890, he married Leah Gabel Williams. Jonathan lived in the New Hamburg area, and Jonathan and Mathilda are buried in the Wilmot Mennonite Cemetery (formerly Geiger).(6)

Now back to Maria Koenig,. In the summer of 2007, an article by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine - "Old World Genealogy of Sebastian Reidiger (1720-1791) of Ottenweierhof in Baden" - appeared in *Illinois Mennonite Heritage Quarterly* . Sebastian's daughter Maria Magdalena married Benedict König, who served as a minister in the Hochbourg Amish Mennonite congregation after 1805. The second youngest daughter of Benedict and Maria Magdalena was born April 9, 1815 and was named Maria. Mother Maria Magdalena died in 1826.

By 1835, Benedict had migrated to Butler County, Ohio, accompanied by his unmarried children and perhaps a few who were married. He served the Amish Mennonite congregation in Butler County, but by 1840 had moved to Fulton County, Ohio, where he died - date uncertain. A few of the king children migrated to

Illinois - hence the interest of the King descendants and Illinois historians in this family.

Why is nothing except her birth date given for Maria König's entry in Stuckey Levine's article? Perhaps Maria was a resident of Wilmot in Canada even before her marriage. It is interesting to note that Maria married Christian Kropf in Wilmot on January 7, 1838. Her youngest sister Elisabeth married Jacob Sloneker in Butler County later that month - January 22.

We had two somewhat differing birth dates for Maria, but with a more careful reading of her tombstone, we also arrive at the date - April 9, 1815 as her birth date. (7) Hence we are quite confident in giving "R79 Maria König " of Stuckey Levine's article subsequent history as well.

Maria/Mary Koenig/King,

daughter of Benedict Koenig/King and Maria Magdalena Reidiger

Look for grandparents in A AM Genealogies

b. 5 Apr 1815, Baden, Germany

d. 25 Apr 1891, Lancaster, MO

m. 7 Jan 1838, Wilmot Township

Christian Kropf, son of Jacob Kropf and Magdalena Rothacker

b. 10 Jan 1815, Friesenheim, Haut-Rhin, (Alsace) France

d. 1 Jul 1898, Lancaster, MO

Children: Magdalena Kropf (1838-1909) m. Peter Gingerich  
Elizabeth Kropf (1839/40- ) m. Jacob Sommers  
Barbara Kropf (1841-1934) m. Daniel Gingerich  
David Kropf (1843-1926) m. Leah Aeschliman  
Jonathan Kropf (1844-1908) m. Mathilda Hostetler  
2m. Leah Gabel Williams  
Jacobina Kropf (1846-1913) m. Christian Gardner  
Solomon Kropf (1849-1852)  
Mary Kropf (1852-1930) m. Jonathan Aeschliman

EVA KING AND JOSEPH WAGLER/WAUGLER

Eva King, born in Illinois, married Joseph Wagler at Pekin, Illinois, in 1871 or 1872. Joseph had immigrated with his parents to Canada in 1854. After his marriage, he brought his bride back to Canada where at least two of their children were born. In 1884, Joseph reported his father's death in Wellesley Township, after which the family must have returned to Illinois. Eva is reported to have died in 1936 and was buried in the Troyer Cemetery, White Oak Township, McLean County, Illinois.

Eva King, daughter of Samuel King and Magdalena Kurtz (8)

Look for grandparents in A AM Genealogies

b. 1 May 1854, Pekin Illinois

d. 15 July 1936 Woodford Co. IL

m. 23 Aug 1871, Pekin, IL

Joseph Wagler/Waugler, son of John Wagler and Sophie Valentin

b. 17 Nov 1850, Aubure, Haut-Rhin, (Alsace) France

d. 22 Aug 1934, Carlock, McLean Co., IL

Children: Ida Fortuna Waugler (1874-1950) m. Frank Cufaude  
John Samuel Waugler (1876- 1957)m. Luella Mills/Miller

Mary Waugler ( 1878 -1943) m. Henry Taubert  
Bertha Waugler (1880 -1966) m. Perry McClure  
Minnie Waugler (1883- 1960) m. Charles Hilton  
Katie Waugler ( 1885-1955) m. Frank Johnson  
Alvina/ Adina E. Waugler (1888-1965) m. William Wosnak  
Albert J. Waugler ( -1891- )  
Edward Waugler (1894- 1989) m. Amy\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

1) See "Did Christian Stoltzfus' Children Live In Canada?" by David Luthy in *Family Life*, June, 1992, pages 24-26.

