

THE SCHNEBELE-SNIVELY FAMILY

Chapter 1

SWISS ORIGINS

Our Swiss ancestors first emerged onto the pages of history in the second millenium B.C. in southwestern Germany and eastern France. Norsemen skilled in the use of iron weapons, with wealth obtained by conquering their neighbors, were able to gain dominion over central Europe. These Celtic ancestors lived in tribal, semi-fortified villages, ruled by all-powerful chiefs and ministered to by Druid priests. To them we owe much of our Western European folklore as well as our genes.

One tribe, the Helvetii, descendants of Neolithic lake dwellers of 6000-2000 B.C., lived on the plateau between the Alps and the Jura Mountains in the area that is now northwestern Switzerland. First conquered by Julius Caesar in 58 B.C., their homeland passed from one victor to another until they were once more united in 1033 under the Holy Roman Empire. Among the expanding feudal houses was that of the de Lunchunfts, minor nobility who took their name from the location of their castle (no longer in existence) in the town of Lunkhofen, about seven miles southwest of the city of Zürich (two neighboring towns, Unter- and Ober-Lunkhofen still exist). (1) The powerful feudal houses of Savoy and Hapsburg dominated this medieval Switzerland, then comprising only the three Forest cantons of Uri, Schwyz (from which the emerging country later took its name) and Unterwalden, until a small Swiss force defeated them in 1315, thus paving the way for Swiss independence.

The first de Lunchunft (or von Lunkhofen) ancestor of whom we have any record was (I) JOHANNES von LUNKHOFEN who lived in Zürich at the end of the 12th century. (2) His son (II) HENRICUS von LUNKHOFEN, was born there about 1192. Henricus, or Henry, married ANNA von HOTTINGEN, born about 1196, a daughter of Burchard von Hottingen. They had two sons, RUDOLFUS, or Rudolf, and Chunradus, or Conrad (b. ca. 1221), both born in Zürich. Henry von Lunkhofen died May 21, 1257.

III. RUDOLF von LUNKHOFEN (b. ca. 1219, Zürich, Switzerland) married MARGARITA SNEWLI, who was born in Zürich about 1223. They had three sons, all born in Zürich:

- 1. Rudolphus b. ca. 1246; m. Margarita ---
- 2. Henricus b. ca. 1248; m. Judenta ?Snewli
- 3. Johannes b. ca. 1250

IV. HENRICUS von LUNKHOFEN (b. ca. 1248, Zürich Switzerland)

married JUDENTA ?SNEWLI, who was born in Zürich about 1252. As a younger son, he apparently took his mother's (and/or wife's) surname, as the Billeter record notes that he was "called Snewli." Family surnames had begun to appear in Europe in the 12th century, though somewhat later in more remote areas. Henricus' and Judenta's children, both born in Zürich were:

- 1. Anna b. ca. 1275; m. Konrad Biberli
- 2. Johannes b. ca. 1277; m. Agnes ---

V. JOHANNES von LUNKHOFEN "named SNEWLI" (b. ca. 1277, Zürich Switzerland) married AGNES ----. She was born about 1281 in Zürich and died Jan. 13, 1350. They witnessed the beginnings of the Swiss nation when the three Forest Cantons decisively defeated the Hapsburgs in 1315. Their two sons, both born in Zürich were:

- 1. Heinrich Snewli b. ca. 1318
- 2. Ulrich Snewli⁽³⁾ b. ca. 1320; m. (1) 1346 Katharina Muench; (2) Adelheid Elli Zwick; d. 1395

VI. ULRICH SNEWLI (b. ca. 1320, Zürich, Switzerland) married (1) KATHARINA MUENCH in 1346; she was born about 1324 in Zürich. He married (2) ADELHEID ELLI ZWICK, who was also born in Zürich, where both his marriages took place, and where he died in 1395. His children, all born in Zürich were:

- 1. Rudolf b. ca. 1347; d. 1420
- 2. Daughter b. ca. 1349; m. Ulrich Erishaupt
- 3. Ulrich b. ca. 1351; m.

VII. ULRICH SNEWLI (b. ca. 1351, Zürich, Switzerland) married, but the name of his wife is not known. She was born in Zürich about 1355. Their children, all born in Zürich, were:

- 1. Steffan b. ca. 1378; m. Elisabeth Elsi; d. 1435
- 2. Heinrich b. ca. 1380; m. Margaretha ab Dorf
- 3. Adelheid b. ca. 1382; m. Johannes Nussboumer
- 4. Daughter b. ca. 1384; m. Hans von Gruenberg

VIII. STEFFAN SNEWLI (b. ca. 1378, Zürich, Switzerland) married ELISABETH ELSI, who was born in Zürich about 1382. He died in 1435. Their children, all born in Zürich, were:

- 1 Johannes b. ca. 1405; d.y.?

- 2. Cleopha b. ca. 1407
- 3. Margaritha b. ca. 1409
- 4. Friedrich b. ca. 1411
- 5. Anna b. ca. 1413
- ?-6. Johannes⁽⁴⁾ b. ca. 1420; m. --- --- ; d. 1498

IX. JOHANNES SCHNELY (b. ca. 1405 or 1420, Zürich, Switzerland) changed the spelling of his surname from SNEWLI to SCHNELY. There is some doubt about the date of his birth; one Billeter reference gives 1405, another 1420 (p. 14, No. 42); possibly a Johannes born in 1405 died young and our Johannes is a younger son given the same name. The name of his wife is unknown, though she was born about 1424 in Zürich. Johannes Schnely died in 1498 in Thalwil, a town about eight miles south of Zürich on the Zürichsee, where the family was living in the 1440s.

Children:

- 1. Daughter b. ca. 1444, Thalwil; m. Hans Abbazell
- 2. Johannes b. ca. 1445; m. 1469, Verena Hedinger
- 3. Heinrich b. ca. 1447, Thalwil; m. Agatha ---

X. JOHANNES SCHNELY (b. ca. 1445, Zürich, Switzerland) married VERENA HEDINGER, who was born in Zürich about 1440, a daughter of Johannes Hedinger. Shortly after their marriage in 1469, Johannes and Verena Schnely purchased property in Affoltern am Albis, a village about seven miles southwest of the city of Zürich and five miles west of Thalwil, where the Schnelys had lived for some years, perhaps as long as fifty years. Their new home was only about three miles from the ancestral von Lunkhofen castle. As part of the marriage dower Johannes came into possession of the Ober Mühle (Upper Mill) in Affoltern, from which he made a living for his family. This mill may have been located along the little stream that still flows through Affoltern. Its operation supported many generations of Schnelys-Schneebelis, and was still in the family in 1878.

Children (order of birth uncertain; Ernst Albert Lincke in "Die Schnewli von Affoltern a. A." (1939)⁽²⁵⁾ lists them: Konrad, Thomann, Andreas, Heinrich, Hans, Oswald, Rudolf and Peter, but gives no birthdates. All born Affoltern):

- 1. Hans b. ca. 1474; m. --- --- ; d. (Oct. 10)?, 1531
- 2. Andreas b. ca. 1477; prob. d.y. (see #7 below)
- 3. Heinrich b. ca. 1478; m. bef. 1505, Elsa Aberlin; d. 1540

- 4. Peter b. ca. 1480; m. bef. 1537, --- Wyder; d. after 1555
- 5. Conrad b. ca. 1482; m. bef. 1513, Christina ---; d. after 1547
- 6. Thomann b. ca. 1485; m. --- --- ; d. after 1547
- 7. Andreas b. ca. 1486; m. --- --- . It is uncertain whether this Andreas or #2 above died young.
- 8. Oswald b. ca. 1490. He was in Glückshafen in 1504, but nothing more is known of him.
- 9. Rudolf b. ca. 1492. He was also in Glückshafen in 1504, but nothing more is known of him.

