

LEIS

The name Leis, also spelled Leiss, is not a Swiss name nor known among the Anabaptists of Europe. Joseph Leis was born on February 9, 1817 in Bavaria, Germany. Many years later, in the family Bible Joseph recorded his birth date, his marriage to Catherine Kennel, and the date. He wrote that he was born in the Kingdom of Bavaria -- if only he had thought to be a little more specific.(1) (See Notes on page 7) According to family tradition, Joseph accompanied friends to Pennsylvania at the age of nine, coming to Canada on horseback later on.

On June 1, 1824, a family group of Amish Mennonites left Neuburg on the Danube in Bavaria.(2) It included Henry Schultz and his children, one daughter married to John Oesch and their children, and a single man named Jacob Steinman. They sailed from Amsterdam on the Brig *Ospray*, arriving in New York on September 2, 1824. Among this group was a seven-year-old boy named Jos Place (as far as I can decipher the spelling). If Joseph Leis is pronounced in the dialect, it would be possible for an English writer to come up with "Jos Place."(3) The age of the child does not quite fit with the family tradition, but family traditions are sometimes out two or more years, and passenger lists also are not known for their accuracy. It may well be that some members of the Schultz family remained in Pennsylvania for a number of years and that Joseph remained with them, coming to Canada at a later date.

Even if Joseph Leis did come with the above family group, it is still not known who he was. Was he an orphan child in the community, of non-Mennonite parents, or was he a relative of the Schultzes -- perhaps even a grandchild of Henry? The name Leis is found in Bavaria and may be native to the area. The name Leis was found in records of that period in Augsburg. In fact, I found a George Leis, son of Joseph, marrying a Catherine Leis in 1815. I immediately turned to the birth records for 1817 to see whether, by any chance, they had a son Joseph born in 1817. They did have a child in 1817, but she was a girl, and they named her Catherine!

Some have also questioned whether Joseph might have been Jewish, because the name Leis is found among Jews. I would be somewhat skeptical about speculating that he was Jewish, because the Jews, like the Mennonites, were a cohesive group and would likely have looked after an orphan child themselves. With a definite birthdate for Joseph, it may be that some day his parentage may be found, but for the present it is a mystery.

The April 19, 1837 issue of *Canada Museum*, the local newspaper, carried the following notice: "Joseph Leyss lost pocketbook between Michael Gardner's and Johannes Oesch's house, contained some silver money and a note from Johannes Schmitt (carpenter), \$27.7 Sch.6 pens" (\$27, 7 shillings, 6 pence). Johannes Oesch and his family were in the travelling group that I am suggesting brought Joseph Leis to America. The Oesches lived where Castle Kilbride is now located and the Gardners where the Morningside retirement community is now found.

Whatever Joseph Leis's background had been, he identified with the Amish Mennonites who brought him to America. He chose to marry Catherine Kennel, an Amish Mennonite girl who had come with her family from Lorraine, France, to Lewis County, New York. Christian and Magdalena (Jantzi) Kennel brought their family to the northwest corner of Wilmot Township. Joseph and Catherine were married on March 19, 1844 by Preacher John Oesch, according to the Wellington District Marriage Records, or "Rudy" Roth, according to family tradition.

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Note from Helmut Gingerich April 2023

. The parents mentioned in the Dirmstei death record, Abraham and Marie (Leise) Janson, would fit to originate in Canton Bern/Switzerland, *Janzi* traditional residents of Boltigen and Zweisimmern, *Leisi* at Untersteckholz and Gossau.

Another note about Leis from Helmut Gingerich

From: Helmut

Sent: April 15, 2023 12:34 PM

To: bwjantzi@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Janson at Dirmstein

Guten Morgen Bruce,

while digging around the Johann and Barbara (Schulz) Family, I ran into a veeery funny co-incidence: Right above the birth record of their eldest son Christian Oesch, there was one, mother's maiden name Leis. Checking further, it turned out a very common name in that parish, and I even found one Joseph Leis, born March 7. 1817. Need to check further, whether anything might point at the possibility that, for some reason, the catholic boy would emigrate together with the Oesch family (their second son died May 1824 at Forsthof, the area of Neuburg/Donau), next one already born June 1825 in Ontario.

Do you have more concerning Lorraine Roth's info ... *On June 1, 1824, a family group of Amish Mennonites left Neuburg on the Danube in Bavaria.(2) It included Henry Schultz and his children, one daughter married to John Oesch and their children, and a single man named Jacob Steinman. They sailed from Amsterdam on the Brig Ospray, arriving in New York on September 2, 1824 ...? Or more details about the Henry Schulz-family?*

Helmut

Further note from Helmut

Hallo Bruce,

big challenge find whether Joseph Leis b. Feb 9, 1817 is identical with "your" Joseph Leis b. May 7, 1817

The parish is Weilheim (also in charge for Rothsee), parents are Sexton Gabriel Leis and Katharina nee Pankratz. Their son Joseph was youngest of five siblings (found at quick check). Found no reason why they should send their son along with Mennonites, such as early death of either one of the parents, even more as several other Leis families are documented at Weilheim. But neither I found any hints for a matching Joseph that remained at Weilheim.

I'm asking around whether anyone might have more infos on the Oesch-Schulz families. Normally, one had to ask leave to emigrate, with a legal record. Also there used to be newspaper ads about the intended emigration, in case anyone had claims against those who were to emigrate.

Tomorrow, I'll give the Schulz family a closer look, they must have left some trace in Bavaria.

