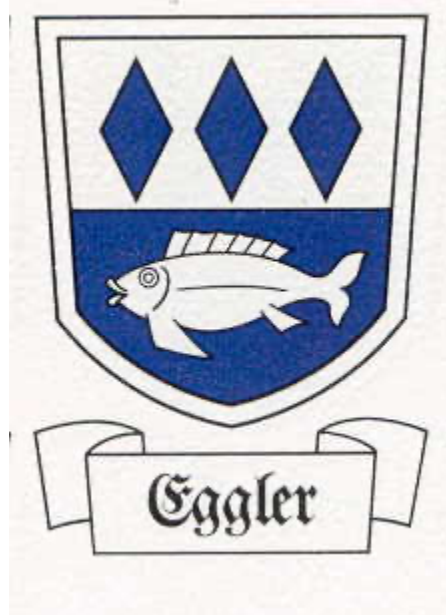


Chapter 5. THE EGGLER FAMILIES: BRIENZ, SWITZERLAND TO NORTH AMERICA



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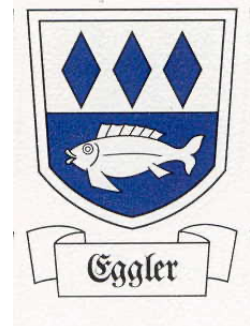
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Eggler



The Town of Brienz lies at the eastern end of Lake Brienz in the foothills of the Alps. The pyramidal peak on the skyline, above Grindelwald, is The Eiger. Interlaken is on the western end of Lake Brienz, between Lakes Brienz and Thun.

Eggler genealogy begins and ends in one place: Brienz. I began genealogy in 1999 by looking at familysearch.org and its International Genealogical Index. Nearly every Eggler came from Brienz. When Betsey and I visited Switzerland in 2018, a train conductor looked at the surname on our rail passes and said “Yes, you come from Brienz.” In 1679 there were many migrants in Bern towns. An ordinance was passed that those who lived on a certain date in a “home community; Kirchgemeinde” from then on belonged to that community. There were 28 family surnames designated to live in Brienz, including Eggler. Each family developed a crest. This “place of origin” was more important than place of birth or place of residence. If a Brienzler moved away, records of birth, marriage, and death would still be kept in the Brienz parish registers. Until 2012, Swiss who fell on hard times could expect welfare from their place of origin.



1. BRIENZ

Brienz is a village on the northeastern shore of the Brienzensee, Lake Brienz, at the foot of the Brienz Rothorn mountain, and in the Bernese Oberland region of Switzerland. The first settlements date from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. From 450BC to about 50BC Celts occupied alpine valleys in the headwaters of the Rhone, the Rhine, and the Danube. There is some thought that the name Brienz has Celtic roots, although the first documented use of the name, as Briens, was in 1146. In Celtic brigant means high, lofty, or elevated. At the end of the first century BC the



Romans conquered this area. The Roman settlements were then destroyed by the Alemanni about 260. Alemanni probably settled in the area around 450, with definite evidence for a settlement in the seventh century. Many place names in the region date from Alemannic times.

Tourism has been a major industry of Brienz since the mid-1800s. It is a jumping off point for a number of alpine sights and a destination in itself with its 18th century timbered chalets. The other industry is woodcarving. Brienz was a center of wood carving from the 1850s. The Bern Cantonal Woodcarving School was established there in 1884 and also features violin making. Additionally, a Swiss firm makes the only genuine Swiss cuckoo clocks there.

In 1860, just after my ancestors left, Brienz had 472 households and a population of 2,280. Today population is about 3,000.

2. THE REFORMED CHURCH IN BRIENZ

The Reformed Church, with clock and distinctive tower, stands on a hill on the northern outskirts of Brienz near the Woodcarving School. A plaque near its main entrance outlines its history. It began as Roman Catholic in a wooden structure, probably under the auspices of the monastery in Interlaken. In 1130 a stone church was erected in its place. About a century later the nobles of Brienz donated the church away from Interlaken to Engelberg, a Benedictine monastery in the mountains between Brienz and Lucerne. In 1519 the choral area of the church, where priests sat and moved around, was expanded. Just a few years later, in 1519, Hulcrych Zwingli led the Reformation into Switzerland. Finally, in 1528, authorities in Bern decreed their



The Reformed Church in Brienz, Switzerland

Reformation Mandate. Monasteries, services of Mass, and monastic rule were abolished.

A major rebuilding of the church occurred in 1679-1680 following plans by Abraham Duenz. The long house, where the congregation sat, was extended six meters, new windows were erected in Romanesque style, with rounded tops, and a hipped roof was placed on raised walls, again in Romanesque style. No changes occurred after that until the 1900s, when interior and exterior renovations were completed.

Thus when my ancestors lived in Brienz, the church exterior looked substantially like it does today. The interior today is simple but spectacular, featuring woodcarved figures and symbols. They were not present in 1856 when my ancestors left for America.

3. THE SEARCH FOR MELCHIOR EGGLE, AND MY SWISS ANCESTRY

The Reformed Church in Brienz has kept records of births, deaths, and marriages since the 1550s. Those records were available on microfilm in 1999, when I started my search¹. But where to start in those hundreds of records?

My cousin Jim Egler called me that year with a starting place: our great-grandfather was Melchior Egler, who lived for 65 years on Mormon Coulee Road south of La Crosse, Wisconsin. In the 1870 Federal Census Melchior, age 31, was living in the Town of Shelby, which includes Mormon Coulee, with his father Melchior, age 61. A father and son, both named Melchior, with the father born about 1809. That should be enough to find them in the church records, it would seem. But maybe not. In Brienz Melchior Egler was not an unusual name. Citizens of Brienz had one of only 28 surnames and used considerably less than 28 first names. So at any one time there were several Melchior Egglers in the town. And there were five Melchior Egglers born around 1810. I needed an entry point into the church records.



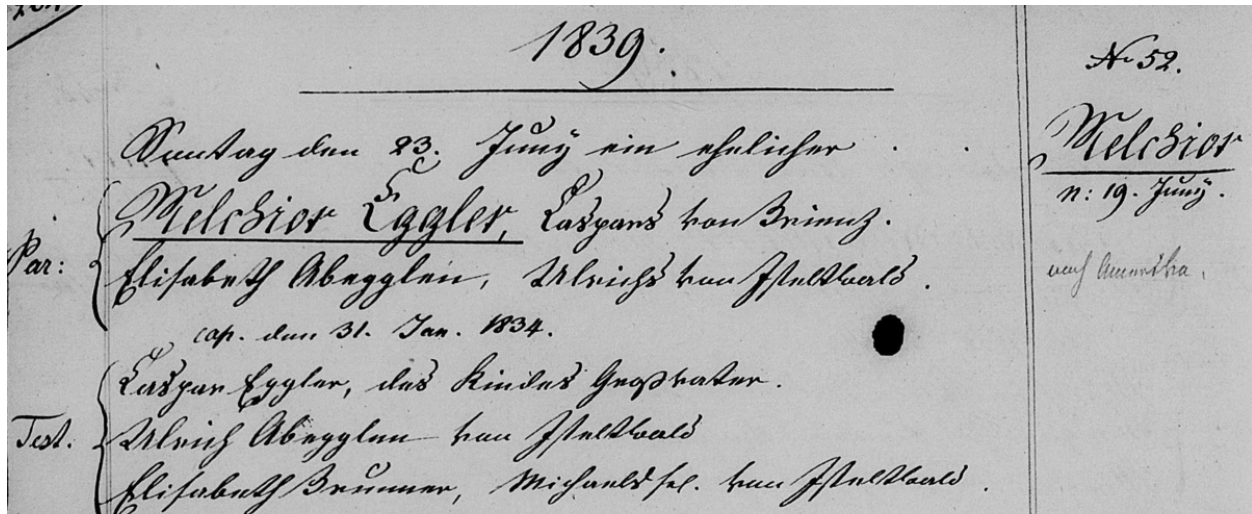
Tombstone of M [Melchior] Egglar (1810-1879), Salzer Memorial Church cemetery, Mormon Coulee, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

In January 2000 I visited La Crosse. I made my way to Mormon Coulee and the Trinity United Church of Christ, originally the German Reformed Church. It had records starting in 1883, in German, which I recorded. Several surnames were Egglar. Then I went to the extensive church cemetery across the road. Again, many Egglers, but no Melchior. I talked again to the church pastor. He suggested that one-half mile east there was a small cemetery behind a blue house. I drove over and almost immediately saw the tombstone of M. Egglar. I fell to my knees in the snow and read “Geb. 1810, Storben 1879.” My second great-grandfather, at last!. Also in the cemetery were tombstones of three of his children. It turns out that is one of the cemeteries of the Salzer Memorial Methodist Church. (Melchior did not stay in the Reformed Church.)

With a definite 1810 birth, I was now ready to rent microfilms¹. And to learn Old German Script. Here are records showing the succession of Egglar ancestors, in

Old German Script:

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER MELCHIOR EGGLER

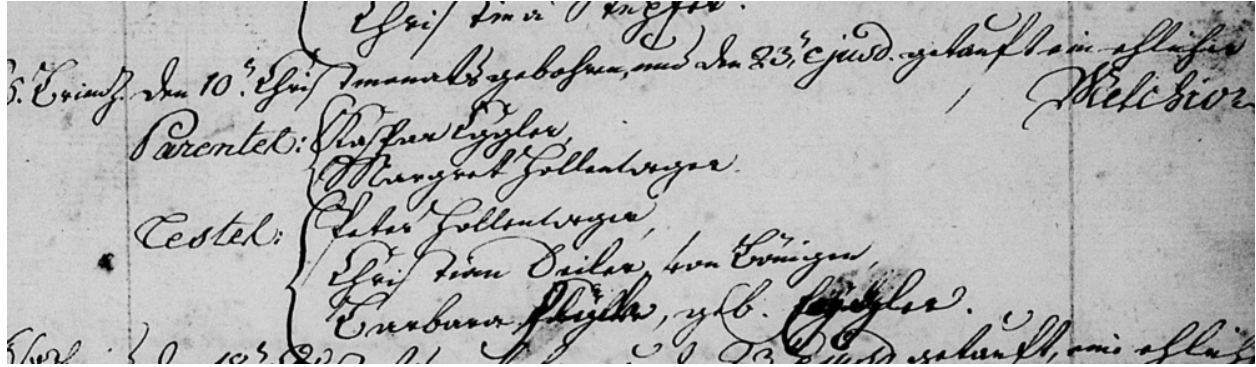


The record above was the key to the rest of my searches. It packs much information. Translation: Melchior was born on 19 June 1839, baptized on Sunday June 23, parents Melchior Egglar from Brienz and Elisabeth Abegglen from Iseltwald, married 31 Jan 1834, father of Melchior was Caspar, father of Elisabeth was Ulrich. Witnesses were Caspar Egglar, the child's grandfather, Ulrich Abegglen from Iseltwald, and Elisabeth Brunner from Iseltwald, the grandmother.

Iseltwald is on the south shore of Lake Brienz, if you check the map at the top of this article. A later church entry says Melchior went to America. That emigration was with his father

Melchior and sister Margaretha. This younger Melchior married Anna Barbara Freihofer in Wisconsin, and they had a number of children, as I'll discuss later.

MY 2ND-GREAT-GRANDFATHER MELCHIOR EGGLE



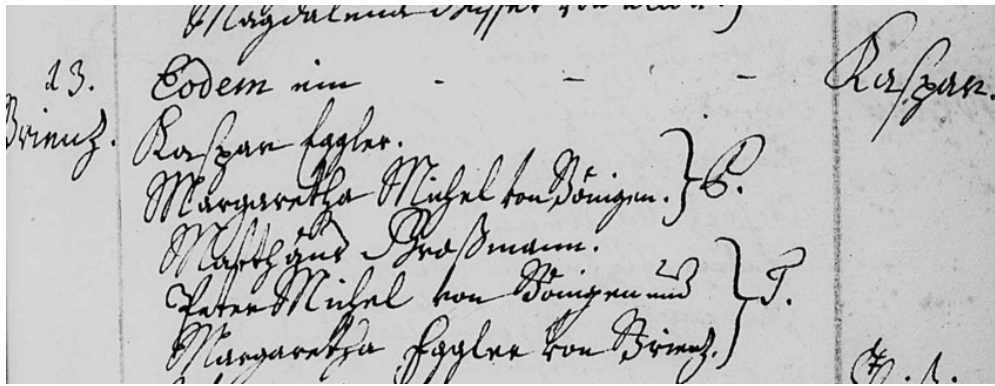
The baptism record of the older Melchior Egglar. Translation: born 10 December 1810, parents Caspar Egglar and Margret Hohlenweger, witnesses Peter Hohlenweger [the child's grandfather], Christian Sailer from Boenigen, and Barbara Flueck, born Egglar (the child's grandaunt). Boenigen is on the eastern shore of Lake Brienz, near Interlaken.

Parents of Margret Hohlenweger were Peter Hohlenweger and Barbara Kienholz. The older Melchior married Elisabeth Abegglen (1815-1844) in Brienz on 31 Jan 1834. She was from Iseltwald, a village on the south shore of Lake Brienz. Abegglen was a common name in Iseltwald; her ancestry can be traced back many generations to Batt Abegglen born ~1570 in Iseltwald, my 9th great-grandfather. Batt is a 12th generation ancestor. I can trace a very few ancestors back to the 14th generation, so Batt is among my oldest generation ancestors.

Melchior and Elisabeth had three children: Elisabeth (1836-1909), Melchior (1839-1921), and Margaretha (1841-1917). Melchior's wife Elisabeth died in 1844, three years after Margaretha was born. The daughter Elisabeth married Peter Abegglen in 1852, before her father and siblings left for America, and stayed in Switzerland. Many people asked me, after Betsey and I visited Brienz, if I had met any relatives. The answer is that I do not think that I have any close relatives living there; if I do, they are more likely to be named Abegglen.

In 1856 Melchior emigrated to Wisconsin with his son Melchior and daughter Margaretha on a voyage described below.

MY 3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER CASPAR EGGLE



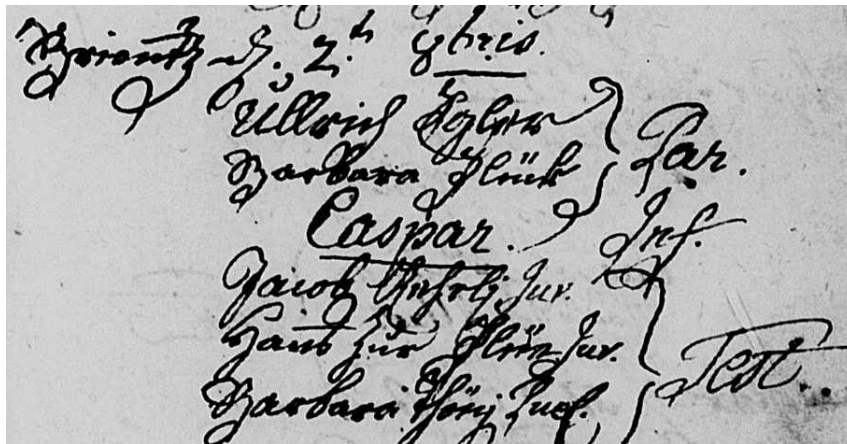
The baptism record of Caspar Egglar. Translation: Baptized 28 February 1783, parents Caspar Egglar and Margaretha Michel from Boeningen.

Caspar was a miller. He married Margaretha Hohlenweger (1786-1866) in 1803. Her parents were Peter Hohlenweger and Barbara Kienholz. Caspar and wife Margaretha had six children: Caspar (1804-1868), who married Anna Flueck and did not leave Brienz; my second great-grandfather Melchior (1810-1879); Johannes (1822-1887), who emigrated to Alabama; Barbara (1819-1890), who married Johannes Schild and with him emigrated to Wisconsin with the two Melchior Egglers; and Peter (1813-). Peter married Barbara Michel. He did not emigrate but had sons Caspar and Peter, who did emigrate to Wisconsin but subsequent to the Melchior-Melchior-Margaretha Egglar party. There is a long discussion of Caspar and Peter later on.

The sixth child of Caspar Egglar and Margaretha Hohlenweger was a daughter, Marguerite "Greti" (1816-1887), who did not emigrate. A narrative from Hilda Egglar Olson, a great-grandniece of Greti, says that Greti was an invalid. Her parents died and left Greti in charge of children of relatives. **"Though paralyzed, she undertook this obligation. There was a suitor who wished to marry Greti, but she remained faithful to her family. The suitor made a 'shebellen' (chair) for Greti, which was brought to America by relatives who visited there after her death. The chair is now in my (Hilda) possession. It is inscribed with Greti's name, Marguerite Egglar, and the date, 1840, when it was made. It is adorned with designs and works of inlay."**

Caspar died in 1858, eight years before his wife.

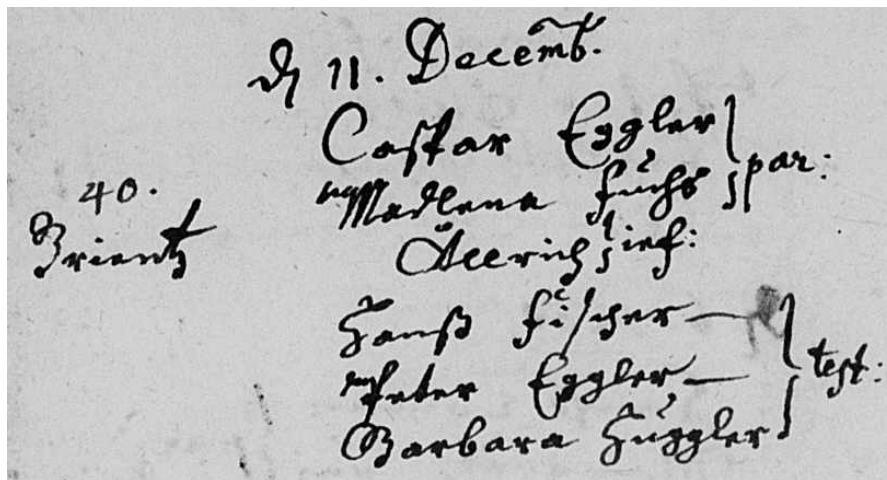
MY 4TH-GREAT-GRANDFATHER CASPAR (KASPAR) EGGLE



The baptism record of Caspar Egglar. Translation: Caspar Egglar (elsewhere in the records spelled Kaspar) was born 2 October 1758, parents Ulrich Egglar and Barbara Flueck.

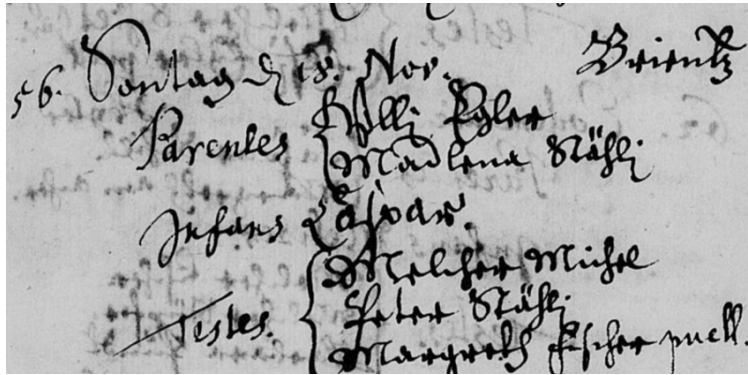
The wife of Kaspar was Margaretha Michel (1755-1820), as the 1783 baptism record above for Caspar Egglar shows. After the death of her husband Kaspar in 1788, Margaretha Michel married Ulrich Seiler. Kaspar and Margaretha had two sons that I know of: my ancestor Caspar (1783-1858), and Peter (1786-), about whom I have no details.

