

## **ELIZABETH HERBER (Family Search I.D. #LH2H-GHH)**

**BIRTH:** 6 January 1830, in Schweinsberg Kirchhain, Hesse-Nassau, Prussia, Germany

**PARENTS:** Heinrich Jacob Herber (1796-1866 ) and Catharina Nicolai (in German records) Nicholi (in some Canadian records) ( 1797-1834 )

**STEP-MOTHERS:** Louisa Schaeufele -also recorded as Schaeufle, Scheifele, Schaeuhle, and Scheifele (1812-1849)  
Anna Margaretha Lindner 1815–1890

**GRANDPARENTS:** Peter Nicolai (1765-deceased) and Anna Ring (1765-deceased)  
Christoph Herber (1760-deceased) and Catherina Dorothea Becker (1765-1840)

**SIBLINGS:** Conrad Herber (1827-1828)  
Wilhelm Herber (1832-1868)

**HALF SIBLINGS:** Katherina Louisa Herber (Koenig) (1836-1867)  
Carl Jacob Herber (1837-1870)  
Rosina Herber (Brunner) (1838-1909)  
Dorthea Herber (Gmelin Wahl) (1840-1920)  
Mathias Herber (1842-1848)  
Anna Maria Herber (Knechtel) (1844-1933)  
Christian Peter Herber (1846-1848)  
Paulus Herber (1849-1915)

**STEP BROTHERS:** Johannes Paul (1838-deceased) & Andrew Paul (1838-deceased)

**SPOUSE:** Johann Georg "George" Hahn (1819-1889)

**MARRIAGE DATE:** 1 February 1849 (Elizabeth was 19 and Johann Georg was 29)

**RELIGION:** Lutheran

**OCCUPATION:** Farm wife

**CHILDREN:** William Hahn (1850 –1910)  
Lewis Hahn (1852 – 1945)  
Jacob Hahn (1854 – 1946)  
Henry Hahn (1856 – 1937)  
John Hahn (1857 – 1926)  
George H. Hahn (1860 – 1950)

Mary Hahn (1863 – 1955)

Christina Hahn (1864 – 1910)

Conrad Hahn (1867 – 1955)

Ernest Henry Hahn (1869 – 1945)

Andrew Hahn (1871 - 1955)

**DEATH:** 3 June 1918 (age 88 and 6 months) in Wilmot Township, Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** senile debility; immediate cause was heart failure

**BURIED:** Emanuel Lutheran Cemetery, 1198 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg, Waterloo Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

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## **ELIZABETH HERBER'S STORY**

**Elizabeth Herber** came to Canada in either 1831 (per the 1901 census) or 1832 (1911 census) at the age of two with her parents, Heinrich Jacob Herber and Catherina Nicolai and her younger brother, William. Verna Hahn, **Elizabeth's** granddaughter, said that: "It took 3 months by boat with a sail to come across the ocean from Germany."

"Before 1835 emigrants were officially advised to make preparations for a voyage of 12 weeks, but in that year the period was reduced to ten. Some emigrants were fortunate to make a voyage of 25 days, while others were driven by contrary winds to the Azores or Greenland, & barely survived a terrifying experience of 4 months." [1]

"Disease thrived in the squalid conditions of steerage travel, where, depending on the size of a ship, a few hundred to 1,000 people could be crammed into tight quarters. Wooden beds, known as berths, were stacked two- to three-high with two people sharing single berths and up to four squeezed into a double. The only ventilation was provided by hatches to the upper decks, which were locked tight during rough seas and storms.

Since the only bathrooms were located above deck, passengers trapped below during stormy weather were forced to urinate and defecate (and get seasick) in buckets, which would overturn in the churning waves. The stench was unbearable and the spread of deadly diseases like typhoid, cholera and smallpox spread unabated.

Food was also in constant shortage. Some ships required passengers to bring their own meager provisions, while others provided only minimum rations meant to keep passengers from starving. A lack of clean drinking water and rancid food resulted in rampant bouts of dysentery." [2]

One month after **Elizabeth** turned four, her mother Catherina died. It was February 25, 1834 and without a doubt another harsh cold winter in what was then Upper Canada (now Ontario).

A Herber family bible lists Catherina Nicolai as dying of the plague [3]. We know that in 1832 there was a Typhoid epidemic, and in 1834 an Asiatic Cholera epidemic arrived in the area via a traveling circus. But we have no record verifying the cause of death.