To digress briefly before continuing these lines: About this time the spelling of the name changed again. According to the Billeter records (p. 1, No. 1) Hans (#1 above) used the spelling Schnebli, variations of which are still in use today. Conrad (#5 above), however, returned to a variation of the older spelling - Schnewli. Lincke comments (p. 9) that the use of b in place of w occurred first in Alsace, somewhat later in Swabia (Württemberg). The name occasionally appears in Switzerland in the 1500 and 1600s as Schneeweli instead of the modern almost universal Schneebeeli. As a sidelight Lincke notes the derivation of the name not only from the Old German Snewes, meaning "snow" (and by extension in modern German to Schneelein ("little snow," i.e., "snowball") but from the Latin nix ("snow") whose genitive is nivis. Thus is introduced the v which occurs in the anglicized modern American Snively and Snavelly, and with the i furnishes a basis for the preference of Snively over Snarely. Lincke also mentions the appearance of names such as Johannes Frost (1281), Conradus Hagelstein (hailstone) (1251), Johannes Nordwind (1280), Rudolphus Regen (rain) (1277), Gotfridus Hagel Schur (hail storm) (1248), etc., all at about the same time Judenta ?Snewli brought the name into the von Lunkhofen family in 1248. These boreal surnames may be a reflection of an unusual period of cold weather in Switzerland in the latter part of the 13th century. The lower left quartering of the von Lunkhofen coat of arms of 1538 shows the three snowballs attesting to the origin of the name in the union of the two families⁽¹⁾ (this coat of arms is illustrated opposite p. 28 in the Lincke book). Several of Johannes' sons and grandsons took the lower left quartering of the shield, converted it into the shield shape, tilted it to the left, surmounted it with a knight's helmet and their own individual devise.

In the meantime, the Canton of Zürich had formed a league with several other neighboring cantons and thus augmented, was able to again defeat the Hapsburg overlords in the late 14th century and begin its ascendancy as a top-ranking military power in Europe. The near-by farming communities of the flat-lands north of the Alps shared in the relative peace and prosperity of the next hundred years or so. The hard-working, thrifty Swiss far-

mers enjoyed their comfortable homes and prospered from their burgeoning livestock and flourishing crops.

The story of the Schneblis of Affoltern, during this period, taken from the notes of Julius Billeter⁽²⁾ and the Lincke book mentioned above, is fragmentary. The Billeter notes, although in English, are difficult to read, and there are numerous abbreviations and spellings of the name, often differing from one community to another in the Zürich area, such as Schneli, Schnellli and Schnell in Gähwil, Schneeli in Kerenzen, and Schnellly and Schnebli in Affoltern. Other Schnebele families were living in Ottenbach (two miles west of Affoltern), Inwil (two miles south), Horgen (six miles east) and Gruningen (ten miles southeast of Zürich on the east side of Zürichsee.

At that time it was customary for wars in Europe to be fought with mercenary soldiers, and it seems ironic today that Switzerland, now a country that has successfully avoided becoming embroiled in modern wars, was noted in the 15th and 16th centuries for providing the best mercenary soldiers in Europe. Such military service was considered an honorable occupation and several of the sons of Johannes Schnely served under Maximilian Sforza, Duke of Milan, against the young Francis I, King of France, for the possession of Milanese territory. The decisive battle of this campaign was fought at Marignano Sept. 13-14, 1515. The two armies, facing across a creek, stood each other off for eight hours before the Swiss broke ranks and fled under the assault of Francis' troops, only 3000 out of some 25,000 escaping. The battle demonstrated decisively the tactical advantage of the French cavalry, armed with "new-fangled" arquebus, over the traditional pikes of the Swiss "men of the mountains." Disastrous as this battle was for the forces of the Duke of Milan, the young Schnebli man survived.

The lines of Johannes and Verena (Hedinger) Schnely's sons follow:

XI-1. HANS SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1474, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) was in Glückshafen in 1504, probably after his marriage. The name of his wife is unknown, but she was born about 1476. Hans fought in several military campaigns - Zyger(?), Glotz(?), Novaro and Marignano. He fell in the battle of Kappel which occurred Oct. 10, 1531.

Children (may have been others who died young):

-1. J(aco)b⁽⁷⁾ b. ca. 1502

XI-11. ?J(ACO)B SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1502, Affoltern am Albis or Glückshafen) married probably about 1528, as his wife, whose name is not known, was born about 1508.

Children (may have been others who died young)⁽⁶⁾:

- 1. Hein(rich) b. ca. 1530
- 2. H(an)s b. ca. 1541
- 3. J(aco)b b. ca. 1550

All of the above are of an age to have been the father (or grandfather in the case of the first two) of Jacob Schnebele (ca. 1590-ca. 1600), but unfortunately this line is not continued.

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XI-3. HEINRICH SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1478, Affoltern am Albis, Ganton Zürich) was in Loo, Holland, in 1504, but returned to Affoltern, possibly after his marriage to ELSA ABERLIN before 1505. She was born about 1480. He is identified as having been a judge, or more generally, a magistrate ("Richter")⁽⁸⁾. He appears on the Affoltern tax rolls in 1534; he died in 1540.

Children (prob. born Affoltern):

- 1. Heinrich b. ca. 1510; m. --- --- ; d. after 1582.
- 2. Bernh(ardt) b. ca. 1512. Mentioned in records in 1533 and 1547. Mennonite ("Tauf'er")
- 3. Kleinhans b. ca. 1514. Mentioned in records in 1567, 1578 and 1584. Mennonite ("Tauf'er")
- 4. Marg(aretha) b. ca. 1516; m. Hans Venner, an overseer.

XI-31. HEINRICH SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1510, possible ?w--th⁽⁹⁾ but more probably Affoltern) married, but the name of his wife is not known. He was a magistrate in Affoltern in 1582.

Children (prob. born Affoltern);

- 1. H(an)s b. ca. 1536; m. Nov. 26, 1587(?), Elizabeth Weiss
- 2. Oswald b. ca. 1540; m. bef. 1565, --- ---
- 3. J(aco)b b. ca. 1544; m. Apr. 2, 1569, Anna Suter; d. July 26, 1629. His sons are too young to be the father of Jacob (ca. 1590-1660); his son Jacob too old to be this Jacob.
- 4. Hein(rich) b. ca. 1546; m. bef. 1566, --- --- .
- 5. Pet(er) b. ca. 1548; m. July 22, 1570, Barbeli Gress; d. ca. 1602. His son Jacob was born July 22, 1584, thus not likely to be Jacob b. ca. 1590; this line is not continued in the Lincke book.
- 6. Heinj ("the younger") m. Feb. 27, 1571, Vreni Holder; d. ca. 1620. No sons named Jacob

XI-311. HANS SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1536, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) was known as "smith Hans." He married ELISABETH WEISS of Aeugst Nov. 26, 1587(?).

Children:

- 1. Hans bp. Dec. 24, 1588
- 2. Ursel bp. Mar. 15, 1590
- 3. Hans bp. Apr. 30, 1592; m. --- --- ; d. May 6, 1632
- 4. Elsbeth bp. June 11, 1596

The birth dates of the two Hanses are close to that of Jacob (b. ca. 1590). Of course, they are not named "Jacob" but occasionally a Hans Jacob becomes Jacob to avoid confusion - by extension, with two Hanses in a family, one might take on the name Jacob, and eventually drop the Hans. However, the line of Hans (#1) is not continued in the Lincke book, and the death date of Hans (#3) is much too early for Jacob (ca. 1590-ca. 1660)

XI-312. OSWALD (b. ca. 1540, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married before about 1565-66, but the name of his wife is not known.

Children:

- 1. Jacob Known in 1599 as "Osli's" son. No further record
- 2. Hans m. Dec. 13, 1586, Barbara Rütteli; d. bef. 1613
- 3. Margaret bp. Mar. 2, 1567; d.y.?
- 4. Margaret bp. Aug. 22, 1574

XI-3122. HANS, known as "Osli's son," was a mason. He married BARBARA RÜTTELI of Münster Dec. 13, 1586. He died before 1613, when (prob.) she married Rudolf Baders of Nieder-Affoltern.

