

Bibliography: Page 33 to 42, Volume II, In Two Volumes, History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of its Families, by Charles Rhodes Roberts, Rev. John Baer Stoudt, Rev. Thomas H. Krick, William J. Deitrich, Lehigh Valley Publishing Company, LTD, Allentown, 1914.

This is a genealogical interpretation on the Melchoir Barr Sr. and Jr. family from pages 33 to 42 of the History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of its Families. Any and all information from the book was captured that helped identify current and future Baer family relationships. ¹

The Baer family of Lehigh county are descendants from Melchior Baer, Sr., who is said to have emigrated from Zweibrücken in the Palatinate area of Germany. The family is said to be an old Palatinate family whose family seat was at Bärenhütte Germany. It is also related that Peter Von Baer in the distant past was married to a daughter to the Count of the Palatinate.

The family is originally said to have been of Swiss origin. The parish of Bar, the church in which is said to have been built by emperor Charles in the 5th century, derives its name from the family of Bar, whose name appears in Swiss History as early as 1245. Melchoir Baer Sr., Melchoir Jr., Johannes, and Christophel came across the Atlantic on the ship Phoenix and landed in Philadelphia September 30th 1743.

My Barr Line... Melchoir Baer Sr. was baptized in Ottenbach Germany ² on February 17th 1688. He was buried in the Schlosser's Reformed Cemetery located in North Whitehall in present day Lehigh County Pennsylvania. Melchoir Baer I (Sr.) married Elizabeth Gneser January 13th 1710. Elizabeth was baptized December 24th 1689 in Ottenbach Germany. ³

Melchoir Baer Sr., apparently made his home with his son Melchoir Jr., until in 1762, when Melchoir Jr. sold the homestead to his father, Melchoir Sr., and removed to Macungie Township Lancaster County. ⁴

In 1769 Melchoir Sr., sold the homestead to his other son, John Peter Baer, whom he in his will designates as his chief heir at law. Melchoir (I) Baer and Elisabeth Gneser had eight children.

- i. Melchoir Baer II (Jr.).
- ii. John Peter Baer, who married Catherine Elisabeth Hoffman.⁵
- iii. Elisabeth Baer....daughter Maria Turney
- iv. Johannes Baer
- v. Christophel Baer
- vi. Philip Baer
- vii. Jacob Baer
- viii. Maria Baer who married Peter Steckel

¹ The information included names, birth and death dates, marriages, all locations and significant events, business and estate information.

² Ottenbach is a town in the district of Göppingen in Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany. The town Ottenbach is about 184 miles southeast of Zweibrücken Germany. Bärenhütte is about 10 miles south of Zweibrücken.

³ The name "Gneser" came from an unverifiable source.

⁴ In 1772 Macungie Township was made part of newly formed Northumberland County, and in 1812 it eventually became part of Lehigh County Pennsylvania.

⁵ This relationship came from the will of Michael Hoffman.

Melchoir Baer II (Jr.) (1726 – 1773)

My Barr Line... Melchoir Baer was born January 6th 1726 to Melchoir Baer (I) and Elisabeth Gneser in the Fatherland (Germany), and died February 28th 1773. He was buried in a small private cemetery near Zionsville (present day Upper Milford Township) Lehigh County Pennsylvania.

Melchoir Baer II married a much younger woman, Eva Elisabeth Christman, a daughter of Jacob and Eva Margaret Christman ⁶ of Lynn Township. ⁷ Melchoir's estate will speaks of eight children, but only mentions two, Jacob and Melchoir. In his final 1812 estate petition settlement, eight children were listed.

