

# LYBARGER LINKAGES

SPRING 2018

Vol. XXXIII No.1

ISSN 0887-9354

Official newsletter of the Lybarger Memorial Association

Editor: Carol Montrose. the\_yellow\_rose@hotmail.com

## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING

This year's LMA annual meeting will be held on Sat. July 21 in Madley, PA, near the Lybarger Church and cemetery.

Reservations at the Travelodge can be made by calling 814-310-9421. The cost is \$90 per room, but AAA and AARP rates apply. A continental breakfast is available.

The restaurant at the Travelodge is closed. For those of you staying there, you may want to arrange to meet in the lobby to plan any group travel to the LMA annual meeting.

The meeting will be held on Sat. July 21 in Madley on SR96 at the Christ Lutheran Church's rear picnic area at 10:30 a.m. The annual meeting. It will be followed by noon luncheon. A free-will offering will be taken (\$5.00 is suggested.). We will adjourn to the church for a group photograph.

In the afternoon there will be a tour of the new Flight 93 National Memorial Park Memorial at Shanksville, PA. Information about the memorial is available by googling Flight 93 National Memorial. Planning for the short trip will be made at the LMA annual meeting.

On Saturday at 6:00 pm we will gather at the Carriage House for supper. The restaurant is on the right ¾ miles north of the Travelodge

## NEWSLETTER FUTURE

by George Lybarger, LMA president

A major change is in the works about the future of Lybarger Linkages. To print and send the newsletter has become a major \$1,785 annual cost item on the LMA budget. There are increasing costs to maintain the church. In addition, the LMA must absorb most of the cost (\$247) of cutting the grass of the Lybarger cemetery that surrounds the

church. This is apparent from reading the financial statements of the past year.

The trustees plan to send printed copies of the Lybarger linkages this year to the total mailing list but beginning in 2019 it will only go to those who have paid annual dues to the LMA of at least \$10.00. Exemptions will be made to those who have made one-time contributions of \$100 or more. Copies will also be sent to selected libraries and family history or genealogical societies.

**You can send your dues** by mailing a check payable to the LMA for at least \$10 and sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Lillian Engel, 2824 Arcadia Ave., Erie, PA 16506-2110. Please make use of order form on pg.8..

## AN LMA WEB SITE

by George Lybarger, LMA president

Hello members, friends and everyone else. Just a short note for now. The trustees will be talking up the possibility of starting an official web page for the LMA, if we can find someone to run it. We would like a younger person to do this.

If you have experience or knowledge please contact me at 614-404-0197 or georgelybarger@att.net. We would decide on type of info to go on it and who else would have access to it. This is all to help save the expense of so many newsletters being printed and mailed.

Those who have not sent dues for years will be dropped from the list will be able to access the website for news from the LMA and other info. We are still working on a plan for the repair of the church but no definite plan so far. We still have a need for more funds to do this so if you can help with a donation it would be very much appreciated.

## **LEUENBERGER TO LYBARGER**

by Lee H. Lybarger & Hans Leuenberger

### **Introduction**

In the Fall, 2017 newsletter an extensive article appeared that identified the origin of the Leuenberger/Lybarger surname. Genealogically related persons could not be documented, except members of the nobility, until the 1500's (see Historical Context, below.)

Although Lee H. Lybarger and Hans Leuenberger are co-authors of this article, it would not be possible without the information and critical evaluation provided by John L. Lybarger. The connection between the Lybarger and the Leuenberger discovered Hans Leuenberger after posting in Wikitorial his DNA test results of gene (<http://www.igenea.com/en/home>).

Hans was informed by iGENEA that he must be genetically related to a Lybarger. They explained to Hans that the number of generations between the current living Lybarger/Leuenberger and their common ancestor can be calculated. It depends on the number of Y-DNA markers tested and on the number of markers that do not match (<https://www.clandonaldusa.org/index.php/tmrca-calculator>).

This resulted in Hans being contacted by John L. Lybarger who reported that DNA tests showed a close match of Lybargers and Leuenbergers based on the male Y chromosome. Hans is the author of "Caspar Leuenberger (1684-1766), Gerichts und Chorrichter im Kleinemmental", a German publication describing the life of the Lybarger ancestors in Switzerland.