Catherina's death is recorded in the "Church Register of H. W. Peterson 1833-1835" under "Deaths" where there is no mention of the cause: It is recorded as death number "**103. Died, February 25th 1834, Catharina Herber wife of Henry Jacob Herber (cooper [4])**". She was aged 36 years 2 months & 5 days. Buried in the Berlin Graveyard, Feb 26. Discourse delivered by Revd. H W Peterson in German" [5]

According to Herber family oral history, when Heinrich Herber went looking for someone to hire for domestic help raising his children (**Elizabeth** age 4 and William age 2), he asked Andreas/Andrew Schaeufele, a neighbouring farmer if he could hire one of his daughters. Andreas said "NO" and suggested instead that Heinrich marry one of the daughters. Heinrich married the farmer's 22-year-old daughter, Louisa. [6]

In the 1861 Tremaine Map of Waterloo County, a farm owned by Mathias Schaeffer is shown directly across Erb's Road from Heinrich Herber's farm. Mathias was the eldest son of Andreas/Andrew Schaeufele, lending support to the story of the neighbour offering his daughter for marriage. (We acknowledge the surname is spelled slightly differently but this surname has appeared in a multitude of documents with altered spelling.)

Louisa Schaeufele was born 15 December 1812 in Germany. Heinrich Herber was 39 when he married Louisa in March 1835, she was 22 years old, **Elizabeth** Herber was 5 years old.

The 1861 Tremaine map shows Heinrich Herber as owner of a 200-acre farm at what is now 1195 Erb's Road, St. Agatha, Ontario. In 1838, when **Elizabeth** was eight years old, there is a land record indicating that Heinrich bought 45 acres, identified as lot 2 south of Erb's Road, no. 232 Bargain & Sale 12/26/1838, reg.9/11/1844, from Francis Hibscherbin (Last changed in Family Search: 26 August 2013 by rdouglass2718278).

We surmise that Heinrich and Louisa had a good marriage as together over 14 years they had eight children. They named their first child Katherina Louisa honouring Heinrich's first wife as well as his current wife.

In 1848 they would grieve the death of two sons Mathias (age 6) and Christian Peter (age 2). Sadly, Louisa followed one year later while giving birth to Paulus. The date was 29 June 1849. She was 36 years, 6 months, and 14 days old. The death certificate lists cause of death "as a result of child bed." She was buried in the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery on Erb's Road east of St. Agatha. Heinrich, her husband, would die at age 69 in 1866, and be buried beside her.

How Heinrich managed with a new born child and 5 other children for three years, after Louisa died, we do not know. **Elizabeth**, his eldest child, had married 5 months earlier to Johann Georg Hahn. Probably Heinrich's second oldest daughter, Katherina (from Louisa) age 13 years and son, Carl age 12 years, assisted with the four younger children and household duties.

We do know that on 4 January 1852, Heinrich, then 56 years old, married Anna Margarethe Lindner. She was born 3 January 1816, in Queck, Lauterbach, Hessen Germany on 3 Jan. 1815. She was 37 years old and the widow of Johann Paul with whom she had two children, Johannes Paul (b. 1836) and Andrew Paul (b.1838). She and Heinrich lived together for 14 years raising his 6 children and her 2 children until he died in 1866. She lived another 24 years until dying on 18 June 1890 at the age of 74 years. She chose to be buried in St. Mark's Lutheran Cemetery, Wellesley, Waterloo Regional Municipality, Ontario.

We assume **Elizabeth** and Georg Hahn moved to the Bamberg farm once married because in the 1851 census they are listed as living in Wellesley Township with one-year-old Wilhelm. An article entitled, "Crown Land Grants & Purchasing: Understanding the Crown Land Granting Process" states "If the settler took up residence on the land and fulfilled certain settlement duties, he or she would have ended up owning the land. Then, the Crown issued a patent to the settler, indicating that the ownership of the land had passed from the Crown to a private individual." [7]

In 1860 Georg Hahn applied for and received on 17 July a Crown Grant of 100 acres of land in Wellesley Township, East Section, Concession 6, East Half of Lot 6. [8]

Georg and **Elizabeth** soon designated a small corner parcel of their land adjacent to Hessen Strasse, for a church (wooden structure) and a cemetery (St. John's Lutheran cemetery). The church was built in 1850 and dedicated in 1852. This fact supports our supposition that they were living on their Bamberg farm prior to 1860 when they received legal ownership via the crown land grant.

The church was originally called "the Hahn church" according to Verna Hahn. It burnt to the ground in 1870 and immediately a stone church was erected across the road on Katherine Reichart's land. It is identified as St. John's Lutheran Church.

Today the church is considered architecturally and historically significant. It is locally designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. [9]

By 1860, **Elizabeth** now age 30 and Georg now age 41 would have seven growing boys: William age 10; Lewis age 8; Jacob age 6; Henry age 4; John age 3; and young George born August 1860.