- i. Elisabeth Baer who died prior to 1812. She married Lorentz Kern
- ii. Regina Baer who married Jacob Haman, and she died prior to 1812.
- iii. Margaret Baer who married Philip Christman.
- iv. Barbara Baer was born 1760 and died 1845. She married Nicholas Stahler.
- v. Susanna Baer was born 1862 and died 1846. She married Philip Walter.
- vi. Melchoir Baer III was born February 19th 1765 and died December 29th 1850. He married Catherine Desch June 14th 1789.
- vii. Jacob Baer was born near Macungie in present day Lehigh County Pennsylvania.
- viii. Eva Elisabeth was born 1771 and died 1857. She married Jacob Linderman

John Peter Baer

John Peter Baer was born to Melchoir Baer Sr. and his wife Elizabeth. John Peter married Catherine Elisabeth Hoffman, the daughter of Michael Hoffman. ⁸ John Peter and Elisabeth Baer children, according to his will.

- i. John Jacob Baer
- ii. John Peter Baer
- iii. John Henry Baer
- iv. Mary Catherine Baer
- v. Anna Margaretha Baer
- vi. Anna Apolenia Baer

⁶ The marriage between Melchoir and Eva came from Jacob Christman estate records.

⁷ Lynn Township sits adjacent to Heidelberg Township in present day Lehigh County Pennsylvania.

⁸ This relationship came from the will of Michael Hoffman.

Melchoir Baer III (1765-1850)

Melchoir Baer III was born February 19th 1765 to Melchoir Baer II and Eva Elisabeth Christman. Melchoir III died December 29th 1850. He married Catherine Desch June 14th 1789. They had ten children.

- i. Daniel Baer (1790-1841)
- ii. Jacob Baer (1795-1861)
- iii. Polly Baer was born December 30th 1793 and died March 30th 1856. She married Jacob Diefenderfer.
- iv. Elizabeth Baer was born February 22nd 1797 and died in 1868. She married Daniel Reiss and lived in Greenville Mercer County.
- v. Charles Baer was a twin born April 5th 1799 and married Susan Stahler.
- vi. George Baer was a twin born April 5th 1799 and died 1880. He married Lydia Knappenberger
- vii. Henry Baer was born March 6th 1801 and died March 1st 1892. He married Catherine Diefenderfer who was born March 23rd 1808 and died April 20th 1875.
- viii. Samuel Baer who died in his youth.
- ix. Susan Baer was born June 11th 1804 and died August 27th 1849. She married John Maddern.
- x. Catherine Baer was born 1808 and died 1881. She married Moses Diefenderfer and lived in Mercer County Pennsylvania.

Jacob Baer (1770)

My Barr Line...⁹Page 38....Jacob Baer was born about 1770 near Macungie to Melchoir Baer II (Jr.) and Elisabeth Gneser in present day Lehigh County Pennsylvania. Jacob followed the trade of carpet weaver. He died about 1858, age upwards of eighty years. Jacob was buried at Zionsville.¹⁰ Among the children of Jacob was Manasses Baer.

- i. Manasses Baer was born near Macungie March 17th 1826 to Jacob Baer. Manasses followed the shoemaking trade for some years, whereupon he returned to farming in Upper Milford Township Lehigh County Pennsylvania.

⁹ My relationship to Manasses Baer and Lucretta Niederuer came from my grandmother's, Ruth Etta Barr's, grandfather's, Joseph Barr's, marriage to Ruth Etta Travoe, and their marriage application. In the application Joseph identified Manasses and Lucretta Baer as his parents. 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>)

¹⁰ Zionsville is a village mostly in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, and also in Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Manasses married Lucetta Niederauer about 1840. Lucetta was born about 1824 to Jacob Niederauer. Jacob only had two daughters; Lucretta and Caroline Niederauer. Caroline died unmarried. Jacob was born about 1792 in Upper Milford Township in present day Lehigh County Pennsylvania. ¹¹ Lucretta died March 1900 at age 76.

Manasses sold his farm two years prior, about 1865, ¹² to the construction of the Perkiomen Railroad ¹³ and bought a farm in Newberry Township York County Pennsylvania. While living in York County he followed the drover business.

Manasses Baer and Lucretta Niederauer had the following children.

