

NOTES ON THE MOTHER OF HENRY RUTTER R#21, SON OF JOSEPH RUTTER R#5

John A. Parmer, January 2003

Traditional genealogical sources consolidated in *Descendants of Conrad Rutter 1651-1737* have mapped much of the four generations (and beyond) descended from, and beginning with, the pioneer Conrad Rutter of Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Identifying numbers used in this paper are from the Rutter descendency noted above. In that large compilation, Conrad's son Joseph Sr. was said to have married Barbara Glenn, and with her raised seven children, the first of whom was Henry. Evidence has come to light that Henry's mother was not Barbara Glenn, but Barbara Biegler / Bichler. This view is substantiated by land records, church records, and wills, enumerated below.

In Leacock Township, in addition to the lands of the 588 acre tract claimed by pioneer Conrad in 1733, there is only one other property deeded in patent by the Penn proprietors to a Rutter: 137 acres in 1763 to Henry Rutter. The farm property may be seen as Tract No. 14 on the Leacock Township Warrant Map. Its southeast corner touched the northwest corner of the Conrad Rutter plantation, and now may be identified as on the north side of Ridge Road, west of West View Drive, and bounded on the west by Hollander Road. The land was originally settled by a Biegler / Bichler family; documents showing Henry's acquisition are as follows:

Lancaster Co. Warrant R-373

Pennsylvania (SEAL)

By the Proprietaries —

Whereas in pursuance of a Warrant under the Seal of our Land Office dated the 19th day of June 1752 there was surveyed to Jacob Biegler on the sixteenth day of November following by William Brown Assistant to Thomas Cookson Esquire then Deputy Surveyor of Lancaster County a certain Tract of Land situated in Leacock Township in the said County containing one hundred and thirty seven acres and allowance, but the said Thomas Cookson dyed [sic] before any return was made thereof into your office, And Whereas the said Jacob Biegler settled and made considerable improvements on the said tract of Land dyed possessed thereof having made his last Will and Testament dated the fourteenth of February 1757 and thereby gave and Devised all his Real and Personal Property (some Pecuniary Legacies excepted) unto his Grandson Henry Ritter Son of Barbara the Daughter of the said Testator as in and by the said Will duly proved and remaining in the Register Generals Office more fully appears. And Whereas the said Henry Ritter hath possessed the said tract and hath now humbly requested us to grant him our Warrant for the acceptance of the said survey into your office and on Return thereof our patent of Confirmation for the same on his paying to our use the Residue of the purchase Money Interest and Quit Rent And we favouring his Request; these are to require you to accept into your Office the said Survey of the said Tract of Land — and make a Return thereof into our Secretary's Office in order for Confirmation thereof to the said Henry Ritter And for your so doing this shall be your Warrant GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Land Office by virtue of certain powers from the said Proprietaries at Philadelphia this Second day of December Anno Dom. 1763 — (signed) John Penn
To John Lukens Surveyor General

From Patent AA-5-521 dated December 3, 1763 137 acres plus allowance to Henry Ritter

..... Whereas in pursuance of a Warrant bearing Date the nineteenth Day of June 1752 there was surveyed unto Jacob Beigler a certain tract of land [description of the tract adjacent to the northwest corner of the Conrad Rutter 588 acre plantation].....As in and by the said Warrant of Survey remaining in the Surveyor Generals Office and from thence certified into our Secretaries Office appears And Whereas the said Jacob Beigler settled and made considerable improvements on the said Tract of Land and died possessed thereof having made his last Will and Testament dated the fourteenth of Day of February One thousand seven

hundred and fifty seven and thereby gave & Devised all his Real and Personal Estate (some Pecuniary Legacies excepted) unto his Grandson Henry Ritter Son of Barbara the Daughter of the said Testator as in and by the said Will duly proved and remaining in the Register Generals Office more fully appears Now at the Request of the said Henry Ritter that we would be pleased to grant him a Confirmation of the same signed) John Penn Recorded 18th April 1764

From Will Book B, p.177, Lancaster Co., Jacob Bichler, dated Feb. 14, 1757, Proved Oct. 25, 1757