Children:

- 1. Regula bp. Feb. 11, 1589
- 2. Hans bp. Feb. 6, 1592
- 3. Heinrich bp. Jan. 12, 1595; m. (1) Magdalena Rudolf; (2) Apr. 27, 1623, Anna Frey; (3) Mar. 9, 1641, Verena Rutsch; d. Nov. 21, 1664. (Cf. p.17)

Again, Hans (#2) is approximately the right age to be Ja-

cob (b. ca. 1590), again with the possibility of a Hans - Hans Jacob - Jacob switch in names. However, this line is not continued in the Lincke book.

XI-314. HEINRICH SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1546, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) was called "Schnyder" (tailor). He married before 1566, but the name of his wife is not known.

Children:

- 1. Margaretha bp. Sept. 8, 1566
- 2. Hans Jakob bp. Apr. 16, 1568. He is the right age to be the father of Jacob (b. ca. 1590), but this line is not continued in Lincke.
- 3. Oswald bp. Sept. 1, 1569
- 4. Anna bp. June 17, 1570
- 5. Heinj bp. Nov. 16, 1574; prob. d.y.
- 6. Heinj bp. Jan. 16, 1576; prob. d.y.
- 7. Barbara bp. Nov. 3, 1577
- 8. Melchoir bp. Apr. 1, 1580
- 9. Heinj bp. Apr. 15, 1582
- 10. Anna bp. July 26, 1584
- 11. Hans Jakob bp. Oct. 20, 1588; m. Sept. 23, 1610, Verena Steiner; d. bef. Nov. 20, 1664

XI-314(11) HANS JAKOB SCHNEBLI (bp. Oct. 20, 1588, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married VERENA STEINER Sept. 23, 1610. He died before Nov. 20, 1664. He has the right life span to be Jacob (ca. 1590-1660), but his son Hans Jacob was baptized Mar. 5, 1626. However, he could have been born in 1624, as was Jacob's (ca. 1590-1660) son, the father of Johann Jacob (1659-1743). But Hans Jacob (bp. Mar. 5, 1626) had a son Hans who was baptized Oct. 17, 1567, and died in Affoltern May 13, 1731; the next child was Verena, baptized Mar 18, 1660.

Thus it appears unlikely that Heinrich (XI-3) is the ancestor of Jacob Schnebele (ca. 1590-1660).

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XI-4. PETER SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1480, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) settled in Zug (about 15 miles south of Zürich) after military service in Naples and Lombardy. He mar-

-2. ?Jacob m.(1) --- --- ; (2) Apr. 29, 1624, Elsbeth
Dups; d. Sept. 1, 1629

XI-611. ?HANS (b. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married before 1560, but the name of his wife is not known. He probably was a miller, like his father, grandfather and uncles. He died Nov. 25, 1629?

Children:

- 1. Gregory b. ca. 1560; m. Oct. 10, 1585; Anna Hinder-
mann; d. Aug. 7, 1625
- 2. Felix bp. June 23, 1566; d. prob. y.
- 3. Kasper bp. Nov. 9, 1567; m. Sept. 28, 1589, Ur-
sula Hofmeister; d. bef. 1629
- 4. Felix bp. Nov. 6, 1569; m. Nov. 2, 1595, Anna
Vollen weider
- 5. Margret
- 6. Hans bp. Apr. 12, 1574
- 7. Ulj bp. Apr. 21, 1577
- 8. Ulrich bp. Apr. 16, 1581
- 9. Verena bp. June 8, 1584
- 10. Hans Jacob bp. Mar. 10, 1587. He is about the right
age and has approximately the right
name to be Jacob (ca. 1590-1660), but
this line is not continued in the Lincke
book.
- 11. Anna bp. Jan. 20, 1590

XI-6111. GREGORY SCHNEBLI (b. ca. 1560, Affoltern am Albis,
Canton Zürich Switzerland) married ANNA HINDERMANN of Wein-
ingen Oct. 10, 1585. He died Aug. 7, 1625, Veltlinerzügen.

Children:

- 1. Heinrich bp. Dec. 1, 1588; m.(1) Apr. 3, 1614, Anna
Wyssin; (2) Feb. 9, 1630, Verena Bauer;
(3) Mar. 5, 1639, Anna Gross; (4) Feb.
1, 1653, Anna Miller; d. Nov. 18, 1666.
- 2. Hans bp. Feb. 20, 1592. A possible Jacob (ca.
1592 1660), again assuming a Hans -
Hans Jacob - Jacob change.
- 3. Madlen bp. July 24, 1594
- 4. Hans Jacob bp. May 25, 1600. Again a possible Jacob
(ca. 1590-1660), although ten years is
probably too long to be considered "about."

- 5. Hans bp. Nov. 27, 1603
- 6. Verena bp. Mar. 30, 1606

XI-6113. KASPER SCHNEBLI (bp. Nov. 9, 1567, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married URSULA HOFMEISTER Sept. 28, 1589. She was a daughter of Mr. Lienhart Hofmeister, minister at Hedingen. Kasper died before 1629; Ursula died Oct. 16, 1629, in Horgen.

Children:

- 1. Madlen bp. Apr. 30, 1592
- 2. Heinrich bp. Apr. 21, 1594; d. Nov. 4, 1629?
- 3. Hans Jacob bp. Jan. 30, 1597. Another possible Jacob (ca. 1590-1660), though 1597 is again quite late for "about 1590;" line not continued.
- 4. Lienhart bp. Jan. 27, 1600; d. Mar. 7, 1627
- 5. Verena bp. Oct. 11, 1601
- 6. Hans Rudolf bp. May 15, 1603; d. Oct. 15, 1629
- 7. Peter bp. Oct. 21, 1604; d. bef. 1637
- 8. Heinrich bp. Oct. 12, 1611

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XI-6114. FELIX SCHNEBLI (bp. Nov. 6, 1569, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married ANNA VOLLENWEIDER Nov. 2, 1595.

Children:

- 1. Jacob bp. May 29, 1597; m. 1618-1621, Margareth Hofstetter
- 2. Kaspar bp. July 15, 1599; m.(1) Feb. 22, 1625, Verena Schwyzer; (2) Catrine Münchin
- 3. Verena bp. Dec. 6, 1602
- 4. Anna bp. Nov. 6, 1603
- 5. Elsbeth bp. Feb. 23, 1606
- 6. Vrenj b. 1608?

XI-61141. JACOB SCHNEBLI (bp. May 29, 1597, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) was a master carpenter and a Mennonite. He married MARGARETH HOFFSTETTER, also a Mennonite,

between 1618 and 1621. About 1650, Jacob, a sawyer, with Felix, Hans, Barbara and Catharina, went to Alsace. He perhaps returned to Affoltern by 1661, when he was listed there as a Mennonite, and left Affoltern with his wife, a single son and a daughter. (22) Margareth died June 8, 1683. He is a possible Jacob (ca. 1590-1660), although the list of children does not agree with that in the Long book. (14)

Children:

- 1. Elisabetha bp. Feb. 6, 1620
- 2. Anna bp. Nov. 23, 1621
- 3. Felix bp. 1622 (possibly, son of a first wife, name not known (2))
- 4. Hans bp. Jan. 16, 1625 or 1624. He is the first son of a possible Jacob who, again granting a Hans - Hans Jacob - Jacob change, could be the father of Johann Jacob (1659-1743), the first of the family to come to America.
- 5. Verena bp. Sept. 24, 1626
- 6. Frongg bp. Aug. 14, 1628
- 7. Katharina bp. Jan. 30, 1631
- 8. Barbara bp. Aug. 4, 1633
- 9. Jacob bp. Feb. 8, 1635
- 10. Barbara bp. Feb. 12, 1637
- 11. Heinrich bp. Jan. 27, 1639

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XI-612. ?JACOB SCHNEBLI (b. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) first married about 1575, but the name of his wife is not known. He married ELSEBETH DUPES Apr. 29, 1624, and died Sept. 1, 1629.

