

Dedicated to the memory of
Andre and Madeleine Bier,
and the many friends who
made this short history
possible.

July 1950

Please notice the front picture as designed and drawn by Marcia Ann Pasley. It represents the history of the Bier Family.

The upper right hand corner represents the Castle and Vineyard of the old Homestead in the Upper Rhine Valley of France.

The coast line of France and the coast line of the United States represents the outline of the Valley of Life.

You will notice that the roots of the Family Tree of Bier rests in the soil of France and that they spell Boehr.

The dead branches rest on the soil of the United States and they spell Bier. While the trunk which represents Andre and

Madeleine spans the Valley of Life. Also notice that there are no green twigs in the branches of this tree because there are

no sons to carry on the proud name of Bier.

B

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ANDRE

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WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, only one title of address was necessary. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surnames as we know it today is a comparatively recent development in human history, dating from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place of residence; (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are born in mind.

As early as biblical times, certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as for instance, Joshua the son of Num, Samson the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In the ancient Greece, daughters were scrupulously named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually and enlarged form of the fathers as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, felt the need for some hereditary title; and to meet this need they invented a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking several names. None of these however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", though hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. Excellent as this system was, it proved to be but a temporary innovation, for the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and

tribal groups grew in size, individual names proved inadequate and the need for supplementary designations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", "the Hardy", "the Stern", "the Dreadful-in-battle" and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Ossian, Oscar son of Garnuth, and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary designations date in England from about the year 1000. Largely, they were introduced from Normandy, although there are interesting records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that borne by Hwita Hatta, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tata Hatta. During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soro, Siuward Rufus, and names of Leoric Hobb-esune were common. The Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use.

By the end of the twelfth century, hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, such as Black or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butcher". and as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century, a somewhat similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German Surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father of those who first bore the surname. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the hosts of names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O' (literally "a descendant of"). Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons Richardsons or Richardses, Niell's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FritzHerberts; and Reilly's sons, O'Reilly.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong; Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or Bland Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned; Long, Hardy, Wise, Gladman, Lover, Youngman and Legand. Such names as Fox and Wolfe perhaps also belong in this group, although some writers suggest that they may be of an ancient totemistic origin instead.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames-- names derived from and originally designating the place of residence or habitat of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England and France by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates on the Continent and later by the titles of their English possessions. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, dela, or del (meaning "of" or "of the").

The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim fathers illustrate place designations; for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "and end Cottage"; Bradfor, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a stony park". The suffixes "ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley or Burleigh, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose--names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner) and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin, Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster, a weaver, Wainwright a wagon builder, and Baxter a baker; such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefid was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Digges was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is to be found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America, the melting pot of all nations, a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented.

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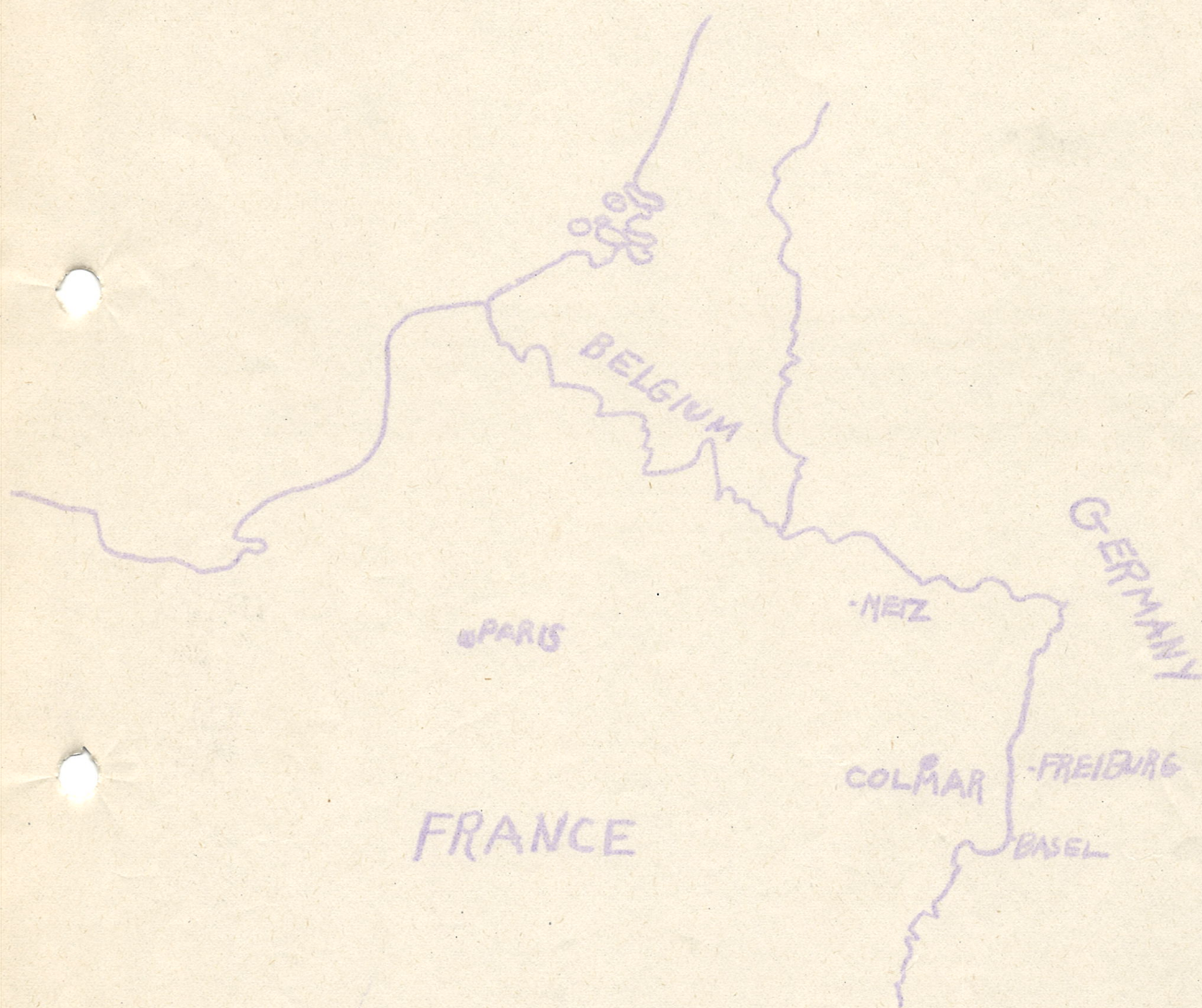
While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who bear old and honored names-- who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy emigrant ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity-- may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that the family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the glory of the family. Like the coat of arms, that vivid pictorial symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle, the name itself, borne through every event of life and through the lives of scores of one's progenitors, became the badge of family honor--the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for it need be. As the valiant deeds of the marching generations have clothed it in glory, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