MY 5TH-GREAT-GRANDFATHER ULRICH EGGLE



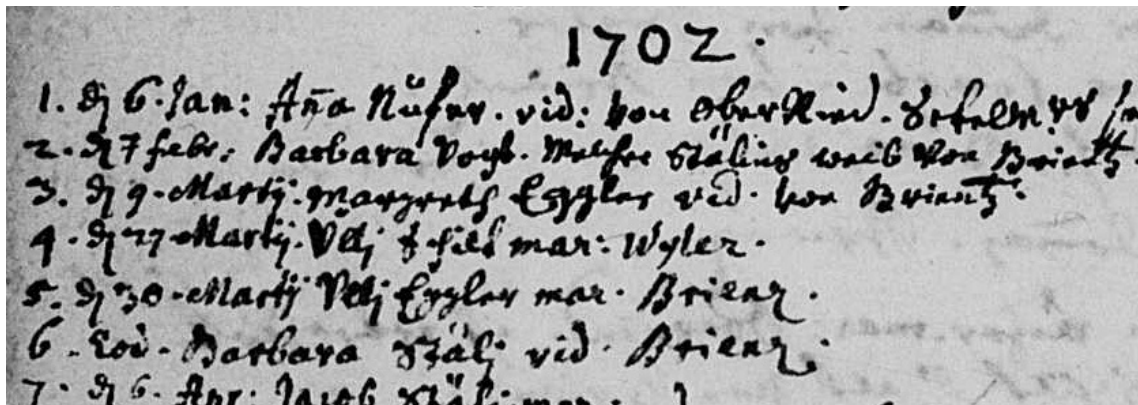
The baptism record of Ulrich Egglar. Translation: Ulrich Egglar was born 11 December 1718, the son of Caspar Egglar and Madlena Fuchs. Peter Egglar, probably Caspar's brother, was a witness.

Ulrich married Barbara Flueck (1731-1819) in 1751; her parents were Jakob Flueck and Margareth Thoeni. Children of Ulrich and Barbara were Barbara Egglar (1755-1814, Matthaeus Grossman and Peter Flueck), my 4th great-grandfather Kaspar Egglar, and Margareth Egglar (1773-1823, Johannes Huggler). Ulrich died in 1804.

MY 6TH-GREAT-GRANDFATHER CASPAR EGGLER

Baptism record of Caspar Egger. Translation: Caspar Egger was born 18 November 1683, parents Ulli [Ulrich] Egger and Madlena Staehli. Witnesses were Melchior Michel, Peter Staehli, and Marareth Fischer

. Caspar married Magdalena Fuchs (1680-1764) in 1717 in Brienzi. Her parents were Melchior Fuchs and Barbara Huggler. Their children were my 5th great-grandfather Ulrich, Caspar (1725- , Magdalena Schilt), and Madlena Egger (1720-1722).

MY 7TH-GREAT-GRANDFATHER ULLI EGGLER

This is the 1702 death record of Ulli (Ulrich) Egger. Ulli was born before 1647. There is, unfortunately, a gap in the Brienzi baptism and marriage records from 1627 to 1663. Not only does that prevent our seeing when Ulli was born and who his parents were, but it also prevents our linking records for Egglers, and others, before the gap to Egglers, and others, after the gap.

Ulli married Madlena Staehli in 1663. Their children were Ursula Egger Fischer (1667-1743), Peter (1673-1743, Magdalena Michel), Hans (b. 1676), Jacob (1679-1747, Barbara Staehli), the Caspar described above, and Anna (1670-1672).

Summarizing the records above:

Ulli (bef. 1647-1702) → Caspar (1683-1776) → Ulrich (1718-1804) → Kaspar (1758-1788)
→ Caspar (1783-1858) → Melchior (1810-1879) → Melchior (1839-1921)

4. EGGLEL ANCESTORS EMIGRATE TO WISCONSIN

In the late 1840s and 1850s there was a general economic downturn in Europe, as well as waves of revolution. In 1847 the Brienz municipal council was burdened by decisions on caring for indigents, some of whom resorted to thievery. I presume that my ancestors were not thieves, but those decisions are indicative of economic conditions. Travel agencies placed ads in local newspapers with glowing reports of America, offering packages of sailings from Le Havre. Some local governments offered a financial incentive to encourage emigration. We do not know if the Brienz Kirchgemeinde did so, but what is known is that a group of 52 left Brienz March 3, 1856². They went by boat to Interlaken, then by stage to Bern and Basil. They traveled by rail to Le Havre, France, where they boarded the ship *Helveus* on March 9. The *New York Herald* published an account of the voyage of the ship. It left Havre with merchandise and 282 passengers. From March 14 until April 3 it “experienced very heavy gales.” During that period it took the crew from a sinking French brig. The *Helveus* finally arrived in New York City 42 days later, on April 18.

The group split in New York, some going to Indiana and others to Iowa [a narrative written by John Flick²]. The party that included my ancestors went by railroad to Buffalo, New York, traveled by boat across Lake Erie to Cleveland, Ohio, by railroad to Cairo, Illinois, and finally up the Mississippi River by steamboat. Of that group, some settled in Redwing, Minnesota, but these individuals settled in Mormon Coulee: Peter Keinholtz Sr. (a distant relative of my great-great grandfather Melchior Egler) with his wife Magdalena Schild and children; Peter Schild and his son John Schild, Sr. (John married to Barbara Egler, the sister of my great-great-grandfather Melchior) and John’s children; the John Bernet family, John Flück (Flick); Melchior Egler, my great-great-grandfather, with his son Melchior and daughter Margaretha ; and Ulrich Thomann. We remember that the wife of the elder Melchior, Elisabeth Abegglen of Iseltwald, had died in 1844.



Bluffs along the Mississippi near La Crosse

In the region around La Crosse, Wisconsin, the Mississippi River is bounded on its east side by a series of rugged bluffs. The story from John Flick says that the Swiss liked this area because the bluffs reminded them of home, a surprising statement inasmuch as the “hills” at home were the foothills of the Alps. Between the bluffs ran a

series of east-west valleys called coulees. The southernmost, and largest, coulee is Mormon

Coulee. It was called that because in October 1844 a community of 20 Mormon families from Nauvoo, Illinois built cabins there, in the Town of Shelby. The Mormon leader Joseph Smith had died in Nauvoo in 1844, after which violence from surrounding non-Mormons forced Mormons to leave Nauvoo. Most, led by Brigham Young, journeyed west to the Great Salt Lake Valley, but small groups went elsewhere. Over the winter some of the Wisconsin group were employed to cut cordwood and make shingles. In Spring 1845 the settlement left Mormon Coulee *en masse*, burned their houses, and eventually moved to Texas.

Only the Kienholz, Schild, and Egglar families settled immediately in Mormon Coulee after exploratory trips up and down the Mississippi looking for land. John Flück (Flick) and Ulrich Thomann remained in Dubuque. Flick later settled in Dunn County, Wisconsin, after marrying Magdalena Kienholz, in La Crosse, in 1863. Magdalena Kienholz was one of the daughters of John Schild, Sr. and therefore part of the original Brienz settlers of Mormon Coulee. The Bernets went to Muscatine, Iowa but came to Mormon Coulee in 1857.

From Zielke (1931²): **“The Kienholz-Schild-Egglar party purchased two farms in 1856. During their first winter they lived in a single small house, as many as seventeen living in one room. Experiences of these early settlers during their first years were of typical frontier nature, visited by sickness, hunger and deprivation. Wheat, corn, oats, barley and root crops became their main source of food and income. Most of the plowing was done with the aid of oxen with wooden plows. Some was even done by hand with a spade, like in their homeland. This was the most practical, because after the land was freed of trees and stumps, the roots remained. Then when the wooden plows struck these they were constantly broken. When the land had been plowed, it was seeded and cultivated by hand. The cradle was used for harvesting, and the grain was laid on the ground in a circle and oxen driven around on it to thresh it. It is said that these primitive methods of farming were used longer by the Swiss than by other people. Dairying became important. The custom of making cheese was carried over from Switzerland, and many families sold their cheese and later butter in the city of La Crosse. La Crosse was the best market for all their crops.”** Ben Egglar remembered his grandmother Barbara Freihofer Egglar making cheese to sell in La Crosse.

Later Swiss settlers in Mormon Coulee included, in 1869, brothers Peter (with his wife Anna Kaufman) and Casper Egglar, who married Barbara Kienholz; as a two-year-old Barbara was part of the original Mormon Coulee party. Peter (1840-1908) and Casper (1848-1936) were sons of Peter Egglar and Barbara Michel of Brienz. The elder Peter, in turn, was the brother of my great-great-grandfather Melchior, their parents being Caspar Egglar and Margareta Hohlenweger. The brothers Peter and Casper are discussed below.

5. MELCHIOR EGGLER OF MORMON COULEE, WISCONSIN, MY 2ND GREAT-GRANDFATHER, AND HIS DESCENDANTS

The Melchior Egglar farm. I do not know when Melchior Egglar or his son Melchior, or both, acquired land in Mormon Coulee. On the 1861 plat map of the Town of Shelby, no land is shown owned by a Melchior Egglar. On the 1866 map, M Egglar owned the NW1/4 SE1/4 of section 24, with a residence.

This land was immediately south of the then-mill pond of Bloomers Mill and therefore immediately south of Mormon Coulee Road and 0.6 miles west of today's Trinity UCC Church. In 1874 M Egglar still owned that land, but no house was shown; rather the residence was on another 1/8 section parcel, NW1/4 and NE1/4 of SW1/4 section 13. The house was about 0.3 miles north of Mormon Coulee Road.

Melchior Egglar also owned another 3/16 section in sections 13-14 in 1874. The land on which the house sat in 1874 had

belonged in 1866 to Caspar Loeble, who in 1863 had married the sister-in-law of the younger Melchior. Loeble left Mormon Coulee in 1867 for the Saint Nazianz colony on the opposite side of Wisconsin. (That is a story that I will tell in Chapter 6.)

The 1870 Federal Census shows that Melchior Egglar 31, farmer, lived in the Town of Shelby with Barbara 29, Henry 9, John 7, Lena 5, Gotfried 3, Albert 1, and his father Melchior 61. It is interesting that the elder Melchior was also enumerated in 1870 in Buffalo County, living with his daughter Margaretha Egglar Ruff. The elder Melchior died on 24 January 1879. The inscription on his tombstone, shown in the section above on searching for my ancestors, reads "*Ich liege und schlafe ganz im Frieden*" -- I rest and sleep complete in peace.



Melchior and Barbara Freihofer Egglar at their farmhouse in Mormon Coulee



Melchior Egglar, son of Melchior, in his younger days

Marriage of the younger Melchior. On 12 March 1861 the younger Melchior married **Anna Barbara Freihofer**. Barbara was born in 1841 in Veltheim, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, a village near and now part of the city of Winterthur. She emigrated in 1855 through the Port of New Orleans with her mother, her sister Susanna, Susanna's husband Jacob Schweizer, and Susanna's daughter Emma. Susanna's mother died in Iowa on the trip up the Mississippi. I tell those stories in Chapter 6.

Lutheran to Reformed to Methodist. The first church services in Mormon Coulee were preached in 1859 by William Haas, a Lutheran evangelist pastor, who held services at various places along a circuit in the district.

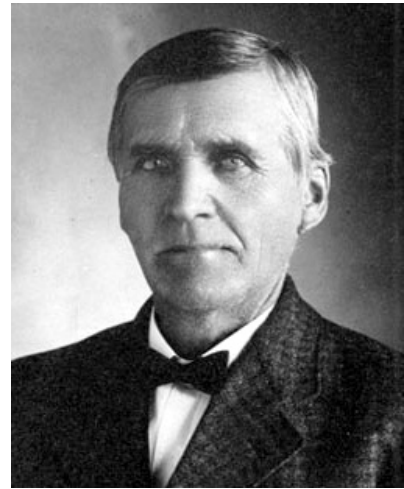
The Melchior Egglar family was part of that circuit. The younger Melchior married Barbara Freihofer in a Lutheran



Anna Barbara Freihofer Egglar

ceremony in 1861, and in 1862 Melchior had Heinrich christened as a Lutheran.

The Swiss, however, had been members of the Swiss Reformed Church in Switzerland. They feared that continued services led by a Lutheran pastor might have adverse effects on their future aspirations. They soon organized a Reformed church. The first services were held in people's homes. The first church was built on the Kienholz farm in 1865, about 300 yards east of the present (year 2000) Trinity UCC, the successor to the Reformed Church. A burial plot (the Kienholz Cemetery) was laid out behind the church. Melchior Egglar was among the ten founders of the church in 1865.



Melchior Egglar, son of Melchior, in his later days

The Melchior Egglar family left the Reformed Church, however, and became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first German Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1856. It had a circuit minister and a number of mission churches, including Mormon Coulee and Chipmunk Coulee. The small Mormon Coulee cemetery, also called the Markle or Salzer Memorial cemetery, is the one I referred to near the beginning of this article. The senior

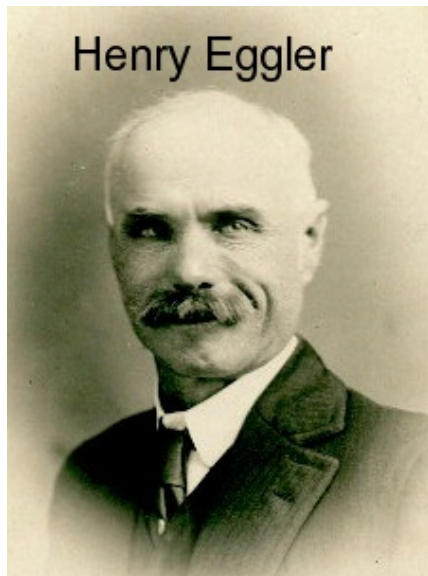
Melchior was buried there in 1879 and these children of the younger Melchior: Johan in 1876, Emma in 1882, and Lena in 1896.

A Methodist Episcopal church in downtown La Crosse was constructed in 1869, known as the First or South Side or Salzer Memorial Church. It was disbanded in 1945 and its members and records taken in by the Wesley United Methodist Church. The Second German M.E. Church or North Side Church held meetings from 1884 until 1929. The family of Melchior Egglar is in the records of the North Side church in 1888 and of the South Side beginning in 1891 (records at the Wesley UM Church, which I searched in 2000). My grandparents Albert Egglar and Amelia Duerrwaechter met and were married in the Salzer Memorial Church.

Later years of Melchior and Barbara. According to the obituary of Melchior Egglar (La Crosse Tribune 18 May 1921), he lived on a farm on Mormon Coulee Road for 65 years and for 15 years in La Crosse. The house in La Crosse was at 1420 Johnson St. His daughter Sara and her husband Albert Loeffler moved into the house, with Barbara, after Melchior died in 1921. Barbara lived there until her death in 1928. Services for Melchior and Barbara were held at the Salzer Memorial Church, and both have tombstones in the Oak Grove Cemetery in La Crosse.

Children of Melchior and Barbara were Heinrich "Henry," Johan, Lena Barbara, Godfred, Albert (my grandfather), Bertha, Emma, Anna Maria, John Jacob, Minnie Martha, Sara, and Benjamin Jacob.

HEINRICH 'HENRY' EGGLER (1861-1943), SON OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLER



Henry, like all his siblings, was born in the Town of Shelby, La Crosse. Witnesses at his christening on Feb. 12, 1862 in the Lutheran Church were Mrs. Schweizer (sister of Barbara Freihofer Egglar) and Johannes Schild. Like his parents, he joined the Methodist church in early manhood. Henry Egglar grew up on the family farm in Mormon Coulee. In Spring 1883 he left the family farm in Mormon Coulee and, came to Dakota Territory, and settled on Government land about 8 miles north of Redfield. His parents helped set him up on the farm [Laverne Egglar]. He improved the homestead and bought adjoining land. He in fact was the first owner of land in Three Rivers Township, Spink County, South Dakota.

In 1886, in La Salle, Illinois, Henry married Katherine "Kate" Schneider (1860-1925). Kate was born and grew up in Earlsville, Illinois. In 1885 she filed for land 20 miles west of Redfield and became acquainted with Henry. She brought a daughter Lydia (1879-1934) from a previous relationship. Lydia

married August Hagmann, with whom she had four children. Henry and Kate had four children, discussed below.

Henry and his family left the farm in 1914 and made their home in Redfield, where he continued to look after his farming and other business interests. Kate died in 1925. Three years later Henry married Olive Stryker Kimball, who had been his nurse.

Henry, Kate, Olive, and three of his daughters are buried in the Greenlawn Cemetery in Redfield.

Essie Lena Egglers (1888-1980), daughter of Henry and Kate Egglers. Essie was the second wife of **Samuel Wesley Clark** (1872-1949), whose first wife died in 1915, leaving him with four children. Wesley was an attorney, State Attorney General, and US District Attorney for South Dakota. Essie and Wesley had one child, Mavis Marguerite Clark Stradinger (1921-2012). Essie continued to live in Redfield until her death.

Verda Emma Egglers (1892-1981), daughter of Henry and Kate Egglers. Verda married **William Weir Baldwin** (1891-1963), a farmer in Redfield.

Pearl Vera Egglers (1899-1991), daughter of Henry and Kate Egglers. Pearl married **Louis Fedwick Welke** (1896-1962). He was a farmer and later truck driver near Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Kate and Lydia Schneider Egglers



Minnie Egglers Thiel, Pearl Welke,

Glenn Thiel,

Essie Clark

He had been in the Air Service in World War I. Pearl and Louis came to the Los Angeles area in 1943, where he worked in a shipyard, and continued to live there in their later years. Their children were LaVere Louise Welke, married to Stanley Clemens

Benjestorf; Joyce L Welke, married to Hobart Crane; Ward Dallas Welke, married to Donna Largent; and Darlene Dixie Welke, married to Stephen Seprish.

Violet Egglar (1906-1968), daughter of Henry and Kate Egglar. Violet had a mental disability and lived at a State home.

JOHAN (1863-1876), LENA BARBARA (1865-1896), EMMA (1873-1882) EGGLEL, AND BENJAMIN JACOB EGGLEL (1884-1900), CHILDREN OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLEL



Minnie Martha, Ben, and Sara, children of Melchior and Barbara Egglar

These children all died at young ages. They are buried with their grandfather Melchior Egglar in the Salzer Methodist Cemetery in Mormon Coulee.

Benjamin died from contaminated water on the farm [Laverne Egglar]. Laverne's husband Ben Egglar was named after Benjamin.

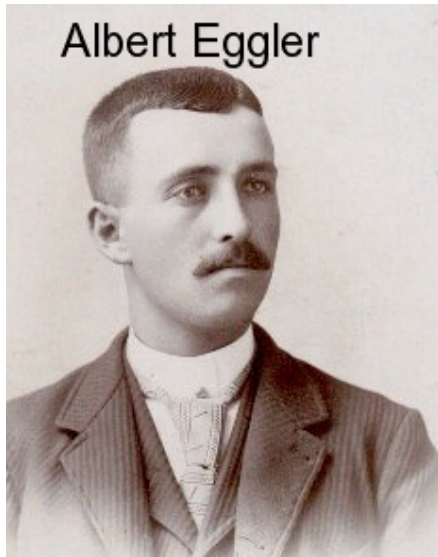
GODFRED EGGLEL (1867-1959), SON OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLEL

Godfred was born as Gottfried Egglar. He is shown on the 1906 Plat Map of the Town of Shelby, with his brother John, on land situated on the former site of Bloomers Mill Pond, just south of Mormon Coulee Road. In 1913 he owned the land alone. Irene Egglar Eltag remembered that his

house was red brick and just south of the highway. Before he started farming, he was a country school teacher, and even after he was farming, sometimes taught school. Records show that in the early 1900s he succeeded William Kunerth as teacher at the Hillside School in Chipmunk Coulee, Town of Shelby. He retired from farming in 1917 and lived at 1328 Redfield St. in La Crosse until his death. He was a member of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In 1906 Godfred married **Wilhemina 'Minnie' Steiger** (1870-1950). Her parents had emigrated from Baden, Germany. Tombstones of Godfred and Minnie are in the German Reformed Cemetery, near the present Trinity UCC Church in Mormon Coulee.

ALBERT H EGGLER (1869-1952), SON OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLER



Albert Egglar

Amelia Anna Duerrwaechter (1873-1956), my grandmother, married **Albert H Egglar** in 1896. They undoubtedly met at the Salzer Memorial Church. At that time Albert was a foreman with the J A Salzer Seed Company. Three of the children were born in La Crosse – Edith Amalie, Earl Clarence, who lived

less than a year, and Willis Alexander.