Children:

- 1. Heinj bp?
- 2. Margret bp. July 12, 1578
- 3. Anna bp. Apr. 23, 1581
- 4. Hans Jacob bp. June 1583

- 5. Jacob bp. Mar. 1, 1585. Another possible Jacob (ca. 1590-1660), but this line is not continued.
- 6. Katharina bp. Dec. 29, 1588
- 7. Elsbeth bp. May 1, 1593
- 6. Verena bp. Feb. 1596; d. Dec. 6, 1635
- 9. Kaspar bp. May 22, 1597; m. 1618-21, Anna Buchmann; d. Aug. 7, 1625, fell at Veltlin
- 10. Hans Jacob bp. Dec. 24, 1598; m. (1) Feb. 19, 1622, Barbel Roggenmoser; (2) May 9, 1629, Anna Venner; (3) Feb. 8, 1631, Regula Baer; d. Mar. 5, 1672. He is only a remote possibility for Jacob (ca. 1590-1600) as both his date of birth and of death are about ten years too late, and he had no sons Hans or Jacob.
- 11. Verena bp. Aug. 10, 1600
- 12. Rudolf bp. Jan. 31, 1602
- 13. Heinrich twins bp. Jan. 31, 1602

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XI-7. ANDREAS SCHNEBLI (ca. 1477 or 1486, Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland; There were two Andreas in this family, but the first, presumably, may have died in childhood) fought in the battle of Marignano in 1515, was a magistrate in Affoltern, and with his brothers Hans (#XI-1), Conrad (#XI-5) and Thomann (#XI-6) operated the family mill there.

Children:

- 1. ?Jacob m. bef. 1545

XI-71. ?JACOB appears first in 1534, when he was sworn in-as a magistrate in Affoltern. He married before 1545 and died after 1574.

Children:

- 1. Heinrich m. bef. 1565

XI-711. HEINRICH (b. prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married before 1565; the name of his wife is not known.

Children:

- 1. Hans bp. Sept. 30, 1565. Line not continued.

- 2. Melker bp. Jan. 30, 1569. Line not continued.
- 3. Elsbeth bp. Feb. 25, 1571
- 4. Adelheit bp. Mar. 4, 1576
- 5. Anna bp. Nov. 16, 1578

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The above lineages, taken from the Lincke book, "Die Schnewli von Affoltern a. A.," give no clear indication of the line of descent from Johannes Schnely (b. ca. 1445) to Jacob Schnebli (b. ca. 1590). Of the several possibilities indicated, none are conclusive, and lines of individuals who left Affoltern are not continued. Of the "eligibles" whose wives are named, Jacob's wife, Anna Melchiorin, is not mentioned.

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Among the leaders of the religious unrest of the 1530s was Menno Simons whose followers were noted for their sober and responsible conduct, avoiding the extremes of social and political as well as religious revolution. Although they did not accept the Christian character of the authority of either church or state, they obeyed all lawful requirements of the civil authorities as their duty. Both Protestants and Catholics regarded their stand as subversive to the established standards of society, persecuting them unmercifully and making martyrs of these humble farmers who only wished to practice their beliefs undisturbed by the rest of the world. Some time before coming to America, some members of at least one branch of the Schnebli family became Mennonites.

By the beginning of the 17th century the religious aspects of the conflicts were overshadowed by the myriads of political problems that were erupting all over Europe, culminating in the Thirty Years' War, which ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia.

During this time the thread of our ancestral Schnebli line is lost, though the family continued to increase in numbers, as indicated by the Affoltern marriage and christening records⁽¹⁰⁾, listed below for reference:

Barbeli Schnewli m. Jacob Frey Jan. 1565

Annli Schnewli m. Cunrott Sutor Oct. 13, 1566

Jacob Schnewli (prob. #XI-313 above) m. Annli Sutor Apr. 2, 1569 (Lincke p. 178⁽²³⁾)

Petter Schnewli (prob. #XI-315) m. Barbeli Gross July 22, 1570 (Lincke p. 137⁽²³⁾)

Hanns (or Heinj) Schneuwli m. Vreni Holder Feb. 21, 1571
(Lincke p. 195⁽²³⁾)

Jacob Schneuwli m. Catharina Hottinger July 18, 1573

Jacob Schneuwli m. Madlen Mueller Jan. 14, 1574

Annli Schnebeli m. Uli Sutor Feb. 19, 1575

Jacob Schnebeli m. Elsbeth Sutor Nov. 11, 1578

Cathrina Schnebeli m. Heini Vollenweider Apr. 14, 1582

Hans Schneuwli m. Cathrina Sutor Nov. 15, 1583

Jacob Schneuwli m. Anna Stutzin Jan. 31, 1584

Govius Schneuwli (prob. #XI-6111) m. Anna Hinde Oct. 10,
1585 (Lincke p. 68⁽²³⁾)

Rudolff Schneuwli m. Agnes Wyas Oct. 10, 1585 (Lincke p.
206⁽²³⁾)

Hans Schneuwli (prob. XI-3122) m. Parbeli Roettli Dec. 13,
1586 (Lincke p. 163⁽²³⁾)

Hans Schneuwli m. Elsbeth Wyss Nov. 26, 1587 (Lincke p.
167⁽²³⁾)

Elsbeth Schneuwli m. Heini Sutor Mar. 12, 1588

Caspar Schneuwli (#XI-6113) m. Ursula Hoffendisser Sept.
28, 1589

Margaretha Schneuwli m. Hans Wyss Feb. 6, 1593

Jacob Schneuwli m. Anna Myerin Apr. 15, 1595

Oswald Schneuwli (possibly #XI-312) m. Margaretha Wyssen
June 9, 1595 (Lincke p. 174⁽²³⁾)

Felix Schneuwli (prob. #XI-6114) m. Anna Vollenweider Nov.
2, 1595 (Lincke p. 128⁽²³⁾)

Jacob Schneuwli m. Madalen Guttin June 15, 1596

Heini Schneuwli m. Carthrina Buechlin Nov. 13, 1597

Ulrich Schneuwli m. Anna Frymannin Apr. 22, 1599 (Lincke
p. 215⁽²³⁾)

Margreth Schneuwli (poss. #XI-6115) m. Jacob Frey Jan. 13,
1600

Melchior Schneweli m. Margreth Vessler Feb. 19, 1604

Jacob Schneweli m. Vreni Grebel Apr. 1604

Jacob Schnepeli m. Vrena Schoch Sept. 1, 1605

Ulrich Schnepeli (poss. #XI-6118) m. Vreni Vollenweider
Oct. 12, 1606

Jacob Schneveli m. Anna Oberholzer May 31, 1607

Anna Schnewelin (poss. #XI-611(11)) m. Rudolf Otter
Jan. 1, 1608

Thoman Schneweli m. Catharina Frey May 12 or 21, 1610 or
1609 (Lincke p. 195⁽²³⁾)

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Heinrich b. Jan. 20, 1622; d. Aug. 30, 1623(?)
- 2. Hanns Heinrich b. Nov. 16, 1623
- 3. Heinrich b. Nov. 5, 1626; d. Aug. 26, 1629(?)

Hans Jacob Schneweli m. Vrena Vollenweider Aug. 5, 1611 or
1610. He was a blacksmith. (Lincke p. 178⁽²³⁾)

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Adelheid b. Dec. 15, 1622
- 2. H. Heinrich b. Aug. 22, 1624
- 3. Heinrich b. Jan. 3, 1630
- 4. Regula b. May 29, 1631

Hans Jacob Schneweli m. Vreni Strink (or Striker) Sept. 23,
1611. He was a blacksmith.