The map in Burkholder's book may have been an earlier version with changes being made in a later copy, or it was simply an incorrect copy. At any rate, it was preserved by one of the families, and that was the one which Burkholder found in his research and did not know that it was defective.

2) A translation by Isaac Horst of this diary was printed with the title "Diary of a journey" in *Ontario Mennonite History*, November 2002. An article with translation by Joseph Stoll appeared in *Family Life* some time previous to that.

3) A sale bill was printed by H. W. Peterson in Berlin (now Kitchener) in both English and German. (A photocopy is found in the KOENIG/KING file)  
Also see the WOOLWICH file for notes on census records, etc.

4) The marriage announced in the January 20, 1838 issue of *Canada Museum*, the German newspaper published in Berlin (now Kitchener).

5) An 1838 letter, written by Jacob Kropf Jr. to John Glick, reported the visit of Benedict King from Butler County, Ohio, to Canada. Original letter in Heritage Historical Library, Aylmer, Ontario. Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, historian and genealogist for Butler County, is unable to place Maria into Benedict's family.

6) *The Descendants of Jacob Kropf & Magdalena Rothaker* by Jamie Kropf, [Kitchener, Ontario], 2001. This is a selective genealogy -- more complete for Christian and Maria's family, and still more complete for Jonathan and Mathilda's family, than for the others. Also see Jamie Kropf's expanded 2010 edition.

Also see the KROPF file for additional details.

7) In my 2005 draft of the Kropf introduction, I had given April 5, 1815 as Maria's birth date. In my notes I also had the date April 9, but the year 1813-- how tantalizing! I contacted Jamie Kropf, author of the genealogy in Note #6, and he checked his photo of her tombstone. The date of birth was obviously April 9, but the year was indistinct. However, her age at the time of death also recorded on the tombstone, indicated it was 1815.

8) *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies* by Hugh F. Gingerich and Rachel W. Kreider, Gordonville, PA; Pequea Publishers, First Printing, 1986, page 193.

9) Joseph changed the spelling of his name to Waugler in order to avoid confusion in the mails. Information on this family was obtained from Gloria Carr, Menlo Park, California in 19180 and from research by Wendy Wild in 2009. Also see the WAGLER file for additional details.

Lorraine Roth  
Tavistock, Ontario  
February, 2010

Not in new file

Documents, Etc. in KOENIG/KING file:

Map of Woolwich Township as printed in David Luthy's article in "Family Life"  
(June 1992).

Copy of "THE AMISH PRESENCE IN WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP," a talk presented by Lorraine  
Roth at a Mennonite Historical Society Meeting at Martin's Meetinghouse,  
Waterloo, Ontario, July 4, 1999

KOENIG/KING LAND TRANSACTIONS IN WOOLWICH

Transcription of Christian Koenig's Purchase of Lots 58 and 128, Woolwich

SALE BILL for Christian Koenig's land in Woolwich by Christian Koenig Jr.

Correspondence from Joe Springer, Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen, Indiana  
re possible parentage of Maria Koenig/King.

KOENIG/KING LAND TRANSACTIONS IN WOOLWICH

¶ Lot 58¶, of GCT Woolwich

28 Aug 1845, reg. 18 Dec 1845

B & S, John Hartzler of Pleasant, Co. of Fairfield, Ohio, administrator of Will of late Christian King to Elias Eby & Henry Snider of Twp. of Waterloo, 350 ac., 100 pds 10 sh. (RBR #71, D No 453, ca.p.600)

¶ " ¶ \* \* \* \* \*

¶ ¶

¶ Lot 128¶, Block 3, east side of Grand River or Ouse.

11 Oct 1839, reg. 22 Apr 1840

B & S, Christian Koenig, Exor. of late Christian Koenig his father late of State of Pa. and now of State of Ohio, to Benjamin Snyder, 50 pds, 350 ac. (RBR #73, M No. 450, p. 265)

¶ " ¶ \* \* \* \* \*

¶ ¶

Lot 115 was listed as claimed by Christian Koenig on the map of Woolwich in L. J. Burkholder's, ¶ A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario¶. This is an error. He had only the two lots mentioned above.