..... to my Daughter Elizabeth the Sum of Two Pounds

..... to my Daughter Barbara the Sum of Two Pounds

..... to my Grandson George Michael Wolf the Sum of five Pounds

..... to my Grandson John Jacob Wolf the Sum of five Pounds

..... to my Grandson Henry Wolf the Sum of five Pounds

..... to my Grand-daughters Mary and Susanna Wolf and to my Grandson Abram Wolf to each and every one of them the Sum of One Pound each

..... the Sum of One Pound to the Elder of the Dutch Reformed Church for the time being after my Discease [sic] (which now stands in Andre Seldomridge his plantation) for the Use and Behoof of the said church only

..... to my Grand-daughter Rebecca Ritter a cow, to be given to her by my Grandson Hennery [sic] Ritter

.....to my said Grandson Henery Ritter..... [shall pay the amounts listed to all of the above in PA currency].....

..... to my said Grandson Henery Ritter all my Real and Personal Estate

..... appoint my said Grandson Henery Ritter and Nathanael Lightner both of said township to be my whole and sole executors

..... Witness the same — Stewart Herbert- William Skiles- Henery Skiles

From Will Book K, Vol 1, p.320 Lancaster Co., Henry Rutter, dated Nov 9, 1811, probated Dec 3, 1811

Wife Elizabeth to get the usual 1/3 and privileges
Balance of 2/3 to be divided equally among these children:
Sons:
Joseph, Andrew, Isaac, George, Jacob, Daniel, Henry
Daughters:
Ann, wife of Benjamin Meiser
Elizabeth, wife of Conrad Evits
Mary, wife of David Trout
Hanna, wife of Samuel Miller
Catharine, wife of John Meiser
[The heirs sold the 137-acre farm in 1813.]

In order to verify that the correct Henry is selected to pursue these family relationships, it is necessary to consider the possible candidates. There are three Henry Rutters listed in the fourth generation. They may be eliminated from consideration, for all were born at least 30 years too late to have been the person referred to in the Jacob Bichler will:

- #41 Henry son of #20 Joseph Jr., born circa 1767; Federal Census of 1850 lists at age 83 in Leacock Twp.
- #57 Henry son of #21 Henry, born Dec. 9, 1771; RG does not list its source, but consistent with family time line.
- #771 Henry son of #26 John, born May 7, 1779; RG: Baptism in Zeltenreich Reformed Church records.

There are, of course, no Henrys in the second generation, and there are but two Henry Rutters, #13 and #21, listed in the third generation.

#13 Henry Rutter, was the son of #4 Conrad Rutter (Jr), son of Conrad the pioneer. There is no known church record of his birth. But according to the will (Lancaster Co. Book C, page 35) of his father Conrad Jr., dated March 2, 1765,

son Henry was not yet of age. By the time the will was proved, March 13, 1769, he was of age and so could inherit his father's lands as per the will. This set of facts would put his birth date in the period 1745 to 1748. Thus he would have been 9 to 12 years old when Jacob Bichler made his will in 1757. Even if other family circumstances would fit, this Henry was at least 9 years too young to be the one to inherit in that year, and act as co-executor as well.

R#21 Henry Rutter, the logical candidate for identity with this 137-acre patentee, was the son of #5 Joseph Rutter (Sr), son of #1 Conrad. Records of Trinity Lutheran Church of New Holland (Earl Township) show the following entries for birth and baptism of children of Joseph Ritter (#5):

Parents	Child	Sponsors
Joseph Ritter	Joh. Heinrich, Birth, ? 21, 1734 Bapt. March 28, 1734	Heinrich Schell Jr. Georg Michael Wolf & Wife Elisabetha
	Joh. Georg Birth [2]3, 1735 Bapt. July 6, 1735	Joh. Georg Lott, Joh. Martin Romich, Anna Eva Schwabin, all single
	Anna Maria Birth Mar. 21, 1738 Bapt. Apr. 7, 1738	Jacob Biegle & wife [later named in further church records as Anna Maria]
	Barbara Birth Sept. 19, 1740 Bapt. Sept. , 1740	John Georg Biegle & Elisabetha Rapp; on account of her minority her mother, Anna Maria Rappin represented her.
	Joseph Birth Dec. 23, 1743 Bapt. ? 22, 1744	John Georg Biegle Margaretha Zweckerin
	Margaretha Birth Nov. 5, 1745 Bapt. Dec. 15, 1745	Johannes Schwab Jr. & Margaretha Zweckerin, both single