Helmut

April 17, 2023
Guten Morgen Bruce,

no news. None of my contacts could find the shiplist that would allow a closer look at the Jos. Lorraine could not identify within the Oesch-Schultz emigration company. Minor match, I got a letter Jacob Steinman wrote in 1835, mentioning his meeting with Johann Oesch before departing on 1st of June 1824. The answer from the archive that might have emigration papers is still pending. But to expect a miraculous explanation why a Catholic youngster might emigrate together with Amish families is probably too over-optimistic.

My idea Joseph Leis might connect to the Leisy at Friedelsheim in Rhine-Bavaria turned out wishful thinking. The local Mennonites kept records including Leisy families, but no Joseph of matching age. One Leisy even came from there to live for a short period near Weilheim, but only around 1840ies, and said to have no descendents.

So, presently I have no better plans that hope for some incidental find that might shed a clue.

Helmut

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April 30, 2023
Hallo Bruce,

latest news: 1824 emigration from Neuburg/Donau is too early, the archive in charge replied they have no such records prior to 1842. Joseph Leis and his offspring appear in various genealogies that all seem to originate in Lorraine Roth's work, and got stuck in regard of his Bavarian origin. Big mystery where she found the shiplist - but if it was kept with her other research materials, I guess you would know.

Anyway, Joseph is stored in my database, in case you may find a new lead, or some incidental lucky strike supplies one.

Best

Helmut

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About Joseph Leis, Sr
Joseph Leis was born in Bavaria on the 9th of February 1817 and died on the 6th of July 1896, aged 79 years, 4 months and 27 days. He came to this country in his youth. He was married to Catherine Kennel. They lived in matrimony 52 years, 3 months and 17 days. He leaves his sorrowing widow, nine sons and four daughters and forty-three grandchildren. He lived in the house which he erected in the primeval forests of "Upper Canada" fifty-two years ago and his was the first death that occurred in the house. He was a faithful member of the Old Amish branch of the church, and died of paralysis and the infirmities of old age. A large concourse of friends followed his remains to the Wellesley graveyard on the 9th. Funeral services by Christian Gascho, Christian Zehr and John Gascho.

Reference: Find A Grave Memorial - SmartCopy: Apr 3 2016, 14:10:51 UTC

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Herald of Truth, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 15, August 1, 1896, page 236, 237, 238 LEIS.- Joseph Leis of near Wellesley, Waterloo Co., Ont., was born in Bavaria on the 9th of February 1817 and died on the 6th of July 1896, aged 79 years, 4 months and 27 days. He came to this country in his youth. He was married to Catherine Kennel. They lived in matrimony 52 years, 3 months and 17 days. He leaves his sorrowing widow, nine sons and four daughters and forty-three grandchildren. He lived in the house which he erected in the primeval forests of "Upper Canada" fifty-two years ago and his was the first death that occurred in the house. He was a faithful member of the Old Amish branch of the church, and died of paralysis and the infirmities of old age. A large concourse of friends followed his remains to the Wellesley graveyard on the 9th. Funeral services by Christian Gascho, Christian Zehr and John Gascho.

Photo of grave marker added by Alan Dettweiler

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Joseph and Catherine settled in Wellesley Township which was just newly surveyed. It had been a Clergy Reserve, popularly known as the "Queen's Bush." They may have built a 1 1/2-storey log house on the south half of Lot 14, Concession I of the East Section immediately after their marriage, but we don't find a lease contract for that property until 1849. According to the 1851 and 1861 census, however, they were living in a 1 1/2-storey log house built in 1844. By 1856, they had paid for the property and obtained their deed from the Crown. Leonard Streicher, married to Catherine's sister Barbara, purchased the north half of the lot. In 1859, the two brother's-in-law made an exchange so that Joseph and Catherine Leis had the east part of the lot and Leonard and Barbara Streicher had the west part. This lot, by the way, is the southwest corner of the East Section of Wellesley Township, with Wilmot across the road to the south and Wellesley, West Section, across the road to the west.

Joseph Leis Sr. sold the homestead to Joseph Leis Jr. in 1893. He passed it on to his son John S. Leis, married to Catherine Wagler, in 1927. In 1933, they sold it to John's niece Edna, married to Elmer Brenneman. In 1951, Elmer and Edna sold it out of the family.

Evidently, Joseph also had some interest in the Canada Company lands in North Easthope and took out a lease on Lot 3, Concession IV. The date of the lease is not clear, but it was transferred to Andrew Otto in 1857. This property was southwest of their homestead in Wellesley. Joseph also purchased several farms on which to settle his children as they married. These will be indicated in the section where the locations of the children are described.

Joseph and Catherine had thirteen children, all of whom grew to adulthood and married. Most of the family remained in the Wellesley area. Joseph and Catherine and all except two of their children and their spouses are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery, on Deborah Glaister Line (formerly the Third Line) in the West Section of Wellesley Township. When they were buried there the Maple View church was known as the Wellesley Amish Mennonite Church. Magdalena, one of the exceptions, and her husband Peter B. Jantzi are buried up the road in the Cedar Grove Amish Mennonite Cemetery. A few of the grandchildren went to New York State, but most of this family has not wandered very far from the home base.