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Adelheit b. Jan. 16, 1625

Hans Schneveli m. Barbel Baer Sept. or Feb. 17, 1612 (Lincke
p. 216⁽²³⁾)

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Rudolf b. Feb. 17, 1622
- 2. Barbara b. Apr. 20, 1623
- 3. Heinrich b. Oct. 30, 1625
- 4. Ulrich b. June 22, 1628

Anna Schnevelin m. Gavius Sutor Sept. 17, 1612

Heinrich Schneweli (#XI-61111) m. Anna Wyssin Apr. 3, 1614
(Lincke p. 168⁽²³⁾)

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Margreth b. June or Jan. 23, 1625

Rudolph, Snewli m. Barbara Struebi Oct. 13, 1616 (Lincke p.
206⁽²³⁾)

Hans Schneweli m. Elssbeth Vollenweider Jan. 14, 1617

Thoma Schneweli m. Barbel Buchler Mar. 25, 1617

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Joerg b. Sept. 4, 1625
- 2. Thoman b. Nov. 6, 1631

Hans Schneweli m. Margreth German Apr. 6, 1617

Margreth Schnewelin m. Hans Glaettli May 18, 1617

Hans Schneweli m. Barbara Rudolph June 29, 1617 (Lincke p.

216⁽²³⁾)

Children⁽¹¹⁾:

- 1. Hanns b. Mar. 21, 1624

Heinrich Schneweli m. Madle Rudolff (Lincke p. 163⁾²³⁾

Children:

- 1. Barbara b. Dec. 22, 1621

Hans Schneweli m. Anna Vollenweider or Vollweit (Lincke p.

206⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Jacob b. Mar. 17, 1622
- 2. Sebastian b. Jan. 16, 1625
- 3. Rudolf b. Aug. 31, 1628
- 4. Verena b. Dec. 1, 1632

Caspar Schneweli m. Anna Buchman

Children:

- 1. Anna b. Aug. 4, 1622
- 2. Jacob b. Apr. 30, 1625

Jacob Schneweli m. Anna Huebscher Feb. 16, 1617 (Lincke p.

213⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Barbara b. Sept. 8, 1622
- 2. Jacob b. July 7, 1625
- 3. Hanns b. May 6, 1629
- 4. Michel b. Sept. 3, 1632

Hans Jacob Schnebeli (prob. #XI-612(10)) m. Barbel (or Barba-
ra) Roggenmacheri (or Roggenhusen or Rogghusen) Feb. 19,
1622 (Lincke p. 130⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Felix b. Mar. 4, 1623
- 2. Verena b. Feb 1, 1625
- 3. Catharina b. June 25, 1626

Heinrich Schnebeli (prob. #XI-31223) m. Anna Frey Apr. 29,
1623. He was a blacksmith. (Lincke p. 163⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Verena b. June 13, 1624; prob. d. young

- 2. Heinrich b. Mar. 19, 1626; prob. d. young
- 3. Hans b. Apr. 8, 1627
- 4. Jacob b. Apr. 8, 1627 twins
- 5. Heinrich b. Dec. 7, 1628
- 6. Caspar b. Nov. 14, 1630
- 7. Anna b. Nov. 4, 1632
- 8. Verena b. Aug. 3, 1634
- 9. Regula b. Nov. 6, 1636
- 10. Hannss b. Sept. 9, 1638
- 11. Elsbetha b. Dec. 13, 1640

Hanns Jacob Schnebeli m. Margarets Spillman Feb. 3, 1624. He was a cooper. (Lincke p. 213⁽²¹⁾)

Children:

- 1. Ulrich b. Jan. 1, 1625
- 2. H. Heinrich b. July 29, 1627
- 3. Regula b. Feb. 27, 1631
- 4. Elsbeth b. Jan. 17, 1633
- 5. Hannss b. Dec. 10, 1634
- 6. Heinrich b. Oct. 21, 1637
- 7. Rudolf b. Apr. 11, 1641
- 8. Cathrina b. Nov. 17, 1644

H. Jacob ("Jogli") Schneebli m. Verena Abenham (see Appendix)

Children:

- 1. H. Jacob b. Mar. 5, 1626
- 2. Barbara b. Oct. 28, 1627
- 3. Othmar b. Aug. 1, 1630

H. Jacob Schneebli (prob. #XI-612) m. Elsbeth Dups Apr. 27, 1624 (Lincke p. 130⁽²³⁾)

Heinrich Schneebli m. Susanna Steiner Nov. 23, 1624 (Lincke p. 206⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Verena b. Dec. 18, 1625
- 2. Margreth b. Aug. 10, 1628
- 3. Felix b. Sept. 1631
- 4. Barbara b. Sept 28, 1634
- 5. Hannss b. Oct. 7, 1638; prob. d. young
- 6. Cathrina b. May 2, 1641
- 7. Hanns b. Feb. 18, 1644

Caspar Schneebli (prob. #XI-61142) m. Vreni Schwytzer Feb. 15, 1625 (Lincke p. 128⁽²³⁾) (see Appendix)

Children:

- 1. Anna b. Mar. 12, 1626
- 2. Barbara b. Nov. 17, 1627; m. in Alsace⁽²²⁾
- 3. Verena b. May 21, 1632
- 4. Oswald b. Mar. 23, 1634

Anna Schnewli m. Hanns Suter Feb. 29(?), 1626

H. Jacob Schnebli m. Verena Baer (Lincke p. 216⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Jacob b. Mar. 2, 1628

H. Jacob Schneebli (prob. #XI-612(10)) m. Anna Venner May 5, 1629 (Lincke p. 130⁽²³⁾) He was a cobbler.

H. Reudi Schneebli m. Magdalena (or Margaretha) Straesser (Lincke p. 216⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Hannss b. Apr. 25, 1630
- 2. Jacob b. June 10, 1632
- 3. Susanna b. Apr. 6, 1634

Hanns Jogli Schneebli m. Anna Arni

Children:

- 1. Michel b. Dec. 21, 1630

Heinrich Schneebli (#XI-61111) m. Verena Bauer Feb. 9, 1630 (Lincke p. 68⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Ulrich b. Sept. 27, 1631

Hans Jacob ("Jogli") (prob. #XI-612(10)) m. Regula Baer. He was a cobbler.

Children:

- 1. Verena b. Jan. 1, 1632; d. prob. young
- 2. Elsbetha b. Dec. 1633; d. prob. young
- 3. Elsbetha b. Aug. 30, 1635
- 4. Justina b. Feb. 13, 1638
- 5. Rudolf b. Apr. 26, 1640
- 6. Anna b. Feb. 13, 1643
- 7. Verena b. Feb. 4, 1644; d. prob. young
- 8. Verena b. Nov. 16, 1645
- 9. Heinrich b. May 4, 1651

Thoman Schneebli m. Regula Wydlen Jan. 22, 1633 (Lincke p. 65⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Hanns b. Nov. 3, 1633; d. Nov. 17, 1633
- 2. Felix b. Jan. 11, 1635
- 3. Hannss b. Mar. 19, 1636
- 4. Cathrina b. Aug. 12, 1638

Jacob Schneebli m. Verena Ringger (Lincke p. 174⁽²³⁾) He was a "seiler" (rope maker?).

Children:

- 1. Verena b. Oct. 6, 1633
- 2. Barbara b. Sept. 2, 1635; d. July 29, 1636
- 3. Barbara b. Oct. 23, 1638
- 4. Jacob b. Nov. 14, 1640; d. prob. young
- 5. Caspar b. Jan. 2, 1644; d. Apr. 29, 1644
- 6. Heinrich b. Mar. 2, 1645

- 7. Jacob b. Feb. 25, 1649
- 8. Josabe b. July 8, 1654

Heinrich Schneebl m. Barbara Milzin. He was a saddler.