The same Trinity Lutheran Church records show two other entries for parent Joseph on a later page:

Joseph Ritter Maria Barbara, born Büchlin	Elizabeta Birth Jan. 27, 1751 Bapt. Mar. 3, 1751	Michael Diffenderfer & Elizabetha
Josef Ritter Barbara, born Büchlin	Rebecca Birth Dec. 12, 1753 Bapt. Jan. 14, 1754	Conrad Ritter & Catharina

[Note: These church records were originally written in German script by the pastors of the time. The originals are said to be held by the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, and microfilm copies by LDS. Genealogical researchers here use the English translation by Rev. Frederick Weiser in 1980. The English renderings above are from that translation. I haven't yet seen the German script. Weiser states in his preface that the German script of Rev. Johann Casper Stoever, the first pastor at New Holland, is notoriously difficult to read. Between that problem and Stoever's own spelling foibles, *Biegler*, *Biegle* and *Buchlin* are fairly similar in appearance. The rendering *Bichler* in the will of Jacob is the interpretation of the law clerk writing the document. There is no doubt in my mind that all four renderings refer to the same family.]

The following genealogical points may be made from the Henry Rutter / Jacob Biegler documents, and the Joseph Rutter Trinity birth records evidence:

1. Henry Rutter R#21, son of Joseph Rutter Sr., is the only logical person to meet the age criteria as the grandson of Jacob Beigler/Biegle/Bichler. He would have been 22 or 23 years old when his grandfather included him in his will in 1757.
2. In 1811, the will of the Henry Rutter who is the patent holder of the 137 acres lists as his children to receive 2/3 of his estate 12 of the 14 children, along with 5 sons-in-law, reported in the Rutter Genealogy for Henry R#21, son of Joseph Sr. R#5.
3. Barbara nee Biegler is the mother of Henry Rutter. Therefore Barbara Biegler is the wife of Joseph Rutter Sr. There would seem to be four possibilities concerning the details of this parentage:
 - A. Barbara Biegler, not Barbara Glenn, was the wife of Joseph Rutter.
 - B. Joseph had two wives, Barbara Biegler and Barbara Glenn. This would seem highly unlikely, since his first recorded child, Henry (1734), and his last recorded daughters, Elizabeth (1751) and Rebecca (1753) are documented to Barbara Biegler/Bichler/Büchlin as mother. However, a Barbara Glenn could have been childless on either end of his married period.
 - C. Barbara Biegler was previously married to a man named Glenn, and later married to Rutter.
 - D. Barbara Biegler and Barbara Glenn are really the same person, but by linguistic or clerical error the latter name has been inserted.
4. The Trinity Church records pinpoint the birth of the two “mystery daughters” of Joseph, not mentioned in his will of 1775. This remains a puzzlement, the most logical explanation being that they both died prior to his making of the will. Rutter Genealogy had placed these two girls as the daughters of Joseph Jr., but that patently is not possible. Joseph Jr. himself is listed in the baptismal records above; he would have been only 8 years old when Elizabeth was born. They are his sisters, not his daughters.
5. The will of Jacob Biegler/Bichler clearly indicates that his two daughters are still living. They are Elizabeth, probably the mother of the Wolf children listed, and Barbara, certainly the mother of Henry and Rebecca Rutter. Unanswered questions are why he singled out only Rebecca and Henry of all the Joseph Rutter children. The biggest puzzle is: why would he bequeath a cow to a 4-year old? “..... to be given to her by my grandson Hennery Ritter” may simply indicate an act that was to take place in the future, beyond normal estate settlement time frames.

IN CONCLUSION

It seems clear that Joseph Rutter Sr. married the girl next door, Barbara Biegler, who lived on the adjoining farm. The distance between their homesteads would be measured in yards rather than miles. Their son Henry inherited that farm belonging to his maternal grandfather, Jacob Biegler, in 1757. Both families attended the German-speaking Trinity Lutheran Church in New Holland, 3 ½ miles to the north.

Questions do remain to be answered: How did the close tie between these two families escape the notice of the Rutter Association genealogical efforts from 1927 to 1960? When and where did the Bieglers come from? Until sources of pertinent information on Barbara Glenn can be found, her part in this seeming triangle will remain a mystery.