

Roger Miller

Transcription of Christian Gerig III (married Catherine Goldschmidt) 1807 death record. This is Jacob Gerig's father. From this document we find his parents "Christian Gerig II and Anne Blanck". Without this record we wouldn't know who they were.

George Valentin Lehr was one of the two witnesses on this record. He was Catherine Goldschmidt's brother-in-law (noted as such in the document). He was married to Catherine's younger sister Anna Marie. Their Brother Jacob, Father, Grandfather & Great-Grandfather were taillandiers. They owned forges (smithy) and made cutlery, axes and other metal objects shaped out of iron. They were iron toolmakers. Their trade became their name. How many generations did the art of toolmaking get passed down from father to son? Catherine's grandfather was the first in his family to become an active participant in the anabaptist movement. So much so that he was being monitored by the pastor of the Reformed Church in the town of Richterswil, Switzerland, who noted his comings and goings. These personal insights into his life are recorded in letters that are preserved to this day.

Joseph Bächer, the 2nd witness, was married to Magdaleine Gerig. They were married and living in Hang during the 1780 census with our Gerigs. Magdaleine died in 1795 in the town of Osheim. Several months later Joseph returned to Saint Marie-aux-Mines and married the widow of Catherine and Anna Marie's uncle, Henry Goldschmidt. Joseph is called a cousin of Christian Gerig in this death record. Neither Joseph's parents nor his new wife's parents are either Goldschmidts, Stuckys, Blancks or Gerigs. His 2nd wife was Catherine and Anna Marie's aunt by her prior marriage (can't be a cousin but would rather be an uncle of sorts). I have concluded, with some reservation, that Joseph's cousin reference is referring to his first 15/16 year marriage to Madaleine/Magdaleine Gerig. Magdaleine is too old to be his uncle Jean Gerig's daughter. So do we have a missing 3rd Gerig brother who is her father. Perhaps he is Mosi (Moise/Moses) Gerig?

Just last week while looking through some old Mennonite Family History Journals I found the following footnote:

"**Moise Gerig** farmer in 1770 at le Cot d'Eschery near Saint Marie-aux-Mines, mentioned in a record of application by **Christ Gerig**".

So a Christ (Christian) Gerig mentions a Moise Gerig in an unknown application. This implies some sort of relationship. This information was written in the notes of a Charles Mathiot and are stored in the files of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (these notes predate 1989, so have been there for decades). We need to see the full unedited notes and see if Charles Mathiot noted other Gerig documents he found in this same journal. He was looking through the archives of Haut-Rhin. Unsure if he did this in person or via microfilm. 1770 was only 4 years prior to Christian and Jean Gerig's move to Hang.