B O E H R



FAMILY
LINEAGE



REGISTRY OFFICE OF ILLHAÜSERN

Extract of the certificate of birth of the Commune of Illhaüsern, District of Cibeauville, Ward of Colmar, Province of The Upper Rhine of the year 1808.

The year eighteen hundred eight, the second day of the month of April, François Meyer, Mayor, Official of the Civil State of the Commune of Illhaüsern, District of Cibeauville, Province of The Upper Rhine, is informed by Joseph Petermann, aged thirty-two years, day laborer, living in this Commune that today between one and two o'clock in the morning was born a child of female sex and this same declared Madeleine Million his spouse and that he wished to give the name Madeleine, the present declaration and presentation made in the presence of Antoine Groff, baker, aged thirty-years and Antoine Schmitt, aged thirty-two years, living in this Commune and they have the father and witnesses signed with us the present record of birth after it has been read to them.

Signed in the Register:

Joseph.....
Antoine Groff
.....and
Mayor Meyer

For Extract according to the record delivered to the Mayor of Illhaüsern, September first, 1833.

THE MAYOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL

REGISTRY OFFICE OF ILLHAÜSERN

Extract of the certificate of death of the Commune of Illhäusern, District of Cibeauville, Ward of Colmar, Province of The Upper Rhine, of the year 1819.

In the year eighteen-hundred nineteen, the twelfth day of the month of March, it is declared Jean Pierre Zimmermann, adjutant of the Commune, performing the functions of Official of the Civil State of Illhäusern, delegated by the Mayor, District of Cibeauville, Province of The Upper Rhine, establishes Mr. Antoine Boehr, farmer, aged eighty years and François Joseph Müller, bargeman, aged thirty years, both residing in this Commune, son and kinsman -; who have sworn to us that Louis Boehr, farmer, aged fifty-nine years, spouse of Agnès Littinger, of this place, died today at one o'clock. I account and the witnesses have signed the record after having read the testimony made.

Signed in the Register:

Antoine Lofre
Josef Müller and
Zimmermann, adjutant

For Extract according to the record delivered to the Mayor of Illhäusern, September first, 1833.

THE MAYOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL

REGISTRY OFFICE OF ILLHAÜSERN

Extract of the record of entry in the register of birth from the commune of Illhäusern, District of Cibeauville, Ward of Colmar, Province of The Upper Rhine, of the ninth year of The Republic.

(September 22, 1792, was the first day of the year one of the French Republic.)

Of the sixteenth day of May of the year 1801, the ninth year of the French Republic. Birth certificate of André Boehr, born yesterday at four o'clock in the evening, son of Louis Boehr, farmer, and Agnès Littinger, married and residing in Illhäusern. The sex of the child has been determined male. The first witness, Martin Baumann, a national forester guard, thirty-eight years old; second witness, Elisabeth Metzler twenty-four years old, daughter of George Metzler, farmer, and Agnès Boehrlé, legally residing in Illhäusern. Made by us on request of Louis Boehr, father of the child, and signed by the two named witnesses. Attested according to law by me, François Meyer, Mayor of Illhäusern performing the functions of a public official of the civil state, undersigned and registered,, and Mayor Meyer.

For Extract according to the record delivered to the Mayor of Illhäusern, September 1, 1833.

THE MAYOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL

The three preceding pages are an English translation of the three original official papers signed and sealed, written in French and in the possession of Mrs. Margaret Loel of Chillicothe, Ohio.