¶ " ¶ \* \* \* \* \*

¶ ¶

¶

**This doc is included in Lorraine's King file; maybe place it there**

THE AMISH PRESENCE IN WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP July 4, 1999

Then ink was barely dry on the documents relating to the purchase by the Mennonites of the 60,000 acres of Beasley's Tract when they began to look for investors in a second tract – Block 3 of the Six Nations' Grant, a large part of what is now Woolwich Township. Two of these investors turned out to be Amish who invested in a total of five lots, each comprising 350 acres. They were Christian Stoltzfus and Christian Koenig . Their individual purchases were dated in December, 1807, and registered in March, 1808.

What did these two Amish heads of households have in mind? Were they thinking of migrating? Did they want to encourage their children to migrate? Were they aware of the migration of the Troyers and others from Somerset County to the shores of Lake Erie and to Vaughan Township in York County? Did they envision an Amish settlement in Woolwich? One would not expect these Amish men to have invested for the sake of speculation.

It has also been suggested that perhaps the Amish in Lancaster County made the investment with Stoltzfus and Koenig holding the titles. Amish congregations had no property and the only treasury they had was the Deacon's Fund out of which they cared for the needy among them. That Amish congregations in Pennsylvania invested in land in Canada is probably not a likely solution to our questions.

No doubt, the lots were chosen by "lot," hence the Stoltzfus and Koenig lots were scattered throughout the entire block. Lot 30 is in the southwest corner; lot 128 along the northwest side. Thus they were spread from one end of the tract to the other. This choice of lot locations would not be very conducive to forming a closely-knit community.

For the next decade, the bears and the wolves were not much molested in Woolwich Township, especially not on the Stoltzfus and Koenig lots.

In the spring of 1819, Peter Martin of Earl Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was interested in migrating to Canada with his family. He approached Christian Eby of Warwich Township about purchasing some property. Eby

sold him Lot 10, of on the northern edge of Waterloo Township. Eby, no doubt, told Peter Martin that Christian Stoltzfus owned Lot 18, just across the township line. On April 24, Peter closed a deal with Stoltzfus for Lot 18. Isaac Master of Honeybrook Township, Chester County and Samuel Weaver of Earl Township, Lancaster County, witnessed the writing of this document. It was registered in York (now Toronto) on October 15, 1821, on the affirmation of Isaac Master. People did get around in those days.

The present boundary lines of Lot 18 are somewhat difficult to visualize, but it includes the Waterloo Farmer's Market and probably the Stockyards. However, Martin's Meetinghouse across the road is supposed to be in Waterloo Township.

Since Christian Stoltzfus was into selling Lot 18, he also disposed of Lot 10 – on the same day (April 24, 1819) He sold half of it to his son Christian Stoltzfus Jr. and the other half to his unmarried daughter Catherine for a total of \$1,400. The deed was witnessed by Isaac and Peter Martin, but it was not registered in Canada.

On December 26, 1823, Catherine Stoltzfus conveyed the rights to her half of Lot 10 to Christian Neuhauser, brother-in-law of Christian Stoltzfus Jr. On the same date Christian Stoltzfus Sr. sold Lot 30 to his son Christian and his daughter Catherine for \$3000. One of the witnesses to this deed was Christian Gascho, a new immigrant from France, who would marry Christiana Petersheim the next year and eventually also migrate to Canada. These deeds were not registered in Canada either. All of these documents were preserved by Stoltzfus descendants and are now part of the collection at the Heritage Historical Library at Aylmer, Ontario

While carefully scrutinizing these deeds, David Luthy noted that in the 1819 documents, Christian Stoltzfus Jr. and Catherine Stoltzfus were cited as living in Leacock Township. In the 1823 documents their place of residence was not given. Was that simply an oversight, or had they gone to Canada -- as David Luthy speculates they might have? Perhaps they decided Canada was not to their liking and returned to Pennsylvania, taking their deeds with them!

In 1832 Christian Stoltzfus Sr. died, and as far as the Canadian government was concerned, he was still the owner of Lots 10 and 30. One would think that they could simply have registered the existing deeds, but on October 7, 1835, they drew up still another set. The heirs of Christian Stoltzfus Sr. sold Lot 10 to Christian Stoltzfus Jr. Each of the children and their spouses had to sign the document, and where children were no longer living, the signatures of their children were required. Lot 30 was sold by the same process to Christian Stoltzfus Jr. and to Jacob Steinman, who by this time was married to Catherine Stoltzfus. Both deeds were witnessed by George Eby of Woolwich Township and Roland Diller of Earl Township, Lancaster County. Both of them were registered by George Eby on December 2, 1835.

