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Aaron Sussell

Ardis Sussell

Family
of
John Walden Meyers
and
Mary/Polly Gruber/Kruger
by
Mildred (Shores) Sussell
their
5th great-grand-daughter

1988

Volume I

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Walden Meyers- see Meyers			

Foreword

This family has been a difficult one to research because of the various name changes. It began in the Hudson River Valley in New York as Waldemeier. Variations include Waldenmeier/Waldenmeyer/Waltermeyer/Waltemeyer/Waltemire/ and probably most commonly used in the New York area by 1850, Waltermire.

Perhaps Johannes/Hans Waldemeier became John Walden Meyers to escape detection as a Loyalist spy. At any rate, by the time he settled in Sidney Twp., Hastings Co., Ontario, Canada ca. 1784, that is the way the name appeared in records--both land and church records. During the second generation in Canada the Walden had become merely the initial "W."-- as John W. Meyers. By the third generation in Canada, many had dropped the "W." and become merely Meyers.

Since there were other Meyers families in the area who had come directly from Germany, it was difficult to separate them. I have tried through land and church records to correctly identify them, but I may have made some errors. I will try to use the names used by the majority in each generation.

For the most part, I will try to carry the family through the 1881 census period. A few will go beyond, but probably without approximate year of birth. Other sources have named wives and children, but without dates, which doesn't make the information very useful. If I have found church records for dates of birth, baptism, marriage, death, or burial, I have included that reference. If not, the dates are from family records, or an approximation from the census record, by subtracting the age given on the census from the year the census was taken. Since people did not always give the same age on each census (age 4 in 1851; age 12 in 1861; and age 20 in 1871, for instance) it is obvious that there will be errors, but it should place the birth year within a decade. If only the century is known, I've made it 18___. If the decade is known, I've made it 181_.

I've tried to include occupation and religion as they appeared on the 1871 and 1881 census. Some people I was not able to find on any census. Some had moved to New York or Michigan or Wisconsin, or perhaps other states or other parts of Canada. Some may have died before 1851, and some censuses are missing for areas of Hastings and Prince Edward Cos. in Ontario in 1851.

I will call this Volume I and include mainly the Canadian branches of the family. Later I will try to complete Volume II with the New York branches of the family.

Early ministers in the area who officiated at baptisms, marriages, and burials of members of the Walden Meyer families were:

Rev. Robert McDowall, Presbyterian missionary at Bath, Fredericksburgh, and Ernestown.

Rev. John Langhorn, rector of St. Paul's Church (Anglican) at Fredericksburgh, Lennox and Addington Co., Ontario, Canada.

Rev. Thomas Campbell, rector of St. Thomas Anglican Church in Belleville.

Some ceremonies also took place at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Big Creek, Fredericksburgh, but I do not have the name of a minister.

(Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Big Creek, Fredericksburgh, is supposed to have been built ca. 1800 to serve the United Empire Loyalists pioneers of Dutch and German descent. It was first built in Williamsburgh and was known as Zion Church. Its first minister was John G. Wigent.)

I will use the following abbreviations:

b.- born/birth	inf.-infant
bapt.-baptised/baptism	KY-Kentucky
bro.-brother	Luth.-Lutheran
bur.-buried	m.-married/marriage
ca.-circa/about	Meth.-Methodist
CA- California	MI-Michigan
Can.-Canada	mo.-month
Capt.-Captain	MSU-Michigan State University
Cem.-Cemetery	NY-New York
cert.-certificate	Ont.-Ontario
Ch.-Church	Presby.-Presbyterian
Co.-County	Rec./rec.-Record
Conc.-Concession	Ref.-Reformed
d.-died/death	Rev.-Reverend
da.-days	Twp.-Township
dau.-daughter	TX-Texas
div.-divorced	U. of M.-University of Michigan
d.y.-died young	Vol.-Volume
Episc.-Episcopal	wks.-weeks
IL-Illinois	W. Meth.-Wesleyan Methodist
IN-Indiana	y.-year

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If you have additions or corrections, I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy so I can correct my original. My address is:

Mildred E. Sussell, Mrs. Mildred E. Sussell
2251 Springport Rd.-Apt #303
Jackson, MI 49202-1441

Mildred E. Sussell

The Roots of John Walden Meyers

The father of John Walden Meyers, George Waldenmaier, was born in the town of Neckarwiehingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, across the Neckar River from Ludwigsburg, Germany. His birth is not registered there, as are the births of 3 older and 1 younger siblings, but he was confirmed there in 1734 as Hans Jerg Waldenmaier.

George's parents were Johann Georg Waldenmaier and Anna Barbara Mehrer. They had married 17 January 1708 in Affalterbach, a town several miles east of Neckarwiehingen. Their other children, whose births were recorded in Neckarwiehingen, were Christina Margaretha, born 19 March 1712 and married in Neckarwiehingen 31 January 1736 to Matthias Brog, son of Lorentz. (They are buried in the same cemetery where John's father is buried in Dutchess Co., NY.) Also Matthaues born 24 August 1715 and buried 13 April 1716; Barbara born 6 February 1717 and confirmed in 1732. (I believe she married Leonard Weger and lived in Dutchess Co., NY, but I have no proof, other than the fact that the two families were sponsors for one another's children in Dutchess Co.) Also Maria Elisabeth born 4 January 1724 and buried 16 June 1733.

Neither George nor Barbara Waldenmaier nor Matthias and Christena Margaretha appear in records in Neckarwiehingen after 1737, so they probably came to America between 1737 and 1743, when the name first appears on records in Dutchess Co., NY. John's father, George, and his sister, Barbara, probably married after they left Neckarwiehingen, as their names do not appear on marriage records there.

Johann Georg Waldenmaier was from Affalterbach. The parish records there were destroyed during the French invasion in 1696, but the baptism records were reconstructed for those still alive then. They show his birth date as 23 April 1682, son of Matthaues Waldenmaier, a forest ranger, and his wife, Marie. An older sister and brother were Margaretha, born 14 December 1678 and married 9 June 1711 in Affalterbach Johann Georg Keser from Winterbach; and Matthaues, born 11 February 1680.

Herr Wollsmershauser, the German researcher who found this information for us, believes that Mattheus and Marie may have come from Erdmannhausen, a town north of Affalterbach, as sponsors of their children were from there.

Anna Barbara Mehrer was from Neckarwiehingen, where her family had been for several generations. Her father was Johann Merhrer (deceased before her marriage), apparently a fairly well-to-do man as she seemed to have inherited much property. Her mother was Elizabeth Mayer, born 1 January 1648, daughter of Jacob Mayer and Catharina Kuon, also long time residents of Neckarwiehingen.