- 5) Joseph Leis
 b. 12 Dec 1852 Welles.
 d. 26 Dec 1938 Welles.
 1m. 14 Mar 1876 Welles.
 2m. 15 Mar 1898 E.Zorra
 Catherine Roth
 b. 5 Feb 1855 Welles.
 d. 9 Nov 1896 Welles.
 dau. of Christian Roth
 and Catherine Lichti
 Magdalena Schwartzentruber
 b. 29 Nov 1872
 d. 1 Sept 1951 Welles.
 dau. of John Schwartzentruber and Anna Sommers
- Solomon R. Leis (1876-1964) m. Mary Lichti
 Rudolph Leis (1878-1947) m. Elizabeth Bast
 Catherine Leis (1880-1945) m. Jacob F. Lichti
 Nancy Leis (1892-1962) m. Joseph Kropf
 Mattie Leis (1884-1964)
 Fannie Leis (1887-1966)
 Lydia Leis (1890-1974)
 Joseph R. Leis (1894-1975) m. Laura Brunk
 2m. Mary Feick
 John S. Leis (1903-1977) m. Catherine Wagler
 Edith Leis (1905-1986) m. William S. Jantzi
 Sydney Leis (1907-) m. Maude Schlueter
 Elmer Leis (1910-) m. Agnes Langille
- 6) David Leis
 b. 24 Apr 1855 Welles.
 d. 24 Mar 1921 Welles.
 m. 13 Jan 1881 Wilmot
 Magdalena Schwartzentruber
 b. 30 July 1847 Wilmot
 d. 8 July 1919 Welles.
 dau. of John Schwartzentruber and Barbara Birkey
 widow of Rudolph Oesch
- step-children:
 Barbara Oesch (1866-1916) m. John L. Erb
 Elizabeth Oesch (1870-1952) m. Christian L. Erb
 Catherine Oesch (1873-1955) m. Christian
 children: /Schultz
 Moses Leis (1882-1951) m. Magdalena Schultz
 Magdalena Leis (1885-1887)
 Sarah Leis (1888-1929)
 Annie Leis (1890-1964) m. Samuel L. Schultz
 Jacob S. Leis (1892-1959) m. Clara Seegmiller
- 7) Catherine Leis
 b. 3 May 1857 Wellesley
 d. 24 Mar 1932 Welles.
 m. 3 Oct 1882 Welles.
 Christian J. Lichti
 b. 10 Sept 1859 Welles.
 d. 19 Oct 1933 Welles.
 son of Joseph Lichti
 and Catherine Jantzi
- Catherine Lichti (1883-1946) m. Joel Wagler
 Joseph L. Lichti (1886-1891)
 Sarah Lichti (1890)
 Fannie Lichti (1893-1963) m. Jacob B. Jantzi
 Ezra Lichti (1897)
- 8) Menno Leis
 b. 24 Apr 1859 Wellesley
 d. 6 Oct 1942 Wellesley
 1m. 1 Dec 1885 Wilmot
 2m. 3 Jan 1895 SEasthope
 Magdalena Brenneman
 b. 5 Aug 1864 SEasthope
 d. 23 Sept 1894 Welles.
 dau. of John S. Brenneman
 and Barbara Gingerich
 Veronica Schwartzentruber
 b. 18 May 1857 SEasthope
 d. 27 Jun 1922 Wellesley
 dau. of Jacob Schwartzentruber and Barbara Roth
- Laura Leis (1886-1956) m. Solomon R. Gerber
 Moses B. Leis (1888-1927) m. Lydia Kropf
 Katherine Leis (1890-1892)
 Nancy Leis (1891-1930)
 Eva Leis (1894)
 Milton Leis (1896-1949) m. Leah Litwiller
- 9) Barbara Leis
 Catherine Gingerich (1887-1947) m. Noah K. Zehr

b. 17 Mar 1861 Welles.
 d. 27 May 1928 Welles.
 m. 8 Nov 1883 Wilmot
 Christian R. Gingerich
 b. 25 Nov 1857 Wilmot
 d. 21 Apr 1923 Welles.
 son of Christian Gingerich
 and Catherine Ropp

Aaron Gingerich (1889-1948) m. Alberta V Nelson
 Joseph Gingerich (1892-1972) m. Violet Baetz
 2m. Elizabeth Veitch
 Nancy Gingerich (1898-1976) m. Jonathan Z. Jantzi
 Jacob Gingerich (1900-) m. Alice Doris E. Thaler
 Elizabeth Gingerich (1905-1969)

10) Daniel Leis
 b. 9 Aug 1863 Welles.
 d. 21 Dec 1939 Welles.
 m. 13 Nov 1888 Welles.
 Magdalena Erb
 b. 27 Mar 1870 Welles.
 d. 10 Oct 1954 Welles.
 dau. of Christian Erb
 and Mary Litwiller

{ Christian E. Leis (1889-1967) m. Barbara Schwartzentruber
 Samuel E. Leis (1891-1963) m. Elizabeth Schultz
 Peter E. Leis (1893-1966) m. Veronica Leis
 Mary Leis (1896-1909)
 Ezra Leis (1897-1966) m. Elizabeth Wagler
 Sarah Leis (1900-1991) m. Aaron W. Jantzi

11) Jacob Leis
 b. 15 Jul 1865 Welles.
 d. 5 Dec 1941 Welles.
 m. 1 Jun 1890 Morn.?
 Elizabeth Kennel
 b. 20 Nov 1869 NEhope
 d. 20 Dec 1944 Welles.
 dau. of Joseph Kennel
 and Rosina Kuepfer

{ Rachel Leis (1891-1909)
 Emma Leis (1892-1978) m. George L. Schmidt
 Katie Leis (1894-1983) m. John R. Moser
 Veronica Leis (1897-1993) m. Peter E. Leis
 Edith Leis (1900-1967) m. Noah Lebold
 Magdalena Leis (1902-1997) m. Simon S. Bast
 Nancy Leis (1904-1992) m. Andrew Widrick
 Reuben Leis (1908)

(continued)

12) Veronica Leis
 b. 8 July 1867 Welles.
 d. 15 Sept 1938 NHamburg
 m. 5 Mar 1895 Welles.
 Nicholas S. Roth
 b. 29 Sep 1869 E.Zorra
 d. 2 Mar 1945 NHamburg
 dau. of Peter Roth and
 Magdalena Schwartzentruber