The first girl would arrive in 1863, Mary was her name and she was followed quickly in 1864 by a second girl named Christina (Georg's only sister's name). Then three more boys arrived Conrad (1867), Ernest (1869) and Andrew (1871). As a mother in the mid 1800's, **Elizabeth** would birth her children at home.

As well as nursing, feeding and disciplining her children, **Elizabeth's** chores probably consisted of planting a garden; weeding and harvesting; preserving foods; milking cows; churning butter; making cheese; feeding chickens and collecting eggs; cooking; washing laundry in a wooden tub with lye soap; hanging laundry outside/inside to dry; making candles from tallow; making and mending clothes; cutting hair; and keeping the home clean.

She would cook and heat water for laundry and bathing on the cast iron wood-fueled stove. The stove would also be used for heating the home in colder months. "In the earlier part of the nineteenth century, the frequency with which a wash was done was directly related to social status. Upper-class households could afford larger wardrobes, and so washed every four months, or in some cases, even once a year. To wash clothes more frequently than every six weeks suggested poverty. At the same time, well-to-do nineteenth-century women wore their dresses several times before laundering them, since their outer clothing did not come into direct contact with the body." [10]

Having successfully birthed 11 children over a 21-year period, Elizabeth's wash lines and fences were no doubt, always full of laundry. Like most farm wives, she would have developed a strong back, arms and hands from hauling water for both soap wash and rinse. The strength of her wrists would determine how sufficiently water was extracted from the laundry before it was hung to dry.

As the family clothing wore out, Elizabeth would have chosen to recycle them, into quilts and rugs for the family home. It was a waste not period, in Ontario history.

On Sundays, George, **Elizabeth** and the children would have attended the Hahn Church on their property. George and his sons most likely were involved in the upkeep and heating of the church but Elizabeth, as wife as the church founder, may have had a role to play as well.

In her lifetime, **Elizabeth's** extended family consisted of 2 brothers, 8 half siblings, 2 step siblings, 1 mother deceased, 1 step mother who raised her (deceased) and 1 step mother.

**Elizabeth** and Georg Hahn would themselves raise a family of eleven children born in a 21-year span. Their children would marry bringing into the family 15 daughters in laws and 2 sons in laws and 45 grandchildren.

Verna Hahn, **Elizabeth's** granddaughter, said this about **Elizabeth**: "**Elizabeth** spoke only German. She never wore a coat and instead wore a heavy shawl with a bonnet. In the spring she wore a lighter shawl. She dressed in full long skirts with pockets. She knit stockings, mitts, hats for the entire family and in later years gifted to neighbours. Her knitting was apparently quite fancy. She was a quiet woman. She had dark brown hair which never turned totally white. She regularly attended the Lutheran church. "

When George Hahn died in 1889, **Elizabeth** was 59 years old and she may have had three unmarried children residing at home: Conrad age 22; Ernest age 20; and Andrew age 18.

Verna Hahn said that "**Elizabeth's** sons, John and Henry, had a dispute over the running of the farm after their father died. **Elizabeth** favoured Henry, who in her opinion could do no wrong. Andrew drove John to the train station and he left Canada and settled in the United States after the dispute."

However, records show that John was already in the United States where he and his wife Emilie were homesteading two separate parcels in arid eastern Colorado. Emilie would have been three months pregnant with their first child. Thus, we surmise that the dispute was likely between Henry (age 33) and Ernest (age 20). Ernest would still be living at home, before moving to the United States to work and marry.

We know from the 1891 Canada Census records that **Elizabeth** was still living on the Bamberg farm with son Henry and daughter-in-law Veronica and their children (Maria Lydia, Louisa Catherine and Menno Andrew). But by the time of the 1901 census, **Elizabeth** is recorded living with her daughter Mary Heimpel. Thus, at some point in that decade **Elizabeth** moved off the Hessen Strasse family farm.

**Elizabeth** was predeceased by her daughter Christina (March) and son William (November) 1910. She herself would die in Mary's Petersburg, Ontario home on 3 June 1918 and she would be buried in the Emmanuel Lutheran cemetery in Petersburg. Verna Hahn said that "**Elizabeth's** first gravestone was not good enough for Louis Hahn (second born son and owner of Hahn Brass in New Hamburg, Ontario, Canada), and so he replaced it with his own funds."

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## NOTES:

[1] THE GREAT MIGRATION (Second Edition); EDWIN C. GUILLET; Series: Heritage; Copyright Date: 1963; Published by: University of Toronto Press; Page 11.