Hans' 26 sources in German, not identified here, would take up a whole page of text by itself. If anyone wants a copy of the above publication and its sources they can request it by emailing Hans at [hans.leuenberger@ufl.edu](mailto:hans.leuenberger@ufl.edu). In addition, Hans also used the on-line archives of the Canton

Bern in reference to church records of birth, marriage and death of our ancestors.

In the following narrative b=born and d=died. Bern always refers to the Canton (aka province) unless otherwise specified. The genealogy that follows also relates to the 2012 edition of The Lybarger Family.

### **Historical context**

Because the common ancestor of the Lybarger and Leuenberger lived in Dürrenroth, Switzerland, it is essential to provide a snapshot of its history. According to Wikipedia, Dürrenroth was "first settled in the Late Middle Ages by a few scattered farmers. In 1312 the area was donated to the Teutonic Knights Sumiswald Commandry. In 1431 the village of Dürrenroth was given to the Bernese city of Burgdorf".

"In 1528, Bern adopted the new faith of the Protestant Reformation. Although villagers were in opposition, Dürrenroth was forcibly converted to the Protestant faith. Later in 1698 Bern finally bought the last property and rights from the Teutonic Knights and Dürrenroth became part of Bern."

With the rise of the printing press and the Protestant Reformation, in the sixteenth century, churches needed to document who their members were, hence records of births, deaths and some marriages were recorded.

Protestant churches were concentrated in northern Switzerland and Roman Catholics in central and southern Switzerland.

It is also helpful to differentiate Reformed from Lutheran and Calvinist (aka Presbyterian). Initially the churches of the Protestant Reformation referred to themselves as "reformed" to distinguish themselves from unreformed or Roman Catholic churches.

Con't. on pg. 3 col. 1

However, some churches were influenced by Martin Luther (1483-1546) who had doctrinal differences with the Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) and John Calvin (1509-1564), so certain churches referred to themselves as Lutheran after 1529.

One area for which information was not available were the causes that motivated Swiss Protestants, and Leuenbergers in particular, to relocate from Bern to the Germanic area of Völklingen and then to Philadelphia.

This is an area needing further research, given that such moves deal with the migration of Leuenbergers/-Leyenbergers to the American colonies.

### **First Generation**

Jakob (aka Jagi) Leuenberger born about 1594 at the estate\* Hubberg in the Kleinemmental. It was a community of free peasants who had special rights as described in the book in German by Hans Käser (Walterswil und das Kleinemmental, a chronicle).

\* According to Wikipedia. "Historically, an estate comprised the houses, outbuildings, supporting farmland, and woods that surround the gardens and grounds of a very large property".

He and Barbara Jordi, b. in Dürrenroth, were married on February. 4, 1614 in Affoltern, Bern. They had 5 daughters and 10 sons born in the period of 25 years from 1617 and 1642.

Jakob lived with his brother, Bendicht. at the estate of Hubberg (Kleinemmental) until 1634. The children of Jakob and Barbara Jordi were baptized in the church of Affoltern or Ursenbach until 1634. before Jakob bought the estate Wolferdingen (Dürrenroth).

After moving to Dürrenroth Jakob became citizen of the fortified city of Burgdorf in 1634. Jakob's children were later baptized in the church of Dürrenroth. Bendicht, who

continued to live at the estate Hubberg baptized his children in Ursenbach.

In 1652 during the economic depression after the 30 Year's war (1618-1648), Bendicht needing money had to deposit with the governor Samuel Tribolet his document of ownership of the estate Hubberg (see Kontraktenprotokoll vol.1652, archive of Bern). In this document is mentioned that Claus Leuenberger, a free peasant at Wäckerswendi bought in his name and the name of his brother Ulrich the Hubberg estate in 1459.

Thus, it can be assumed that Bendicht and Jakob are genetically related to Claus or his brother Ulrich, who bought in 1459 the estate Hubberg.