Amelia Duerrwaechter Egglar



Edith, Willis, Albert, Ben, Amelia Egglar

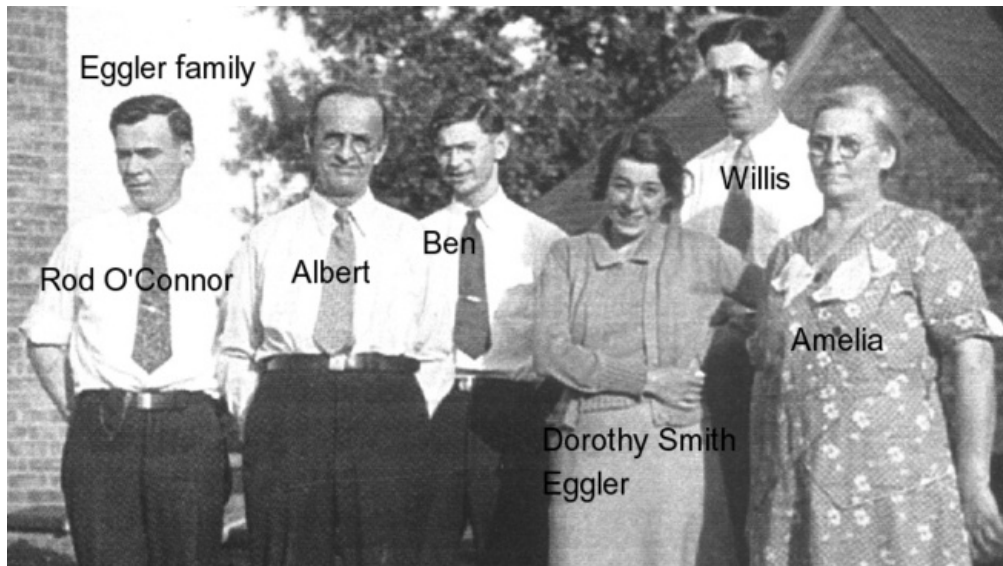
The Egglar family lived briefly in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk, Wisconsin, as did Amelia's brother Alex Duerrwaechter, but in 1907 went far north in Wisconsin to Bayfield, on the shores of Lake Superior. Two men who had worked at the Salzer Seed Company in La Crosse started orchards outside Bayfield, my grandfather Albert Egglar and John F Hauser. The Hauser orchards are still there, but the Egglar

orchards are long gone. Using a 1915 plat map, I drove to the site of the Egglar orchard, east of the Hauser orchard. That land today is either wooded or swamp, so perhaps the orchard failed because of poor land. In any case, by 1920 Albert was a logger and Amelia was a seamstress. Amelia also worked for a Chicago family that summered in Bayfield.

A fourth member of the family, **Benjamin Albert** (1910-1993), had been born in Bayfield. Ben went south to Chicago about 1928 and trained as a machinist. His parents followed shortly thereafter. In the 1930 census Albert, Amelia, and Ben were living at 1943 Lawrence Avenue in Chicago, where Amelia was superintendent of the American Boarding House for Aged Ladies, Albert a janitor there, and Ben a machinist. The Boarding House held 10 ladies. Subsequently,

according to my Aunt LaVerne, Albert was a janitor in a Methodist church and repaired donated items, and Amelia helped in the church soup kitchen and babysat. In 1940 Albert and Amelia lived at 2433 Leland Avenue.

Ben met **LaVerne Tauscher** (1914-2003) in that Methodist church. She was born in Racine, Wisconsin, the daughter of Frank Louis Tauscher and Elizabeth Veronica Karpen. They were married in 1936. In 1940



Ben and Laverne lived at 2176 Eastwood in Chicago with their son **James Willis Egglar** (1939-2021), 4 months old. Daughter **Maralyn** (1943-2016) followed. In 1945 Albert, Amelia, and Ben with his family moved west to Nampa, Idaho, which is near Idaho's capitol Boise. There Ben continued his career as a machinist. Jim Egglar, a machinist himself, married Beverly Hickman. They had two children. Maralyn, a beautician, married Lanis Lyons and had one child.

Edith Egglar (1898-1963) also left Bayfield for Chicago and in 1928 married **Roderick Arthur O'Connor** (1896-1974). He was from Kansas City. His parents were Francis O'Connor, born in 1857 in Virginia, and Anna 'Annie' C Robertson (1860-1954), born in Long Grove, Iowa. His grandparents were Francis O'Connor married to Celia, both born in Ireland, and John M Robertson (1812-1895), born in Inchinnan, Renfrewshire, Scotland, married to Mary Ann Neil (1824-1922), born in Edinburgh, Scotland.



LaVerne, Jim, Maralyn, David Egglar
2000

When Rod first came to Chicago, he worked as a stockyard clerk, but by 1930 was working in a grocery store, which is where he worked all the time that I knew them. When I stopped in Chicago in 1951 on a trip from New Orleans to my grandparents in Washburn, Wisconsin, Rod took me to a White Sox game. They lived on E. 73rd St in Chicago's South Side. Edith and Rod had one son, **Roderick Arthur "Rod" O'Connor Jr.** (1928-2002), who served in the US Army during Korea. He graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1957. For over 37 years he was employed by the DuKane

Corporation in St. Charles, Illinois. He briefly taught at Aurora College. He married **Joanne Lee Blanchard** (1936-1999), and they had two children.

Willis Egglar did not follow his family to Chicago. He attended Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, 23 miles from Bayfield but also on Lake Superior, majoring in biology. There he met **Dorothy Smith**, who had grown up on farms outside Washburn, Wisconsin with her parents Howard Allison Smith and Florence Lenore Hewitt Smith. Washburn is halfway between Bayfield and Ashland. After college he taught for a time at high schools in Wisconsin including Black River Falls, and she was a librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. They married in 1929 in Two Harbors, Minnesota, after which he obtained M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in ecological botany at the University of Minnesota. His M.S. thesis was on ecology of Mackinac Island and his Ph.D. on revegetation of Craters of the Moon, a volcanic National Monument in Idaho.



Willis and Dorothy Egglar

After teaching stints at Gogebic Junior College, Alma College, and Central Michigan College, Willis Egglar spent most of his career teaching at Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans. His research program principally concerned revegetation of volcanic areas in Mexico, Guatemala, and Hawaii. After retirement from Tulane, he taught for a number of years at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. After seeing two sons into high school, Dorothy Egglar resumed her library career at Tulane and then volunteered in the Warren Wilson library.

BERTHA EGGLE (1871-1904), DAUGHTER OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLE



Bertha Egglar Schuermeyer

Bertha married **William Joseph Schuermeyer** (1871-1962) in 1896 in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Mormon Coulee. Her sister Minnie was one of the witnesses. Within a year they moved to a farm in Redfield Township, Spink, South Dakota, near her brother Henry.

Bertha had been sick with tuberculosis about 6 months before she died. Her parents stayed with her four months before her death. Bertha had four children, a boy who died in infancy, a boy who was three weeks old when he died, and two girls: **Elvira Lena** (1898-1973), who married **Lloyd Benjamin Fogelson**, and **Cecelia Bertha** (1900-1969).

After Bertha's death, William married Lydia Emma Engel; they had a daughter Eleanor.

William, Bertha, and the daughters are buried in the Greenlawn Cemetery in Redfield, the same cemetery where graves of her brother Henry and his family are located.

ANNA MARIA AND MINNIE MARTHA EGGLER, DAUGHTERS OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARAEGGLER



Dan Thiel and Anna Egglar Thiel

Dan Thiel was a farmer and, at one time, chairman of the Town of Hamburg, Vernon County. After farming, he worked at a hardware store in La Crosse. In 1893, in the Methodist church in the Town of Shelby, he married **Anna Maria Egglar**. In that way, Dan Thiel is a bridge between two of my ancestral lines – the Thiel line and the Egglar line. Chapter 7 covers the Thiel line. Dan and Anna Maria had three children while in the Town of

Hamburg – **Florence Gertrude** (1898-2000), **Arthur B** (1899-1902), and **Harvey Vernon** (1901-1902). In about 1901 he heard of a

hardware store for sale in Pecatonica, from a traveling hardware equipment salesman, and bought it. He operated it for many years on the main street of Pecatonica, serving the farm community. Their home was at 226 Fifth St. Pecatonica is in northern Illinois in Winnebago County.

Anna died in 1903, soon after the deaths of the two boys. She may have died of tuberculosis (conversation with Glenn Thiel). After the death of her mother, little Florence lived with the Heinrich Egglar family in South Dakota. Heinrich “Henry” Egglar was the brother of Anna and Minnie. It was decided after a few years that Florence needed to live with her father. Barbara Egglar declared that Anna’s younger sister Minnie Martha Egglar (1879-1980) would marry Dan and take care of Florence. Minnie was reluctant to do that, preferring to develop her musical talent, but eventually did in 1905. (Story from Glenn Thiel.)



Dan Thiel and Minnie Egglar Thiel

Dan Thiel and Minnie Egglar Thiel had two children – **Glenn Egglar Thiel** (1910-2006) and **Wilbur Daniel Thiel** (1912-1989). After a number of years, the hardware store was sold, and Dan and Minnie lived in Freeport, Stephenson County, until Dan died. Minnie then lived for the rest of her life in Rockford, Winnebago County, with Glenn.

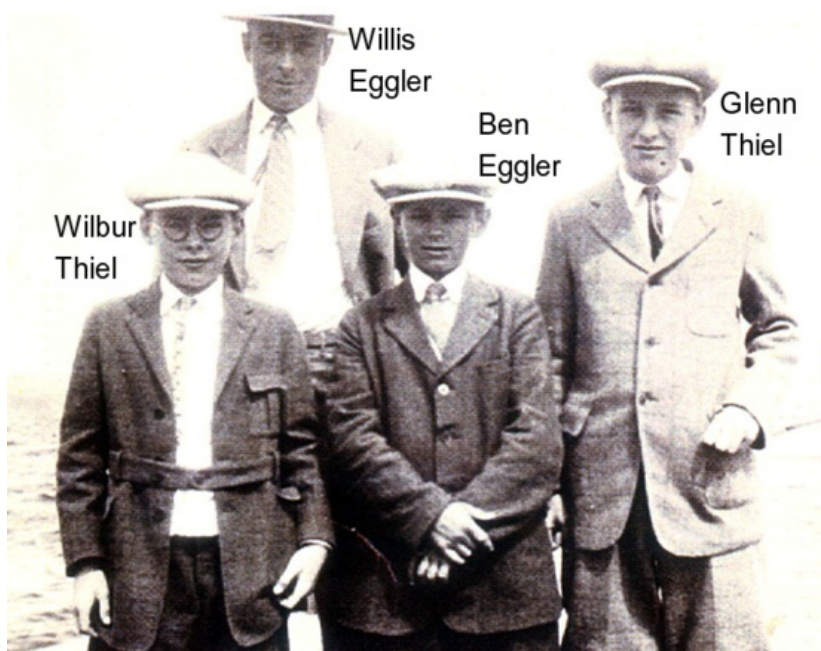
Florence attended Illinois Normal College and Northern Arizona University. She taught school in Phoenix, Arizona for many years.

Wilbur inherited musical talent from his mother. He was an organist in Rockford during high school, then obtained BA and MA degrees in music from the University of Wisconsin and Union Theological Seminary, and was the organist for several large churches in New England.

Glenn Egglers Thiel attended the University of Illinois and received a degree in architecture. He did not continue in architecture. His 2006 obituary reads that he “was a comptroller and treasurer for Greenlee Brothers and later served as a part-time comptroller for Edward Ware & Associates. He also served as treasurer at Grace United Methodist Church and was a longtime member of the board of Rockford Boys Club, which he served as treasurer. He volunteered in the office of New American Theater and was the first treasurer of the Theater Wing. He was a benefactor of the arts for many community foundations, including Rockford Symphony Orchestra, Friends of The Coronado and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Rockford Chapter. Glenn was 95 when he died on January 26, 2006. On June 5, it was announced that he had bequeathed \$1.8 million to the Community Foundation and more than 25 local nonprofits.”

Glenn Thiel was briefly married to Muriel Sorby.

I had the pleasure of meeting Glenn in 2000 at his retirement home in Rockford. We had a lunch there and drove to Pecatonica to see the site of his father’s hardware store and the cemetery where Dan Thiel, Anna Maria Egglers Thiel, and the two young sons are buried. He gave me a family photo album with many Thiel and Egglers photographs, many of which are in this chapter. Glenn was both my first cousin once removed and my half first cousin twice removed, because of our connection within both the Thiel and Egglers lines.



JOHN JACOB EGGLER (1877-1938), SON OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLER

John married **Ida Emma Wedell** (1886-1967) in Richford, Waushara, Wisconsin, which was her hometown. He worked on the family farm in Mormon Coulee and was also employed at the Salzer Seed Company in La Crosse. He and Ida came to Lemonweir Township in Juneau County in 1924, making their home on a farm there. He died of pneumonia. Olive Kimball Egglers, the

wife of John's brother Henry, wrote a poem in his memory titled "An Old Graveyard in the Hills," that says in part,

Far from the city's haste and heat
The farm of toil and care,
Far from the tramp of hurrying feet,
But near his old home where he learned
To lisp his simple prayer.

Edward John Egglar (1916-1991), son of John and Ida, stayed on the family farm with his mother and brother Wilbur until World War II, where he served in the Army Combat Engineers. After the war he married **Margaret Julia Baumgart** (1901-1957). They had one son Kenneth. Edward died in Madison at the Veterans Administration Hospital. A maintenance man for Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. for 10 years, he was a member of the village board of Necedah in Juneau County.

Arthur Benjamin Egglar, Sr. (1919-2001), son of John and Ida, served in World War II in North Africa and the Mediterranean Theater with the 985th Field Artillery Battalion out of Mauston, Wisconsin. After the war he was an air technician with the Air National Guard in Meridian, Mississippi. In 1959 he became records superintendent with the State Air National Guard in Meridian. He retired from the 186th Base Supply of the Mississippi Air National Guard as chief master sergeant. With his wife **Lizzie Rue McCann** (1922-1995) he had three children.



The obituary of **Irene Emma Barbara Egglar** (1921-2013), daughter of John and Ida, reads: "**Irene Eltag, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. Irene was born on November 8, 1921 in La Crosse, Wisconsin to her parents, John and Ida Egglar. Irene, grew up in Mauston, WI, graduated from Mauston High School and attended Teachers College in New Lisbon, Wisconsin.**

On her 20th birthday, November 8, 1941, Irene married Sam Eltag [1912-2012]. She moved to the Eltag farm [Town of Lemonweir, Juneau, Wisconsin] and spent the next 70 years on the farm with Sam. In the fall of 2011 she moved with Sam to Milestone Senior Living in Hillsboro, WI where she sat with Sam day and night as he lived out his final days. Irene continued to live at Milestone until her passing. All of the staff and the other residents at Milestone loved her dearly.

Irene will be remembered as a hard working 'farm wife' and a wonderful cook. She loved her life with Sam on the farm and spent many hours caring for the cows, feeding the men, gardening and tending to her flowers."

Sam and Irene had two daughters, Barbara Eilene (1943-2019, Robert Staubus, Dan Olsen) and Sandra Ann (1949-1998, Elgin Stanek).

I had the pleasure of visiting Sam and Irene, with my daughter, at their farm and talking about their life.



Wilbur Henry Egglar (1925-1997), son of John and Ida, lived in Mauston all his life except during WWII, when he was a TEC 5 US ARMY WORLD WAR II, in the Administrative Department (Transportation Section) of the 48th Field Hospital.

SARA E EGGLER (1880-1930), DAUGHTER OF MELCHIOR AND BARBARA EGGLER



In 1911, in La Crosse, Sara married **Albert Frederick Loeffler** (1884-1972). Before marriage she was a packer at the John A Salzer Seed Comapany. Albert Loeffler worked there as a clerk and later as a foreman.. I have mentioned that company in the writeups of several men in this family, notably my grandfather Albert Egglar. Albert and Sara Loeffler lived at 1423 Johnson St. after marriage until the death of Melchior Egglar, when they moved in with her mother at 1420 Johnson St.

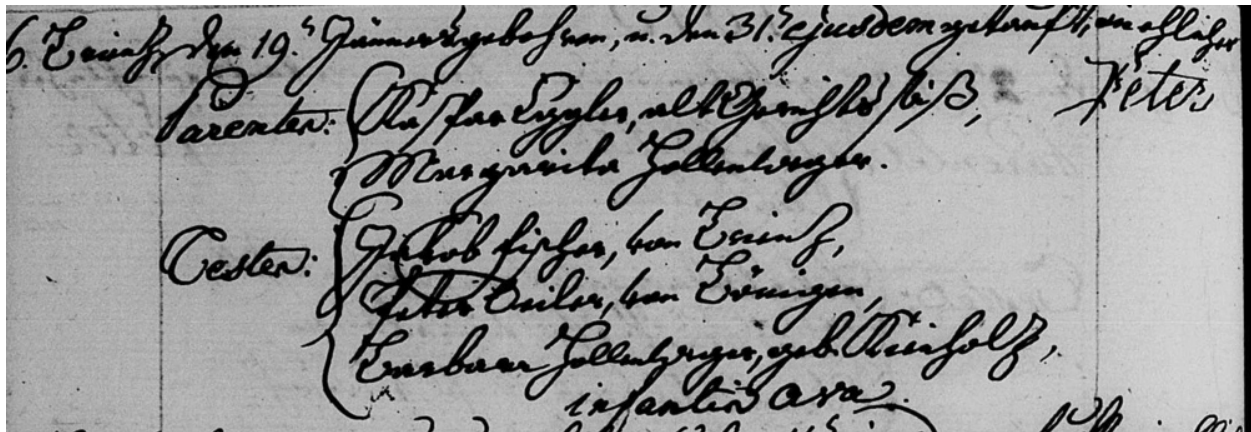
Sara and Albert had no children. They are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in La Crosse in the same plot as her parents.

6. CASPAR AND PETER EGGLER, SONS OF PETER, AND LATER ARRIVALS TO MORMON COULEE

Ulli (bef. 1647-1702) → Caspar (1683-1776) → Ulrich (1718-1804) → Kaspar (1758-1788)
→ Caspar (1783-1858) → Peter (1813-) → Peter (1840-1908) & Casper (1848-1936)



Comparison of this sequence to the sequence above on my ancestors (page 72) will show that they are identical from Ulli down to Caspar (1783-1858). After that they differ. Caspar (1783), married to Margareta Hohlenweger, had, among other children, Melchior, my 2nd-great grandfather, and Peter (1813-), who married Barbara Michel (1814-1859). I received a family history from Hilda Egglar Olson that she had in turn received from Albert Flueck, his wife Anna, and her brother Rudolph Blatter. Anna and Rudolph were grandchildren of Peter who emigrated to Mormon Coulee. According to the history, Peter Egglar (1813-) was a “distinguished peasant, as distinguished from a farmer who lived on his land year-round. He had 25 head of cattle and was a stock holder in the community pasture. They had a very large house and a great garden.” The story below from Lloyd Lorenz about Peter’s son Peter (1840) says that the father Peter was a cabinet-maker and helped his son in making cheese.

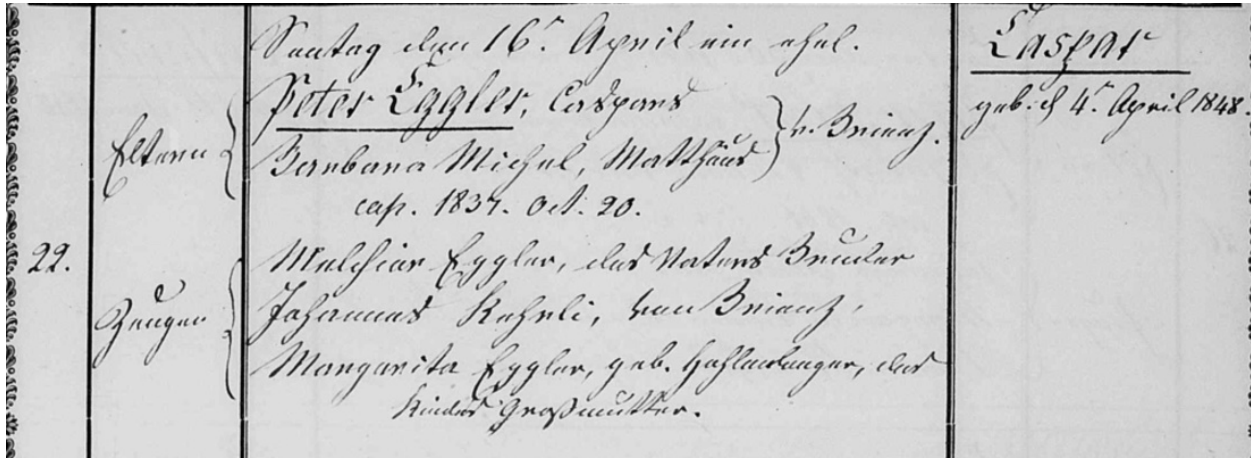


Baptism record of Peter Egglar. Translation: born 19 Jan 1813, baptized 31 Jan. Parents Kaspar Egglar and Margarita Hollenweger, witnesses Jakob Fischer of Brienz, Peter Sailer of Boenigen, Barbara Hollenweaer. born Kienholz. the child's arandmother

Peter Egglar and Barbara Michel had five children: **Peter** (1840-1908), one of the brothers profiled below who emigrated to Mormon Coulee; **Barbara** (1843-1885), who married **Peter Blatter** and did not leave Switzerland, although she had two children who emigrated to La Crosse County – Rudolph Blatter and Anna Blatter Flueck; **Margaretta ‘Greti’**, who married **Kaspar Grossman** and did not emigrate; **Casper** (1848-1936), the other brother who emigrated to Mormon Coulee; and **Anna** (1852-), who remained single and died her in 40s.