Children:

- 1. Verena b. May 11, 1634
- 2. Rudolf b. Jan. 10, 1638
- 3. Heinrich b. Jan. 26, 1641
- 4. Barbara b. Apr. 7, 1644; d. prob. young
- 5. Barbel b. Jan. 17, 1647
- 6. Elsbeth b. Mar. 7, 1652

Hannss Schneebl m. Verena Schunklin Nov. 27, 1636 (Lincke p. 195⁽²³⁾) He was a miller.

Children:

- 1. Heinrich b. Dec. 26, 1637
- 2. Hanna b. Oct. 27, 1639
- 3. Anna b. Jan. 29, 1643
- 4. Jacob b. June 10, 1644
- 5. Barbel b. Dec. 20, 1646
- 6. Ulrich b. July 7, 1650

Caspar Schneebl m. Cathrina Mauerlein (or Verena Murchin?)

Children:

- 1. Verena b. Feb. 10, 1639
- 2. Anna b. Sept. 20, 1640

Hannss Schneebl m. Verena Huber Apr. 30, 1638 (Lincke p. 167⁽²³⁾) He was a blacksmith, and a Mennonite.

Children⁽¹²⁾:

- 1. Cathrina b. Aug. 11, 1640
- 2. Verena b. Sept. 26, 1641
- 3. H. Jacob b. Oct. 8, 1642
- 4. Caspar b. May 11, 1645. Went to Alsace in 1661⁽²²⁾
- 5. Hannss b. Sept. 13, 1646
- 6. Jacob b. Jan. 16, 1648
- 7. Elsbetha b. July 15, 1649
- 8. Barbel b. Mar. 16, 1651; d. prob. young
- 9. Heinrich b. Sept. 12, 1652
- 10. Barbel b. Dec. 26, 1653
- 11. Rudolf b. Feb. 11, 1655

Heinrich Schneebl m. Verena Isslen (or Issler) (see Appendix)

Children:

- 1. Adelheit b. May 2, 1641
- 2. Hanns b. Aug, 14, 1643

Thomas Schneebl m. Verena Burkhart Feb. 22, 1640 (Lincke p. 139⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Anna b. July 24, 1641
- 2. Barbara b. Nov. 7, 1642

-3. Regula b. Aug. 7, 1645

Heinrich Schneebli m. Anna Seyferin Feb. 15, 1641 (Lincke p. 174⁽²³⁷⁾) He was a "seiler" (rope maker).

Children:

-1. H. Jacob b. Aug. 20, 1642
-2. Heinrich b. Nov. 28, 1646

Heinrich Schneebli m. Anna Willeman Jan. 31, 1642 (Lincke p. 68⁽²³⁷⁾)

Children:

-1. Hannss b. Jan. 9, 1644; d. Mar. 17, 1644
-2. Barbara b. July 20, 1645
-3. Heinrich b. Nov. 9, 1647; d. Mar. 17, 1720
-4. Felix b. Mar. 4, 1650

Heinrich Schneebli m. Veronica Rinnger Nov. 8, 1642 (Lincke p. 196⁽²³⁷⁾) He was a miller.

Children:

-1. Cathrina b. Jan. 14, 1644
-2. Elsbetha b. Nov. 28, 1646
-3. Verena b. June 17, 1649

Felix Schneebli m. Anna Gugenstorfer (see Appendix)

Children:

-1. Heinrich b. May 12, 1644
-2. H. Heinrich b. Nov. 1, 1646
-3. Regula b. Mar. 10, 1648

Hanns Schneebli m. Maria Doeldin

Children:

-1. Elsbetha b. Aug. 9, 1644

Heinrich Schneebli m. Anna Weymannin June 28, 1642 (Lincke p. 164⁽²³⁷⁾)

Children:

-1. Verena b. Nov. 17, 1644
-2. Georgg b. Dec. 12, 1647
-3. Heinrich b. Mar. 18, 1649

Jogli (or Jacob) Schneebli⁽¹³⁾ m. (1) Nov. 16, 1641 (Lincke p. 139⁽²³⁷⁾), Elsbeth Schneebli; (2) after 1645, Margreth Schneebli. He was a tailor.

Children:

-1. Jacob b. Dec. 7, 1645
-2. Verena b. June 1654

Ulrich Schneebli m. Catharina Staeger Oct. 7, 1645 (Lincke p. 213⁽²³⁷⁾)

Children:

-1. Barbel b. Mar. 21, 1647
-2. Anna b. Mar. 18, 1649

Jogli (or Jacob) Schneebli m. Verena ("Vieni") Bickel June 27, 1646 (Lincke p. 206⁽²³⁾) (see Appendix)

Children:

- 1. Heinrich b. May 12, 1647
- 2. Elsbetha b. May 13, 1649
- 3. Jacob b. Feb. 16, 1651
- 4. Conradt b. Nov. 20, 1653

Caspar Schneebli m. Veronica Haegi Feb. 9, 1647 (Lincke p. 140⁽²³⁾) (see Appendix)

Children:

- 1. Elsbeth b. Jan. 10, 1648

Ulrich Schneebli m. Cathrina Dupsin. He was a cooper.

Children:

- 1. Vreni b. Jan. 23, 1648; d. prob. young
- 2. Anna b. Aug. 4, 1650
- 3. Verena b. May 9, 1652
- 4. H. Rudolf b. Jan. 1, 1653?
- 5. Hanns b. Nov. 25, 1654

Hanns Schneebli⁽¹³⁾ m. Jan. 25, 1648 Anna Barbel Muggler; d. June 1685, Nordheim, Württemberg (Lincke p. 206⁽²³⁾) He was a cobbler.

Children:

- 1. Veronica b. Feb. 28, 1649
- 2. Anna b. Oct. 27, 1650
- 3. Verena b. Apr. 4, 1652
- 4. Jacob b. Dec. 18, 1653

H. Jogli, Schneebli m. Regula Suter Jan. 14, 1651 (Lincke p. 140⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Anna b. June 6, 1652
- 2. Hanss b. Oct. 1656

Hans Schneebli m. Vieni Weyssin. He was a rope-maker.

Children:

- 1. Barbel b. Aug. 24, 1656

Hans Heinrich Schneebli m. Vreni Winkelmann (Lincke p. 216⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. H. Heinrich (or Felix) b. Aug. 22, 1652

Jacob Schneebli, Jr., m. Cathri Dilli

Children:

- 1. Anna b. Apr. 3, 1653
- 2. Verena b. Feb. 28, 1658

H. Heinrich Schneebli m. Elisabeth Stoltzin Mar. 8, 1653 (Lincke p. 196⁽²³⁾)

Children:

- 1. Anna b. Feb. 17, 1654
- 2. Marx b. May 27, 1655

Heini Schnebli m. Anna Vollenweider Oct. 28, 1656 (Lincke p. 196 (23))

Children:

- 1. Cathrina b. Dec. 6, 1657

In the century following the arrival of Johannes and Verena (Hedinger) Schnely in Affoltern, their descendants, and probably those of some of Johannes' brothers and cousins had proliferated to the extent that it is impossible to pick out the ancestors of our Johann Jacob Schnebele. Unfortunately, too, the record stops just short of 1659, when he was born. By a rough estimate, the number of Schneebli families in Affoltern increased to about 45 by 1620, then leveled off; in 1981 there were 45 Schneebeli entries in the Affoltern telephone directory out of a total of about 2500.

According to information⁽¹⁴⁾ provided by M. Auguste Baldensperger of Guebwiller, Alsace, Johann Jacob's grandparents, Jacob and Anna (Melchiorin) Schnebele, had left Affoltern and emigrated to Baldenheim, Alsace, some time between 1648 and 1659, probably as a result of the social and economic upheaval following the Thirty Years' War. Though the Swiss farmers had generally prospered during the war, as they had been spared the destruction suffered by their neighbors, the post-war decline in the price of land led to a financial crisis which fell more heavily on the rural villages; the larger towns resumed their feudal rights, levied heavy taxes and became increasingly powerful. The resulting unrest led to a war between Zürich and the Catholic opposition. Zürich was defeated at Villmergen, Aargau, in 1656, leaving the Catholics in control. How much influence these events had in Jacob Schnebli's decision to move to Alsace, then under French control, is only conjecture. Between 1670 and 1700 others of the Affoltern Schneblis moved north and west, some to the Schaffhausen area, others further north into Brehm and Bingen, a little north of the Palatinate.