Jakob who lived with Bendicht at the estate Hubberg, became in 1653 a member of the war council of Niklaus Leuenberger. Niklaus led 15,000 armed peasants in the siege of the city of Bern. A peace treaty was achieved with the City of Bern.

The peasants were demobilized but the Bern government attacked them as they returned home. As a result, many lost their lives and, after a forced second peace treaty, many revolutionary peasants were sentenced to death. Some were sent to serve as galley slaves abroad and/or were forced to leave the country.

Due to this war and due to the economic depression after 1648, many Swiss moved to Völklingen in the German Palatinate before emigrating to Philadelphia.

### **Second Generation**

Benedikt (aka Bendicht), b. Feb. 29, 1624 in Affoltern\*, Bern. Wikipedia note: The oldest trace of a settlement in the Affoltern area comes from the Middle Ages. The village church of St. Michael was first mentioned in 1275. It remained a local chapel until 1484 when the Teutonic Knights of Sumiswald  
con't. on pg.4 col. 1



Commandry provided funding for a permanent parish priest.

In 1528 Bern adopted the new faith of the Protestant Reformation and Affoltern converted. However, the Commandry retained patronage rights over the church until 1698. By the 18th century many local farmers were raising cattle for meat and milk in the rolling Emmental hills.

Benedikt and Christina Jordi were married on April 14, 1651 in Wynigen, Bern. They had three girls and one son. He married a second time about 1672 in Walterswil, Bern to Verena Nyffenegger. They had a daughter. Benedikt married a third time to Susanne Niederhauser and they had three children. Benedikt and his brother Uli, each owned half of the estate of Wiggisberg (Kleinemmental Walterwil, Bern.).

Uli is the direct ancestor of Hans Leuenberger. Their father Jakob is the common ancestor of the Lybargers detailed in the 2012 *The Lybarger Descendants*. Caspar, the son of Uli, was a judge (Gerichtsäss) and member of the church court.

His grandson Ulrich b. 1745 was elected as judge of the Canton of Bern, a province of the Helvetic Republic from 1798 – 1803. Ulrich fought for a liberal constitution of Switzerland inspired by the American constitution of 1787. In 1821 before he died he donated the silver cup for the communion service to the church of Walterswil.

Source: ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helvetic\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helvetic_Republic))

### Third Generation

Benedikt and Christina Jordi's fourth child was Niklaus (aka Nicolaus), b. Aug. 28, 1668 in Walterwil, Bern. He died about 1739 on ship or soon after the arrival of the ship Snow Betsie in Philadelphia, PA. in 1739. He and Anna Maria Margaretha Müllman (aka Mühlmann) b. about 1659 (near

Dürrenroth). She died on October 12, 1710 in Völklingen. Niklaus married a second time on July 16, 1711, to Anna Reischer (aka Ryser) b. abt. 1666 in Canton Bern.

Note: Völklingen is a town, located on the Saar River, in the district of Saarbrücken in the Saarland of Germany. In ancient times it was settled by the Celtic tribes, then by the Romans. The Franks colonized the area between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Fourth Generation

Their tenth child was Johann Niclaus Leuenberger b. October 4, 1705 in Völklingen. On November 16, 1732, he married Marie Catharina Kurtz, b. February 26, 1702 in Wehrden, Saarland (Germany). They had five children: three in Völklingen - Anna Elisabetha, b. 1733, and Susanna b. 1737, and Johann Niclaus b. 1739.

After arrival in America they had two additional children George b. 1741 and Ludwick b. 1743, both in Pennsylvania. Their sons, Johann, George, and Ludwick are the ancestors of most Lybargers living in America today. The descendants of Anna Elisabetha and Susanna, are not known because of the change of surnames upon marriage.

The 2012 CD version of the history of the Lybarger Descendants is available by sending \$20, payable to the LMA, to the LMA treasurer Lillian Engel, 2824 Arcadia Ave. Erie, PA 16506-2110.

### HISTORY OF THE LYBARGER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Repairs to the Lybarger Lutheran Church have been increasing as noted in a previous article. At the July meeting the trustees will decide on a plan for a long-term upkeep of the church. The fall issue of *Lybarger Linkages* will have a detailed explanation of what will be required, and the funds needed to pay for it.