{ Menno L. Roth (1896-1952) m. Lucinda Erb
 Solomon Nicholas Roth (1897-1994) m Alma Bender
 Peter L. Roth (1899-1983) m. Susan Baechler
 Veronica Anna Roth (1902-1962)
 Edward Albert Roth (1905-1990) m. Seleda Roth
 2m. Edna (Gingerich) Good
 John Christian Roth (1908-1994) m Edna Steinman

13) Solomon Leis
 b. 3 June 1869 Wellesley
 d. 14 May 1949 Gads Hill?
 m. 4 Feb 1898 (source?) Adeline Georgina Leis (1899-after 1999)
 3 Jan 1899 Stratford m. Anthony Greulich
 Anna Roegele
 b. 25 Sep 1877 NEhope
 d. 6 Nov 1970 NHamburg
 dau. of Fred Roegel and Lena "Elurrch" (Gingerich)

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH AND CATHERINE (KENNEL) LEIS ESTABLISH THEIR OWN HOMES

Noah Leis, the oldest of the 13 children, and Catherine Brunk were married in December 1871, by Bishop John Jantzi. Noah's father had purchased the east half of Lot 4, Concession III in the West Section of Wellesley Township that same year. No doubt, Noah and Catherine took up residence here, purchasing it in 1880. In 1901, they also purchased the west half of Lot 5, Concession IV, also in the West Section. In 1914, they sold Lot 4 to son Noah B., married to Magdalena Streicher, and in 1929, they sold Lot 5, also to Noah and Magdalena. Noah and Catherine are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

John Leis and Barbara Zehr were married in 1872, by Bishop John Jantzi. They took up residence on the west half of Lot 10, Concession VI, West Section, Wellesley Township, obtaining the deed from the crown in 1879. By that time Barbara had died and John was married to Veronica Schwartzentruber from East Zorra. In 1881, they sold the property to Michael Zehr, Barbara's father. Their place of residence after that is not known. Perhaps they moved to the Village of Wellesley. John, Barbara and Veronica are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Magdalena Leis and **Peter B. Jantzi** were married in Mornington by Bishop John Jantzi in 1873. Peter's father Michael had purchased Lot 6, Concession VII, West Section, in 1872. No doubt, Peter and Magdalena took up residence on the west half, purchasing it in 1887. In 1892, they sold this farm and purchased the north half of Lot 12, Concession II, and part of the south part of Lot 12, Concession III, both in the East Section. In 1908, they sold both parts to their only child Michael L., married to Barbara Gerber. No doubt, Magdalena and Peter remained with Michael and his family until their deaths several years later. They are buried in the Cedar Grove Amish Mennonite Cemetery, Wellesley Township.

Christian Leis married Catharine Lichti in 1875. Catharine's father purchased Lot 7, Concession II in the West Section of Wellesley Township in 1875 and, no doubt Christian and Catharine took up residence on the southeast half, purchasing it in 1886. In 1916, they sold the farm to their son Amos L., married to Nancy Steinman. Christian and Catharine are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Joseph Leis married Catherine Roth in 1876 and Magdalena Schwartzentruber in 1898. The first marriage took place at the Leis homestead with Bishop John Jantzi officiating. Joseph's father purchased the west half of Lot 11, Concession V in the West Section in 1876 and, no doubt, this is where Joseph Jr. and Catherine took up residence, purchasing it in 1887. In 1902, Joseph sold it to son Solomon R. Leis, married to Mary Lichti.(4) Joseph, his second wife and family may have moved to the Village of Wellesley at that time or even earlier. Joseph, Catherine, and Magdalena are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

David Leis married Magdalena Schwartzentruber, widow of Rudolph Oesch, in 1881. They were married by Bishop John Gascho at his home in Wilmot. Magdalena had three daughters, ages 6 to 14, by the previous marriage. David purchased the west half of Lot 10, Concession I, West Section, in 1881. They sold this farm in 1895 and purchased the west part of Lot 14, Concession I, in the East Section in 1904. This was part of the original Joseph Leis Sr. and Leonard Streicher property. It is not known where they were between 1895 and 1904. In 1916, they sold this property and may have gone to live with one of their children. They are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Catherine Leis married **Christian J. Lichti** in 1882. They were married at the John Schwartzentruber home in Wellesley Township, by Bishop Jacob Wagler. They purchased a 3-acre lot in the Village of Wellesley in 1885 and sold it to Menno Leis, Catherine's brother in 1890, but it was not until 1894 that they purchased the north half of Lot 9, Concession VI in the East Section of Wellesley. In 1923, they sold it to their daughter Catherine and her husband Joel Wagler. They probably continued to live with Catherine and Joel and their family. They are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Menno Leis married Magdalena (Mattie) Brenneman of South Easthope in 1885. They were married in the new meetinghouse in Wilmot by Bishop John Gascho. In 1890, Menno purchased three acres from his sister and brother-in-law, Catherine and Christian J. Lichti in Wellesley (parts of Lots 12 and 13, Concession I). In the 1891 census, Menno was a labourer. Magdalena died in 1894 and in 1895 Menno married Veronica Schwartzentruber, also of South Easthope. In 1913, they sold the place in Wellesley and purchased the south part of Lot 9, Concession VI in the East Section of the township. Veronica died the following year, and Menno then lived with his daughter Laura, married to Solomon R. Gerber, and their family. Menno, Magdalena, and Veronica are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Barbara Leis married **Christian R. Gingerich** in 1883. They were married in the home of Joseph Kennel by Bishop John Gascho. They must have lived somewhere in the Wellesley area, but the specific location has not been found. They are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Daniel Leis married Magdalena Erb in November, 1888. They were married by Bishop Jacob Wagler at the John Erb home. This was probably Magdalena's brother who had been married earlier in the year. In the 1891 census, Daniel's occupation was farm labourer, and they were living next to Daniel's sister Magdalena, married to Peter B. Jantzi. The Jantzis were living on Concession VII, West Section, Wellesley. Perhaps Daniel was working for Peter. They later lived in the village -- in a little, old log house. In her later years, Magdalena lived with her children -- a month at each place. Daniel and Magdalena are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Jacob Leis and Elizabeth Kennel were married in 1890. In the 1891 census they were living next to Jacob's parents and Jacob was probably running the farm for his father. In 1893 Joseph Sr. sold the farm to Joseph Jr. and Jacob and Elizabeth purchased Lot 10, Concession III, East Section, the following year, selling it again in 1909. From 1919 to 1931 they farmed on the west half of Lot 9, Concession VII, East Section, near Crosshill. Jacob and Elizabeth are buried in the Maple View Mennonite Cemetery.

