

LEONARD

Who were the Leonards who arrived in Wilmot Township in the late 1830s and found spouses among the Amish Mennonites? James Leonard (b. 1814) married Catherine Helmuth in 1853.(1) (See Notes on page 6) Catherine was the daughter of George Helmuth and Magdalena Brenneman. Lydia Leonard (b. ca.1824) married Jacob Brenneman in 1840.(2) Jacob was the son of Preacher John Brenneman and uncle to Catherine Helmuth. We presume James and Lydia were brother and sister. Family tradition and the census records identify them as born in Ireland. A specific place of birth nor their parents are known.

Were the Leonards ethnic Irish, or did the family have another place of origin? Having found the name Leonard during my research in Germany, I began to suspect that this family had emigrated from the Palatinate to Ireland at an earlier time. When I discovered the book *People Make Places, The Story of the Irish Palatines*,(3) I eagerly read it. The story of the Palatine migration to Ireland in the early 1700s, their sojourn in Ireland, and the dispersal of many (although not all left) throughout the world in more recent times, is most fascinating. A number of families were featured in the story but, alas, there were no Leonards among them. That, of course, does not mean my theory is incorrect, because there certainly were many other families among the 3000 or more Palatine immigrants to Ireland who were also not mentioned by name.

Most of the Palatines settled in County Limerick, in the southwestern part of the island, but there were also a few scattered up the west coast. The Palatine immigrants were Protestant, and were welcomed by the British government to increase the Protestant population in southern Ireland.

So what brought the Leonards to Canada? Potato crop failures are often given as the cause for Irish migration to Canada and elsewhere -- the most devastating of these was in 1845. Others have been reported for the 1830s -- namely 1831, 1835 and 1839.(4) Whether the two Leonard young people arrived together or whether Lydia had come earlier with relatives or friends is not known. She was only about 16 when she married in 1840. Although James was at least ten years older than Lydia, he married 13 years later.

It is also interesting to note that these two Leonard young people found spouses among the Amish Mennonites. Was it because of their German ancestry, and did they still speak German?

JAMES LEONARD AND CATHERINE HELMUTH

James and Catherine were married in 1853. It is not known when they took up residence in Elma Township, but they appeared there in the 1871 census. They received the patent to Lot 25, Concession VI from the Crown in 1873 and also purchased the east half of Lot 24. They probably leased Lot 25 as early as 1860.(5) Both lots were sold to son John -- Lot 24 in 1887 and Lot 25 in 1897. In 1897, John sold Lot 24 to his brother James Jr. and Lot 25 to his third wife, Minnie Leonard.

James and Catherine Leonard were members of the Presbyterian Church. James died in 1901 and Catherine in 1911. They are buried in the Elma Centre Cemetery, Atwood, Ontario.

JAMES AND CATHERINE (HELMUTH) LEONARD FAMILY

James Leonard, b. 1814, Ireland
d. 27 Sep 1901, Elma Township
m. 22 Feb 1853 by Rev. F. W. Bindeman of Berlin (now Kitchener)
Catherine (Katy) Helmuth, dau. of George Helmuth and Magdalena Brenneman
b. 18 July 1828, probably in Waterloo Township
d. 24/28 Mar 1911, Elma Township

A. Mary Leonard, b. 3 Apr 1858, Elma Township
d. 4 Apr 1938, Tavistock, ON
bu. Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Sebastopol
m. 1881, Trinity Lutheran Church

John K. Lemp, son of Conrad and Elizabeth Lemp (from 1861 census)
b. 14 Feb 1860, Wilmot Township
d. 17 Feb 1938, Tavistock, ON

bu. Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

John spent his youth in the home of Christian and Barbara Gingerich, a childless farmer couple, in East Zorra.

John K. Lemp built the house at 284 Woodstock St. N. about 1892.