Now Christian Jr. was the legal owner of Lot 10 and part of Lot 30. In preparation for the disposal of Lot 10, he had a formal document drawn up appointing Henry Martin of Woolwich Township as his "true and lawful attorney" on January 3, 1838. In 1839, Martin acted on Stoltzfus' behalf and sold Lot 10 to Phillip Brechbuhl and Valentine Ratz. But this is not the end of the story. The Power of Attorney document had also not been registered; so in March 1862 (23 years later) Christian Stoltzfus Jr. had to reacknowledge it in the presence of John Hoffman of Waterloo Village and Isaac H. Good of Lancaster County. In May, John Hoffman swore an affidavit in the presence of A.J. Peterson in Berlin, Ontario and the matter was finally settled.

The sales to Brechbuhl and Ratz were as follows: Brechbuhl got 175 acres plus four acres of cedar swamp for 280 pounds, 17 shillings and 7 pence. Ratz, a blacksmith, got 193 acres at the north end. Much of the northwest boundary of Lot 10 is in the middle of Conestoga River. Ratz objected to being charged for the acreage in the river and said he had no need of the water. Stoltzfus is said to have told Ratz to build a dam and harness the water to provide power to run a mill to occupy his sons. Ratz did just that. There is still a dam at this location although it has been rebuilt several times due to flooding.

Philip Brechbuhl, who purchased the southern part of the lot, is buried in the cemetery at Martin's Meetinghouse. His tombstone is the very first one in the first row.

In 1845, Christian Stoltzfus Jr. and Jacob Steinman sold lot 30 to Elias Snider. It was not registered until 1853, but at least they did not draw up another document. Steinman was in Canada at the time of this sale, but he had some difficulties collecting the payments. Jacob Steinman's brother Christian was a resident in Wilmot Township. The



Amish Mennonites eventually built a meetinghouse on a corner of the lot which he had pioneered. The two brothers frequently corresponded with each other. In 1852, Jacob reported that the mortgage bond he had left with Elias "Schneider" was to be paid in seven annual installments. "The seven years are coming to an end the first of May 1852 and nothing has been paid me yet," wrote Jacob. He asked his brother Christian to look into the matter. The Schwartzentrubers in Canada were to receive some inheritance money, and Jacob wanted to exchange this money for money owed him in order to avoid the banking charges. Jacob was also worried that the mortgage might be invalid after the seven years.

Christian Steinman made the necessary inquiries and found that Snider had \$200 on hand, which would be paid to the Schwartzentrubers. The correspondence ends there. If Snider paid only \$200 during the first seven years, one wonders whether all the parties lived long enough to see the final payment.

Compared to the trail of paper left by the Stoltzfuses, the transactions for the Koenig properties were relatively simple. Lot 58 was located on the northeastern boundary with Pilkington Township. Lot 128 was further south but on the east side of the river. Both of these lots continued to be occupied by the bears and the wolves. The census records do not list anyone living on these lots during the 1830s.

Christian Koenig died in 1838. In 1839, Christian Koenig Jr., as executor of his deceased father's estate arranged for a public sale of these two lots. The sale was to take place on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, at Shoemaker's Mill in Waterloo. H.W. Peterson printed a sale bill in both the English and German languages.

Benjamin Snyder must have responded to this advertisement, because on October 11, a deed of Bargain and Sale was drawn up between Christian Koenig Jr., formerly of Pennsylvania, then of the State of Ohio, and Benjamin Snyder. Snyder paid 50 pounds. The deed was registered in April, 1840.

Evidently no sale was made for Lot 128, and in 1844 Christian Koenig Jr. died. On August 28, 1845, John Hartzler of Pleasant in Fairfield County, Ohio, executor of the will of Christian King, sold this lot of 350 acres to Elias Eby and Henry Snider of Waterloo Township for 100 pounds and 10 shillings. It was registered a few months later. Thus ends the ownership of the Stoltzfus and Koenig family holdings in Woolwich Township 38 years later.