[2] HISTORY STORIES; MAR 1, 2019; America's First Immigration Law Tried (and Failed) to Deal With Nightmarish Sea Journeys; Opportunity in the United States beckoned—but first immigrants from Europe had to endure a grim journey; DAVE ROOS

<https://www.history.com/news/steerage-act-immigration-19th-century>

[3] Joan Koornstra, a descendant of Henry Herber and his second wife Louisa Schaeufele, said that a Herber family bible in the possession of Emma Katherine Herber and her brother John Norman (both descended from Paulus Herber) lists Catherina Nicolai as dying of the plague

[4] COOPER: A cooper made and repaired casks, barrels, buckets, tubs, troughs, and similar containers.

[5] CHURCH REGISTER OF H W PETERSON 1833-1835: <http://docplayer.net/47906889-Church-register-of-h-w-peterson.html>

This register was kept by H. W. Peterson to keep track of religious services held at or near Berlin, Upper Canada by travelling clergymen and himself. The original document is in the collection of the Waterloo Historical Society. There is another, earlier transcription and translation of uncertain origin, and the document has also been published in the Ontario Register.

Although not an ordained clergyman, Peterson ministered to German settlers of the Lutheran and Anglican faiths in the Waterloo area during the 1830s. In December 1832 he was appointed catechist for the Church of England, assisting the itinerant Vincent Philip Mayerhoffer. Peterson later joined the Methodist meeting at Berlin and he continued in the Methodist connection until his death, being a strong supporter of the Norfolk Street Methodist Church in Guelph during his later years.

Transcribed in 1991 by Ryan Taylor and Linda Brown Kubisch.

[6] HOW HEINRICH MET / MARRIED LOUISA: Joan Koornstra, great X 2 granddaughter of Louisa Schaeufele wrote the following in her Heinrich Jacob HERBER Family Tree notes: "The story goes that when his first wife died of Typhoid Fever, he needed help with the 2 children: Elizabeth and William. He went to a neighbour Andrew Schaeufle and asked if he could hire one of his daughters to help with the children. Andrew replied "no," but if you want you can marry one of them and so the marriage of Louisa and Henry took place."

[7] Crown Land Grants & Purchasing article: <http://hwtproject.ca/the-township/crown-land-patents/>

[8] ONLAND Ontario Land Registry Access, Historical Books, Land Registry Office WATERLOO

(LR0 58) page 47: <https://www.onland.ca/ui/58/books/84937/viewer/707791386?page=47>

[9] ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4260 Hessen Strasse, Wellesley Township

The church is located southwest of St. Clements, one concession south of Lobsinger Line and west of Moser-Young Road.

According to the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society:

<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/st-johns-evangelical-lutheran-church.html>

A log church, located on Hesson Strasse or Hessian Road south-west of St. Clements and north of Bamberg (9 miles southeast of Linwood), was built in 1850 and dedicated in 1852 - one of a joint charge with St. Peter's, Heidelberg and First St. Paul's of Wellesley Village. Rev. F.A. Peifer (1852-1856), who organized the congregation in 1852, was the first pastor. He was followed by Revs. F.V. Wunderlich, F. Hildebrandt, Jacob Werth and Daniel Stahlschmidt (1860-1872). Destroyed by fire in early 1870, the church was replaced immediately with a new stone building across the road (on the south side) which was completed and dedicated in June, 1872. The church was associated with Heidelberg from 1860 until 1907 when it was joined with the Linwood Parish. In August 1991 the church appeared to be in good condition, with the grounds well kept. Four services are held each year. The marker above the front door reads: Deutsche Ev. Luth. Kirche 1872.

St. John's Lutheran Records:

- Baptism dates: 1852-1909 Location of records: Wilfrid Laurier University\*\*\*
- Marriage dates: unknown Location of records: unknown
- Burial dates: 1853-1909 Location of records: Wilfrid Laurier University\*\*\*

\*\*\*Records, which include Confirmations 1852-1898 and Communicants 1860-1909, are in the Eastern Canada Synod Lutheran Church Archives at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. Some church records are also at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Linwood.

References: Cronmiller 1961:161; Dick & Longo 1984:26-27; Eylands 1945:81; Maple Leaf 1983:84; R. Taylor 1986; WHS 1972(60):77.

Information excerpted from: Waterloo County Churches, A Research Guide to Churches established before 1900, by Rosemary Willard Ambrose © Waterloo-Wellington Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, 1993. It is reproduced by permission.

[10] CANADA'S HISTORY; Washday: The Weekly Ritual (Doing the laundry—and doing it well);  
Written by Cheryl MacDonald — Posted August 27, 2016

<https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/women/washday-the-weekly-ritual>

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