He also built several large grandfather clocks and a horseless carriage. (6)

1. Catherine Lemp (1882-1959) m. John W. Piehl (1871-1950)
(buried Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Sebastopol)

- a. Ernest Piehl, b. ca.1933
- b. Jessie Piehl, b. ca.1935, m. Milton Herlich
- c. Mabel Piehl, b. ca.1937
- d. Arthur Piehl, b. ca.1944
- e. Clarence Piehl, b. ca.1951

2. John Lemp Jr. (1884-1957) (photographer) (7)
m. Lucille (Lucy) Trachsel, d. 13 Oct 1962
(buried McTavish Cemetery, South Eastope)

- a. Leonard Lemp (1909-1978) (druggist)
m. Mary _____ (no dates on tombstone)
(buried McTavish Cemetery)
Leonard Lemp and Peter Z. Brenneman, grandson of Jacob Brenneman and Lydia Leonard claimed they were cousins. (7)

Daughter Jean m. Ron Wettlaufer, lives in Tavistock

Lucille (Babs) Lemp, d. July 1, 1977, (no age given) was buried beside John and Lucy Lemp. She may have been a daughter of John and Lucy or Leonard and Mary

B. John Henry Leonard b. 1861; d. 1932, Elma Township
1m. 18 Sep 1889 to Jennie McAllister (1870-1890) Elma Township
2m. 18 Dec 1895 to Annie M. Richmond (1876-1897) died in Listowel
3m. 31 Aug 1898 to Minnie Elizabeth Barnett (1877-1963) died in Listowel

1. William James Leonard (ca.1890- ?)
Lived in Kingston, had five children.
2. John Gordon Leonard (1896-1969) died at Oakville, ON
Served in WWI, farmed in Elma 1919-1921, died at Oakville
m. Edna Willouby
 - a. Grace P. Leonard, m. Herb Schroeder
 - b. Robert Leonard
 - c. Molly Leonard
 - d. Murray Leonard
 - e. Gordon Leonard
3. Edna Leonard (? - ?) m. Sol Weber
 - a. Kenneth Weber
 - b. Delilah Weber, Elmira, Ont.
4. Lily May Leonard (1899- ?) m. Milton Hesse
 - a. Dorothy Hesse
 - b. Marion Hesse
 - c. Albert Hesse
 - d. Mel Hesse
5. Minnie Pearl Leonard (1900-1978) died in Listowel, ON
(nurse in Listowel Memorial Hospital)
m. John Bergey (1894-1938) died in Brantford, ON
(farmed in Elma Township)
 - a. Delores Bergey
 - b. Dale Bergey
 - c. Geraldine Bergey
 - d. Doreen Bergey
 - e. Neil Bergey (1924-1934) was struck by car and died, Elma Township
6. Andrew Tilford Leonard (1905-1954) died unmarried in Elma Township
7. Edward Norman Leonard (1909-1967) died Hamilton, ON
m. 4 Nov 1936 to Eva Arbella Grant (1917-1988) died in Burlington, ON
Edward and Eva separated in 1944.
 - a. Douglas Norman Leonard, b 11 Sep 1938
 - b. Ruth Marie Leonard, b. 6 Jan 1943
8. Leslie Franklin Leonard (1913-1965) died unmarried at Listowel, ON
9. Evelyn Clara Leonard (1918-1999) died Hamilton, ON
m. 9 July 1941 to Hugh Wilbur Hildreth (? -1982) Stoney Creek, ON
 - a. Sharon Hildreth, b. 1 July 1944
m. 10 Oct 1963 to Wayne Kenyon
 - 2m. 25 Nov 1983 to Pat Kresak (1937-
(had two children)

10. Jennifer Leona Leonard (? - ?) m. Richard Sage
11. Margaret Lucinda Leonard (? -1999) died Listowel, ON
m. Carl Green
- a. Patsy Green, b. 1941
 - b. Bernice Green
 - c. Terry Green
 - d. Elizabeth Green
 - e. Susan Green
12. Mary Viola Leonard (? - ?) died Hamilton, ON
m. James Corney

- a. Evelyn Corney, m. Ronald Crawford
- b. Geraldine Corney, m. Roy Gibson
- c. James Corney, m. Marion

(continued)

13. Catherine Leonard (? - ?) died at age nine months in Elma Township
- C. Catherine (Katy) Leonard, b. ca.1864, Elma Township
d. ? , bu. Fairview Cemetery, Listowel, ON
m. Andrew Terry
- 1. John Terry, served and died in WWI
 - 2. James Terry, had two sons
 - 3. William Terry, had no children
- D. James Leonard Jr., b. 1868, Elma Township; d. 12 Apr 1940
1m. 22 Nov 1892, Britton, Elma Twp. by Rev. J. W. Cameron
Nancy Alexander, dau. of John Alexander and Elizabeth Graham
b. ca.1869, Britton; d. ?
2m. 9 Oct 1893 to Mary Jane Hone (2 Sept 1874-1929)
Probably had no children