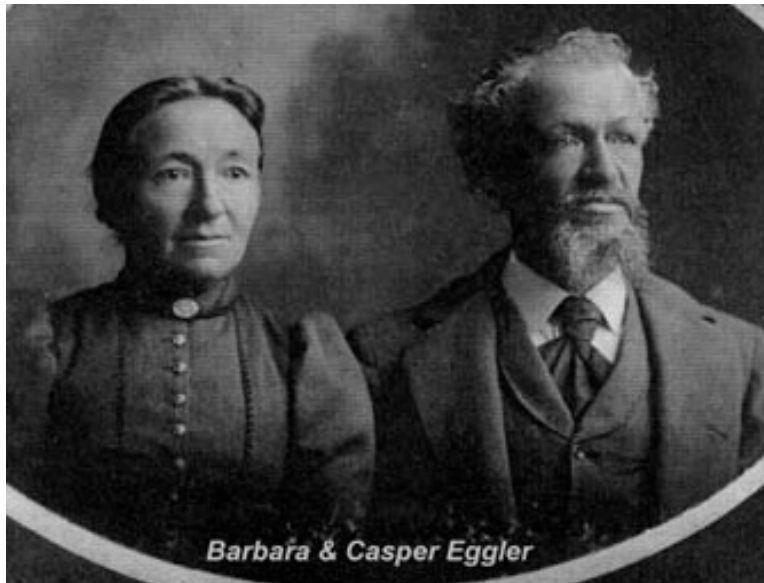
In other words, Peter and Casper Egglar, who emigrated to Mormon Coulee, were nephews of my 2nd-great grandfather Melchior Egglar and my 1st cousins 3x removed. The ancestor they have in common with Melchior, and with me, is Caspar Egglar married to Margareta Hohlenweger.

CASPER EGGLER (1848-1936), SON OF PETER AND BARBARA EGGLER



Translation: Casper b. 4 Apr 1848, bap. 16 Apr; parents Peter Egglar, son of Casper, and Barbara Michel, daughter of Matthaus, both of Brienz, who were married 20 Oct. 1837; witnesses Melchior Egglar, the father's brother, Johannes Kehrl of Brienz, and Margarita Egglar, born Hohlenweger, the child's grandmother.

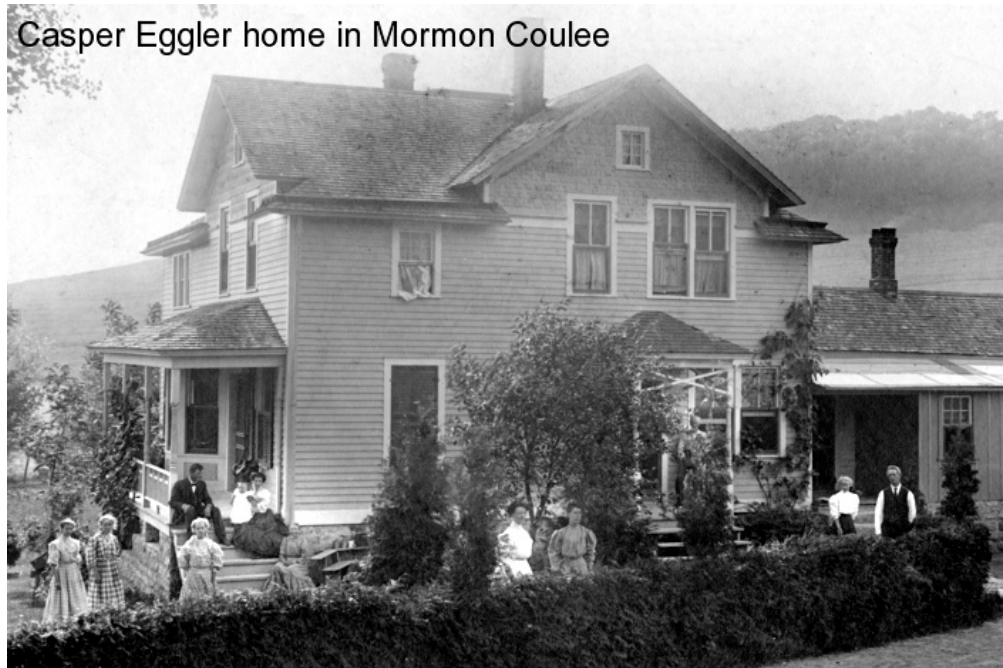
Casper Egglar learned the trade of cabinet-maker and worked at that occupation for a time in France and Germany. In 1869 he came to America and upon landing at New York made his way to La Crosse. He then traveled through the west and south for about three years, when he settled in Mormon Coulee, the Town of Shelby.



Shortly after settling down in Mormon Coulee, in 1874, he married Barbara Kienholz (1853-1925). She was among the group who left Brienz in 1856, as a very young child, and took up residence in Mormon Coulee. She was with her father Peter Kienholz, Sr., two brothers, and five sisters. Her mother Magdalena Schild Kienholz had died in 1855, a year before the emigration. In 1857, a year after emigration, in Wisconsin, her father married Margarita Bernet. One of Barbara's sisters, Magdalena,

married John Flick, whom I talked about above in the section on Emigration to Wisconsin, and who wrote a narrative about the emigration journey.

Casper worked at carpentry and contracting until 1890. In the meantime, his father-in-law Peter Kienholz, Sr. died in 1884, leaving his step-mother-in-law Margarita Bernet Kienholz to head their farm. As a result, in 1890 Casper rented the dairy farm from



her, and upon her death, in 1897, bought it. The farm had about 40 head of cattle and was one of the most successful in La Crosse County.

In 1915 Casper bought a farm northeast of Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota, in Haverhill Township, because he thought the land was better and not as hilly as Mormon Coulee. The 1920 census shows he and Barbara living there, next to the farm of his daughter Clara Egler Kunerth and her family. But by 1922 Casper and Barbara had sold the farm and moved back into the city of La Crosse. Barbara died there in 1925, whereupon Casper moved again to Rochester; in 1930 he was living with his daughter Laura, who worked in a dental clinic. He died in Rochester.

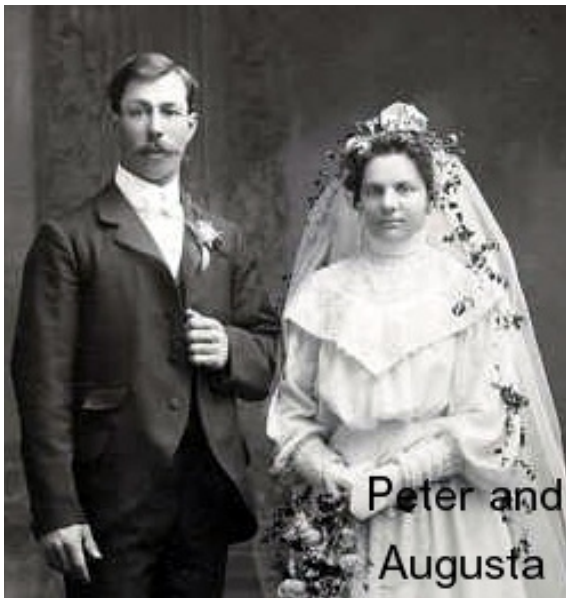
Casper and Barbara are buried in the Old Settlers Mormon Coulee Cemetery, also called the Kienholz Cemetery, across the highway from Trinity UCC Church. It was associated with the German Reformed Church of Shelby. Casper's family was part of the Reformed Church, unlike my family, who broke away and became Methodists. Peter and Margaretha Schild Kienholz donated land for the cemetery.

Casper and Barbara had twelve children:



The Casper Egglar family. Standing, from left: Cecilia, Elizabeth, Peter, Estella, Alvina, Ella, Victor, Laura, and Esther. Seated, from left: Louise, Barbara (mother), Clara, Casper (father)

PETER ALBIN EGGLER (1875-1943), SON OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER



Peter was on the family farm until 1904, when he married **Augusta Victoria Jonsson** (1876-1972), who was born in Kalmar, Sweden. They almost immediately moved to a farm in Davison County, South Dakota. By 1917 they had moved to Rochester, Minnesota. In 1917 he was a creamery laborer, in 1930 a cannery factory worker, and in 1940 a construction laborer.

Harold Albert Egglar (1905-1960), son of Peter Albin Egglar. Harold married **Esther Caroline Schattschneider** (1907-1984) in 1928. He was a construction worker in Rochester in 1930 but then established a farm in Farminton Township, Olmsted County. Harold and Esther had 6 children.

Helen Victoria Egglar (1908-1974), daughter of Peter Albin Egglar. She married **Leon William Urban** (1905-1974), a mechanic, in 1933, and

after his passing married William Francis Hayes (1896-1989). She and Leon both died and are buried in Rochester.

Esther B. Egglar (1911-1922), daughter of Peter Albin Egglar.

Ruth Eleanor Egglar (1917-1981), daughter of Peter Albin Egglar. Ruth married **Clarence Gustave Harders** (1914-1961) and, after his death, Emil Albert Wiese.



ALVINA LUCY EGGLER (1877-1961), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Alvina married **John Steiger** (1872-1957) in 1902. He was a farmer in Mormon Coulee and later in Olmsted County, Minnesota. Their children were Earl Melvin (1903-1954, Ruth Adell Eggenberger), George Reuben (1904-1978, Rosella Tressa Betz), Casper Edward (1913-1983), and Sylvia Elizabeth (1911-2016, Harry Molstre).

VICTOR EGGLER (1879-1880), SON OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

ELIZABETH LENA EGGLER (1881-1946), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Elizabeth married **Henry Hintgen** (1867-1933), as his second wife, in 1907. He was a farmer in Mormon Coulee. Their children were Myrtle Talitha (1908-2013, Glenn Robert Hall and Lester Charles), Pearl Mildred (1911-1994, Erving Reed Roberts), and LaVerne Louras (1916-2012, Paul Peter Spinner).

CLARA HELENA EGGLER (1882-1953), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Clara married **Henry Kunerth** (1880-1954) in 1906. He was a farmer in Mormon Coulee and then in Haverhill Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota, and later a carpenter in Rochester. Their children were Elmer Henry (1908-1983, Wilma Thomisa Brakke and Julienne Marie Van Deynze), Esther Leona (1910-2004, Henry Leslie Johnson), Irene Calverna (1913-1985, Floyd Harvey Rouhoff), the twins Lillian Barbara (1916-2003, James Joseph Donahue) and Evelyn Cecilia (1916-2013, Arthur William Bernard), and the twins Ruby Clara (1918-2001, Donald Bonnema) and Reuben Clarence (1918-1985, Dorothy Jane Strootman).

ESTELLA E EGGLER (1885-1953), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Estella married **Leon Gale Pike** (1883-1973) in 1914 in Mormon Coulee. He was actually a native of Haverhill Township, Olmsted, Minnesota, and owned a farm there for many years after their marriage. Their children were Marguerite Ellen (1917-2007, Harold David Zimmerman), twins Harriet Ruth (1918-2008, Karl Douglas Glabe) and Ralph Harry (1918-2018, Elaine Kathryn Maass and Ruth E Glandorf), and Barbara Urana (1922-2005, Elmer George Schwanke).

VICTOR HERBERT EGGLER (1887-1963), SON OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Victor married **Lillie Lenora Betz** in 1920 at her home in Mormon Coulee. Lillie wrote that "Victor's dad had bought a farm northeast of Rochester about five years before we were married. Victor's folks have sold their farm and now live in La Crosse, so we came to Rochester to farm right after we were married. My mother died of a heart attack the day after our wedding--was a sad time for us all."-Victor's farm, in Haverhill Township, was a dairy farm. Children of Victor and Lillie were Casper George (1921-2011, Violet Hazel Mickow and Elaine Caroline Thedens), Phyllis Rose (1922-1988, Walter Victor Timm), June Alice (1926-, Joseph Ernesteven Hain), and Stanley Victor (1931-1984, Judith Joan Sprenger).

LOUISA M EGGLER (1889-1954, DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Louisa married **Eugene 'Gene' Francis Sustendahl** (1877-1937), who was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After marriage they moved to Miami, Florida, where he found work as a gardener at the Pancoast Hotel. After Gene's death, in 1945, Louisa married Novak George Schickman, a native of Montenegro. Louisa died back in Rochester, Minnesota.

LAURA JOHANA EGGLER (1890-1951), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

After the death of Barbara, Casper in 1930 lived with Laura in Rochester, where she worked in a dental clinic. In 1940 Laura was a seamstress, living with her sister Alvina Steiger and family. Rochester City Directories list her in 1935 as a maid and in 1945 as a saleslady at China Hall.

ELLA ERIKA EGGLER (1893-1958), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

Ella married **Lee Alfred Wilson** (1894-1962) in 1924 in Rochester. In 1930 they had moved to his home state of Kansas, where he was a plumber in Junction City. Between 1935 and 1940 they returned to Rochester; in 1940 he was City Water Works Plumber. Their sons, both born in Junction City, were Leonard Robert (1927-2009, Betty Lou Wright) and Arlan Lee (1930-2014).

CECILIA ERMA EGGLER (1894-1947), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

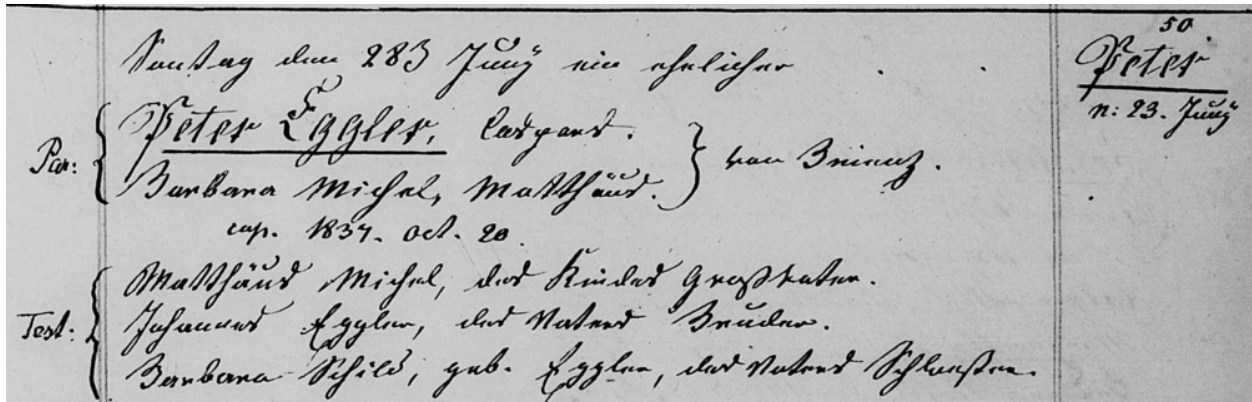
In 1922, at Mormon Coulee, Cecilia married **Jonathan 'Jack' Carl Helvig** (1897-1982, a farmer on his own farm in the Town of Shelby. Their daughters were Shirley Esther (1925-2014,

Robert W Hass) and the twins Charlotte Sylvia (1929-1988, Robert Arthur Golnick), and Charmayne Eileen (1929- , Marlin E Tauscher).

ESTHER EDITH EGGLER (1898-1951), DAUGHTER OF CASPER AND BARBARA EGGLER

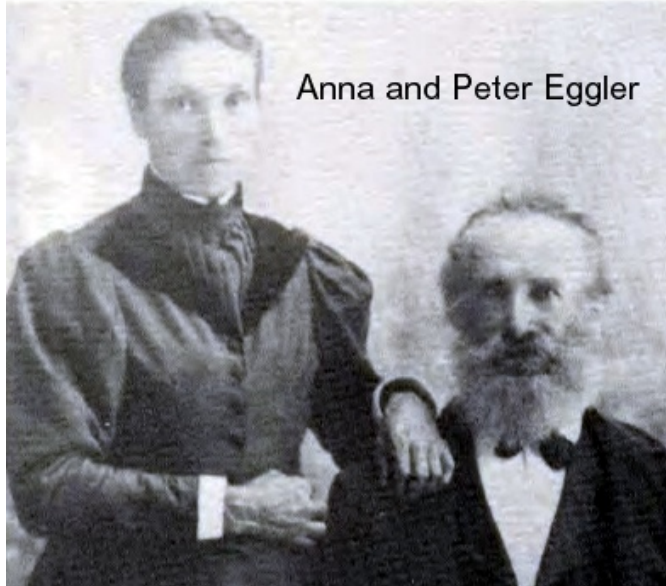
Esther married **John Joseph ‘Jack’ Pawlak** (1896-1986). In 1928, after the birth of their daughter Yvonne, they moved west to Montebello in Los Angeles County, California, where Jack found work as a garment factory cutter. In California they had Pierre Charles (1928-2018, Modine Wilcox).

PETER EGGLER (1840-1908), SON OF PETER AND BARBARA EGGLER



Baptism record of Peter Egglar. Translation: born 23 Jun 1840, baptized 28 Jun; parents Peter Egglar, son of Caspar, and Barbara Michel, daughter of Matthaus, both of Brienz, and married 20 Oct 1837; witnesses Matthaus Michel, the child’s grandfather, Johannes Egglar, the father’s brother, and Barbara Schild, born Eaaler, the father’s sister

In 1868, in Brienz, Peter married **Anna Kaufmann**. She was born June 3, 1843 in Grindelwald, which is today a ski town in a glacial valley southeast of Interlaken. It is in the picture at the top of this chapter. Soon after marriage they left Brienz for America.



Anna and Peter Egglar

Hilda Egglar Schams Olson, a granddaughter of Peter Egglar and Anna Kaufmann, wrote a short article on Egglar genealogy incorporating family stories from Albert Flueck, his wife Anna Egglar, and Anna's brother Rudolph. I referred to that history in the section above introducing Casper and Peter Egglar. Like most family histories, it contains facts that can be proved and facts that turn out to be either not true or not provable.⁴ One story in that history relates that **“Peter and Anna were living in Brienz with Peter's parents. Peter went out and bought a cow. There were words when he came home. ‘How was he going to pay for it, etc.’ Anna went to**

her parents in Grindelwald and told them about the sad state of affairs. Her mother said ‘Then you go to America. I will lend you the money.’ Anna went back and told Peter and he said ‘We go at once.’ And at once made ready for the journey.”

I also received a history from Walter Loucks that was written in 1965 by Lloyd Lorenz, a great-grandson of Peter Egglar. It talks about Peter's life before meeting Anna and is an indication of life in Brienz: **“He lived in the mountains, and every spring would go down to the village to bring the villagers' cows up the mountains over the summer months. Each villager owned several cows which supplied them with milk, cheese, butter, and meat. Peter milked them over the summer, and, with the help of his father, a cabinet-maker, made the milk into cheese. He kept some cheese from each cow as payment for keeping the cows. When he took the cows back to the village in the fall, he sold his share to townspeople who didn't own any cows.”**

Once in Mormon Coulee, Peter and Anna settled in the former parsonage of the German Reformed Church in Bloomers Mill, near Peter's brother, Casper. Casper's house was across the road from the Reformed Church. That church was replaced by the Trinity UCC Church. Peter and Anna's first son, William, was born in Bloomers Mill in 1869. Peter worked for John Schild, his aunt's husband. Then Peter bought land about seven miles further east, in the Town of Greenfield, and with the help of his brother Casper, a log cabin was built. The land was in the SE corner of section 24, T15 R6W, back of the William Meyer farm. Twelve more children were born in that cabin.