The line of the Schnebli family that eventually led to America, as given by M. Baldensperger, continues:

JACOB SCHNEBELE (b. ca. 1590, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) married ANNA MELCHIORIN. They probably lived in Affoltern before removing to Baldenheim, Alsace, a small village about five miles east of Selestat, which in turn is about 25 miles south of Strassburg, in the Rhine River valley. Jacob Schnebele died about 1660, probably in Baldenheim, or Boisenbiessen.

Children (prob. born Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Swit-

zerland; order of birth uncertain, from M Baldensperger's chart):

- 1. Felix b. 1622. In 1656 he purchased the oil works of the Seigneur at Baldenheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace. (see Appendix)
- 2. Jakob (or Jacob) b. 1624
- 3. Philip
- 4. Heinrich (Henri) Probably lived in Baldenheim, Alsace⁽¹⁵⁾
- 5. Johann Jacob
- 6. Regula m. Gregorius Gropp. Probably lived in Baldenheim, Alsace⁽¹⁵⁾; d. bef. 1693. (see Appendix)

2. JAKOB (or JACOB) SCHNEBELE (b. 1624, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) is probably the ancestor who took the first steps westward that culminated on the Pennsylvania frontier nearly one hundred years later. Even that short journey of little more than a hundred miles northwest of the Swiss village of his ancestors into a foreign country must have been made only after serious soul-searching and a grim determination to leave the war-spawned troubles of his native land and start life anew. We can only imagine how difficult his decision, though bolstered by similar ones made by his brothers, must have been, but he did take his family to Baldenheim, Alsace, some time between 1648 and 1659. He may also have been influenced by the imprisonment "for religion's sake" of Heinrich Schnebli, probably a relative, in Knonau, just $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Affoltern. In 1660 he signed the Dordrecht Confession in Ohnenheim. Some time later he established himself in the neighboring village of Boisenbiesen⁽¹⁴⁾, about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Baldenheim. Both villages lie in the fertile flood plain of the Rhine River between the river on the east and the foothills of the Vosges Mountains about five miles east of Selestat, here "our Swiss ancestors practiced agriculture, weaving and cattle-trading."⁽¹⁵⁾

Children (probably others; born Baldenheim, Alsace):

- 1. Johann Jacob b. 1659; m. --- --- ; d. 1743. See Chap. 3 for continuation of this line.

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3. PHILIP SCHNEBEL (b. ca. 1620-30, prob. Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) and his brother Felix went to Baldenheim, Bas-Rhin Alsace, before 1656. Here Felix purchased

the oil works of the Seigneur of Baldenheim, and Philip may have been associated with him in this business. Whether their product was of vegetable, animal or mineral origin is not known, although Alsace was one of the few early sources of petroleum in western Europe.

Children (may have been others; order of birth uncertain; one or both may be the son(s) of Felix above⁽¹⁶⁾):

- 1. Hanss b. ca. 1660; m. bef. 1684, Anna Barbara --- ; d. bef. 1704
- 2. Philip b. ca. 1660; m. bef. 1686, Anna --- ; d. bef. 1706

31. HANSS SCHNEBEL (b. ca. 1660, prob. Baldenheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace) married ANNA BARBARA --- . He is described in the Evangelical Church records of Baldenheim (film #796,353) as an "oil-maker." Since Felix Schnebele is also identified as an oil-maker, there is probably a close relationship between them, either father-son or uncle-nephew. Hanss Schnebel was an Anabaptist, according to these same records, and thus somewhat more extreme in his religious views than the more conservative Mennonites, especially in the rejection of infant baptism. Hanss Schnebel died some time before 1704; Anna Barbara after 1703.

Children (all, except possibly the first, born in Baldenheim⁽¹⁶⁾):

- 1. ?Johann Georg b. bef. 1684; m. Nov. 19, 1703, Maria Barbara Otthen
- 2. Andreas b. Feb. 12, 1686; m. July 29, 1709, Eva (---) Beeren (widow of Heinrich Beeren)
- 3. Magdalena b. Mar. 18, 1688
- 4. Maria b. Sept. 14, 1690
- 5. Michael b. "Easter day" 1693; m. Nov. 21, 1712, Anna Jaeckly (daughter of Ulrich Jaekly, a cowherd who died before 1712, and his wife Elisabeth)
- 6. Anna Barbara b. Sept. 8, 1695
- 7. Elisabetha b. Jan. 19, 1698
- 8. Martinus b. Nov. 12, 1700
- 9. Johann Michael b. Feb. 16, 1705?

311. JOHANN GEORG SCHNAEBEL (b. bef. 1684, prob. Baldenheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace) does not appear in the Baldenheim Evangelical Church birth records (film #796, 353) as the records begin in 1684.

However, he almost certainly belongs in this family, as he is mentioned as the son of Hanss and Anna Barbara in his marriage record. He married MARIA BARBARA OTTHEN Nov. 19, 1703. She was the daughter of Michael Otthen of Reichenweyer, a blacksmith, and his wife Sara.

Children (born Baldenheim, Alsace):

- 1. Johann Georg b. Dec. 2, 1706
- 2. Johannes b. Mar. 9, 1708
- 3. Sara b. Feb. 6, 1713

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32. PHILIP SCHNEBEL (b. prob. Baldenheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace) may have been the son of either Philip (#3) or of his brother Felix (#1). He, like Hanss Schnebel (#31), was an oil-maker and an Anabaptist. He married ANNA ---, who survived him; he died before 1706.

Children (born Baldenheim, Alsace):

- 1. Johannes b. July 26, 1686; m. Nov. 23, 1705,
 Barbara Urban, daughter of Simon
 and Anna (---) Urban
- 2. Verena b. May 1689

- - - - -

5. JOHANN JACOB SCHNEBELE (b. ca. 1620-30, prob. Affoltern am Älbis, Canton Zürich, Switzerland) may be the Johann Jacob Schnebele of Ibersheim Hof, owner of the Bible inscribed "This Bible belongs to the House of Jacob Schnebeli of Ibersheim and came into my possession in 1696. Johannes Jacob Schnebley." A second inscription, "This Bible belongs to Wendelteiss Schnebelli and is in love so recorded in the year of our lord 1708," indicates that it was passed down to another family member, perhaps on the death of this Johann Jacob. Ibersheim Hof is near Heilbronn (on the Neckar River), south of Heidelberg and Mannheim, on the main route of the Mennonite migration.