- a. Susan Baer married James Gaumer of Macungie.
- b. Sarah Baer married Samuel Mack of Philadelphia.
- c. Mary Baer married Robert Byers of Newberrytown York County Pennsylvania.
- d. Joseph Baer
- e. Lydia Baer married Robert Shilly of Newberrytown York County
- f. Stephen Baer who had died at the time of the book writing (circa 1912). Stephen married Emma Friel of Philadelphia.
- g. Rebecca Baer married William Ebele of Newberrytown York County
- h. Henry Baer of Pottstown Montgomery County Pennsylvania.
- i. William Baer had died at the time of the book writing (circa 1912).
- j. Moses Baer who went west and lived in Nebraska.

Joseph Barr (born 1852)

My Line... Page 38 and 39....Joseph Baer was born to Manasses Barr and Lucretia Niederauer ¹⁴ March 14th 1852. ¹⁵ With 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- ?). ¹

¹¹ Jacob Niederauer was in the war of 1812, and was at Fort McHenry when the British landed. While at the Fort, he suffered a wound to his leg. After returning home, he later enlisted in the U.S. Marines. He died in 1850 and was buried at sea.

¹² During 1868, the Perkiomen Railroad acquired rights of way through 118 original properties.

¹³ On March 23, 1865, Act 741 was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature, under which the Norristown and Allentown Railroad Company became the Perkiomen Railroad Company. The Reading's Perkiomen Branch was a parallel route to the North Penn Branch between the Philadelphia area and the Lehigh Valley.

¹⁴ We know that Joseph's parents were Manasses 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

¹⁵ The headstone for Joseph indicated he was born in 1848, however, page 38 of Volume II, History of Lehigh County Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of its Families, indicated March 14th 1852.

Coming to Allentown, Pa., August 14th 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. ⁱⁱ

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 Mariah 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 an electrician and 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.

Daniel Baer (1790-1841)

Daniel Baer was born November 19th 1790 to Melchoir Baer III and Catherine Desch. He died October 28th 1841. Daniel married Susan Neumoyer who was born January 15th 1791 and died November 30th 1871. Daniel and Susan had twelve children:

- i. Clarissa who married John Jacoby.
- ii. Hannah Baer who married James Refinger and lived in Miles Ohio.
- iii. Susan Baer married James Stadler.
- iv. Mary Baer married Daniel Gerhard.
- v. Kate Baer married Stephen Tool and lived in Ackley Ohio.
- vi. Samuel Baer married Mary Shingler and lived in Schuylkill Haven.
- vii. Daniel Baer married Lucy Knerr and lived in Mertztown.
- viii. James Baer married Sarah Lawrence and went to Jamesville Wisconsin.
- ix. Seth Baer went unmarried
- x. John Baer married Maria Kauffman and lived in Upper Milford Township. John and Marie had the following children:
 - a. Sarah Anna Baer who died in Infancy
 - b. Emmelina Baer who married John Yeakel, a fruit grower
 - c. Susanna Baer who has died.
 - d. Oscar McClellan Baer was born in 1862. He married Amelia E. Buckley. They had the following children:
 - 1) Verna Baer (1891-1892)
 - 2) Cyrus Baer (1893-1899)
 - 3) John George Baer was born 1902
 - 4) Paul and James Baer born as twins in 1904. James died in 1909
 - 5) Ozeola Baer was born 1909 and died that same year.
 - 6) Kenneth Baer was born 1910
- xi. William Baer married Sarah and lived in Bethlehem Pennsylvania.
- xii. Frank Baer married Sara Sterner and moved to Hazelton Pennsylvania.

Jacob Baer (1795-1861)

Jacob Baer was born January 19th 1795 to Melchoir Baer III and Catherine Desch. He died March 8th 1861. Jacob was married to Polly Schneider who was born September 2nd 1794, and died June 25th 1878. They had twelve children.