For a somewhat more detailed listing of the above Leonard family, see
"Descendants of James Leonard, Sr." (Should be in the LEONARD file)

LYDIA LEONARD AND JACOB BRENNEMAN

Lydia (reported as Catherine Lendi) and Jacob's marriage in 1840 has already been mentioned. In the 1842 census, they were located on Lot 5, Concession II, South Easthope, with 2 horses, 2 oxen, 2 cows and 4 horned cattle and were assessed for 102 pounds sterling. They must have rented the farm from James Clyne who, according to the land records, was the owner at the time. They purchased it in 1854.

Jacob and Lydia purchased a number of farms in South Easthope and East Zorra on which their children took up farming. One of these were Lots 35 and 36, Concession XIX, East Zorra -- at the northeast corner of the Township of East

Zorra, County of Oxford -- also known as Punkeydoodles Corner. In 1872 they sold a quarter acre of the northwest corner of Lot 36 to the trustees of a "burying ground for the benefit of the Mennonite Community." Burials had taken place there already earlier.

Lydia and Jacob settled in a community heavily populated with Amish Mennonite families and became members of what was earlier known as the South Easthope-East Zorra Congregation, but became known as East Zorra when the meetinghouse was built in that Township in 1883. It was in Jacob and Lydia's barn that the last service of the congregation was held before moving into the new meetinghouse.

No family traditions concerning Lydia have been handed down through the family except that she was a good-looking woman. Lydia died in 1884 and Jacob in 1888. According to family tradition, they are buried in the cemetery they deeded to the trustees of the Amish Mennonite congregation but no tombstones have survived.

LYDIA LEONARD AND JACOB BRENNEMAN FAMILY

- Lydia Leonard, b. ca.1824, Ireland
d. 21 Aug 1884, South Easthope Township
m. 3 May 1840, Wilmot Township, by Bishop John Oesch
- Jacob Brenneman, son of John Brenneman (wife's name not known)
b. ca.1813, Germany
d. 14 Jun 1888, South Easthope
- A. John L. Brenneman (1843-1918) 1m. Magdalena Schrag (1842-1867)
2m. Anna Wittrig (1848-1910)
- B. Katherine Brenneman (1845-1928) m. John G. Jantzi (1841-1926)
- D. Daniel L. Brenneman (1847-1916) m. Magdalena Zehr (1846-1895)
- E. Barbara Brenneman (1849-1931) m. John H. Bender (1849-1934)
- F. Jacob L. Brenneman (1851-1898) m. Magdalena Steinman (1855-1927)
- G. Lydia Brenneman (1856-1929) m. Christian Roi (1859-1932)
- H. Joseph L. Brenneman (1858-1929) m. Katherine Roi (1857-1940)
- I. Christian L. Brenneman (1860-1939) m. Catherine Roth (1863-1930)
- J. Magdalena Brenneman (1864-1896) m. Daniel Schwartzentruber (1859-1932)
- K. David L. Brenneman (1866-1955) 1m. Elizabeth Zehr (1869-1916)
2m. Catherine Yantzi (1880-1961)

For more details on the Lydia and Jacob Brenneman family, see the *History and Genealogy of Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman Family, 1843-1963*, by Lorraine Roth, Shakespeare, ont., 1963, For a more up-to-date version of the history of the Brenneman family ,see the Brenneman file.

OTHER KNOWN LEONARDS WITH CONNECTIONS IN THE TAVISTOCK AREA

Reuben Daniel Brenneman, grandson of John L. Brenneman, married Jessie Belle Leonard. Jessie's grandfather was John James Leonard, born in 1830 and immigrated to Canada in the 1860s from England. (8)

Jane Elizabeth Peat Cruise published a Peat family history. Her aunt Marion Elizabeth Peat had married Charles A. Leonard (page 133). He was manager of a law firm in Toronto, but he and Marion also operated vacation cottages at Port Elgin on Lake Huron. This genealogy does not inform us of his ancestry. (9)

The pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol in 2002 was The Rev. Ronald Leonard. His ancestors (who spelled the name Leonhard) came from Germany somewhat later than the Amish Mennonite immigrants to Canada.

Notes:

1) This marriage was found in F. W. Bindeman's marriage records. He served Reformed and Lutheran German churches, but married anyone who requested his services.

