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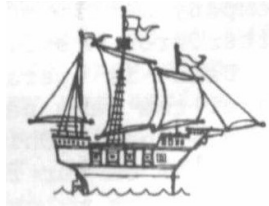
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VALENTINE SAILS FOR AMERICA IN 1831

DEPARTS FROM FRANCE WITH WIFE AND 7 CHILDREN



Valentine Nafziger was born in 1783, in Condoma County, Weisenburg, France or Germany. Weisenburg is a town 30 miles below Nurnberg in the southwestern part of Germany and a portion of territory that has been claimed by both countries through the years. He married Jacobina Schantz in Germany. Jacobina was born in 1785. They became the parents of Jacob, Peter, Christian, Catherine, Magdalena, Jacobina, and Elizabeth. Valentine and Jacobina, with their family immigrated to America in 1831 and settled in Wayne County, Ohio. The children grew up in Wayne County, but most of them were quick to make their way to Fulton County, Ohio to 'make their new homes'. Several of the daughters married and remained in Wayne County. Valentine died in 1783 and is buried in a cemetery behind what was the Mennonite church just north of Wooster, Ohio. Jacobina died In 1866 and is buried in the same cemetery. We have noted before in the News that grandsons of Jacob Nafzger, who entered the United States in 1750, lived about ten miles away. In the 1850's, a third Nafziger family, Christian, emigrated from Germany and settled about five miles from where Valentine lived.



Illustration 1: Above picture was taken at the Noffsinger Family Reunion held near Eagle Rock, Botetourt County, Virginia. Noffsingers attending this reunion are descendants of Peter who sailed for America in 1749 and featured in the January issue of the Nafzger Heritage News.

Valentine's oldest son must have been Jacob Nofziger. He was born in Weisenburg, Germany, and came with his parents in 1831, as did the rest of the children. In 1834, just three years after they arrived in America, he married Fannie Stutzman, who was a native of Germany. We do not have the birthday of Jacob, but assuming that he was around twenty years old, we can deduce that he was a young man when his father decided to bring the entire family to America. He was probably born around 1810-1811.

Valentine's second son, Peter, was born in 1815. He married Magdalena Wyse and they became the parents of John, Seth, Peter, Eli, Christian, Elizabeth, Magdalena, Barbara, Jacobina, and Leah. He was a bishop in the Mennonite Church. Peter died in 1874, and it would appear that both are buried in the Eckley Cemetery in Fulton County, Ohio.

Valentine's third son, Christian, changed the spelling of the name to "Nofsinger". He was born in 1819 and died in 1892. He married Elizabeth Plank (1823-1912) in 1844. They are the parents of six children: Samuel, Jacob, Christian, Nancy, Lydia, and Magdalena. He was ordained a preacher in about 1844 and was still believed to have been living in Wayne County at the time. Later, he migrated to St. Joseph County, Michigan. He labored forty-seven years in the Amish-Mennonite churches in

both states and died in St. Joseph County, Michigan, in 1892. He is buried in the Pretty Prairie churchyard, which was the location of the Pretty Prairie Mennonite Church Meetinghouse at one time. His wife, Elizabeth Plank, was born on the high seas en route to America.

We do not have much information on families of Valentine's daughters. One daughter, Catherine, married a Yoder, whose first name we do not have. They had four children; John, Simon, and two daughters whose names are not known. Another daughter, Jacobina, was born in 1827 in Germany. She married David Stutzman (1824-1876). They are the parents of Daniel, Sally, and Emma. Their one son, Daniel, died at the age of one year, Jacobina died in 1868.

Another daughter, Elizabeth, married Isaac Plank. Isaac was a widower with children. Christian and David are children of Elizabeth Magdalene (1812-1873) [who] married Peter Blough in 1833 in Wayne County. Peter had been married to Leah Yoder who died in 1833 prior to his marriage to Magdalena. David, Lydia, Solomon, John, and Joseph are children of the first marriage while Elizabeth, Mary, Peter, Magdalene, Leah, Catherine, Christina, and Jacobina are children of the marriage of Peter and Magdalena. Magdalena and Peter are buried in the same churchyard cemetery as her father and mother.