- i. William Baer was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. William died in infancy
- ii. Charles Baer was born July 2nd 1818 to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Charles died December 27th 1906. He married Elisabeth Burger (1819-188). They had
 - a. Sarah Baer
 - b. William Baer
 - c. Susan Baer
 - d. David Baer
 - e. Emma Baer
 - f. James Baer
 - g. Charles Baer

- iii. Henry Baer (1820-1901) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Henry married Christina Guth. They had:
 - a. Ellen Baer
 - b. Ida Bear
 - c. Adam Baer

- iv. Solomon Baer (1823-1873) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Solomon married Mary Guth and lived in Schuylkill Haven. They had:
 - a. Henry Baer
 - b. Ella Baer
 - c. Clinton Baer
 - d. Bella Baer

- v. Sarah Baer was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider married Henry Boltz

- vi. Lydia Baer (1826-1892) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Lydia married Augustus Romig

- vii. Jonas Baer was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider (1828-1856)

- viii. Susanna Baer (1830-1902) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Susanna married Tilghman Weaver

- ix. Hanna Baer (1831-1858) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider.

- x. Maria Baer (1833-1912) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Maria married Leon Romig

- xi. Emma Baer (1835-1849) was born to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider

- xii. David Baer was born 1838 to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. David married Elizabeth Groh and lived in Schuylkill Haven. They had:
 - a. Milton Baer
 - b. Henry O. Baer
 - c. George Baer
 - d. Mary G. Baer
 - e. Sallie Baer
 - f. Adam Baer

Jonas Baer (1828-1856)

Jonas Baer was born June 29th 1828 to Jacob Baer and Polly Schneider. Jonas died September 17th 1856. Jonas married Rebecca Wetzel (1830-1903) who was the daughter of John George Wetzel and Rebecca nee Greismere. They had four sons:

- i. George E. Baer was born in 1851. He married Sallie Y. Reigner. They had two daughters.
- ii. J. Pierce Baer was born 1853 and married Alvesta Gehris and lived in East Greenville. They had eight children. Three died in infancy. The other children are:
 - a. Herbert Baer who married Elsie McEsetee
 - b. Ard Baer who married Elsie Schlicher. They had:
 - 1) Mildred Baer
 - 2) Amon Baer
 - 3) Ida Baer
 - c. Sallie Baer
 - d. Media Baer who married Henry Stauffer
 - e. Anna Baer
- iii. J. Augusts Baer married Alice Foncannon and lived in Tiffin Ohio. He had two sons:
 - a. William Baer who married Daisy Wile
 - b. Oliver Baer who married Carrie Burger
- iv. T. Melchoir Baer who died in infancy.

Henry Baer

On Page 38.....Two Baer men were written about, who were born to Henry Baer in Allentown Berks County Pennsylvania. Using the birth dates of George and Charles, this Henry Baer may have been born 1835 to 1843, when Henry would be about 18 to 26 years old in 1861 when George was born.

- i. George H. Baer was born August 1861 to Henry Baer in Allentown Pennsylvania. George died November 15th 1909. George graduated from business school in 1880. And became a travelling salesman. In 1893 he entered into business with his brother, Charles Baer, and they manufactured furniture in Allentown. George married Hester W. Trexler April 2nd 1882, who was the daughter of Daniel Trexler. George and Hester lived at 1036 Walnut Street Allentown Pennsylvania. George and Hester had one son.
 - a. George F. Baer who was born September 4th 1883 and graduated from Medical School in Philadelphia in 1905.
- ii. Charles H. Baer was born February 27th 1874 to Henry Baer in Allentown Pennsylvania. He graduated high school in 1889, and later Muhlenburg College. Charles married Annie H. Lackey in June 1905. Annie was born in Meadville Pennsylvania to John Lackey and Annie McCracken. Charles was in the furniture business with his older brother, George Baer. Charles and Annie lived at 25 North 5th Street Allentown. No children were listed at the time this book was written.

End Notes

ⁱ 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

ⁱⁱ 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>)