In the 1845 document the name Koenig was anglicized to King. Stoltzfus, however, never became "Proudfoot."

For one of his lots Stoltzfus had paid \$300 in 1807. Presumably, the lots were all the same price – although one of them included some river acreage. \$300 is considerably less than 100 pounds; so on the last transaction, the Koenigs had a fair return on their investment, but on the first sale they received only 50 pounds, considerably less than their investment. The use of dollars (the American monetary system) in some documents and the use of the British system of pounds, shilling and pence in others makes it difficult to make reliable comparisons.

Now that we have discussed the Amish who owned land in Woolwich but did not live there, let us turn to those who lived there but did not own any land.

Jacob Kropf, his wife Magdalena Rothacker, and their three sons and two daughters migrated to Canada from Pennsylvania in the fall of 1823. In 1826, Joseph Zehr, his wife Barbara Kennel, and their son and three daughters arrived in Canada. The German Block in Wilmot Township had been surveyed in 1824. According to family tradition, Zehr had sold property in Lorraine, France and had some money. He thought the "free" land in the new survey was for those who had few or no financial resources; so he decided to go to Woolwich Township instead. The free land refers to the 50 acres which the settlers were to receive free for opening the roadway, clearing some land, and building a habitable house.

According to the 1828 census, the Kropf and Zehr families were on Lots 9 and 10. Lot 10 at that time was owned by Christian Stoltzfus Sr. (according to the legal records) and by Christian Stoltzfus Jr. and Christian Neuhauser (according to the family records). Lot 9 was owned by Daniel Bowman. It is also noteworthy that the Amish Mennonite congregation's deacon, Jacob Kropf, was living in Woolwich Township while the majority of the Amish settlers were taking up lots in Wilmot.

In 1830 or 1831, Jacob Kropf moved to the German Block, and in the 1831 census Joseph Zehr was on Lot 10 with 45 acres under cultivation. By the 1833 census, Christian Ebersol, a recent Amish immigrant was on Lot 10 and Zehr was on Lot 9, with 175 acres, none of which were under cultivation. Also by this time, this lot had changed hands, and it was owned by Abraham Weber, a resident of Waterloo Township. In 1834, Zehr had 20 acres under cultivation, and also had two oxen and four cows. By 1837, he had doubled these figures – 40 acres cultivated, four oxen and four cows. At the same time, there were two other German Lutheran settlers on parts of Lot 9—Martin Hauck and Jacob Winkler. In 1838, Hauck and Winkler each purchased 50 acres from Abraham Weber. Joseph Zehr must have had a rental agreement which, of course, is not officially recorded, but one wonders why he did not purchase.

By the time of the 1840 census, Joseph Zehr had 65 acres under cultivation. The oldest son, Joseph Jr., was now over 16 years of age, and another daughter and two sons had been added to the family since their arrival in Woolwich.

A few other Amish settlers spent short periods of time in Woolwich – namely, Joseph Jantzi, Jacob Lebold, Christian and Peter Farni, and Christian Nafziger, son of the Christian who came to look for land in 1822. But none of these stayed more than a year or two. Christian Ebersol, mentioned earlier, was here until 1840. In fact, he got into both the Woolwich and Wilmot census records that year.

Perhaps Zehr had doubts about a permanent Amish settlement, and for that reason did not purchase the land he was cultivating and on which he must have built some buildings. He suffered from asthma and died in January of 1845. The family buried him at Martin's Meetinghouse. Widow Barbara appeared in the 1851 census with her five youngest children between the ages of 24 and 18. The two oldest children, Joseph and Catherine, had married Maria Lichti and Christian Oesch, respectively, and had taken up residence in Wilmot.

In 1851 Barbara purchased two acres of Lot 54 from John and Mary Scheidel, and in 1853 she finally purchased from Abraham Weber the 104 acres of Lot 9, much of which Joseph had brought under cultivation. One wonders why these purchases were made at this time. Perhaps that was the only way; Barbara could get a satisfactory return on the family's investment in the property. They had probably built whatever house and barn were on the property, and if they simply terminated their lease, that investment might have been lost. In 1855, Barbara sold 101 acres of Lot 9 and the two acres of Lot 54 to Matthias Stricker. The following year she sold three acres along the river to Jacob C. Snider. That land had been flooded when Snider built a dam on Lot 8 for his mills at St. Jacobs.