In 1904 Peter and Anna visited their homeland in Switzerland. Unfortunately, their son Arnold died in their absence.

On September 29, 1908, Peter Egglar passed away. Anna moved to Montana to live with her daughters Anna and Bertha. After Conrad, Ida, and Walter went West, the farm was sold. Of the children, only William and his sister Amelia Egglar Meyer remained in Mormon Coulee.

A few years before 1920 Anna left Montana for the home of her daughter Louise Bogner in Ukiah, Mendocino, California. She died in Ukiah while visiting her daughter Lena McCarty. She and Peter are buried in the Old Settlers Cemetery in Mormon Coulee.



The Peter Egglar family. Standing, left to right: Anna (Blossom), Peter, Amelia (Meyer), Walter, Ida (Koolhof), William, Bertha, Conrad, Louise (Bogner), Arnold, Lena (McCarty). Seated: Peter and Anna Kaufman Egglar. Arnold had died in 1904, so his photo was inserted.

WILLIAM EGGLER (1869-1968), SON OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



From left: William Egglar, Frank Roesler, Margaret Egglar Roesler, Martha Ruoff Eqqler

Hilda Egglar Schams Olson wrote a biography of William, from which this section is drawn. Willie was born in the former parsonage at Bloomers Mill in Mormon Coulee, but the family soon moved to the log cabin in the Town of Greenfield. **“He told of snow blowing through the chinks in the cabin bedrooms. He said he always went to sleep with a little one held close to him those cold winter**

nights, and sometimes on waking, sifting snow had covered the quilts.”

When he was sixteen, William went to work at a brick factory situated between home and the city of La Crosse, on a farm near Bangor, and the Sawyer Lumber Mill near La Crosse. Logs were floated down the Mississippi River from northern Wisconsin.

In 1895 John and Marianna Zurbucher Ruoff came to America from Brienz. They had been neighbors of Peter and Anna Egglers in Brienz. The Ruoff children included Elisabeth who was married to Rudolph Blatter; Rudolph's mother was Barbara Egglers, the daughter of Williams' grandparents Peter Egglers and Barbara Michel. John and Marianna Ruoff had another daughter, Martha (1874-1969). William and Martha were married on 24 Nov 1897 in their apartment in La Crosse.

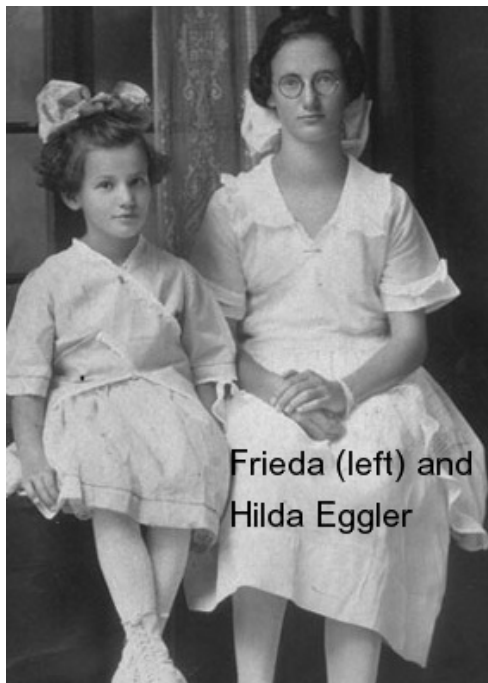
After marriage, Willie continued at the mill, but lumbering was nearing its end. His older brothers and sisters had left for Montana, so his father suggested that Willie and his growing family stay with Peter and Anna, and they did. Later Willie heard of a farm for rent, so his family moved to the rented farm. In 1908 Peter Egglers died. Peter's farm was sold, and Willie's mother and remaining sisters moved to Montana.

Martha Margaret Egglers (1898-1992), daughter of William Egglers. Martha married **Frank Roesler** (1893-1991) in 1917. He was a long-time farmer in Coon Valley, Town of Greenfield, La Crosse. They had eight children.

Arthur William Egglers (1901-1992)), son of William Egglers. Arthur married **Hilda Hamann** (1900-1980). In 1955 he was cited for 25 years with Wisconsin Power and Light. Arthur had a son and grandson who still have the Egglers name.



Frank and Martha Roesler wedding photo



Frieda (left) and Hilda Egglers

Hilda Amelia Egglers (1906-1999), daughter of William Egglers. Hilda married **Raymond A Schams** (1904-1947) and, after his death, **Mede E. Olson**. Ray Schams was a stone quarrying contractor in La Crosse, but they lived for a number of years with William and Martha. They had two children. Hilda wrote a family history that I have referenced.

Frieda Dora Egglers (1912-2004), daughter of William Egglers. Frieda married **Elphin 'Al' George Rinn** (1910-2005). She and Al both died in Huntsville, Alabama, where a son lived. Her obituary (Pueblo Chieftain) reads in part: "Frieda was born in her family's farmhouse near Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Her parents were Swiss, and Frieda took particular pride in her family of origin and was fluent in German. Her father, mother, two sisters and brother all lived well into their 90s. She

attended a one room school and was a graduate of La Crosse High School.... She and Al loved to explore the mountains of her beloved Colorado.”

I had the pleasure of corresponding with Frieda for several years. She wrote that “Grandmother Ruoff lived with us a lot after Grandfather [Johannes Ruoff] died. We all learned to talk “Brienzer” and Hilda and I could still do some, she better than I.”

Freida identified herself and her sister Hilda in the lovely photo sent to me by Walt Loucks³ without identifications. Apparently Hilda had been diagnosed with a goiter, was scheduled for then very-risky surgery, and her parents wanted a keepsake in case she did not survive.

PETER JOHN EGGLER (1871-1957), SON OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER

In 1898 Peter married **Elizabeth ‘Elise’ Grossman** (1876-1959) after she emigrated in 1895.

She was born in Canton Bern, the daughter of Peter Grossman and Elisabeth Aemmer. Peter had a farm in Greenfield Township in 1910 where his sister Ida lived, near a farm that his sister Lina established after her husband died in Montana. By 1920 he had established himself as a dairy farmer in the Englewood Precinct, Marion, Oregon. The mother of Elise lived with them both in Wisconsin and in Oregon. Pete and Elise adopted a son **Frank Arnold Egglar** (1903-1972). They both died and are buried in Marion County, Oregon.



Elise Grossman Egglar and Peter John Egglar at their farm in Mormon Coulee

HELENA ‘LINA’ EGGLER (1872-1959), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER

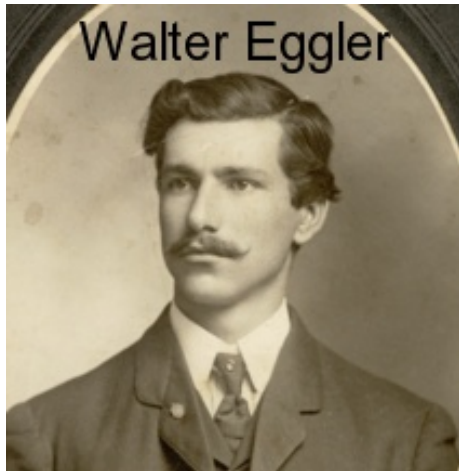


Lina Egglar McCarty

Lina and her sister Bertha visited her parents’ home country, arriving back in New York in 1900. Lina then was the first of the family to go West. In 1902, in Great Falls, Cascade, Montana, she married **Frank McCarty** (1861-1907). The McCarty farm was near Stockett in Cascade County, which is southeast of Great Falls. Soon they had sons Peter Shea (1903-1985) and Paul Arnold (1904-1975, Erma May Gillespie). Frank tragically died in 1907. Lina then returned to Wisconsin and in 1910 was farming near her brother Peter in the Town of Greenfield.

In about 1920, Lina traveled far west near Ukiah, Mendocino, California and established a farm with her sons. Ukiah is in northern California, 115 miles north of San Francisco. By 1930 she was living in Ukiah itself with her sons, both truck drivers. Lina died in Ukiah in 1959.

WALTER ARTHUR EGGLER (1873-1958), SON OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



Walter went West to Montana between 1905 and 1910., probably about the time his mother did. The 1910 census finds him on a farm next to those of his sisters Anna and Ida and brother Conrad; his mother and sister Bertha lived on the farm of his sister Anna. All those properties were near Fort Shaw, which is on the Sun River, a tributary of the Missouri, west of Great Falls. Ida was also enumerated in 1910 on the farm of her sister Louise and Louise's husband John Bogner, so she must have been in transition.

Walter never married. He continued as a grain farmer near Fort Shaw for many years. He and his sister Anna Blossom were the two family members who remained in Montana until they died. In 1941-1944 Walter was a board member of the Sun River Electric Cooperative. Before he died, Walter willed his land to his sister Anna, who before her death willed it to her husband Chalmer Blossom. Chalmer received a patent on the land in 1971.

Walter apparently had property in Penhold, Alberta. His WWI Draft Registration Card says he was living in Sun River, a self-employed farmer, but place of employment Penhold, Alberta. In 1914 his sister Ida entered Canada to work on the Penhold farm of her brother Walter. In 1920 he and sister Bertha were recorded in a border document returning from Penhold.

LOUISA EGGLER (1875-1946), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER

Louisa also went west to Montana. I am not sure when she left, but in 1909 she married **John Henry Bogner** (1879-1959) at his farm near Belt, Cascade, Montana. Belt is southeast of Great Falls. There they had five children. Shortly before 1920 John relocated to Ukiah Township, Mendocino, California, where he was a dairyman, operating the Pleasant View Dairy Farm. His son Walter took over the farm when he retired. The farm was in a different part of the Township from that of Lena Egglar McCarty.

Their children were Agnes Louise (1910-1992, Jerry Clyde Loucks); Arnold John (1911-1994, Lorene Tarver); Walter Xavier Francis (1913-1987, Gertrude Elizabeth Dietz; Edward William (1915-2000, Mary Martha Welsh); and Phillips Arthur (1917-1979, Ruby Ellen Exley).

Walter Clyde Loucks (1935-2016), a son of Agnes and Jerry Loucks, found me on the internet and mailed me a number of photographs, some identified by his mother and many not. I have used several in this chapter.



BERTHA EGGLER (1876-1964), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER

Bertha went west with her sister Anna to Cascade County, Montana, after visiting Brienz with her sister Lina. As outlined above, she was living with her mother at Anna's farm in 1910.

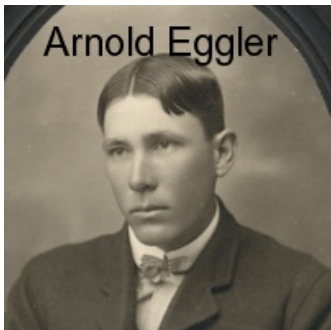
In 1925 she bought about 100 acres in Cascade County, part of which was a homestead reclamation entry, from her brother Conrad A. Egglers for \$2500. In 1950, living in Pacific Grove, California, she filed an affidavit that she had sold her assignment in that property to her brother Walter. In 1946, living in Winters, California, she had filed an indenture that for "one dollar and natural love and affection" she had sold to Walter A. Egglers lots totaling 189 acres. In spite of buying and selling farmland, I can find no evidence that she was a farmer herself.



Bertha Egglers

At some point she moved to Winters in Yolo County, California; in 1933 she was a private nurse there. Her sister Ida had located to Winters before 1927. By 1935 Bertha was in Pacific Grove in Monterey County. The 1940 census lists her as a private home maid. She lived in Pacific Grove until her death.

Bertha never married.



ARNOLD EGGLER (1878-1904), SON OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER

Arnold died on June 10, 1904 while working on a farm in Janesville, Wisconsin. His parents were visiting Brienz at the time.

ANNA EGGLER (1881-1959), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



Anna Egglers Blossom

As outlined above, Anna and her sister Bertha went west to the Fort Shaw area in Cascade County, Montana, before 1905, where she established a farm. After her father died, her mother came west to live with them. Around 1912 she married **Chalmer Dwight Blossom** (1885-1962), a native of Fort Shaw. His parents had moved there to be farmers just after the Civil War, before 1870.

Anna and Dwight purchased additional acreage over the years. Just before his death Chalmer took claim to additional land that Anna's brother Walter had willed to her.

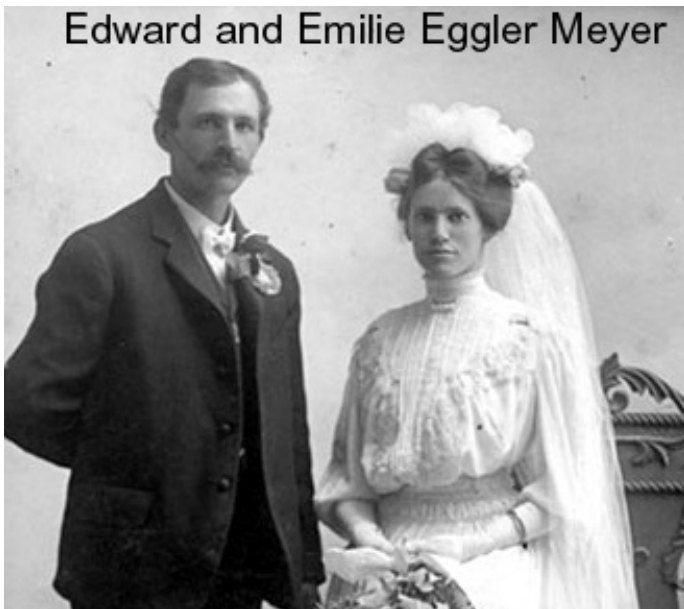
Children of Anna and Dwight were Hazel Margaret "Peggy" Blossom (1914-2011, Lawrence William Fasbender); Gordon Ellsworth Blossom (1916- , Marion Alice Olsen); Walter Llewelyn Blossom (1920-2000, Marjorie Bricker); Norma L Blossom (1922-2013, Richard Henry Olsen); Richard Conrad Blossom (1924- , Isabelle Clelland); Robert Donald Blossom (1924- , Beverly Jean Champion, Ruby May Clelland); and Roberta Grace Blossom (1924-1924). The last three were triplets.



Gordon Ellsworth Blossom

There is an entertaining 2010 interview, on SportsYakima.com, with Gordon Ellsworth Blossom. Gordon, who lived in Thorp, Washington, became a licensed engineer and for ten years was County Engineer in Kittitas County, Washington. One quote: “As the oldest of four boys among his parents’ six children, Gordon was expected to do his part. Even before he took his first deer at 12, his father would give him a box of 50 rounds for his .22 caliber rifle, with orders to bring home no less than seven rabbits for the dinner table. Any remaining ammunition was his — and there was usually a lot of it. ‘If I could find seven rabbits, I might take 10 shots to hit the seven rabbits,’ he says without a hint of braggadocio. ‘I had to shoot them in the head, for sure — my mother would give me what-for for ruining the meat if I hit it anywhere else. She said that was wasteful,’ My mother was from a Swiss background; she could make a good meal out of nothin’. We were poor, but we never went hungry.”

AMELIA LYDIA “EMILIE” EGGLER (1884-1965), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



Witnesses at the 1907 marriage of Emilie and **Edward Meyer** (1877-1969) at the William Egglar home on North Ridge were Walter Egglar, Annie Meyer, Edward Roellich, and Ida Egglar. She carried a bouquet of trillium.

A 1965 family history by Lloyd Lorenz, sent to me by Walter Loucks, says that his great-grandfather Wilhelm ‘William’ Meyer was born in Hesse-Nassau, Germany in 1834. As a boy he traveled to Brazil with his father, living there four years. They came to New York, and then traveled to Illinois, where he met Anna Striegel, a young girl from Bavaria. When they were married, they moved to

Wisconsin and settled in Mormon Coulee. There Lloyd’s grandfather Edward, the youngest child, was born in 1877.

The Meyer farm was in section 24 in Greenfield Township, off County Road M. Southeast of it was the Peter Egglar farm. Edward was a farmer all his life, semi-retiring before 1940. Children of Edward and Emilie were: Arnold Edward (1908-1980, Leona Gertrude Brueggeman); Hilda Amelia (1909-2006, Edward Joseph Lorenz); Ruben William (1910-1994, Dorothy Martha Dill); Lillian Ann (1912-2011, Gerald William Kapanke); Irene Louisa (1914-2009, William J Schieche); Bertha Julia (1915-1996, Ivan Joshua Mundt), Herbert John (1919-2007, Ethel Mae Morley); Alice Martha (1924- , Lloyd Dale Deters); and Marion Mae (1926-

2017, Wesley Lloyd Lorenz). Husbands of Hilda and Marion were brothers. Irene and her daughter very kindly communicated with me about genealogy.

IDA MARGURITE EGGLER (1887-1945), DAUGHTER OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



Ida Egglar Koolhof

Ida went West after 1905, possibly when her mother left Mormon Coulee to live with Anna and Bertha in Montana. She appears in the 1910 census twice, once living with her sister Louisa Bogner and Louisa's family and once on her own farm next to properties of her sister Anna and brothers Conrad and Walter. Her mother and sister Bertha lived with Anna. In 1914 she was recorded at the Canadian border enroute to Penfield, Alberta, a housekeeper, to join brother Walter on a farm, although Walter apparently still had his farm in Montana.

Ida next turns up in my records in 1927, marrying **Albert John Koohof** (1893-1968) in Stockton, California. He was a native of Odoorn, Netherlands, who emigrated with his parents Gerrit and Albertina Koolhof in 1908. Initially in North Dakota, the family was in the Great Falls area before 1915 but, from the records, had a sketchy existence. Gerrit either died or left after 1910. Albertina was a domestic in Great Falls in 1920 and in Sacramento, California in 1930, where her daughter Henrietta Koolhof Stickel lived. In 1940 Albertina was with Ida in Winters, Yolo, California, and she died in 1942 in Vallejo, Solano, California, where Henrietta had moved.

Meanwhile, Albert, in the Great Falls area, was a janitor in 1915, an unemployed truck driver in 1917, and a freight house clerk in 1920. But by 1930 he was established as a dairyman, with Ida, in Winters, Yolo, California. Winters is in central California 30 miles west of Sacramento. Ida died there in 1945. Albert and Ida had one son, Albert John Koolhof, Jr.

CONRAD ALBERT EGGLER (1887-1964), SON OF PETER AND ANNA EGGLER



Conrad Egglar

Conrad, along with Ida and Walter, went West after 1905, probably when his mother went from Wisconsin to live with Anna and Bertha in the Fort Shaw District. The 1910 census lists Conrad, Ida, Walter, and Anna on adjacent farms.

Here are some snippets about Conrad's history: On April 7, 1909 Conrad A. Egglar of La Crosse filed an application for a Homestead Entry with the U.S. Land Office for Farm Unit "D" in the S 1/2 NE 1/4 of section 6, T20N R1W, containing 60 acres, in the Great Falls land district. He also filed for irrigation water rights. A subsequent Proof in 1913 was witnessed by Walter A. Egglar and Ida M. Egglar. In 1913 he had 45 acres under cultivation in alfalfa and oats. The house was on the west line of the claim, as well as a chicken house and granary. In 1920 Conrad was living on the same farm as a Helt couple in School District 59 (Fort Shaw), Cascade County, MT, a farmer. On Sept. 16, 1925 Conrad, then living in Salem, Oregon, sold the farm for \$2500 and assigned the water rights to Bertha Egglar of Fort Shaw. In 1930 Conrad A Egglar 42 b. WI, a dairy laborer, was living in Salem, Marion, Oregon with wife Ida M 28 b. NE, mother-in-law Katie A Gilfiker 54 b. IL, widow, and Katie's other children. In

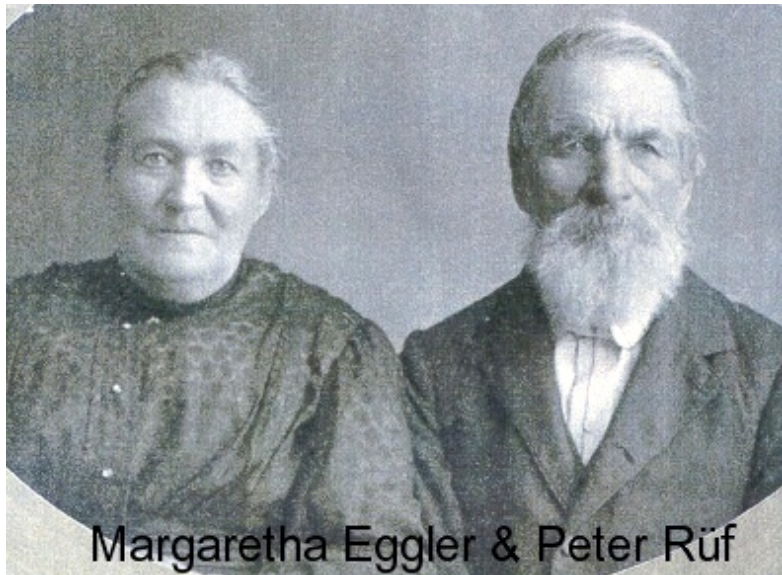
1940 Conrad A Egglers 58 b. WI, dairy company plant manager, lived in Salem, Marion, OR with Ida M 38 b. NE.