Con't on pg. 5 col. 1

In the meantime, it is important that we are reminded of the place of the church in the history of the Lybarger family. Hence, the reason for this article.



In the early 1800's the Lybargers and others were meeting in Henry Lybarger's home. But by 1839 the small congregation outgrew the facilities of his home, so they agreed to Build a church 28 by 30 foot for \$400 on Josiah Miller's land near Little Wills Creek in Londonderry Township in Bedford County.

In 1883 the small church building was sold for \$175 and a new \$1,400 white clapboard frame edifice was constructed high on a hill facing east toward Wills Creek. along state highway 96 between Cumberland and Bedford, Pennsylvania.

The land was donated by David Lybarger (1824-1904) and his wife Hetty Huffman (1832-1885). David was a great grandson of Nicholas Leyberger our immigrant ancestor. David was a farmer and had served in the Civil War.

Over the years the church was informally referred to as "Lybarger Lutheran". It was not until March 16, 1942 that the name was legally incorporated by that name. It can be seen in the stained-glass window over the entrance. Attached to the church is a cemetery which holds the remains of many Lybargers and their descendants, including those who served in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1899 work was begun to extend the church 12 feet at the rear of the building. A pulpit recess was also constructed along with a vestibule and a belfry in front. In 1932 the church council deeded the Lybarger Cemetery to the Lybarger Lutheran Cemetery Association.

Despite the era of the Great Depression the congregation managed to pay its bills. In that year the treasurer's report for the last six months of the year reported a total income of \$214.03 with expenses coming to \$194.99 (\$137.50 for pastor's salary).

Improvements were made to the church from 1936-1938 including raising steel support columns in the basement and rewiring. In the 1950's major renovations were made to the interior with new walls, flooring, pews and church furniture. The high point was the installation of stained glass windows.

In 1964, discussions about building a new church began owing largely to the crowded conditions in the Sunday School. A building fund was begun, and three acres of land was donated along with two additional acres that were purchased from Robert Wills. In 1981 the congregation of 139 members completed and dedicated the building as Christ Memorial Lutheran Church. Before vacating the old church, the congregation installed clear glass windows as had originally been in Lybarger Lutheran when it was first built.

The Lybarger church building was deeded to the Lybarger Memorial Association on October 1, 1985. It is now preserved as a memorial by the Lybarger Memorial Association for visitors, for family reunions, and the annual meeting of the Lybarger Memorial Association. Funds for the upkeep of the church come from dues and other contributions made by Lybarger relations and appropriated by the Lybarger Memorial Association board of trustees.

## SWISS AMERICAN SOCIETY (SAHS)

The Fall, 2017 Lybarger Linkages article, "Lybarger/Leuenberger Beginnings" will be published in the June 2018 issue of the SAHS Review.

The SAHS began in Chicago in 1927. It was established to promote the study of the Swiss in America, Swiss-American relations, and Swiss immigration to the U.S.

They can be contacted at [info@theswisscenter.org](mailto:info@theswisscenter.org)

## LYBARGERS IN THE NEWS IN 2018

On Feb. 22, an American history program was put on by the Windmill Cultural Center in Fulton, Ill. The featured presenter was Native Cherokee and Ojibwe, **Rev Dan Lybarger** from Galesburg. He shared his knowledge of Native American history and culture.

He has presented flute music and storytelling programs throughout the Midwest. Rev Lybarger has spoken at several museums in Oklahoma City, Prairie du Chen, Wisc., and Genoa, Neb., as well as public schools and colleges. He has developed language and cultural teaching methods for those who have been away from their tribal homes and wish to recover a sense of their language and culture. Source: Dispatch-Argus newspaper, Rock Island, Ill.

The /Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported on Feb. 6 that Texas A&M-Kingsville senior **Isaiah Lybarger**, a right-handed pitcher and Carroll graduate was named the Lone Star Conference Pitcher of the Week.

Lybarger led the Javelinas to a 7-2 win over Central Missouri, throwing six scoreless innings, totaling 10 strikeouts.