From these papers and other bits of information gathered from various sources, we can come to the following conclusions.

The Boehr family as far back as our records go - 1739 - were located in Illhausern France, which is a community or suburb of the city of Colmar, located in the County or District of Cibeauville, State of the Upper Rhine of the Country of France.

We also know that the Boehr's were a family of the soil as the records show they were farmers as far back as 1739, and when they came to this country they and some of their descendants continued farming as their life occupation.

It has been handed down that the Boehr family of Illhausern owned and operated a large winery and were considered wealthy.

As far as we are able to find out, Louis and Agnes Boehr had four sons - do not know how many daughters. One of the sons, Andre, fell in love with their scullary maid, Madeline Peterman, ran away with her and were married and came to America with his brother Louis, we presume in the year 1833 or 1834, because the three official papers were all made up and signed on September 1, 1833, and it would have been necessary to have their birth certificates in order to get passports.

Andre and his wife settled on the outskirts of Chillicothe, Ohio, operated a farm and a trading post on the banks of a small river. The place is still known as "Biers Run."

Andre changed the family name from Boehr to Bier. He could not speak English plainly and the natives of Chillicothe had a hard time understanding and spelling his name. One day while trading with some people in his store he got mad because they could not understand him and he said, "I am going to change my name." So going into the back of the store he got some paint and a brush, went outside and changed the name from Boehr to Bier. He then told the people, "Now my name is the same as a funeral bier and you will have no trouble in spelling or remembering my name." From that time on, this branch of the Boehr family was known as Bier.

Do not know where Louis settled in this country or what became of his family.

Antoine Boehr
 B. 1739

Louis Boehr
 B. 1760
 D. March 12, 1819
 M. Agnes Littinger

Andre
 B. May 16, 1800
 Louis
 B. March 12, 1819
 Also two other sons

Joseph Petermann
 B. 1776
 D.
 M. Madeleine Million

Madeleine
 B. April 2, 1808

Andre and Madeleine (Peterman) Boehr, had issue of six children, two sons and four daughters, all born in Ross County, Chillicothe Ohio.

One peculiar thing of this family is that three of the daughters married three brothers with the family name of Kellhofer.

"All dates are from the old family Bible now held by Margaret Loel of Chillicothe, Ohio.

*Grandma McRoberts
died in Mar. 1, 1923
Grandpa Bier was 89
and died in Nov. 1924*

Joseph

B. April 12 1835
D. Nov. 25 1924
M. Mary A. Zind
on Oct. 24 1856
B. April 16 1838
D. Oct. 21 1914

see
next
page

Elizabeth

B. 1840
D. JOHN 1903
M. 1st -- Schilder
2nd John Kellhofer

see MAME
page ALBERT
AA

Mary A.

B. AUG 8, 1836
D. OCT. 9, 1876
M. Theodore Kellhofer

Clara

Anna M.

B. OCT 6, 1846
D. AUG 15, 1890
M. Jacob Kellhofer

No
Children

Andre Boehr (Bier)

B. May 16 1800
D. 1870
M. Madeleine Peterman
on
B. April 2 1808
D. 1876
- GRAVESTONE -
MARY M. BIER

Magdalena

B.
D.
M. Joseph Spath
on
B.
D.

Ida
B.
D.

Mary
B.
D.

John

B.
D.
M. Lucy Marzluff

see FLORA
page
AB

ANDRE - BORN 1801

FAMILY RECORD
BIRTHS

JOSEPH BIER — BORN APRIL 12TH, 1835.
MARY BIER (BORN ZIND) APRIL 16TH, 1838.
MARY I. HANLEY (BORN BIER) SEPT. 30, 1858.
THOMAS J. BIER — DEC. 22, 1860.
ANNA KATHERINE BARMANN (BORN BIER)
DECEMBER 4, 1862.
IRENE FLEURY BIER — 8PM, DEC. 8, 1909.
EDNA LILLIAN BIER — 1AM, JULY 5, 1911.
CLARA ELIZABETH MCROBERTS — JULY 28, 1873.
EDWARD WM. BIER — JULY 5, 1873.
MARGARET ISABEL BIER — 2AM, FEB. 12, 1899.
KATHRYN ELIZABETH BIER — 4PM, MAR. 10, 1900.
ALICE MARIE BIER — 8PM, MARCH 27, 1901.
CAROLYN CECELIA BIER — NOON, JAN. 4, 1903

MARRIAGES

EDWARD WM. BIER & CLARA E. MCROBERTS
OCTOBER 26, 1897
MARGARET ISABEL BIER & MAJOR J. LOEL
JUNE 5, 1923

DEATHS

JOHN W. MCROBERTS, AUG 29, 1904 (78 YRS)
ALICE ROSENA FLEURY MCROBERTS —
MARCH 1ST, 1923. (83 YRS)
MARY ZIND BIER — OCT 21, 1914 (76½ YRS)
JOSEPH BIER — NOVEMBER 25, 1924
CLARA ELIZABETH MCR. BIER — OCT. 20, 1948.
EDWARD WM. BIER — JULY 24, 1927.