We can conclude that Conrad left Montana between 1920 and 1925 and moved to Salem, Oregon. Salem, the capital of Oregon, is in northern Oregon, south of Portland. There in 1927 Conrad married **Ida Mable Gilfiker** (1902-1979). They had no children. They both died and are buried in Salem.

7. MY GREAT-GRAND AUNT MARGARETHA EGGLER RÜF AND HER DESCENDANTS

Ulli Egglers (bef. 1647-1702) → Caspar (1683-1776) → Ulrich (1718-1804) → Kaspar (1758-1788) → Caspar (1783-1858) → Melchior (1810-1879) → Margaretha (1841-1917)

The emigrant group that left Brienz on March 3, 1856 included my 2nd-great grandfather **Melchior Egglers**, his son **Melchior**, and his daughter **Margaretha**. Peter RUF (1830-1915) arrived in Mormon Coulee about the same time, in 1856. [Descendants of Peter spelled the surname either Ruf or Ruff.] Peter was from Ebligen, a village on the north shore of Lake Brienz between Brienz and Oberried. His RUF ancestry can be traced back several generations in Ebligen to a Peter RUF (1732-1816).



Margaretha Egglers & Peter RUF

Peter and Margaretha were married on August 23, 1858, in the home of the minister, J. H. Spangler, in La Crosse. The obituary of their son August indicates that their first five children were born in La Crosse County. By 1870, however, the family was established on a farm in the Town of Waumanda, Buffalo County. Buffalo County is north of La Crosse. In the 1870 census the family is living there along with Margaretha's father

Melchior, although Melchior was also enumerated in 1870 living in La Crosse County with his son Melchior. On December 1, 1873, Peter RUF bought 80 acres in the SESW section 18, T21N, R11W, Buffalo County, from the La Crosse Land Office. Between 1870 and 1880 the family settled in their "homestead" in the Town of Gilmanton, which is just north of Waumanda in Buffalo County. The 1880 census shows Peter, Margaretha, and children Ferdinand, August, Albert, and Godfrey. In 1900 Peter, a farmer, and Margaretha were living in Gilmanton with sons Godfrey and Peter Ruf Jr. along with grandchildren Charles E Ruf, son of Peter Ruf Jr., and Mark and Peter H Dillingham, sons of their daughter Louisa, who had died two years previously.

In 1910 Peter, by then retired, and Margaretha continued to live in Gilmanton.

I have many DNA relatives on ancestry.com that descend from Margaretha, although none of them, of course, is named Egler.

PETER RUF, JR., SON OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

Peter Jr. (1856-1943) married **Anna Bell Thorp** in 1879 in Buffalo County. They had six children: Albert Peter (1882-1969, Rachel A Clark); Charles Edward (1886-1951, Viola Boyd, her second marriage); Walter William (1888-1964, Elsie Cornell and Josephine 'Josie' Morrell); Mae Elaine (1890-1985, Webb Martinez Baldwin, a locomotive engineer living in Seattle); Ernest Delos (1893-1958, Mary 'Mollie' Josephine Ryan and Mable Viola Silverthorn); and Mona B 'Mamie' (1898- , Austin Wesley Blair). The first two children were born in Gilmanton and the last four in Brown County, South Dakota.



Mae Ruf Baldwin and Web Baldwin

Peter and Anna Bell were divorced by 1900, and he was living back in Gilmanton with son Charles and his parents, and she was a farmer in Brown County with Albert, Walter, Mae, Ernest, and Mona. Anna Bell Thorpe married Harry Rosswell Clark in 1901 in Montana.

Peter also soon remarried in 1905 in Missoula, Montana to **May Belle Winings**. They had one child, Helen M Ruf (1906-). He had work in 1910 in a lumber mill in Ravalli County, Montana. In 1920, divorced again, he was back in Gilmanton with daughter Helen. In 1930 and 1940 he lived in Seattle with daughter Mae and her husband Webb Baldwin.

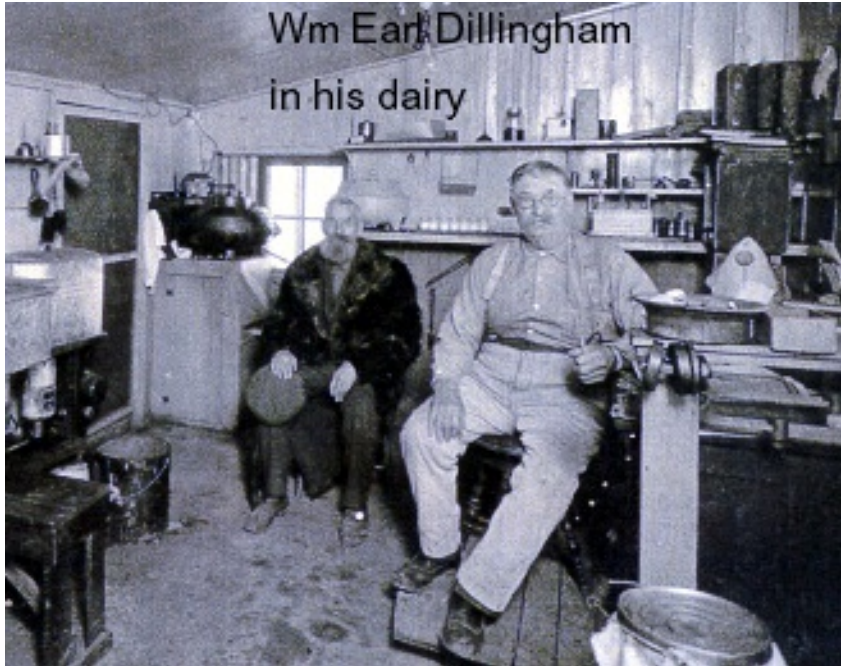
FERDINAND RUFF, SON OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

Compared to his brother Peter, Ferdinand (1861-1946) was a model of stability. He was a farmer in Gilmanton his entire life. In 1886 he married **Karen 'Caroline' Johnson** (1862-1936). She was the daughter of Christian Johnson and Margrete Halvorsdatter, emigrants from Norway in 1868 to the Town of Montana in Buffalo County.

Three Ruff boys married three Johnson girls. We will discuss the other two boys, August and Albert, below.

Children of Ferdinand and Caroline were Lillian M (1887- , Sherman Broadworth Thompson) and Clarence Amil (1890-1988, Margaret Dyer Townley). Clarence's son, Robert Townley Ruff, graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in mechanical engineering.

LOUISA MARGARET RUF, DAUGHTER OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF



Louisa (1863-1898) married **William Earl Dillingham** (1858-1939), a native of Lenox, New York, in 1868 when she was 16 and he was 20. The marriage was in Osseo, Trempealeau, Wisconsin. William Dillingham was a farmer and dairyman in Gilmanton. William and Louisa had four children: Mark, John, Dwight, and Herman Peter.

After Louisa died in 1898, William married Stella Lavonne Kent Tyler, a widow with children, in

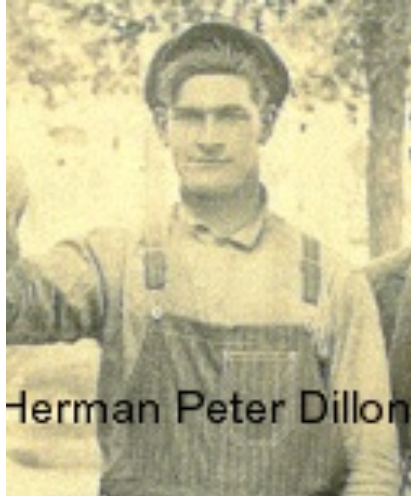
1902. They had one child, Arlene Kent Dillingham (1904-1985, Vaun Eugene Farnsworth, a widower whom Arlene married in 1954). The combined family moved to a farm in Washington County, Colorado, where son John worked on the farm, between 1900 and 1910. In 1925 William was a laborer in Denver and then about 1928 moved to Glendale, California, to be with his son Dwight. William died in Glendale in 1939.

Mark Dillingham (1880-1937) was a butter maker and creamery operator in Gilmanton, Minneapolis, Montana, and finally Glendale, California. He had two daughters with his first wife **Mary Maud Berry**. His second wife, **Lurah Fannie Nisbett**, had six husbands, of whom Mark was the fourth. She had one daughter with Mark. Her fifth husband was Mark's brother, John, whom she married after Mark died. Lurah married for a sixth time in the Los Angeles area.

John William Dillingham (1883-1945) married **Eva Fay Kren** in 1906. They had one son born in Wisconsin. He farmed in Washington County, Colorado until about 1922, when he started working in Denver for the Denver Tramway Company. After Eva died in 1937, he married the Lurah Fannie Nisbett discussed in the paragraph above.

Dwight Warren Dillingham (1886-1952) married **Veda Janet Stringham** in 1908 in Salt Lake City, where he worked, for a time, for her father Henry Stringham, and where he is buried. Dwight and Veda had one son born in Minneapolis. Dwight subsequently was a brokerage and real estate salesman in Butte, Montana and Glendale, California, where he died. As noted above, his father lived with him in Glendale after about 1928. He did not live with Veda much past 1918; they were formally divorced in 1920 in Colorado.

Herman Peter Dillingham or Dillon (1892-1964) had a fight with his Dad, left Wisconsin and changed his name to Dillon. He never told anyone about this, and therefore it was extremely difficult for his descendants to track his history (emails from Rex Michael Dillon). He was married six times that his genealogist daughter knew of in 2001, two times under the name of Peter Harry Dillingham and four times under the name Herman Peter Dillon. Wives and



marriage dates are: Pearl Roxaina Olson, 1913 in Minnesota, with one son Vernon William Dillingham; Gertrude E Thomas, born abt. 1919 in California; Fern Mary Tanner, 1923 in Salt Lake City, with five children; Mary Elizabeth Workman, 1944 in Salt Lake; Sarah Jane Nelson Martin, 1956 in Utah, and Frances Boam in 1960 in Evanston, Wyoming. The children with Fern Mary Tanner are Carma Lee Dillon (Ray Bert Williamson), Don Eugene Dillon (Verna Mae Snyder), Earl J Dillon (Ruth Carol Gagne and Gloria Hansen), Rex Gerald Dillon (Nola Joan Goff), and Myrna Yvonne Dillon (Donald Hutchings).

Herman Peter Dillon held a variety of jobs. Records that I accessed show that he was a laborer in Trail County, North Dakota in 1910, a truck driver in Riverside, California in 1917, a citrus grove laborer in 1920 in Riverside, a teamster in Salt Lake City in 1930, a stone mason in Salt Lake in 1940, and a junkman in Salt Lake in 1942.

AUGUST RUFF, SON OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

August (1868-1957) was the second of the three brothers to marry Norwegian Johnson sisters, in his case **Maren ‘Mary’ Johnson** (1860-1945). His obituary reads, in part: “August Ruf, son of Peter Ruf and his wife Margaret nee Eckler, was born in La Crosse County on August 12, 1868. As a boy he moved with his parents on the old Ruf farm, now owned and operated by Robert Rudy, and located three miles south of Gilmanton. Here he grew to manhood. In the year 1891, he was united in marriage with Mary Johnson. The young couple began housekeeping in Eau Claire. Remaining there for only a few years, they returned to Gilmanton. At this time Mr. Ruf was employed as a mechanic by Elmer Kenyon. Having purchased a small farm near Cornell, Wisconsin [in Chippewa County], he lived there until the death of his wife in 1945. He then moved to Chippewa Falls to be near his son Charles.”

Children of August and Mary were Charles Alfred (1894-1964, Isabel Lucille Ritter); Blanche Marion (1898-1970, Alvin Eugene Scott); Clara (1900-1973, Orin Edward Gunderson); and Florence Maureen (1902-1989, Hermann Hans Kind).

ALBERT A RUF, SON OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

Albert (1871-1933) was the third brother to marry a Norwegian Johnson sister, in his case **Anna ‘Annie’ Johnson** (1870-1954). Albert bought land in Billings County, North Dakota and moved his family there in 1913. Albert and Annie returned to Gilmanton just before the Great Depression, between 1925 and 1930, and remained there the rest of their lives.

Their children were Carl Emil (1895-1962, Alma M Esby), a WWI veteran and North Dakota farmer; Mildred Ann (1897-1986, Gabriel Patrick Homsley and William C Nichols); and Percy Evans (1901-1979), Grace Norma Lavachek).

GODFREY RUF, SON OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

Godfrey (1880-1955) married **Maud V Tuttle** (1879-1976) in 1903 in Barron County, Wisconsin. After starting out as a farmer in Gilmanton, he relocated to the Town of Cable in Bayfield County in far northern Wisconsin, where he held various jobs.

Children of Godfrey and Maud were Harold Tuttle (1905-1992, Irene Pellerin); Gladys Pearl (1912-1982, Nicholas Joseph Fink); and Doris Genevieve (1914-1998, Peter Joseph Fink and Albert George Ludzack).

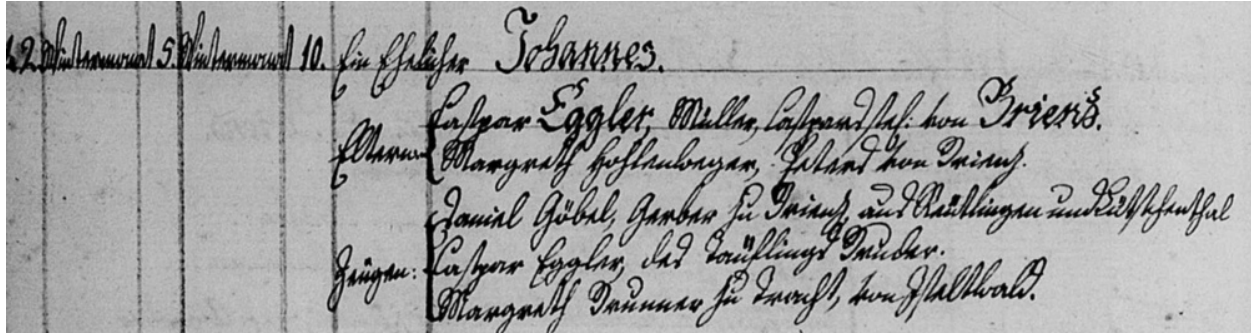
ROSELLA RUF, DAUGHTER OF PETER AND MARGARETHA RÜF

Rosella 'Rose' Ruf (1883-1966) married Bertran 'Bert' Levi Deetz in 1899 in Buffalo County, Wisconsin. She was 16. But that marriage did not last long, because in 1903, in Gilmanton, Buffalo, Wisconsin she married **Eli Frederick Harrop** (1875-1936). They first lived in Gilmanton, but by 1910 had moved to Garfield, Bergen, New Jersey, where he was a construction engineer and the public works superintendent for the City of Garfield. Eli died in 1936 in York, Pennsylvania, where his daughter Margaret lived. Rose then went west to Los Angeles, where her son LaVerne lived and at the time worked for the Biltmore Hotel.

Children of Eli and Rose were Margaret Ruth (1907-1988, Paul Franklin Jacobs and Joe Kestler); Mina Arline (1910-1988, Claude Robert Millhouse); and LaVerne Leland (1911-1983, Florence Kachauek).

8. MY 2ND GREAT-GRAND UNCLE JOHANNES EGGLER AND HIS DESCENDANTS IN ALABAMA

Ulli Egglar (bef. 1647-1702) → Caspar (1683-1776) → Ulrich (1718-1804) → Kaspar (1758-1788) → Caspar (1783-1858) → Johannes (1822-1877)



Baptism record of Johannes Egglar. Translation: Johannes, born 5 Nov. 1822, baptized 10 Nov, parents Caspar Egglar, miller, son of Caspar of Brienz and Margreth Hohlenweger, daughter of Peter, of Brienz; witnesses Daniel Goebel, tanner of Brienz, Caspar Egglar, the infant's brother, and Margreth Brunner, ??, of Iseltwald

Johannes ‘John’ was the brother of my 2nd great-grandfather Melchior Egglar (1810-1879) and also the brother of Peter Egglar (1813-), whose sons Peter and Caspar established farms in Mormon Coulee, Wisconsin, along with Melchior.

Johannes was of course born in Brienz. His wife, **Barbara Ann Gussett** (1821-1910), was also born in Brienz, the daughter of Peter Gussett and Margaretha Staehli. Melchior and Barbara were married in 1848 in Brienz. Their first child Margaritha was born in Brienz in December 1848, but the next, Louisa, was born in Alabama in 1851, indicating that they emigrated in 1850 or 1851. That is several years before Johannes’ brother Melchior and his sister Barbara Egglar Schild emigrated to Mormou Coulee.

Christian Gussett, Barbara’s brother, also lived in Mobile in 1860, a carpenter and wood carver. Christian married Johanna Smith in 1857 and then moved to New Orleans, where he died in 1873.

In Alabama they lived in Whistler, a village in Mobile County a few miles northwest of the city of Mobile. Whistler was founded in the 1850s at the time that the Mobile and Ohio Railroad began. The M&O, an early land grant railroad, eventually extended from Mobile to the Ohio River and beyond. The town was centered on the M&O shops.

John worked in the M&O shops for many years. In 1880 he was a pattern maker. After his death, Barbara lived with her son Charles in Birmingham.

John and Barbara, along with their children **Louisa** (1851-1868) and **Willie** (1860-1861), are buried in the Old Whistler Cemetery.