Veronica Leis married **Nicholas Roth** of East Zorra in 1895. They were married by Bishop Jacob Wagler. They probably lived in East Zorra for a while following their marriage. They purchased a four-acre lot at the south end of Wellesley in 1908, but later lived in New Hamburg. Nicholas was probably a labourer all his life. They retained their membership at Maple View and are buried there.

Solomon Leis, the youngest son, married Anna (Annie) Roegele in 1899. They were married in Stratford by Rev. McKay, probably a Lutheran minister, because Anna's religious affiliation was Lutheran. Anna's mother was a Gingerich, and Anna and Christian R. Gingerich, husband of Barbara Leis, were first cousins. Solomon and Annie were separated. Solomon lived with his nephew John C. Roth and family for a number of years, but is believed to be buried at Gads Hill. Annie lived

with her daughter Adeline Greulich in New Hamburg. Adeline celebrated her 100th birthday in 1999. Both Annie and Adeline are buried at Riverside Cemetery at New Hamburg.

Notes:

1) Photocopies of this Bible record with transcriptions and translations and other items of interest preserved in the Bible are found in the LEIS Documents and Notes file. At the time these copies were secured, the Bible was in possession of Amos Gerber, likely son of Laura (Leis) and Solomon R. Gerber. Joseph recorded that he was born 9 Feb. 11817 in Königreich, Bayern.

2) Jacob Steinman in Pennsylvania, in an undated letter, wrote to his brother Christian Steinman in Wilmot that he and John Oesch left Neuburg on the Danube on June 1, 1824, to come to America. This letter is translated and published in *The Family History and Genealogy of Christian Steinman(n) and Veronica Eyer*, published by the Christian Steinman(n) Family Book Committee, Baden, Ontario, 1990, page 377.

3) The passenger list is found in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., Microfilm Series M-237, Roll #6. (Photocopy in the LEIS Documents and Notes file)

A number of spellings in this list are incorrect. They are as follows:

John H _____, age 32 (The scribe wrote "H" for Esch/Oesch, and since John male, farmer did not give him another name, left a blank.)

Henry Schultz	60	male	
George Schultz	21	"	Nationality of all:
Jacob Schultz	15	"	Switzerland
Johann Schultz	13	female	(incorrect)
Elisabeth Schultz	23	"	
Parbara Esk	21	"	(Barbara Esch)
Madalena Schultz	19	"	
Jos Place	7	male	(I interpret this as Joseph Leis)
Christin Esk	3	female	(Christian Esch, male)
Sophronia Esk	2	"	(Veronica Esch)
Jacob Steinman	25	male	farmer

4) Solomon R. and Mary Leis sold the farm in 1905, and joined the Amish-Mennonite settlement in Canboro, Haldimand County, for a number of years.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock Ontario
March, 2010

***3 pages of photos follow.

Explanation under photo of the home of Joseph and Catherine (Kennel) Leis

Joseph and Catherine were married in 1844; so they probably built this house later that year, although Joseph did not sign a lease contract for the land until 1849. In 1856, he received the Crown patent (deed), after having made the final payment, for the south half of Lot 14 Concession I, East Section, Wellesley Township. Catherine's sister Barbara married Leonard Streicher, and they purchased the north half of the lot. In 1859, Joseph and Leonard swapped land so that Joseph and Catherine had the east half and Leonard and Barbara had the west half.

In 1893, Joseph and Catherine sold the farm to Joseph Jr., married to Catherine (nee Roth). In 1927, Joseph and his second wife Magdalena (nee Schwartzentruber) sold it to their son John S. Leis. In 1933, John S. Leis, married to Catherine (nee Wagler) sold it to John's niece Edna married to Elmer Brenneman. Thus the farm was still in the Leis family, but no longer in the Leis name.

The Brennemans replaced the house with a frame house in 1940. One can still find traces of the foundation of the washhouse.

Elmer and Edna Brenneman sold the farm to Ivan Kuntze and Mary (nee Bankert) in 1951, and in 2005 it is owned by their son Wayne and Rosanna (Ellsworth) Kuntze.

Not in new files.

LEIS FAMILY BIBLE Register and other printed papers

[on flyleaf]

Diese
Biebel geherd Joseph Leis
und hab sie kauft von
Got ___ls und had kost \$7.80 Can___
den 11ten Februar 1846

Translation:

This Bible belongs to Joseph
Leis and [I] bought it from
_____ and [it] cost \$7.80
Canadian
11th February 1846

* * *

The Bible is a Martin Luther edition printed in Philadelphia (undated).