By the time of the 1871 census, Barbara was living with her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law John Giesler near the Baden Hills in Wilmot Township.

In his booklet, [This Unique Heritage, the Story of Waterloo County](#), Bill Moyer states that Joseph Zehr was one of the large landholders in Woolwich Township—that he sold land to Jacob Winkler and Martin Hauch, immigrants from Germany, in 1834 for \$3.00 per acre. Winkler and Hauch did buy portions of Lot 9 on which Zehr was located, but they purchased their acreages from Abraham Weber in 1838. Joseph Zehr, according to the land records, never owned any. Where did Bill Moyer get his information? Perhaps he heard Alvin Gingerich say that Joseph Zehr bought farms for all of his children, not realizing that Alvin was talking about Joseph Zehr Jr. and that the farms he purchased were in Wilmot, South Easthope, and East Zorra townships, and not in Woolwich.

In conclusion, this is probably a good time to reflect on why the Amish chose not to form a community in Woolwich. Did new settlers hesitate to buy from previous owners, thinking they could do better to buy directly from the Crown or the Canada Company? Why did Wilmot attract settlers though the price was higher—they paid roughly \$400 for 200 acres. Or, is there something about the geography of Woolwich Township which discouraged settlement?

We may not find answers to these questions, but it is appropriate to reflect on the efforts made by these persons to bring to birth an Amish settlement in Woolwich Township. In 1986 David Luthy compiled the [Amish in America: Settlements That Failed](#). He should probably have added this settlement to that list.

Sources of Information:

The records in the Land Registry Office in Kitchener and the census records for Gore District for the 1820 and 1830s provide the basic framework for the above analysis of the Amish presence in Woolwich Township.

The tradition that Stoltzfus and Koenig were the representatives of Amish congregations in Pennsylvania in the purchase of lots in Woolwich Township was recorded in Descendants and History of Georg Petersheim Family, compiled by Petersheim Descendants, First Edition, 1979, Pequea Publishers, Gordonville, Penna., p. 422.

David Luthy's article, "Did Christian Stoltzfus' Children live in Canada?" in Family Life, June 1992 offers some additional interesting material and a copy of the authentic plot map of Woolwich Township.

David Luthy found the Koenig sale bill in the Christian King Collection located at the Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

The story that Stoltzfus told Ratz to build a dam to use the water to run a mill to employ his sons is found in "From Forge to Farm" by Herbert C. Ratz in Waterloo Historical Society, Volume 79, 1991.

The Unique Heritage, the Story of Waterloo County, by Bill Moyer, 1971.

Lorraine Roth  
Waterloo

#### KOENIG/KING LAND TRANSACTIONS IN WOOLWICH

Lots 58 and 128 of German Company Tract, Woolwich  
16 Dec. 1807, reg. 29 Mar. 1808  
Augustus Jones, John Erb, Jacob Erb to Christian Koenig  
#267, Memorial Roll #3

Made a photocopy of this document to compare it with the copy in the King family file, located in the Archives of the Mennonite church.

David Luthy transcribed the family copy, May 25, 2000.

Lorraine Roth transcribed the Registry Office copy October 2002

(transcriptions and copies of originals in legal file – cannot find copy of original Registry Office Document)

Lot 58, of GCT Woolwich

28 Aug 1845, reg. 18 Dec 1845

B & S, John Hartzler of Pleasant, Co. of Fairfield, Ohio, administrator of Will of late Christian King to Elias Eby & Henry Snider of Twp. of Waterloo, 350 ac., 100 pds 10 sh. (RBR #71, D No 453, ca.p.600)

Lot 128, Block 3, east side of Grand River or Ouse River.

[Ouse is the Mohawk name for the Grand River, meaning 'Willow River']

11 Oct 1839, reg. 22 Apr 1840

B & S, Christian Koenig, Exor. of late Christian Koenig his father late of State of Pa. and now of State of Ohio, to Benjamin Snyder, 50 pds, 350 ac.

(RBR #73, M No. 450, p. 265)

Lot 115 was listed as claimed by Christian Koenig on the map of Woolwich in L. J. Burkholder's, A Brief History of the Mennonites in Ontario. This is an error. He had only the two lots mentioned above.

Notes for several of the documents were made from the books deposited in the Archives of the University of Waterloo and can be viewed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room (RBR) on the lower floor of the Dana Porter library.