MARGARITHA EGGLER, DAUGHTER OF JOHANNES AND BARBARA EGGLER

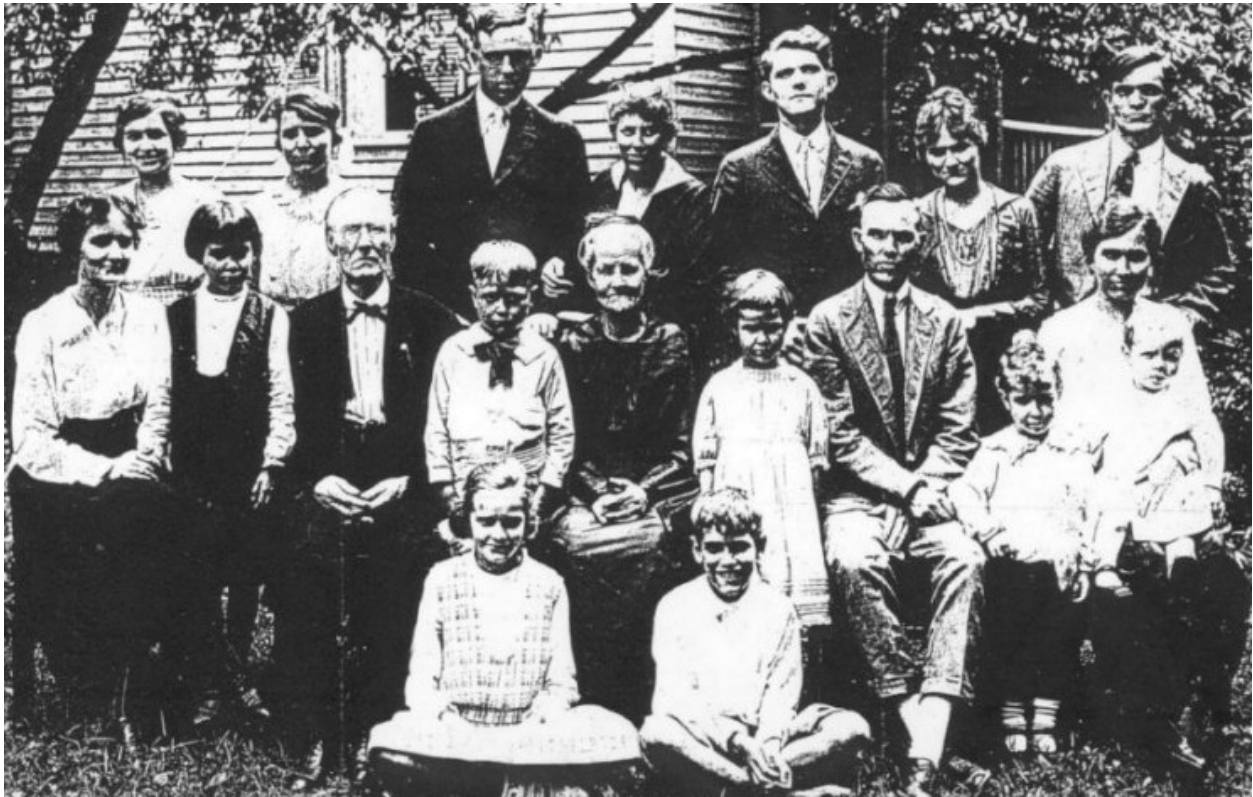
Margaretha ‘Margaret’ (1848-1874) lived with her parents until 1873, when she married William R Smith in Mobile County. Tragically, she died a year later. She is also buried in the Old Whistler Cemetery: “**Smith, Margaret**, d. 05 Feb 1874, w/o W. R. Smith, Age 25 yr”

JOHN ALBERT EGGLER, SON OF JOHANNES AND BARBARA EGGLER

John Albert (1856-1925) married **Laura Ann Rainey Logan** (1862-1936), a widow, in 1881. He was a machinist, first for the railroad shops in Whistler and, from some time prior to 1900, for steel works in Birmingham. In the decades after the Civil War, Birmingham became the largest iron and steel production area in the southern United States. That dominance was due to the unusual geologic condition that the raw materials for steel production – iron ore, limestone, dolomite, and coal – were all available within a few miles of each other. The Birmingham District did not decline in importance until the latter half of the twentieth century.

The three sons of John Albert were also machinists. The children are Daniel Albert (1882-1950, Mary Justina Handley); Annie Elizabeth (1888-1971, James Gurren Dunn); James (1890-1968, Emma Cavanese); Martha Jane (1892-1975, Frank Foster); Mike Murry (1894-1977, Esther Essie Lee Burge); and Mary Lee (1898-1989, Abner Neal Stone).

CHARLES FREDERICK EGGLER, SON OF JOHANNES AND BARBARA EGGLER



Charles Frederick Egglar and Matilda Jane Egglar of Birmingham, Alabama, and their children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren. All rows left to right. Back row: Amy Toney; Virginia, daughter of John Albert Egglar; Brooks Smith; Amy Bentley Egglar Smith; Oscar Swanson; Dora Ward Egglar Swanson; John Osborn. Middle row: Annie Blanche Egglar Toney; Charles Frederick Egglar; Raymond, son of John Albert Egglar; Matilda Jane Marshman Egglar; Pauline Osborn; Frederick Leon Egglar; Pratt Osborn; Alice Barbara Egglar Osborn, holding Charles William Osborn. Sitting in front: Florence Toney and Claude Richard 'Bud' Toney. Picture taken about 1918, courtesy of Charles Egglar.

Charles Frederick (1858-1938) married **Matilda Jane Marshman** (1858-1947) in 1878 in Mobile. Censuses and city directories from 1880-1920 show his occupations as blacksmith, boiler maker, railroad machinist, and house painter. The family moved from Mobile to Birmingham about 1895.

Children of Charles and Matilda were John Albert (1880-1918, Kathleen Agnes Neenan Roche Keenan, her third marriage); Annie Blanche (1882-1963, Claude Toney and Hayes Albert Woolf); Charles William (1884-1916, Mary Ann Downs); Alice Barbara (1888-1949, John Andrew Osborn); Frederick Leon (1892-1975, Jessie Novella Smith); Dora Ward (1896-1996, Oscar Charles Swanson); and Amy Bentley (1898-1993, Brooks Kelsey Smith).

The daughter of Dora Ward Egglers and Oscar Charles Swanson, **Beverly Jane Swanson Cothren**, was of immense help to me not only in supplying information on the Alabama Egglers but also in guiding me to entries in the Brienz parish records.

ANNA 'ANNIE' ELIZABETH EGGLER, DAUGHTER OF JOHANNES AND BARBARA EGGLER

Anna Elizabeth (1862-1890) married **Ollney 'Ollie' Lyman Bennett** (1858-1889) in 1881 in Mobile County. Their children were Jennette 'Nesta' Barbett (1882-1917, Charles Andrew Ricks); Marion Louise (1884-1987, Walter F Swanson and William Frederick Maas); Margaret 'Maggie' Watty (1885-1920, John William Ricks); and Oliver 'Obie' (1889-).

HENRY W EGGLER, SON OF JOHANNES AND BARBARA EGGLER

In 1889 **Henry W Egglers** (1864-1911) had a grocery at 1401 5th Avenue in Birmingham with Toney Geri. Jacob Gussett was a clerk there. But by 1900 Henry had become a saloon keeper and liquor bottler in Birmingham. In 1905 he married **Laura Eppy Harmon**. They had one child, Henry John Egglers (1906-1968). He became a major in the Medical Service Corps in WWII. After Henry W Egglers died, Laura married George Beatty.

9. EGGLETT FAMILIES OF SOUTHERN NEW YORK AND CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

There are two regions of the United States today with large numbers of people named Egglers. One is in southern New York, centered on Sullivan County, and the other is in central Pennsylvania, centered on Lock Haven in Clinton County. Lock Haven is just up the road from where I live, so some years ago I started research on those two areas. It turns out that the Lock Haven group is an offshoot from the Sullivan County group. It also turns out that two separate lines, both with roots firmly in Brienz, are represented. The two pairs of men at the end of these lines are those who were born in Brienz and emigrated to America.

One I will call the Johannes-Melchior line:

Ulli (bef. 1647-1702) → Caspar (1683-1776) → Caspar (1725-) → Peter (1766-1853) → Johannes (1804-1891) and Melchior (1810-1882) [not “my” Melchior]

The other I will call the Jakob-Matthias line:

Ulli (bef. 1647-1702) → Peter (1673-1743) → Ulrich (1709-1761) → Johannes (1734-1786) → Johannes (1770-1825) → Jakob (1812-1892) and Matthias (1815-1892)

I am distantly related to these two lines. In the case of the Johannes line, our common ancestor is Caspar (1683-1776). In the case of the Jakob-Matthias line, our common ancestor is all the way back at Ulli. Descendants of these lines who are my contemporaries are my 5th to 7th cousins.

My research into these Egglers families was greatly assisted by Cindy Darling Robertson, who is the wife of a descendant in the Johannes line, my 7th cousin. She thinks that the two lines did not know that they were related. Given the genealogical distance between them, that is understandable. The two lines actually crossed twice. In the first instance, Melchior Egglers (1851-1943), a son of Jakob (1812-1892) married Barbara Egglers (1852-1933), a daughter of Johannes (1804-1891). Melchior and Barbara were 4th cousins. In the second, Margaritha Egglers (1853-1906), a daughter of Melchior Egglers (1810-1882), married Johannes Egglers (1841-1895), a son of Jakob Egglers (1812-1892). Margaritha and Johannes were 4th cousins once removed.

On May 3, 1859 the ship Portland arrived in New York City. Among its passengers were Matthias Egglers (1815-1892), with wife Susanna ‘Anna’ Reinmann and daughter Anna, and Johannes (1804-1891) with wife Margaretha Schild and seven children. Another daughter of Johannes and Margaretha, Margaretha, and her husband Peter Abplanalp were already in New York at Pikes Pond, Sullivan County (now Kenoza Lake in the Town of Delaware). The brother of Johannes, Melchior, had also arrived earlier, in 1857 or 1858. The last to arrive was Jakob, the brother of Matthias, in May 1870 on the ship Saxonia with his wife and two of their living children. Their sons Casper, Johannes, Peter, and Jacob had come earlier, in 1868, on the ship Cella.

All these people settled in northwestern Sullivan County, in the Towns of Bethel, Callicoon, Cohecton, Delaware, and Liberty. Sullivan County, in the Catskill Mountains, has a southern border 70 miles northwest of New York City. It is separated on its western side from Pennsylvania by the Delaware River. In the 1920s through the 1970s, it was home to hundreds of

Borscht Belt hotels and resorts.

The four sections to follow will explore Johannes (1804) and Melchior (1810) from the Johannes-Melchior line and Jakob (1812) and Matthias (1815) from the Jakob-Matthias line.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHANNES EGGLER (1804) AND MARGARETHA SCHILD (THE JOHANNES-MELCHIOR LINE)

Johannes ‘John’ Egglar (1804-1891) married Margaretha Schild (1808-1890) in Brienz in 1825. They had nine children, all born in Brienz and all of whom emigrated with their parents in 1859. Sons John and Peter helped build what would become the homestead on Swiss Hill near Jeffersonville. Johannes was a farmer, farming with his son Casper in his later years. He and Margaretha are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Jeffersonville, as are a number of people with the surname Egglar.

Johannes “John” Egglar (1825-1888), son of Johannes Egglar and Margaretha Schild, married Margaret Ruef (1835-1896). He was a farmer in the Town of Liberty near White Sulphur Springs. Their children were: (1) John (1855-1929, Maggie Mathern and Mary Bomberger), an early settler in Galeton, Potter, Pennsylvania; (2) Michael ‘Mike’ (1859-1943), a farmer in Gaines Township, Tioga, Pennsylvania; (3) Margaret (1861-1946, William L Temper); (4) Emma Amelia (1864-1917, Emil Huggler, a mine laborer born in Meiringen, Bern, Switzerland, which is near Brienz); (5) Fred E (1866-1954, Anna Maynes); (6) Albert E (1869-1954, Margaret Monaghan), who ran several boarding houses and a convalescent home in the Town of Liberty; (7) Charlotte ‘Lottie’ (1872-1938, James Frederick Losey, a farmer in Potter County, Pennsylvania; (8) Anna (1874-1957, Frank Herny Eick, a tannery foreman last living in Endicott, Broome, New York; (9) Casper (1877-1943, Mary A White), a farmer in Gaines Township, Tioga, Pennsylvania.

Several of those children lived in Potter County, Pennsylvania and in immediately-adjacent Tioga County. Dugald Thomas ‘Tom’ Egglar was a grandson of (9) Casper Egglar. He was a famous fisherman and manufacturer of fishing lures, notably the Gaines Popper, in Gaines, Tioga County. He emailed me in 2004 that “My grandfather was Casper Egglar and he had two brothers, Mike and Fred as well as a sister or perhaps two. My mother always told me that they came to this area in the lumbering days from the Catskills in New York State. They apparently worked in the lumber camps, and I have a couple of pictures that a local man gave me a year or two ago of a group of guys in a lumber camp and one of the people in the photo was identified as my grandfather....My grandfather married a girl by the name of Mary White and her grandfather or great grandfather was a John L. Phoenix who settled here around 1850, perhaps a bit earlier. They settled at the mouth of a stream that to this day is known as Phoenix Run and when my grandfather married, he and my grandmother lived on that farm, which is half a mile into Tioga County. He died in the early '40s, apparently never could read but could play a fiddle like crazy and yodel loud and clear as I remember him. I remember riding on his shoulders as he worked his team of horses....



Egler

Fred and the other brother Mike both lived with my grandfather on the Phoenix farm when they were young, probably into their 20's. Mother told me they would get really liquored up and no one could figure out how... until one day my grandfather found they had the silo tapped. I remember Fred... he had a beautiful big house just east of Gaines... it was torn down about 20 years ago."

I have found little information on Peter Egger (1828- , son of Johannes Egger and Margaretha Schild.



Melchior Egger (1831-1911), son of Johannes Egger and Margaretha Schild, married Margaret Von Bergan (1844-1910). He was a farmer in Jeffersonville.

Their children were Anna Elisabeth (1866-1898); John M (1878-1963); Emma Margaret (1871-1966, Melchior 'Mike' Klein); Henry M (1875-1906); Edward William (1879-1959, Martha Moore); and Minnie Margaret (1884-1958, Charles Wilfert, who was her second cousin, inasmuch as his mother was Anna Egger, the cousin of her father).

Margaretha Egger (1835-1902), daughter of Johannes Egger and Margaretha Schild, married Peter Abplanalp (1829-1900) in 1855 in Brienz. They had one child, Peter Jr., in Brienz before emigrating to Sullivan County, arriving prior to her parents. They had two more children, Margaret and Elizabeth, in New York. Having joined the Mormon Church, they journeyed over the Mormon Trail to Utah by oxen team in 1861. They went directly to Heber Valley, Utah and built homes in what is now Midway, Wasatch, Utah. Seven more children were born in Midway: George, John, Joseph Sidney, Emma Luella, Franklin, Henry, and William. Peter was a Lieutenant in the Territorial Militia during the Black Hawk War. The family were all talented in music. Peter was a member of the Andreas-Burgener Band of Midway. They moved to Glines, near Vernal, Uinta County, to homestead in 1886. Peter farmed and worked in the coal mine. He was bishop of Glines Ward from 9 May 1887 to 1889.

Casper Egger (1839-1922), son of Johannes Egger and Margaretha Schild, married Magdalena Von Weisenfluh (1846-1929) in 1864 in Jeffersonville. He was a farmer and blacksmith in the Town of Bethel. Their children were Emma (1866-1870); Casper (1868-1923, Sadie Bookmiller), a blacksmith in Galeton, Pennsylvania; John (1869-1952, Emma Mennet), a farmer in the Town of Bethel; Edward (1871-1881); Emma Amelia (1874-1939, Joseph Hollworth); Peter (1879-1902); Albert (1881-1918, Lauretta Knauss), a silk mill weaver in Allentown, Pennsylvania; Arnold (1881-1937, Gertrude Marie Kunkle); and Magdalena 'Lena' (1885-1911, Andrew Kohler).

Lena and Andrew Kohler had three girls, but both parents died when the girls were very young. Two of the girls, Hilda and Evelyn, were adopted by Casper Egger, the brother of Lena, and Casper's wife Sadie Bookmiller Egger. Evelyn became a nurse and served in Europe during

World War II. Hilda married John Victor Gazdik. Lavinia was adopted by Herman Bookmiller, Jr., a brother of Sadie Bookmiller, and his wife Maude Jane Rice. She graduated from Mansfield State Normal School (Pennsylvania) but died at age 20 in a sanitorium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The 1913 family portrait shows Herman Bookmiller, Jr. and his wife Maude Rice Bookmiller, Hilda Kohler Bookmiller Gazdick, Sadie Bookmiller Egglers, and her husband Casper Egglers.



Jacob Egglers (1841-1848), son of Johannes Egglers and Margaretha Schild, was born and died in Brienz.

Elisabeth Egglers (1846-1912), daughter of Johannes Egglers and Margareta Schild, married Michael Bamberger (1846-1909). He was a farmer in the Town of Delaware.

Anna Egglers (1847-1912), daughter of Johannes Egglers and Margaretha Schild.

I have already mentioned Barbara Egglers (1852-1933), daughter of Johannes and Margaretha Schild, who married her 4th cousin from the "other Egglers line," Melchior Egglers (1851-1943). Melchior was a farmer in Jeffersonville.

Their children were Anna (~1877- , William Felix) and Clarendia 'Clara' (1884-1976, Clarence E Power, a Customs Agent in Battery Park, Manhattan).

DESCENDANTS OF MELCHIOR EGGLER (1810) AND ANNA STAEHLI (THE JOHANNES-MELCHIOR LINE)

Melchior Egglar (1810-1882) was born in Brienz, as was his wife Anna Staehli (1821-1901). He was born in the same year as my ancestor Melchior Egglar, a fact that has caused some unfortunate mixups in online family trees. They had their first five children in Brienz and the last three in Sullivan County. Melchior was a farmer in the Town of Delaware.

Their children were Melchior (1838-1863), Anna (1847-1913), Barbara (1850-), Margaritha (1853-1906), and Johannes (1856-1857), the five born in Brienz, and Elisabeth (1858-), Magdalena 'Lena' (1861-1944, Fred Zimmerman), and John Melchior (1864-1908, Josephine Elizabeth Ruff), the three born in Sullivan County.

Anna married John Wolfgang Wilfert (1846-1926). Their children were Charles (1869-1946), whose marriage was mentioned above, and Anna (1871-1962, Daniel W Briscoe).

Margaritha married her 4th cousin 1X removed Johannes Egglar (1841-1895), as explained above. They relocated to Vallejo, California, across the bay from San Francisco, where he was a farmer, woodcarver, and sometime worker in a gold smelting company. After Johannes died, Margaritha returned to Sullivan County with Lillian (1881-1983, Sidney Miller), a Staten Island resident, George W (1883-1929, Mary L Gobel), Charles (1886-1969, Jessie Delilah Tyler), Anna (1888-1974, Timothy Elmer Hager), and Arthur (1892-1960, Katharine Morrow). The eldest, John Edwin (1876-1963, Hanna Cullahan and Mary Della Davis), stayed in California, a carpenter who lived in Modesto. I have corresponded with his grandson John Charles Egglar.

John Melchior Egglar and Josephine Elizabeth Ruff had five children: Helen Anna (1889-1981, Frederick Henry Duttweiler), Oscar Edwin (1890-1960, Myrtle Mae Corby), Anna Amelia (1892-1982, Jens Andersen), Martha Lena (1894-1950, George David Klingman), and Elmeda Ethyl (1899-1990, William Henry Leroy).

DESCENDANTS OF JAKOB EGGLER (1812) AND MAGDALENA SCHILD (THE JAKOB-MATTHIAS LINE)

As I explained above, Jakob Egglar (1812-1892) was the last of the four Sullivan County ancestors to arrive in America, in 1870, with two of their children, although four sons had arrived two years earlier. Jakob and Magdalena Schild (1809-1879) were married in Brienz in 1832 and had all of their ten children there. Jakob was a farmer in the Town of Delaware. After Magdalena died, he went to live with his son Melchior and family in Jeffersonville.

Jakob Egglar, Jr. (1838-1921), son of Jakob Egglar and Magdalena Schild, was a farmer and carpenter who relocated in Minnesota. He had a son Robert (1882-1957), who was mentally disabled. Eventually Jakob and Robert came back to Sullivan County to the Town of Bethel. After Jakob died, Robert lived with his uncle Melchior. And after that Clarence Powers had to put him in the Middletown, New York, Institution, where he died shortly thereafter.

Egglers

Johannes Egglers (1841-1895), son of Jakob Egglers and Magdalena Schild, was discussed above with his wife Margaritha Egglers. He died in Vallejo, California.

Caspar Egglers (1843-), son of Jakob Egglers and Magdalena Schild, married Catherine Weissmuller in Brienz. They arrived in New York in 1868 on the ship Cella along with Caspar's three brothers and their three children Elisabeth (Smith), Jacob, and Lina.

Peter Egglers (1845-1937), son of Jakob Egglers and Magdalena Schild, emigrated in 1868, arriving with his brothers on the ship Cella. Once over, he married Anna Reyman (1850-1951). They lived in the Town of Hancock, Delaware, New York, where he was a day laborer until retirement. Their children, born in New York or Wayne County, Pennsylvania were Edward Peter (1872-1938, Olive Odelia Chapman), Anna (1875-1900), William Jacob (1878-1924, Elsie J Martin), Rosetta (1880-1935, John Wood), George W (1884-1970, Blanche E Cottrell), John A (1890-1928, Mina 'Goldie' Sliter), and Wilhelmina 'Wilma' Elizabeth (1897-1986, Edward C Lacey).

Matthaus 'Matthew' Egglers (1847-1907), son of Jakob Egglers and Magdalena Schild, married Katherine 'Kate' Thoeni (1844-1913) about two years after he emigrated from Switzerland with his parents in 1870. Kate, who was also Swiss, had emigrated two years before him. In 1880 Matthew, Kate, and their first four children lived in the Town of Hancock, Delaware, New York,



East End of Railroad Yards and Swimming Pool, Driftwood, Pa.

