

## The Andrist Story

To begin, a disclaimer: some of this information is confirmed by two sources and is accurate, some is from only one and is speculation, much information is missing, and some we may never know. Given this, there is a story to be told...

I would like to tell you the story of the Andrist Family and how it is that we got to this point...

The story begins in Boltigen, Canton of Berne, Switzerland, where Johannes Andrist (know as Hans Andrist of Hinter den Fluhén) married Susanna Martig. They had 9 children. **Susanna** b. 1772, **Johannes** b. 1774, **Jacob** b. 1775, **Lena** b. 1777, **Magdalena** b. 1778, **David** b. 1782, **Adam** b. 1786, **John** b. 1790, and **Niklaus** b. 1792. Of these 9 children, we are all descendants of David.

David was born May 5 1782 in Boltigen, Switzerland. He married Elizabeth Zeller in January 1805. She was born March 18 1784 in Zweisimmen, Switzerland. They had 10 children: **David Jr.** b. 1806, **Johannes** b. 1808, **Elisabeth** b. 1808, **Magdalena** b. 1810, **Susanna Kathrina** b. 1813, **Jacob** b. 1815, **Samuel** b. 1818, **Emanuel** b. 1822, **Emanuel** b. 1823, **Frederick** b. 1828. Of these 10 children, 4 brothers: David Jr., Johannes, Samuel, and Frederick came to the U.S. Elisabeth may have also come to the U.S., but we are not sure of this. Magdalena and Susanna, we know, stayed in Switzerland. Jacob was still born. The 1<sup>st</sup> Emanuel died at 4 months of age, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Emanuel died at 14 years of age, in Switzerland. Their mother, Elizabeth (Zeller) Andrist died July 4 1848. Their father's death followed on July 22 1850. Both of them died in Switzerland.

We will now focus on the four brothers that came to America. They all were married in Switzerland. Then they immigrated to the U.S. There are differing dates as to when they actually came to America. Some sources say it was 1850 and others say 1857 or 1858. It is possible that they didn't all come to the U.S. at the same time.

Just as we are unsure of when they came to America, we can only guess as to why they chose to leave their homeland of Switzerland and come to America. One theory would be the opportunity to own more land for farming. In Switzerland, there was very little good cropland, and therefore farmers were limited to a maximum of 40 acres. In the U.S. at this time there was plenty of farmland to be had. Another theory may be that they left to avoid the turmoil of that time. In Switzerland, during the mid-1850's there had been much controversy over whether they would remain a neutral country or not.

Whatever the reason, we know that they did come to America. They left from Havre, France by boat sailing to America. Some are believed to have come through NY, others possibly through Canada. Eventually they came to North Georgetown, OH. We do know that some stayed there, in North Georgetown, while others moved on to MN.

David Jr. and some of his children arrived in the MN area, specifically the Dodge and Goodhue County area, in the mid-1850's.

David Jr., the oldest of the four brothers, was born February 2 1806 in Boltigen, Switzerland. He married Mattie Ann Jacobs on November 12 1829 in Switzerland. She was born February 9 1809. They had 9 children: **Susanna** b. 1830, **David** b. 1832, **John** b. 1833, **Anna** b. 1834, **Jacob** b. 1836 and married Elizabeth (Libbie) Sprieter, **Elizabeth** b. 1839, **Samuel** b. 1840, **Emanuel** b. 1841 and married Magdalena Bringgold, **Elizabeth** b. 1843 and married Peter Keinholz. All of them were born in Boltigen, Switzerland. Elizabeth (the one born in 1839) died at 1 year of age. The remaining 8 children came to the U.S. with their parents. David Jr. died May 1 1860 in Goodhue County and is buried in what some call the "Andrist Cemetery." This cemetery is located on an old Andrist homestead, which was located in Roscoe Twp, Goodhue County, 5 miles North of Berne, MN. We are not sure when Mattie Ann (Jacobs) Andrist died.

Johannes, the second of the four brothers, was born January 16, 1808 in Boltigen, Switzerland. He married Maria Karlen on February 11, 1832. We believe they had three children: **Maria** b. 1833, **Susanna** b. 1834, and **Johannes** b. 1836. Maria (Karlen) Andrist died in 1840. Johannes then married Anna Elizabeth Holenberg in 1840. They had 11 children: **John A.** b. 1842 and married Magdalena Buchs, **Anna Elizabeth** b. 1844, **Godfrey** b. 1846 and married Katherine Baumgartner, **Elizabeth** b. 1847, **Jacob** b. 1849 and married Barbara Anna Buser, **William** b. 1851 married Rachel Luchsinger, **Rosina** b. 1853, **Frederick** b. 1856 and married Anna Ginsberg and Veronica Grasser, **David** b. 1858, **Henry** b. 1860 and married Ellen Harris, and **Sam** b. 1865 and married Catherine. Johannes and his family settled in North Georgetown, OH.

John A. (the son of Johannes and Elizabeth [Holenberg] Andrist) joined the US Army. He enlisted December 9, 1861 in Cailles, Monroe County, OH. John fought in the Civil War. He served 3 years and was honorably discharged on December 9 1864 in Milwaukee, WI. John's brother Godfrey was part of the 198<sup>th</sup> OH Volunteer Unit, and also fought in the Civil War, as did their brother Jacob.

Sometime after the war, John A., Godfrey, Jacob, William and Frederick came to MN. Johannes died in North Georgetown, OH. After Johannes's death, Anna Elizabeth came, with her son Samuel, to MN. Henry stayed in OH. In 1909 he moved, with his wife and 7 children, to Beaverton, MI. Anna Elizabeth (Holenberg) Andrist died in February of 1909 in Berne, MN.

Samuel, the third of the four brothers, was born August 5, 1818 in Boltigen, Switzerland. He married Susanna Schumacher in 1845. According to the Andrist Web Page, they had 11 children: **Elizabeth** (no birthdate known), **Susanna** b. 1845, **Samuel** b. 1847, **Louise** b. 1850 and married David Henri Golay, **Adolf** b. 1852 and married Louise Hintermeister and Susanna Katherina, **Jeanette** (no birthdate known), **Samuel** b. 1856 and married Frederike Bekker, **Wilhelm** b. 1858 and married Lousia Dorothea Eberach and Maria Durand, **Catharina** b. 1860, **Caroline** b. 1864, and **Gotfried** b. 1867.

We believe Samuel came to OH with his brothers, but at some time returned to Switzerland. He and his children all lived and died in Switzerland.

Frederick, the last of the four brothers, was born June 12, 1828 in Boltigen, Switzerland. He married Magdalena Muller on October 19, 1860. She was born May 21, 1828. They had five children: **Friedrich** b. 1861 and married Emma Yoneli, **Samuel** b. 1864 and married Margaret Stussy, **Emanuel** b. 1867 and married Mary Jane Derby, **Godfrey** b. 1870 and married Jessie Conger, and **Jacob** b. 1872 and married Martha Holliday. The first 3 children were born in Switzerland, the last two in the U.S. Frederick and his family lived in and around the Berne, MN area.

The MN immigrants were farmers and cheese makers, for the most part. They settled in the Berne, Roscoe, Mantorville, and Pine Island areas. Then from MN they spread out to places such as Canada, Washington State, Oregon, California, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Massachusetts, Arizona and many other places, I am sure.

At this time I would like to share with you a few stories from the Zwingli Church 100 yearbook, that tell about life in the Berne area when our first ancestors came to the area.

*written by Nancy Ronningen  
for the 2002 Reunion @ Mantorville*