

OSWALD

Oswald is not a familiar name in Canada. However, there are Oswald descendants and an Amish-Mennonite Oswald family was in Canada for a while in the 1800s.

ORIGINS

An Ulrich Oswald is found in the Swiss court records dealing with Anabaptists in 1692, 1708 and 1709. He is to have left his property in Oberhofen and Hilterfingen, on the northeast side of Lake Thun. Ulrich also appeared in Homrighausen, in the Principality of Waldeck, Germany, where he had a brother Jakob.

According to Hermann Guth's analysis, the Jakob Oswald family is as follows(1):
(See Notes on page 3)

Jakob Oswald was in Homrighausen, Waldeck, as early as 1738
d. 1750 on the dairy farm Obergembeck

A. Christian Oswald, in Obergembeck until 1786

B. Jakob Oswald, m. Catharina Güngerich
d. 1787 on the dairy farm Billinghamen

1. Jakob Oswald, applied for lease of Billinghamen in 1787
was in Helmighausen in 1789
was in Kappel in 1807
d. 1829 at age 77 at Merzhausen near Rosenthal

- a. Jakob Oswald m. Jakobine Nafziger in Merzhausen
- b. Andreas Oswald m. Barbara Güngerich
both died at Lehrbach, Hesse, Germany
son Peter m. Magdalena Oesch and migrated to U.S.A. in 1829
- c. Katharina Oswald m. to an Otto
d. 1830 in Merzhausen
- d. Maria Oswald m. Johannes Schwartzentruber of Frankenberg
- e. Magdalena Oswald, m. Christian Nafziger
- f. **Barbara Oswald m. Michael Schwartzentruber**

Barbara Oswald who was married to Michael Schwartzentruber is the one who emigrated with her husband and three children to Canada. At the time of the birth and death of their fourth child, Jacob, in 1821, Barbara and Michael were living at Lehrbach in Hesse. If any of the other children were born there, they failed to register them.

BARBARA OSWALD AND MICHAEL SCHWARTZENTRUBER, EARLY AMISH MENNONITE IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

Michael, Barbara and their three surviving children left Bremen on the Ship *Bienenkorb* (German for bee-hive), arriving in Philadelphia on August 9, 1823. "Lena" was listed on the passenger list as nine weeks old. According to family tradition she was born on the voyage. The *Bienenkorb* must have been a cargo boat, because the Schwartzentrubers were the only passengers on the list. According to family tradition, it was a cattle boat.

Barbara and Michael were among the first of the Amish Mennonites to arrive in Canada. According to family tradition they stayed with Bishop Benjamin Eby's family while their cabin was being built in the new settlement in Wilmot Township. Michael had chosen Lot 9 on the south side of Snyder's Road and built the cabin in the centre of the 200-acre lot. This is where Barbara gave birth to eight more children.

Barbara must have been a hardy woman. When her husband began to suffer from a heart condition and another house as well as a barn needed to be built, Barbara took his place in the building process. The young men in the household cut the trees and prepared the logs. Barbara put the yoke on the oxen, hooked the oxen on to the logs and snaked them up onto the scoring dock. She also hauled logs to the sawmill to be sawed into lumber for the interior of the house, bringing home blocks of cedar, which Michael cut into shingles on the *Schnitzelbank* (cutting or carving bench), a task which his weakened heart could handle. (2)

THE FAMILY OF BARBARA OSWALD AND MICHAEL SCHWARTZENTRUBER

Barbara Oswald, dau. of Jakob Oswald

b. ____ June 1796, "auf den Hoben/Hohen Harmesberg in Waldeck"
(family record)

1791/92 (estimate from age on ship list and
obituary in newspaper)

d. 28 Nov 1848, Wilmot Township

m. Germany

Michael Schwartzentruber, son of Christian Schwartzentruber and
Magdalena Schönbeck

b. 15 Apr 1777, Selbach Estate, Sachsenhausen

d. 28 Aug 1859, Wilmot Township

- Children:
- 1) Christian O. Schwartzentruber (11 Jan 1816 - 3 Jun 1873)
 - 2) Catherine Schwartzentruber (27 Oct 1817 - 29 Mar 1846)
m. Joseph Schrag
 - 3) Maria Schwartzentruber (6 Nov 1819 - Sep 1868)
m. Peter Gardner
 - 4) Jacob Schwartzentruber (15 Aug 1821 - 3 Sep 1821)
born died at Lehrbach, Germany
 - 5) Magdalena Schwartzentruber (6 Jun 1823 - 16 Jun 1909)
born on Atlantic Ocean
m. John Schrag
 - 6) Barbara Schwartzentruber (14/24 Mar 1825 - 8 Apr 1899)
m. Christian Gingerich
 - 7) Michael O. Schwartzentruber (3 Jan 1827 - 7 Jun 1912)
m. Barbara Erb
 - 8) Elizabeth Schwartzentruber (18 Dec 1829 - Jan 1930)
 - 9) Margaret Schwartzentruber (26 Dec 1831 - 9 Jan 1916)
m. Peter E. Gingerich
 - 10) Veronica Schwartzentruber (14 Jan 1833 - 28 Oct 1919)
m. Peter Erb
 - 11) John O. Schwartzentruber (18 Jul 1836 - 10 Nov 1916)
 - 12) Verbina/Jacobena Schwartzentruber (2 Jun 1838 - 29 Dec 1917)
m. Jacob Roth
 - 13) Joseph O. Schwartzentruber (18 Nov 1840 - 17 Apr 1909)
m. Maria Kipfer

(The family is given in more detail in the SCHWARTZENTRUBER file and in the Schwartzentruber genealogy listed in Note #2 on the next page)

The graves of Barbara and Michael are not marked. They may have been buried in what is now a Lutheran cemetery in Petersburg, to the east of their farm, or in the Kropf family burial ground at the east end of Baden, to the west of their farm.

AN AMISH-MENNONITE OR MENNONITE OSWALD FAMILY IN CANADA

A Christian Oswald, age 30, farmer from Bavaria, landed in New York in 1830.(3) Perhaps this is the same Christian Oswald who appeared in the 1840 census of Wilmot Township with a wife and two daughters. They were identified as Amish. An April 1837 issue of the *Canada Museum* reported the birth of one of the daughters. It is not known where this Oswald family came from nor whither they went.

In the 1881 Wilmot census, a widow, Mary Oswald, Mennonite, and a milliner, was living in a separate household. Her neighbours lived near Punkeydoodles Corner. Aaron Oswald, age 12 and Mennonite, was living in the John and Hannah Stauffer home. Christian Oswald, Methodist, age not noted, died in Hay Township on October 14, 1883. It may be that the Oswalds who appeared in Wilmot by 1840 were around for a while, but are not now known to us.

Notes:

1) *Amish Mennonites in Germany . . .* by Hermann Guth. Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society, Metamora, IL, and Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 1995, pages 130,131.

2) *Christian Schwartzentruber, Magdalena Shoenbeck, 1743-1956, Progenitorial Parents*, Section 1, [by Major Peter Swartzentruber, Westmoreland, N.Y., 1956], Michael Schwartzentruber, Barbara Oswald, pages 19,20.
The genealogy of the Michael and Barbara (Oswald) Schwartzentruber family is found on pages 27-93.

3) Christian Oswald and Joseph Jacob sailed on the Ship *DeRhan* from Havre, France, arriving in New York on December 21, 1830. National Archives, Washington, D.C., Microfilm Series M-237, Roll #14.

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