* * *

Familien-Register

Trauungen
Im Jahr 1817
Den 9ten Februar bin ich
Joseph Leis geboren
im Konigreich Bayren

Im Jahr 1825
Catharina Leis geboren
Kennel wurde geboren
im Juli 1825

Trauungen
Im Jahr 1844
den 19 Martz bin ich
Joseph Leis mit
Catarina Kennel in
Ehstand Gedretten

Translation:

Family Register

Marriages

In the year 1817
the 9th February I
Joseph Leis was born
in the Kingdom of Bavaria

In the year 1825
Catharine Leis born
Kennel was born
in July 1825

Marriages

In the year 1844
The 19th March I
Joseph Leis and
Catharine Kennel
entered into matrimony

* * *

Geburten

Geburten

Im Jahr 1845
Den 5ten Juni ist uns
ein Sohn in die Weld
Geboren mit Nahmen
Noa Leis
im Zeigen des Zwilling

Im Jahr 1846
Den 13 Octber ist uns
ein Sohn in die Weld
geboren mit Nahmen
Johannes Leis im Zeigen
des Lobs

(continued)

Im Jahr 1848
Den 30 August ist
uns eine Tochter
in die Weld geboren
mit Nahmen
Magdalena Leis
im Zeigen des Waag

Im Jahr 1850
Den 27t September
ist unser Christian
geboren im Zeigen
des Zwilling

Im Jahr 1852
Den 12 Dezember
ist unser Joseph
gebohren im Zeigen
des Stein Bock

[second page]

Im Jahr 1863
den 9 August ist
uns ein Sohn in die
Welt geboren mit Namen
Daniel Leis im Zeigen
Zwilling

Im Jahr 1865
den 15 Juli ist uns ein
Sohn in die Welt geboren
mit Namen Jakob
Leis im Zeigen Widders

Im Jahr 1867
Den 8ten Juli ist uns
ein Tochter in die
Welt geboren mit
namen Veronica

Im Jahr 1855
Den 24ten Aprill
ist unser David
gebohren Im Zeigen
des Lob

Im Jahr 1857
den 3 Mai ist uns
Ein Tochter in die
Weld geboren mit
namen Catharina
Leis in Zeigen Jungfrau

Im Jahr 1859
April den 24 ist
uns ein Sohn in
die Welt geboren
mit Nahmen Menno
Leis in Zeigen
von Steinbock

Im Jahr 1861
den 17 Marz ist uns
ein Tochter in die
Welt geboren mit
namen Barbara Leis
im Zeigen Zwilling

Noah Leis born June 5th 1845

John Leis born Oct. 13th 1846

Magdalena Leis born Aug 30th
1848

Christian Leis Sept. 27th 1850

Joseph Leis Dec. 12th 1852

David Leis April 24th 1855

Katherine Leis May 3rd 1857

Menno Leis April 24th 1859

Barbara Leis Mar. 17th 1861

Daniel Leis Aug. 9th 1863

Leis im Zeigen Wage?

Im Jahr 1869 am
3 Junie ist uns ein
Sohn in die Welt
geboren mit
nahmen
Solomon Leis

Jac. Leis July 15th 1865

Veronica Leis July 8th 1867

Solomon Leis June 3rd 1869

Translation (in order of birth, not of pages)

In the year 1845, the 5th of June,
a son was born to us into the world
with the name Noah Leis
in the sign Twins

In the year 1846, the 13th October,
a son was born to us into the world
with the name John Leis
in the sign Lion

In the year 1848, the 30th August,
a daughter was born to us into the
world with the name Magdalena Leis
in the sign Scales

In the year 1850, the 2th September,
our Christian was born
in the sign Twins

In the year 1852, the 12th December,
our Joseph was born
in the sign Goat

In the year 1855, the 24th April,
our David was born
in the sign Lion

In the year 1857, the 3rd May,
a daughter was born to us into the
world with the name Catharine Leis
in the sign Virgin

In the year 1859, April 24th,
a son was born to us into the
world with the name Menno Leis
in the sign Goat

In the year 1861,, the 17th
March, a daughter was born to
us into the world with the
name Barbara Leis
in the sign Twins

In the year 1863, the 9th August
a son was born to us into the
world with the name Daniel Leis
in the sign Twins

In the year 1865, the 15th July,
a son was born to us into the
world with the name Jacob Leis
in the sign Ram

In the year 1867, the 8th July,
a daughter was born to us into
the world with the name Veronica
Leis in the sign Scales?

In the year 1869, the 3 June,
a son was born to us into the
world with the name Solomon Leis

* * *

Sterbefalle

Translation:

Deaths

Im Jahr 1896
Joseph Leis ist in dem
herrn entschlafen den
6ten Juli 1896 und brachte
sein Alter auf 79 Jahr
4 Monat 27 Tag und
lebten im Ehstand 52
Jahr 3 monaht 17 Tag
und hinterlusst 13
Kinder und 43 Enkel

In the year 1896
Joseph Leis fell asleep in the
Lord, the 6th July 1896
which brought his age to
79 years, 4 months, 27 days
and lived in matrimony 52 years,
3 months, 17 days
and left behind 13 children and
43 grandchildren

Im Jahr 1903
Catharina Leis geborene
Kennel wurde geboren
im July im Jahr 1825
und sie starb den 12
November 1903 und brachte
Ihr Alter auf 78 Jahr 4
monaht und sie lebte im
Ehstand 52 Jahr
3 monaht und 17 Tag
und im witwe stand
7 Jahr und 4 monaht
und sie hinterlasst
13 Kinder und 57
Enkel und 13 Urenkel
ihr hinscheiden zu
betraueren
Im Namen Gottes.

