

Roger Miller 12-03-22

I discovered the names of Mosi and Christian Gerig's farms in St Marie-aux-mines. This also includes the approximate location of Christian's residence.

Once again this is a lengthy post as I have a lot to share.

With further examination of the Anabaptists lists of St. Marie-aux-mines, I discovered the names of both Mosi and Christian Gerig's farms. It was a common practice to give the farms a name. I spelled the names as best I could determine from the various lists, so bear in mind I may have gotten a letter or two wrong.

Mosi lived in Cote d'Eschery on the **Walduerishen** (possibly spelled Waldnerishen) farm. The German word for forest is "Wald", so I don't know if that has any significance for the naming of Mosi's leased farm, but perhaps it was partially in the woods. Robert Baecher states in an 1982 article he wrote that Mosi Gerig was living in the Saint Marie-aux-mines area in the 1730s (he does not give any specific dates or details nor identifies the document from which he derived that information). A Christian Gerig was also there in a 1732 Anabaptist list. I wonder now if they were brothers, or whether this first Christian Gerig was his father? I had thought this first Christian Gerig was our direct ancestor instead of Mosi, but that appears to be a wrong assumption.

Mosi therefore lived in this area for at least 40 years. And his leased farm in Cote d'Eschery was probably the birthplace of our Christian Gerig (born about 1734) and his brother Jean/John (born about 1741).

Christ Gerig's 1770 application for exemption from military service does mention 10 years in the text, while I couldn't discern what it meant, others have implied that it means he had lived in the valley for 10 years. This being the case, he would have first lived at his farm when married to his wife, Anne Blanck, from about 1760 to 1768 when she died. Perhaps he had lived outside the municipality for a brief time after he came of age at 18, which would have been about 1752.

Christian Gerig's farm was named **Lagardishen**. It was located in Klein Liberau, which is another name for La Petite Liepvre. This is the same area where Jacob Amman and his early followers settled when first arriving in the late 1600s, and is very close to Cote d'Eschery where Christian's father Mosi lived. Christian did not have far to move in 1768 after his wife died. I posted a map with this message that shows where both men had their farms in relation to the town of St. Marie-aux-mines.

I noticed the lists show Christian paying the 6 French Livre (pound) in 1764 thru 1767, and it is from these lists I found his farm's name and location. Immediately beginning in 1768, Christian no longer pays the 6 livre (pound) yearly fee, and his entry always includes the German word "vatter" (father) after that. Twice also including the writing "vatter Mosi Gerig" - specifying his father's name. This further proves that Christian did indeed lose his wife in 1768. We have two documents now that prove the date is accurate. So that being the case, and since we have good reason to believe that Christian Gerig of Hang and Christ Gerig of St Marie-aux-mines are the same man, his wife died in 1768 not 1765.

If you view the list I translated below, you will see that Christian Gerig was not the only man to live on the Lagardishen Farm. immediately below his name is a Daniel Shlatter/Schlatter who also lived on the farm. How can that be?! Perhaps it had two houses. One wonders though if these two men might be related. Perhaps a cousin, or perhaps Daniel's wife was Christian Gerig's sister?

lastly I found it interesting that a Michel Blanck was on this list. He was Nicolaus Blanck's grandson. Nicolaus Blanck being Jacob Amman's close friend and right-hand man (companion as others have written). I have speculated in the past that perhaps Michel Blanck could be Christian's father-in-law.