

Much of what follows came from the Bibliography; History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Its Families, Volume 2..." Jacob Baer, the son of Melchoir Jr., was born near Macungie, where he followed the trade of carpet weaver, dying about 1858, age upwards of 80 years. He is buried at Zionsville. Among the children of Jacob was Manasses Baer..."

My grandmother, Ruth Etta Barr, was named for Ruth Etta Traver, who was Joseph Barr's 2nd wife. My grandmother is our 11th known Barr generation, and our 7th generation Colonial American ancestor: Ruth Etta Barr ~ Harvey Joseph Barr ~ Joseph Baer ~ Manasses Baer ~ Jacob Baer ~ Melchoir Bär- Bähr III and Eva Elizabeth Christman ~ Melchoir Bär- Bähr II and his 3rd wife Anna Elisabeth Abeckey ~ Melchoir Bär I and Anna Gross/Grob ~ Hans Bär and Anna Hufschmid ~ Hans Ulrich Bär and Barbel Wyss ~ Jochim Bär and his 1st wife Justina Schoch

Manasses Baer (1826 – 1903)

Manasses Baer was born March 16th 1826 near Macungie, Lehigh County Pennsylvania. He followed the shoemaking trade for some years, whereupon he turned to farming in Upper Milford Township. Two years previous to the building of the Perkiomen Railroad he sold his farm and bought a farm in York County, whither he moved and died at Newberrytown, York County, in 1903. While in York County he also followed the drover business and had served as school director. He was a Lutheran. Manasses was married to Lucetta Niederauer, who was born about 1826, and died March 1900, aged 76 years.

Lucetta's father's name was Jacob Niederauer who was born in Upper Milford Township about 1792, and served in the war of 1812. When the British attempted to land troops below Fort McHenry, he was wounded in the leg. Returning (home about a month, he then enlisted for life in the U. S. Marine service, dying in 1850, and was buried at sea. His only children were Caroline, who died unmarried, and Lucetta. In 1900 Manasses Baer lived in York Haven borough, York, Pennsylvania. Manasses and Lucetta Baer had these children:

- i. Susan Baer wife of James Gaumer of Macungie
- ii. Sarah Baer wife of Samuel Mack of Philadelphia
- iii. Mary Baer wife of Robert Byers of Newberrytown York County
- iv. Lydia Baer wife of Robert Shilly of Newberrytown
- v. Joseph Baer married Mary Wasser and Ruth Etta Traver
- vi. Stephen Baer deceased, married to Emma Friel of Philadelphia
- vii. Rebecca Baer wife of William Ebele of Newberrytown, York County
- viii. Henry Baer of Pottstown
- ix. William Baer deceased
- x. Moses Baer went west and resided in Nebraska.

In 1900, Manasses was living with his daughter Mary Barr-Byers in Newberry Township York County Pennsylvania. Manasses died September 18th 1904, age: 86, buried in Paddletown Cemetery, Newberrytown, York County, PA Tombstone reads, "Manasses Bair" Mary L. Bair lays next to Manasses. Mary was born May 2nd 1819, and died February 4th 1896. ¹

Joseph Barr (1848 – 1933)

Joseph Barr was born at Vera Cruz Lancaster County on in 1848 to Manassas Barr and Lucretia Niederauer. ¹With this generation, the spelling of the name was changed from Baer to Barr, due to the insistence of an English schoolteacher. Joseph attended the public schools to about sixteen, worked two years on his father's farm. In 1870 he learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for five years and thereupon for same time at machinist trade. Afterwards for about five years he was an engineer, then boss at the Emaus furnace for two years. Moving to Pottstown Montgomery County, he built the rolling mill for Hope Iron Company and when they sold their plant. He was employed by the Warwick Iron Company as chief engineer. Returning to Emaus, he prepared plans and constructed the Emaus Pipe Foundry, returning again to Pottstown, he built the Ellis-Lessig Iron Mills Company, Montgomery Co. See: Ellis and Lessig's Rolling Mill Pottstown Pennsylvania (ca.1884- ?). ²

Coming to Allentown, Pa., August 14, 1888, he became interested in the cement business, being associated with the Lehigh Portland Cement Company. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, Republican in politics, member of 100 F Unity Encampment and Rebekah, No. 72, 100 F and B. P.O.E.