In the year 1903
Catharine Leis, born Kennel, was
born in July in the year 1825
and she died the 12th November,
1903 which brought her age to
78 years, 4 months and she lived
in matrimony 52 years, 3 months,
17 days and in widowhood
7 years and 4 months
and left behind 13 children and
57 grandchildren and 13 great-
grandchildren to mourn her
passing
In God's name.

* * *

Notes on other printed materials:

- 1) Poem or song written on the death of Susanna Cor, June 10, 1809 for murdering her illegitimate infant in Reading Pennsylvania
Printed in Berlin (Kitchener) Canada West in the year 1848
- 2) "Aufstehen am Morgen" -- Getting up in the Morning
This is a call to prayer on getting up in the morning and before going to bed at night.
Printed by Henry Eby, Berlin, Canada in the year 1848
- 3) Story from the Black Forest in France, Department of Montpellier,
8 January, 1829

A young man came home from serving in the army and went to his father's house incognito. When his father and brothers saw he had money, they killed him, cut him in four pieces and buried him in a suitcase in the basement. When the young man's godfather came the next day to ask about his godson, the father fainted when he heard who had come to his house the night before. The deed, of course, was discovered and the father and sons were executed.

Poem or song written on this occasion.
Printed in Berlin, Canada, -- 1848

Lorraine Roth,
Waterloo, Ontario
November, 1988

List of LEIS Documents, etc.

Passenger list of the Brig "Ospray", departure from Amsterdam, arrived in New York, September 2, 1824

Photocopy of Leis family Bible records and other enclosures

Transcriptions and translations of family Bible records
and notes on enclosures

Death record of Elmina Leis, June 29, 1915, dau. of Christ Leis and Veronica Schmidt

LEIS LAND HOLDINGS

Notes

Copies of "Magdalena (Schwartzentruber) Oesch and David Leis Family History and Genealogy"

Correspondence

A number of copies of the following were printed and distributed:

JOSEPH AND CATHERINE (KENNEL) LEIS GENEALOGY
Information collected by Katie (Leis) Moser
Castorland, New York
Typed and added to by Lorraine Roth

Waterloo, Ontario, 1994

Eleanor and Rosanna Moser have been trying to add to and up-date this genealogy on the computer.

My copy is with the other printed genealogies.

LEIS LAND HOLDINGS

Wellesley Township, East Section

Jacob Leis (Elizabeth Kennel)	1904 1909 1919 1931	E-III " E-VII "	10 " 9 "	(not legible) " W 1/2 100 ac. "	purch. J. Dietrich sale Noah Wagler purch. A. Hahn sale H.J. Hackbart
Joseph Leis " "	1851 & 1861 census 1849 lease contract, Lot 14, S 1/2, Con. I			(1844 1 1/2-storey log house)	
Joseph Leis (Catherine Kennel)	1856 1859 " 1893	E-I " " "	14 " " "	S 1/2 101 ac. NE pt 37 ac. SW pt 44 ac. E 1/2 115 ac.	patent Crown purch. Leon. Streicher sale " " " Joseph Leis Jr.
Joseph Leis Jr. (1m.Catherine Roth 2m.Magdalena Schwart.)	1893 1927	E-I "	14 "	E 1/2 115 ac. " "	purch. Joseph Leis sale John S. Leis
David Leis (Magdalena (Schwar- tzentruber) Oesch)	1904 1916	E-I "	14 "	W pt 88 ac. " "	(formerly Streicher) purch. John Miller Est sale J. Schmidt
Menno Leis (1m.Magd.Brenneman 2m.Veronica)	1890 1913 1913	E-I " E-VI	13 " 9	1/0/0 2/0/0 " " S pt 79 ac.	purch. Chr. J. Lichti sale G. Huehn purch. T. Huehn

Schwartzentruber)	1921	"	"	"	"	sale	John R. Kropf
Peter B. Jantzi	1892	E-II	12	N 1/2 [100 ac.]		purch.	Jos. B.S. Jantzi
(Magdalena Leis)	1908	"	"	"	"	sale	Mich. L. Jantzi
	1892	E-III	"	S pt 23 ac.		purch.	Jos. B.S. Jantzi
	1908	"	"	"	"	sale.	Mich. L. Jantzi
Christian J. Lichti	1885	E-I	13	Village 3 ac.		purch.	John Sherk
(Catherine Leis)	1890	"	"	"		sale	Menno Leis
	1894	E-VI	9	N 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	J. Mueller
	1923	"	"	"	"	sale	Joel Wagler

Wellesley Township, West Section

Christian Leis	1886	W-II	7	99 ac.		purch.	Jos. L. Lichty
(Catharine Lichti)	1918	"	"	"		sale	Amos L. Leis
David Leis	1881	W-I	10	W 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Isaac Hostetler
(Magdalena (Schwarz- entruber) Oesch	1895	"	"	"	"	sale	John B. Lichty
John Leis	1872	W-VI	10	W 1/2 100 ac.		mort.	John Elford
(1m. Barbara Zehr	1879	"	"	"	"	patent	Crown*
2m. Veronica	1881	"	"	"	"	sale	Michael Zehr
Schwartzentruber)							

*Copy of the original Crown Grant is on microfilm in the Kitchener Registry Office -- Roll #AE-15, item #9868.