2) This marriage was reported in the */*Canada Museum*, the local German newspaper. Her name was given as Catherine Lendi, but this must have been in error, because there was no other Jacob Brenneman in Canada at that time.

3) *People Make Places, The Story of the Irish Palatines* by Patrick J. O'Connor, Oireacht na Mumhan Books, 1989. Photocopies of a number of the most interesting pages are found in the LEONARD file.

4) *Max Braithwaite's Ontario*. Vancouver: J. J. Douglas Ltd., 1974, pages 15, 16.

5) The Leonard family is featured on page 404 of *Elmanac, The History of Elma Township, 1857-1997*. According to his obituary in the Atwood newspaper, October 4, 1901, James Leonard had settled on his farm in 1860.

6) "Our Heritage; Tavistock Pioneer Leaves His Mark" in the *Tavistock Gazette*, February 5, 1997 and the 1997 Heritage Edition of the *New Hamburg Independent*, February 12, 1997 feature the story of John K. and Mary (Leonard) Lemp. (A clipping of the *Gazette* article is found in the LEONARD file)

7) It was likely through the Leonard relationship (James and Lydia) that Leonard Lemp and Peter Brenneman claimed to be cousins, although they would also have

been related through the Brenneman relationship. See the two charts titled "Leonard / Brenneman Cousins" in the file.

8) See the print-out "Ancestors of Jessie Belle Leonard" in the LEONARD file. Jessie and Reuben Brenneman are found on page 22 of the Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman genealogy.

9) A partial copy of Jane Cruise's genealogy, *A Genealogy of Thomas Peat and His Descendants, 1843-1993* is also found in the LEONARD file. Jane's name appears in the Jacob and Lydia (Leonard) Brenneman genealogy on page 69.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
February 2008

LEONARD / BRENNEMAN COUSINS

Peter Z. Brenneman and Leonard Lemp considered they were related. Through the Leonard connection, the relationship would be as follows:

Leonard Parents Unknown

James Leonard & Catherine Helmuth (siblings) Lydia Leonard & Jacob Brenneman

Mary Leonard & John K. Lemp (1st cousins) Daniel Brenneman

John Lemp Jr. (2nd cousins) Peter Brenneman
(1884-1957) (1876-1954)

Leonard Lemp (3rd cousins) Violet (Brenneman) Roth
(1909-1978) (1905-1975)

Through the Brenneman connection, the relationship is as follows:

Immigrant John Brenneman

Magdalena Brenneman & George Helmuth Jacob Brenneman & Lydia Leonard

Catherine Helmuth & James Leonard (1st cousins) Daniel Brenneman

Mary Leonard & John K. Lemp

(2nd cousins)

Peter Brenneman

John Lemp Jr.
(1884-1957)

(3rd cousins)

Violet (Brenneman) Roth
(1905-1975)

Leonard Lemp
(1909-1978)

(4th cousins)

Lorraine Roth
(1930- 2013)

1 page of photos follows.

Not in new file

☐☐ ☐ LEONARD / BRENNEMAN COUSINS
☐ ☐

Peter Z. Brenneman and Leonard Lemp considered they were related.

Through the Leonard connection, the relationship would be as follows:

☐☐☐ ☐ Leonard Parents Unknown☐
☐ ☐

☐ James Leonard & Catherine Helmuth☐ (siblings) ☐ Lydia Leonard & Jacob
Brenneman☐

☐ Mary Leonard & John K. Lemp☐ (1st cousins) ☐ Daniel Brenneman☐

☐ John Lemp Jr.☐ (2nd cousins) ☐ Peter Brenneman☐
(1884-1957) (1876-1954)

☐ Leonard Lemp☐ (3rd cousins) ☐ Allan Brenneman☐
(1909-1979) (1915-1988)

Through the Brenneman connection, the relationship is as follows:

Immigrant John Brenneman

Magdalena Brenneman & George Helmuth (siblings) Jacob Brenneman & Lydia Leonard

Catherine Helmuth & James Leonard (1st cousins) Daniel Brenneman

Mary Leonard & John K. Lemp (2nd cousins) Peter Brenneman (1876-1954)

John Lemp Jr. (1884-1957) (3rd cousins) Allan Brenneman (1915-1988)

Leonard Lemp (1909-1979) (4th cousins) Robert Brenneman (1942-)