

SCHAEFER

Schaefer is probably not a common Mennonite or Amish name, and this family is not likely to have any Anabaptist roots in its Schaefer ancestry. Conrad, reported to have been born in Germany, married Magdalena Schwartzentruber, the daughter of John S. Schwartzentruber of Swiss Anabaptist origin and Catherine Blank, probably also of Swiss origin. Catherine Blank immigrated to Canada with her mother and step-father Christian Ebersol.

John S. and Catherine (Blank) Schwartzentruber's daughter Magdalena was married to Conrad Schaefer at her parents' residence by John Jantzi, bishop of the north Wilmot-Wellesley Amish Mennonite congregation. Amish bishops did not marry anyone who was not a baptized member of the church; so we know that Conrad had accepted the faith of his bride-to-be.

It is likely that Conrad and Magdalena lived all of their married life in the Baden area, for they are buried in the Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery. Two sons - - Nancy and Emanuel also have marked graves in this cemetery. It is likely that the infant John was buried there too, but his grave is not be marked. In the 1891 Wilmot census, nine of their children were still with them -- only John, the second child, had died.

Catherine, the oldest daughter married Joseph R. Steinmann, son of Deacon Daniel Steinmann, on whose property the Wilmot Amish Mennonite congregation had built one of its meetinghouses in 1884. Catherine and Joseph were married by Bishop John Gascho. This Steinmann family appears in the Christian Steinmann genealogy. The family moved to British Columbia where they joined the Church of the Nazarene.

William Schaefer, the oldest surviving son, married Katherine Lehman from Lewis County, New York, but her mother was a Canadian-born Kuepfer/Kipfer. There was considerable traffic between the New York and Canadian settlements; so it is not too surprising to find marriages between the young people. No doubt, many members of this family still find themselves in one of the Mennonite branches of the church.

Marriages for three others of the Schaefer children were reported when Major Peter Swartzentruber compiled the genealogy of John S. Schwartzentruber, father of Magdalena, in 1957. It seems that five children grew to adulthood - for some of whom we have death dates, but no information as to whether or not they were married or where they lived. It is Swartzentruber's work which is the most comprehensive listing of the entire family, although it is also very sketchy -- probably due to lack of response. Peter reported the father of Conrad to be Carl. The few entries which I found in the civil registrations name Conrad's parents as Adam and Anna Schaefer.

THE FAMILY OF CONRAD AND MAGDALENA (SCHWARTZENTRUBER) SCHAEFER

Conrad Schaefer, son of Carl/Adam and Anna Schaefer
b. 17 May 1846, Germany
day labourer
d. 24 Apr 1912, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery, Baden
m. 27 Feb 1876, res. of John Schwartzentruber, Wellesley
by John Jantzi

Magdalena Schwartzentruber, dau. of John S. Schwartzentruber
 and Catherine Blank
 b. 27 May 1849, Wilmot Township, Canada
 d. 28 July 1911, bu. Steinmann Mennonite Cemetery

Children:

Grandchildren:

1)
 Catherine Schaefer
 b. 14 Feb 1877 Wilmot
 d. 22 Nov 1933 Vancouver, BC
 m. 26 Jan 1896 Wilmot
 Joseph R. Steinmann
 b. 13 Jul 1872 Wilmot
 d. 24 Dec 1837 Vancouver
 son of Daniel Steinmann
 and Anna Ramseyer

William H. Steinmann (1901-1941) m. Pauline
 Rosenberg
 Mabelle Mary Steinmann (1903-)
 Melvin L. Steinmann (1906-1980) m. Victoria V.
 Ferris
 Stanley A. Steinmann (1909-) m. Anne E.
 Carroll
 Cyril H. Steinmann (1911-) m. Kathleen Daly
 Dorothy Jessica Steinmann (1915-1980)

2) John Schaefer
 b. 15 Feb 1878 Wilmot
 d. 15 May 1879 "

3)
 William Schaefer
 b. 21 Sep 1879 Wilmot
 d. 1 May 1951 LewisCo., NY
 m. 1 Feb 1906 "
 Katherine (Katie) Lehman
 b. 13 May 1881 LewisCo.
 d. 17 Oct 1959 "
 dau. of Simon Lehman
 and Mary Kuepfer/Kipfer
 res. Castorland, NY

Stanley W. Schaefer (1907-) m. Martha
 Marschall
 Sidney Schaefer (1909-) m. Mary E. Keener
 Harold Schaefer (1910-) m. Olivan/Olwyn Rebe
 John R. Schaefer (1913-) m. Gladys Lehman
 Doris Schaefer (1916-) m. Donald Jantzi
 Donald E Schaefer (1919-) m Ilon/Floria Zehr
 Ada Katherine Schaefer (1922-) m. J. Leon
 Martin
 Marion A. Schaefer (1924-) m Glen E. Stalter

4) Conrad Schaefer Jr.
 b. 29 Sep 1880 Wilmot
 d.
 m. 10 Dec 1928
 Jane Clark
 b. 6 Nov 1899
 d.
 dau. of Simon Clark
 res. B.C.

no children reported

5) Levi Schaefer
 b. 25 Jan 1882 Wilmot
 d. 1955/56

6) Daniel Schaefer
 b. 10 Apr 1883 Wilmot
 d. 20 Nov 1941

7) Nancy Schaefer
 b. 12 Jun 1884 Wilmot
 d. 11 Jan 1892 "

8) Emanuel Schaefer

b. 7 Oct 1883 Wilmot
d. 3 May 1913 "

9) Mary Schaefer

b. 23 Sep 1887 Wilmot
d.

10) Magdalena (Lena) Schaefer

b. 20 Aug 1889

d.

m.

no children reported

Edward Seifried

b.

d.

res. Portland, NY

11) Lydia Schaefer

b. 16 Jul 1891 Wilmot

d.

m.

no children reported

Frank Britton

b.

d.

res. Williamsville, NY

12) Leander Schaefer

b. 15 Jan 1894

d.

13) Joseph Schaefer

b. 2 Mar 1897

d.

Sources of information:

Genealogy of John S. Schwartzentruber and Katherine Blank, by Major Peter Swartzentruber, Westmoreland, NY, 1957 -- Section No. 2, beginning on page 27. The Schaefer family is found on pages 31, 44, 45, 83, 84.

Although this family is somewhat sketchy, it is the only source which gives a complete listing of the children of Conrad and Magdalena (Schwartzentruber) Schaefer.

History and Genealogy of Andrew and Lydia (Getz or Goetz) Kuepfer, by Mrs. Menno W. Kuepfer, R.2, Millbank, and Alvin N. Roth, London, Ontario, ca.1975 pages 69, 78-80 (family of William and Katherine (Lehman) Schaefer)

Strangers and Pilgrims; History of Lewis County Mennonites, by Arlene Yousey, Croghan, New York, 1987, pages 288, 289
(Katherine Lehman, dau. of Simon Lehman and his second wife, Mary [Kuepfer]/Kipfer, married to William Schaefer and their family)

The Family History and Genealogy of Christian Steinman(n) and Veronica Eyer, by the Christian Steinman(n) Family Book Committee, Baden, Ontario, 1990
(The Joseph R. and Catherine (Schaefer) Steinmann family is found on pages 342-344.)

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April, 2010