Wellesley, West Section (cont'd)

Joseph Leis	1871	W-III	4	E 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Brandon
(Catherine Kennel)	1880	"	"	"	"	sale	Noah Leis
(res. of East Sect.)	1876	W-V	11	W 1/2	"	purch.	Paff Est.
	1887	"	"	"	"	sale	Joseph Leis Jr.
Joseph Leis Jr.	1887	W-V	11	W 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Joseph Leis
(1m. Catherine Roth	1902	"	"	"	"	sale	Solomon R. Leis
2m. Magdalena Schwartzentruber							
Noah Leis	1880	W-III	4	E 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Joseph Leis
(Catherine Brunk)	1914	"	"	E 1/2 99 ac.		sale	Noah B. Leis
	1901	W-IV	5	W 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	J. Hammond
	1929	"	"	"	"	sale	Noah B. Leis
Solomon R. Leis	1902	W-V	11	W 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Joseph Leis Jr.
(Mary Lichti)	1905	"	"	"	"	sale	Jacob B. Miller
Peter B. Jantzi	1887	W-VII	6	W 1/2 100 ac.		purch.	Michael Jantzi

(Magdalena Leis) 1892 " " " " sale T. Strong

North Easthope Township

Joseph Leis (immigrant from Bavaria; parents not known)
 m. 1844 to Catherine Kennel
 dau. of Christian Kennel and Magdalena Jantzi
 Lot 3, Con. IV (? -1857) (lease)
 It is not clear when Joseph acquired the lease, but it was transferred
 to Andrew Otto in 1857.
 Joseph and Catherine were residents of Wellesley Township.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF EARLY SETTLERS AND LAND HOLDINGS WELLESLEY EAST SECTION

Notes: Since much of Wellesley Township was a Clergy reserve, it was late in being up for settlement. Abstracts from the archival RG series reveal that lease contracts were made before the issue of deeds. The lease contracts were not registered in the Registry Office; the deeds were. Census records reveal that there were occupants earlier than the lease contracts would indicate. Although the census does not specify lot and concession numbers, I assume that the lease contracts indicate the lots on which people were located at the time of the census.

In bold type, I have indicated who was there already in the 1851 census and in what kind of dwelling, as well as the lease contracts, which were invariably made for the same lot for which the settler was eventually issued a patent (deed) - after it was paid in full!

Type refers to lease, purchase, sale, etc.

Not all purchases and sales for Wellesley Village are recorded under the concessions. Hence some may be missing or incomplete.

	date	conc.	lot/s	description	type	from/to whom
LEIS						
Jacob Leis	1904	E-III	10	(not legible)	purch.	purch.J.Dietrich
(Elizabeth Kennel	1909	E-III	10	(not legible)	sale	sale-Noah Wagler
Joseph Leis	1851 & 1861 census (1844 1 ½ -storey log house)					
Joseph Leis	1849 Lease contract, Lot 14, S ½, Con.I					
Jospeh Leis	1856	E-I	14	S ½ 101 ac.+	patent	Crown
(Catherine Kennel)	1859	E-I	14	NE pt 37 ac.+	purch.	Leon Streicher
	1859	E-I	14	SW pt 44 ac.+	sale	Leon. Streicher
	1893	E-I	14	E ½ 115 ac.+	sale	Joseph Leis Jr.
Joseph Leis Jr.	1893	E-I	14	E ½ 115 ac.+	purch.	Joseph Leis
(1m. Catherine Roth)	1927	E-I	14	E ½ 115 ac.+	sale	John S. Leis
2m.Magdalena Schwart.						
David Leis	1904	E-I	14	W pt 88 ac.+	purch.	John Miller Est.
(Magdalena (Schwart-1916		E-I	14	W pt.88 ac.+	sale	J. Schmidt

entruber) Oesch

Menno Leis	1890	E-I	13	1/0/0 + 2/0/0	purch. Chr. J. Lichti
(1m. Magd. brenneman)	1913	E-I	13	1/0/0 + 1/0/0	sale G. Huehn
(2m. Veronica	1913	E-VI	9	S pt 79 ac.+	purch. T. Huehn
Schwartzentruber	1921	E-VI	9	S pt 79 ac.+	sale John R. Kropf

With photos

☐☐ ☐ THE HOME OF JOSEPH AND CATHERINE (KENNEL) LEIS

☐ ☐ This storey-and-a-half house was of log construction with a porch on two sides.

☐☐ ☐ The building on the right was a washhouse.

☐ ☐

Joseph and Catherine were married in 1844; so they probably built this house later that year, although Joseph did not sign a lease contract for the land until 1849. In 1856, he received the Crown Patent (deed), after having made the final payment, for the south half of Lot 14, Concession I, East Section, Wellesley Township. Catherine's sister Barbara married Leonard Streicher, and they purchased the north half of the lot. In 1859, Joseph and Leonard swapped land so that Joseph and Catherine had the east half and Leonard and Barbara had the west half.

In 1893, Joseph and Catherine sold the farm to Joseph Jr., married to Catherine (nee Roth). In 1927, Joseph and his second wife Magdalena (nee Schwartzentru-ber) sold it to their son John S. Leis. In 1933, John S. Leis, married to Catherine (nee Wagler) sold it to John's niece Edna married to Elmer Brenneman. Thus the farm was still in the Leis family, but no longer in the Leis name.

The Brennemans replaced the house with a frame house in 1940. One can still find traces of the foundation of the washhouse.

Elmer and Edna Brenneman sold the farm to Ivan Kuntze and Mary (nee Bankert) in 1951, and in 2005 it is owned by their son Wayne and Rosanna (Ellsworth) Kuntze.

LEIS FAMILY HOMESTEAD

(1844-1951)

(in the Kuntze family since 1951)

Original barn on right with additions
(date of construction not known)

A log house was replaced with a frame
house by Edna and Elmer Brenneman in 1940.

Front, facing south (below)

Side and rear, facing east (lower right)
The part at the back was moved in and attached

photos by Helen Brenneman and Lorraine Roth, 2005

☐