The Carroll grad scattered four hits — all singles — and did not issue a walk in earning the win for A&M-Kingsville.

Angelo State's Michael Urquidi was named of the Hitter of the Week.

The International Nurses Association is pleased to welcome **David L. Lybarger**, MSN, FNP-BC to their prestigious organization with his upcoming publication in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare.

David L. Lybarger is an established Nurse Practitioner currently serving patients within the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System – Nashville Campus in Tennessee. Featuring over four decades of experience in nursing, he has a special expertise in primary care, as well as assisting newly returning

David has dedicated his life to providing the highest standard of quality and compassionate care to his patients, and has received an Accommodation for his Service for helping after Hurricane Katrina.

He remains a distinguished member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and attributes his success to his dedication to his patients, his love for what he does, and finding his field of work to be very rewarding.

In March, 2018 **Haddon Lybarger** was one in a relay track team that brought home the silver with a second place finish for the Salem Wildcats high school team at the O'Fallon Relays in Salem, Illinois.

Source; [www.wjbdr.radio.com/local-sports](http://www.wjbdr.radio.com/local-sports)

**Loren Lybarger**, professor at Ohio University (OU), Athens, OH, reports that OU is one of the lowest paying universities when compared to other Mid-American Conference (MAC) schools.

He said the low rate of pay at OU in comparison with the other MAC schools has been an ongoing issue.

Lybarger, who is also the president of the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said the university attempted to try and raise faculty salaries within the last five to six years.

Con't. on pg. 7 col. 1



He believes that as a faculty member, a union should be required to show a representative body of faculty that is focused on issues regarding compensation.

Source: THE POST, Athens, OH 1/31/18

**Kathryn E. Lybarger**, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union covering the workers at the state-wide University of California, wrote an article for the Sacramento Bee newspaper in April.

She said while soaring executive compensation at UC at the same time as rising student tuition has produced one self-inflicted public relations disaster after another, this new data reveals a broader trend towards inequality.

And among the most diverse and lowest paid workers – custodians, patient care technicians and other women and people of color earn starting wages that average as much as 21 percent less than white men. Black women earn \$4,000 to \$16,000 a year less in starting wages than their white male colleagues.

## OBITUARIES

**Kay Keith Lybarger**, age 80, died on Dec. 14, 2017. He was born to Merle and Margaret Lybarger, in Mt. Vernon, OH, on Aug. 19, 1937. He was on the maintenance staff as a skilled craftsman at Kenyon College in Ohio. Their alumni bulletin reported that he “epitomized what it meant to be a loyal employee” for over 30 years.

Kay graduated from high school in 1957. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 7 years. He was active in numerous conser-

vation and hunting clubs, and the Mt. Zion Lodge #9 F.&A.M.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Susanne Melberg Lybarger; daughters Kimberly L. Totman, Dawn L. Gibson, a son Kenneth, 8 grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, and a brother Beryl Lybarger.

**David A. Lybarger**, Wayne, Ohio died on January 28, 2018. Born on July 17, 1952 in Findlay, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Josephine; brothers, Ron and Alan Lybarger, and the late Rebecca Sue Baird,

Dave was a 1970 graduate of Eastwood High School and worked as a tool and die maker at Autolite. He was a member of the Scuba Dive Team of Port Clinton, had his pilot's license, and was a former Wayne Volunteer Fireman.

Source: The Sentinel-Tribune, Toledo, OH, Jan. 31, 2018

**Dorothy Valentine Lybarger** died on Feb. 2, 2018. She was born on Jan. 4, 1929. She married Ralph G. Lybarger on Aug. 8, 1948. She and Ralph had four children, Pamela Jeanne, Mary Ellen, Jeffrey George, and Cindy Lou. In addition, at least 7 known grandchildren survive her.

## GOOD REASONS FOR THE LMA

“If you can make your ancestors real for yourself, learn their stories and who they were, your life - and death - will take on added meaning. You will see yourself in the Big Picture that includes all human life that has come and gone on the planet.”

— Laurence Overmire,  
poet, author, actor, educator, genealogist,