Driftwood, Pennsylvania, on the Sinnemahoning River

where his brother Peter lived. But in the early 1880s they moved a considerable distance into central Pennsylvania, to the little town of Driftwood on the Sinnemahoning River in Cameron County. The L. R. Gleason & Sons tannery was established at Driftwood in 1889. In 1890 it produced one carload of leather per week and employed 35 men. Driftwood was also a railroad hub. The railroad tracks still today pass through town.

Matthew's growing family lived in a small company house on Driftwood Avenue (now Water St.) just east of the tannery and next to the large house of Mr. Gleason. By 1930 some of the Egglers family had moved down river to Woolrich in Clinton County, home to the Woolrich Woolens Company. Karan Egglers Sloane wrote me that the owner was recruiting people and heard about the large Egglers family in Driftwood. Supposedly he checked and learned that they were hard workers, and brought them to work at the woolen mill, moving them into company housing. Many descendants of Matthew Egglers live today in the Woolrich-Swissdale-Lock Haven area in Clinton County.

Children of Matthew and Katie were John Jacob (1875-1926), a tannery worker in the Mosser

Tannery in Gleasonston, Clinton County; Wilhelmina 'Minnie' (1874-1946, John Fuhrer, a tannery worker in Gleasonston); Edward E (1876-1952, Mazie S Thomas), who went from the Driftwood tannery to the Woolrich woolen mills; Katie (1877-1899, Fred W Moore), whose son Edward was adopted after her death by his Egglar grandparents; William Matthew (1881-1960, Lydia Anna 'Annie' Keister), a Driftwood tannery worker and the last of the line in Driftwood; George (1882-1907), a tannery worker who died of tuberculosis at the State Hospital in Conewango, Warren County; Albert Allen (1883-1952, Dorethea Smith), a Driftwood tannery worker and Pennsylvania Railroad laborer; Frederick Alexander (1887-1963, Elizabeth Lucille Hennessey), who worked at the Driftwood tannery, then the Johnsonburg tannery, and then the Johnsonburg paper mill; and Frank Andrew (1889-1956, Margaret 'Maggie' Thomas and Viola Dapp), who worked at the Woolrich woolen mills.

Matthew and Kate are buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery on the hillside above Driftwood along with their children Katie Egglar Moore, Peter, and George and grandchildren Roy and Elizabeth, children of Katie Egglar Moore, and Emma Jane, daughter of Edward Egglar and Mazie Thomas. Albert Allen Egglar and wife Dorethea Smith Egglar are in the Castle Garden Cemetery on the south side of Driftwood.

Melchior Egglar (1851-1943), son of Jakob Egglar and Magdalena Schild, married his 4th cousin Barbara Egglar. I covered them above in the section on Descendants of Johannes Egglar and Margaretha Schild.

DESCENDANTS OF MATTHIAS EGGLER (1815) AND SUSANNA REINMANN (THE JAKOB-MATTHIAS LINE)

Matthias Egglar (1815-1882) was the brother of Jakob, the subject of the section immediately above. He arrived with his wife Susanna 'Anna' Reinmann (1827-1885) in 1859 on the ship Portland along with Johannes (1804-1889), his third cousin once removed, and the family of Johannes. Matthias initially worked in a tannery in the Town of Callicoon but then became a farmer in the Town of Liberty. Matthias and Susanna had been married in 1850 in Brienz.

Children of Matthias and Anna were Susanna 'Anna' (1851-), Rosetta 'Rose' (1859-1928), and John William (1870-). Rose married Andrew Abplanalp (1854-1914), who was also Swiss. Rose and Andrew ran a hotel and tavern in Youngsville. Their children were Ella E (John George Sander), George Andrew (Anna Kehrley), Emma, William Percy (Elizabeth Tremper), and John E (Maud Gorton).

10. THE EGGLER-ECKLER LINE IN MARYLAND, KENTUCKY, AND WESTWARD

ULRICH EGGLER FROM INTERLAKEN

My Egglers of Wisconsin, the other Egglers in Wisconsin, and the Egglers of Sullivan County, New York, emigrated between 1856 and 1870. But an Egglers left Switzerland for America far earlier. **Ulrich or Ulli Egglers** was born in Interlaken, Canton Bern, Switzerland in 1702, the eldest of four children of Ulli Egglers and Madlene Zurbucher. He married **Anna Maria Ritschard**, also from Interlaken. He was the treasurer of Interlaken. He sailed from Rotterdam for America with two of his children, arriving in Philadelphia, where he took the oath of allegiance in 1750.

I do not know if I am related to Ulrich, but his name was Egglers, and he lived across the lake from Brienz, so it is likely that I am.

I was introduced to Ulrich and his descendants by an article by **Mary Keyser Meyer** (1981, *The Eckler Family of Maryland and Kentucky*, *The Kentucky Genealogist*, v. 23, number 3, p. 83-96).

ZURFLÜH

1753, Feb. 20.

R. M. 217, 202/3.

Hans *Zur Flühe* of Oberried and Hans *Wyss* of Isenfluh, both in the district of Interlaken, emigrated a year ago to Pennsylvania. Both have come back and are trying to persuade their fellow-countrymen to emigrate by means of letters which they have brought with them from emigrants and by their own reports. The Landvogt is instructed to put both of these agents in prison for 24 hours and then to order them to leave the country forever within 8 days. Among the letters which they brought with them from Pennsylvania were some from the mountaineers (Oberländer) *Sterchi* and *Egglers* from the district of Interlaken (p. 185). In order to check emigration the government takes counsel whether it might not perhaps be advisable to deprive emigrants of their inheritance rights in this country.

This article, which mentions Ulrich Egglers, shows that Swiss authorities took strong measures to discourage emigration in the middle of the 1700s. From Lists of Swiss Emigrants, v. 2, p. 79, A.B. Faust and G.M. Brumbaugh, National Genealogical Society, Washington, D.C., 1925

By 1752 Ulrich was back in Switzerland to take his wife and other children and property of about 10,000 pounds to America. The books of the Governing Council of Bern state that the government granted him permission to leave after an emigration tax of 10 percent of his property was paid. It was also stipulated that he could not propagandize for emigration "and shall not entice anyone away," on threat of having all his property confiscated. This harsh action discouraging emigration is in contrast to the mid-1800s, when emigration was encouraged and even subsidized.

In 1753 Ulrich obtained a warrant for a tract of land in Baltimore (now Carroll) County, Maryland, called New Switzerland, and later added to that acreage. In 1757 he became a naturalized citizen of Maryland. He died in Baltimore County in 1762.

CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF ULRICH EGGLER

Ulrich Egglers and Anna Maria Ritschard had seven children, all born in Interlaken, of whom

records exist for three.

(1) **Anna Egglar** (1731-) married **Heinrich Zurbucher**. They settled in Manchester, Baltimore County (now Carroll), Maryland, later relocating to Hanover, Pennsylvania.

(2) **Jacob Eckler, Sr.** (1741-1798) married **Hannah Lemmon**. Jacob was the first to spell his surname Eckler. The change is not surprising inasmuch as in Swiss German the pronunciation sounds like Eckler. Jacob together with his nephew Jacob Eckler, Jr., son of Ulrich Egglar, Jr., purchased land separately on Twin Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Licking River, in Harrison County, Kentucky. Jacob Eckler, Sr. prospered in Kentucky and became a wealthy farmer and slave owner.

Jacob Sr. and Hannah had four sons who lived and died in Harrison County: (a) **Ulery 'Eulie' Eckler** (1784-1839, Sarah 'Sallie' Harris). Ulery and Sallie had three children who married first cousins and one who married a second cousin. (b) **Samuel Lewis Eckler, Sr.** (1791-1867, Rachel Boyers). Samuel and Rachel had two children who married first cousins, one who married a first cousin once removed, and one who married a second cousin. (c) **John B. Eckler** (1793-1886, Elizabeth McNees). John B and Elizabeth had two children who married first cousins and one who married a first cousin once removed (who was also a second cousin once removed). (d) Henry Eckler (1795-1852, Elizabeth Conrad).

(3) **Ulrich Egglar, Jr.** (1737-) married Juliana Kuntz from Adams County, Pennsylvania. Ulrich Jr. and Juliana had two children of note:

Jacob Eckler, Jr. (1763-1841) married Susannah Lemmon, half-sister of the Hannah Lemmon who had married his uncle Jacob Eckler, Sr. Jacob Jr. inherited tracts of land from his grandfather, which he sold to finance the move to Kentucky. He became a large landholder in Kentucky, a successful farmer, and operated a grist mill.

Another son of Ulrich Egglar, Jr. was **Ulrich Eckler** (~1765-1832, Elizabeth). He, with his family, lived most of his life and died in Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland.

FURTHER DESCENDANTS OF ULRICH EGGLER

Harrison County is in northeast Kentucky, in the heart of the Bluegrass Region. I have traced Eckler descendants into the 1900s. The great majority stayed in Harrison County and the adjoining counties of Grant and Pendleton. Almost all were farmers. Some changed the surname spelling to Ecklar.

The habit of marrying closely-related cousins continued, to some extent. As a result of that, particularly in the early days, interesting kinships result. I picked two names at random, Gerald Philip Ecklar born in 1913 and James Gilbert Ecklar, Jr. born in 1907. They were second cousins once removed, 3rd cousins once removed, 4th cousins once removed, and fifth cousins!

An interesting family that did not stay in Kentucky was that of **Jacob Eckler** (1800-1853). He was the son of Jacob Eckler, Jr. and Susannah Lemmon. He married Cassandra Perrin in 1825 in Harrison County. Within a few years they moved to Vermillion County, Illinois, where all but their oldest child was born. He served in the Illinois Militia during the Black Hawk War in 1832. Cassandra died in 1843. Jacob then married Sarah Allison. She must not have lived long, because in 1849 he married Amy Cushing, with whom he had one daughter. Amy died in 1852.

Most of Jacob's children set out in 1853 on the Oregon Trail. Jacob died that year, either immediately before the family left or on the trail. Those traveling were Mary Eckler, his

daughter with Amy, Ruth Eckler, Josephus Perrin Eckler, Jacob Ouley Eckler, George Eckler, and Cassandra Eckler.

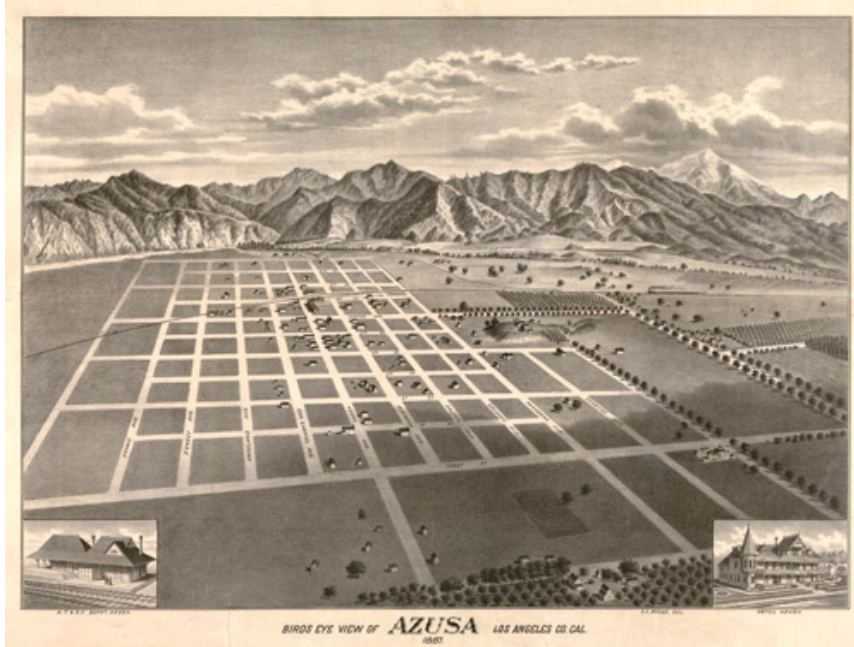
After arrival of the party in Oregon in 1853, Mary Eckler (1851-1942) became the guardian of her sister Cassandra Eckler George and Cassandra's husband Jesse George. In 1872, Jesse and Cassandra George moved to Seattle from Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon, and at that time Mary Eckler was married to Jesse's brother Melvin Clarke George in Linn County. Mary and Melvin lived in Portland, Oregon, where Melvin became the first "two term" US Congressman from Oregon, 1880 to 1884, a lawyer and judge until he died in 1934.

Ruth Eckler (1828-1906) traveled the Oregon Trail with her husband George Stevenson. George died on the trail, and Ruth eventually married the wagonmaster, John Tucker Scott. Scott became a farmer and businessman in Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon.

Josephus Perrin Eckler (1830-1919) moved frequently after arriving in Oregon in 1853, first living at Bedwell Bar in northern California, then Sawamish County (now Mason County), Washington Territory [territorial census], then Chehalis County, Washington Territory. He was a farmer in all those places. In 1872 he ran for sheriff in Thurston County, Washington, and that same year married **Orpha Baldrige**. His wife's brothers owned farmland in Azusa, Los Angeles County, so in 1877 he moved to **Azusa**, purchasing land from Orpha's brother James Baldrige. **Azusa** was then farmland, and even by 1887, when the town was founded, it was largely agricultural (image to right). Josephus died in Portland, Oregon and his wife Orpha in Los Angeles in 1929.

Jacob Ouley Eckler made a land claim in 1855 in Mason County, Washington Territory. He died there in 1858.

In 1870 George Eckler (1837-1901), in the lumber business, was living in the Lebanon Precinct, Linn, Oregon with his wife Catharine Loudon Carothers. By 1880 he had



relocated to Dayton, Columbia, Washington, in the same business. He died in Dayton.

I gave a partial history of Cassandra Eckler (1839-1920) in the paragraph above on her step-sister Mary. In the late 1850s Cassandra lived in Sawamish County, Washington Territory, with her brother Josephus and in 1860 with her sister Ruth Scott in Washington County, Oregon. In 1863, in Washington County, she was married to Jessie W. George. After marriage, they moved back to Lebanon, Linn, Oregon, where Jessie had grown up after his family came West. In 1872 they moved to Seattle from Lebanon. Upon locating in Seattle, Jessie acquired extensive real-estate and property interests, and he was one of the three original organizers of the Washington

Iron Works. He assisted in securing track rights for several railroad companies. In July 1884 he was appointed by President Arthur as United States Marshal for the Territory and served until after the change of administration.

FOOTNOTES

¹The LDS films that contain birth, marriage, and death entries for various time ranges from the Brienz Kirchenbuch are 2005306-2005311. They are now online at familysearch.org but must be viewed at a Family History Center. The images in this article are a small piece of the record that I assembled. Starting from a single individual, such as the younger Melchior Egglers, the number of direct ancestors increases arithmetically. Each of those ancestors has children in addition who are not direct ancestors, and their descendants accumulate. Thus my family tree contains hundreds if not thousands of Egglers-related people.

My tree, Nearly All Our Ancestors 2, can be viewed, if a member, on ancestry.com. A less up-to-date tree, Nearly All Our Ancestors, can be viewed free at <https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=degglers1849>. My tree on the Egglers-Eckler line on ancestry.com is called Egglers-Eckler of Maryland & Kentucky & westward. A less up-to-date tree can be viewed at <https://wc.rootsweb.com/trees/127433/I001/uli-egglers/individual>.

²The primary document for the Swiss migration from Brienz to Mormon Coulee is an article by George Zielke, The Swiss Settlers of Mormon Coulee. It appeared in the Sunday Editions of the La Crosse Tribune and Leader-Press from 1929 to 1931. It was reproduced as La Crosse County Historical Sketches, Series 1, Liesenfeld Press, 1931 p. 21-23, under the auspices of the La Crosse County Historical Society. The article was kindly sent to me by Lyle Hartman.

Material in that article was reprinted (without attribution) in 1965 by the Mormon Coulee United Church of Christ in a Centennial pamphlet.

A first-person account of the journey was written by John Flueck (Americanized to Flick) in a letter to his nephew Willie Kienholz. John Flick traveled with the party but left in Dubuque, Iowa, eventually settling in Pepin County, Wisconsin. He married Magdalena Kienholz from Brienz; she was the fourth cousin of Melchior Egglers. A copy of his account was sent to me by Carol Johns Williams. She is a descendant of Johannes Schild and his wife Barbara Egglers, two of the original emigrants to Mormon Coulee.

³Photo credits: Maralyn Egglers for the Melchior farmhouse.

The photo album of Glenn Thiel: Melchior Egglers (2); Sara, Ben, and Sara Egglers; Anna Egglers and Minnie Egglers; Barbara Freihofer Egglers.

Barbara Fowler: Albert Egglers, Bertha Egglers, Henry Egglers; Minnie Thiel etc; Sara Egglers; Kate and Lydia Schneider

Bert Peterson: Peter and Augusta Egglers; Ruth, Harold, Helen, and Augusta Egglers

Walter Loucks, from the collection of Louise Bogner Loucks: Peter Egglers family; Freida and Dora Egglers

David Pike: Barbara Michel Egglers; Barbara and Casper Egglers; Casper Egglers family; Casper Egglers home; Ida and Amelia Egglers (photo by their cousin Estella Egglers Pike); Pete and Elise Egglers at home (many others cropped out)

Lynette Jerome, posted on ancestry.com: Frank and Margaret Egglers Roesler wedding photo;

William Egglar, Frank Roesler, Martha Roesler, Martha Egglar

Dennis Deters: Peter and Anna Egglar

Sandra Petersen posted on ancestry.com: John and Louisa Egglar Bogner

Rex Michael Dillon for the Dillingham dairy, Margaretha Egglar & Peter Ruf, and Herman Peter Dillon photos

Ssalazar posted on ancestry.com: Mae and Webb Martinez Baldwin

Alan Bookmiller for the Bookmiller-Egglar 1913 family portrait

⁴Here is part of the Hilda Amelia Egglar Schams Olson document, with my remarks in parentheses: “**Anna’s [Anna Blatter Flueck] maternal grandfather was Peter Egglar [1813-] of Brienz. His wife was of a predominant Fischer family from Brienz. She had a brother who was seven feet tall. [Peter actually married Barbara Michel, although Barbara’s mother was Margaretha Fischer. It may be significant that the Brienz crests of Egglar and Fischer are identical.]**

Peter Egglar was a distinguished peasant, as distinguished from a farmer who lived on his land year-round. He had 25 head of cattle and was a stock holder in the community pasture. They had a very big house and a great garden.

Grandfather Peter had a bachelor brother who operated a small mill and bakery in Brienz. Another brother went to Argentina and worked in the government there. A third brother went to Hungary and ran a mill. A fourth brother came to America and was the grandfather of Godfred Egglar in Mormon Coulee, east of La Crosse, Wisconsin. [The bachelor brother was Caspar Egglar, 1804-1868, who was indeed a miller but was actually married to Anna Flueck. Caspar and Anna had no children. The other two brothers were my ancestor Melchior Egglar, 1810-1879, of Mormon Coulee and Johannes, 1822-1887, of Alabama. I find no evidence of the Argentina and Hungary brothers.]

Peter Egglar also had three sisters. The first, Elsie, who married an Abegglen from Iseltwald, Switzerland. [Peter did not have such a sister.] The second Gretli of Grindelwald, Switzerland who was an invalid due to paralysis.. A third sister [Barbara] married John Schild of Mormon Coulee.... Greti, or Marguerite Egglar, daughter of Peter Egglar and an invalid, was the eldest of seven children. [She was actually the fifth or seven.] Her parents died and left Greti in charge of the children. Though paralyzed, she undertook this obligation. There was a suitor who wished to marry Greti, but she remained faithful to her family. The suitor made a ‘shebellen’ (chair) for Greti, which was brought to America by relatives who visited there after her death [1887]. The chair is now in my (Hilda) possession. It is inscribed with Greti’s name, Marguerite Egglar, and the date, 1840, when it was made. It is adorned with designs and works of inlay.” [Greti’s parents died in 1858 and 1866, so it makes no sense that she took care of younger children. Perhaps she took care of the children of her brother, and my ancestor, Melchior, whose wife Elisabeth Abegglen died in 1844. Possibly Elisabeth is the mythical sister Elsie Egglar.]