Children (prob. born Ibersheim; may have been others):

- 1. ?Hans

51. HANS SCHNEBELE (or SCHNABLY) was a minister in Ibersheim.

Children (prob. born Ibersheim; may have been others):

- 1. Anna Maria b. Apr. 12, 1698; m. 1715 Johann (or

511. ANNA MARIA SCHNABLY (b. Apr. 12, 1698, prob. Ibersheim, Germany) married JOHANN or HANS (these names, as well as Johannes, are interchangeable) GEORG BACHMAN in 1715. He was born in 1686. They came to America shortly before he was naturalized on Jan. 9, 1727. They settled in Upper Saucon Twp., Bucks Co., Pa., where they owned land in 1735, near present-day Coopersburg, about ten miles south of Allentown. He eventually owned 1000 acres of land in Upper and Lower Saucon Twps., and maintained indentured servants, probably to assist in the operation of the "Seven Stars" tavern and hotel he owned in Coopersburg. In 1742 George Bachman was among those petitioning for the formation of a township. He was a trustee of the Saucon Mennonite Church in 1749. He died Nov. 22, 1753; Anna Maria (Schnably) Bachman died Nov. 4, 1776, both in Upper Saucon Twp. They are buried at the Saucon Mennonite Church. (19)

Children (first four prob. born in the Palatinate, Germany; the rest prob. Coopersburg, Saucon Twp., Bucks (now Lehigh Co., Pa.): (17,18,19)

- 1. Heinrich Bachman b. 1717; m. Elizabeth ---
- 2. Hans Jacob Bachman b. Jan. 15, 1720
- 3. Catarrina Bachman b. Aug. 25, 1722; m. Abraham R. Clements (1710-1776)
- 4. Hans Georg Bachman b. Nov. 30, 1724; m. Nov. 16, 1748, Ester (or Esther) Oberholtzer; d. Apr. 1806
- 5. Gristal (Christian) Bachman b. May 19, 1727
- 6. Mary Bachman b. Jan. 28, 1729
- 7. Elisabeth Bachman b. July 3, 1732
- 8. Johannes Bachman (18) b. Aug. 1, 1735; m. Sept. 8, 1764, Elisabeth Klemmer; d. Oct. 4, 1805
- 9. Samuel Bachman (18) b. 1739; m. Jan. 8, 1763, Rachel Own (or Owen) (b. 1744, d/o David (1713-1790) & Sarah (---) (1724-1792) Owen of Upper Saucon Twp.; d. Aug. 10, 1823); d. Sept. 15, 1814
- 10. Susanna Bachman b. 1742; m. Peter Sell
- 11. Abraham Bachman b. 1744; m. Catherine ---

5114. JOHANN (or HANS) GEORG BACHMAN (b. Nov. 30, 1724, probably in the Palatinate, Germany) married ESTHER OBERHOLTZER Nov. 16, 1748. According to his entry in the family Bible, which

came to his father from his mother's family, the Schnebellis of Ibersheim⁽¹⁷⁾, "I George Bachman, according to my parents' baptismal register, was born Nov. 30, 1724, on the 16th of Nov. 1748, old style, I entered the state of holy wedlock with Ester Oberholtzer, a daughter of Jacob Oberholtzer and his wife Barbara, she was born into this world May 16, 1728. This Bible belongs to Johann Georg Bachman. It was the property of my father Georg Bachman, and after his death with the sanction of my brothers and sisters, it came into my possession." Would that the former owners of the Bible had been as meticulous and detailed in their entries as Georg was. His Bible inscription concludes: "Our wedded life God blessed with the following children" (see below).

Johann Georg Bachman, who anglicized his name to John, owned 60 acres in Lower Saucon Twp. In 1778 he and seven other Menonites refused to take an oath requiring them to bear arms. They were imprisoned by the local representatives of the British government and their property disposed of by sheriff's sale. His wife petitioned for his release in the Philadelphia Court. He died in Apr. 1806⁽¹⁸⁾; another record gives 1812⁽¹⁹⁾.

Children (prob. all born Saucon Twp., Bucks (now Lehigh) Co., Pa.):

- 1. Maria Bachman b. Aug. 22, 1749
- 2. Jacob Bachman b. Oct. 15, 1750
- 3. Barbara Bachman b. July 6, 1752
- 4. Rachel Bachman b. Jan. 7, 1754
- 5. Esther Bachman b. Mar. 8, 1756
- 6. Anna Bachman b. Oct. 14, 1758
- 7. Lydia Bachman b. Oct. 14, 1761
- 8. Susanna Bachman b. Jan. 9, 1763
- 9. Elizabeth Bachman b. Apr. 22, 1765
- 10. Catarina Bachman b. Mar. 5, 1770
- 11. Rebecca Bachman b. May 20, 1774; d. Apr. 29, 1776

(the last entry, Elizabeth Oberholtz Bachman, b. Sept. 30, 1792, "at seven o'clock in the evening," probably refers to a granddaughter)

There are two unidentified Schnebelins in the Baldenheim Evan-

gical Church records (film #796,353) (although the -in ending was originally used to denote females it has been taken as a family surname by at least one branch of the family):

HANS SCHNEBELIN married EVA --- , and is identified as an Anabaptist.

Children (may have been others born before the Baldenheim records began):

-1. Johannes b. Sept. 11, 1684

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KARL(?) SCHNAEBELIN (note after "Karl(?)" says "cut off") married ANNA --- .

Children (may have been others born after 1714, when the Baldenheim record ends):

-1. Anna Barbara b. Sept. 17, 1713

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The events in Europe that directly affected the Schnebele family are still obscure. The unrest that followed the Thirty Years' War was a mixed blessing. Switzerland had not suffered the horrors and devastations of war as had the German Palatinate to the north, and in fact was a haven for thousands of fugitives from neighboring south Germany. This influx of refugees raised the price of land, but this sudden prosperity was for the most part enjoyed only by the aristocracy. The industrious farmers, tilling the soil and laboring with their work-hardened hands, were still living under the thousand-year-old yoke of feudalism. By the end of the 17th century new laws had virtually abolished all civil rights of Mennonites. The intensified persecution was the result of the fear of the aristocracy of the overthrow of the despotic regime with its endless regulations and burdensome taxes (20).

But the basic cause of the Swiss emigration that finally led our ancestors to the shores of the New World was religious. The refusal of the Mennonites to bear arms, especially, displeased the state church. An edict issued in 1694 (the year Johann Jacob Schnebele, Jr., was born) required that all males had to take an oath that if they saw a Mennonite they were to bring him into court; if they themselves were Mennonites they had to leave the country. Children were even to report their parents (20). So, of necessity, one by one, family by family, these victims of persecution crossed the border to settle temporarily in the still war-devastated land along the banks of the Rhine. Many went on to the German Palatinate where Men-

nonite communities such as Mannheim already existed. Others, like the Schnebeles, found refuge closer to their former homes.

Both Baldenheim and Boisenbiesen were under the domination of Strassburg Cathedral, Johann Jakob Schnebele and his family belonging to the Baldenheim parish. They "came from Zürich Protestant backgrounds and belonged, while...in Alsace, to the Protestants of the Augsburg Confession tinged by Pietism. The social and economic state of the emigrants, who were struggling amid (many) difficulties, forced Johann Jakob Schnebele to join the Mennonites, in order to find thus material and spiritual support⁽²¹⁾." In a later letter W. Baldensperger concludes, "Let us admit that Johann Jakob left Boisenbiesen for economical or religious reasons under the Strasbourg Bishop. Nothing more reasonable than to join the Mennonite immigrants⁽¹⁵⁾."

The exodus from Switzerland, from Berne even more than from the area around Zürich, reached its height between 1670 and 1720. But the refugees still could not out-run their trials, not only religious intolerance, but "poverty, floods, failure of crops, the billeting of foreign soldiers" all contributed to make their lot intolerable, finally inducing them to join the movement which resulted in the settlement in the wilderness on the Pequea Creek in Lancaster (then Chester) County, Pennsylvania. One strong inducement was the tolerant attitude of William Penn, the son of a Reformed Church Dutch woman, Margaret Jasper, and a student in his younger days at the Reformed Church University at Saumur, France.

Notes and References:

- (1) Gottlieb Schneebeli, Swiss Consulate, Salt Lake City, Utah, personal communication, Sept. 21, 1981
- (2) Julius Billeter Collection, Zürich State Archives, in the Genealogical Library of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah (generations I - X)
- (3) Emil Huber, "Sie Herren von Lunkhofen genannt Snewli und ihre Nachkommenschaft" (1936), p. 13, No. 33. Pub. E. Kalberer Batzenheid, St. Gallen, Switzerland. Genealogical Library of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- (4) Notation attached to the family sheet of Steffan Snewli by the LDS library in Salt Lake City: "No Johannes b. ca. 1420 on this sheet."
- (5) Mr. Billeter's abbreviations omit the letters inside the parentheses, which I have omitted in subsequent reference