Joseph married Mary Wasser, who was born in 1852, and died in 1895. Mary was the daughter of James and Anna Wasser. Joseph was 44 years old when he then married a second time to a 30 year old Ruth Etta Traver on June 10th 1897 in Montgomery County Pennsylvania. Ruth was born in 1869 to John D. Traver. ³

Joseph died 1933, and his 1st wife Mary C. Barr died in 1895, and his 2nd wife Ruth Barr died in 1943. They were laid to rest Pottstown Cemetery, Pottstown, Montgomery County Pennsylvania.

The following are the children of Joseph and his 1st wife, Mary. He had no children with Ruth.

- i. Ellen Jane Barr was born December 3rd 1868, and married Frank Stalhl of Philadelphia.
- ii. Annie Maria Barr was born September 13th 1872, and married Harry Endy of Pottstown.
- iii. Oliver Weasner (Wasser) Barr was born September 27 1874, and married Mary Davis of Reading. They lived in Pottstown.
- iv. Harry D. Barr was single and lived in Pottstown, and then moved to Jackson Mississippi.
- v. Sadie May Barr was born September 21st 1879, and married Harry Weisner of Pottstown
- vi. Joseph Robert Barr was born at Pottstown, Sept. 5th 1890. Educated in the public schools and later was graduated from Nazareth Hall (1907) He then became and electrician and

¹ We know that Joseph's parents where Manassas and L Lucretia Barr from Joseph's marriage application with Ruth Etta Traver. Lucretia's last name of Niederauer came from page 38, History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Its Families, Volume 2, Lehigh County Historical Society, Lehigh Valley publishing Company, Limited, 1914

chemist for the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, serving for about four and a half years, when Mr. Bachman and himself began their present business. He was married, Sept. 15, 1910, to Laura Wirthlin, a daughter of Frank and Laura (Wetzel) Wirthlin, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

- vii. Harvey Joseph Barr was born May 7th 1870, and married Sarah H. (Sally) Ellis of Pottstown. According to the marriage application and license we know the following: The application date was April 2 1892, and the date on the license is April 7th 1892. Harvey was 21 years old, marrying 1 month shy of his 22nd birthday, and he listed his residence as Pottstown PA. Sarah was 19 years old, suggesting she was born in 1873. Her middle initial was H., and her parents were James, and her mother was named Sarah. She listed her residence as 1139 N. 11th Street, Reading Pennsylvania.

Bibliography

1. Pages 33 – 44, History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Its Families, Volume 2, Lehigh County Historical Society, Lehigh Valley publishing Company, Limited, 1914
2. 1870 Joseph Barr Census: Whitehall, Lehigh, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1363; Page: 431B; Image: 91; Family History Library Film: 552862. Original data: 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
3. 1880 Joseph Barr Census: Pottstown, Montgomery, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1160; Family History Film: 1255160; Page: 564A; Enumeration District: 55; Image: 0095. Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. 1900 Manassas Bair Census: Newberry, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1501; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 0149; FHL microfilm: 1241501. United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

End Notes

¹ Spouse source: Baer Newsletter, Apr. 20, 1982

² Iron Furnaces and Iron Works, Montgomery County Index Pennsylvania Iron Furnace Sourcebook A Tribute to the Iron Masters and Iron Workers that built and keep in-blast the old Stone Blast Furnaces of Pennsylvania, by Raymond A. Washlaski, Historian, Archaeologist & Web Master, Ryan P. Washlaski, Technical Advisor. Virtual Museum of Pennsylvania Iron Furnaces & Iron Works A Publication of the 19th Century Society of Pennsylvania

³ One source listed the marriage between Joseph and Ruth Etta on Sept. 9, 1903, and that she was the daughter Jacob and Sarah (Seitzinger) Traver; Joseph Barr 2nd Marriage to Ruth Etta Traver: File Number: 926555, Digital Folder Number: 004838697, Image Number: 00450, Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885 - 1950," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>)