

On the History of the Citizen Families of Engi and Their Development
[Zur Geschichte der bürgerlichen Geschlechter von Engi und ihre Entwicklung]
Public lectures

by
Martin Baumgartner, teacher in Engi.

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Translated by Sue Wolf

[All lettered footnotes and information in brackets were added by the translator]

X. THE NORDERS

Today's younger generation of Engi citizens will probably no longer know about the existence of this family in our commune. As was already emphasized in the Introduction [*see pg. 2 (pg. 2 in the SW translation)*], the Norders are an old Engi citizen family whose last descendants now live in America. All of today's citizen families have linked so closely with the Norders by marriage and other such relationships that the discussion of this family was unavoidable.

The Norders, like the last-dealt-with families, have developed very sparsely from the very beginning. Until well into the 1880s, they had only increased to 15 families. Since then, moreover, as far as is known, five families have gone to America. The entire family has literally emigrated to America.

Since the family tree of the Norders is so small, it will be possible for me to sketch them briefly. The Norders stemmed from Canton Appenzell and were already represented in Engi around 1550. It is possible that they, like the Baumgartners and Hämmerlis, came into our canton at the time of the Reformation, of one of the two religious faiths. The Norders are also already found in the council minutes at that time¹.

This Thomas Norder is very probably the father of Mathias Norder, Nr. 1 of the family tree, who, in 1566, acquired the cantonal right for about 140 fl., and became a citizen of Engi. At the time of the beginning of the church books [*1595*], we encounter there only this Mathias Norder (born ?), Nr. 1, who died in 1610. From his two marriages, with Elsbeth Barli and Waldburga Speich, came only one head of family, Peter Norder, Nr. 3, (1579-1659), who was married six times! — His first wife was named Barbara Speich, who died childless in 1614, on the 6th of May. Already in 1614, on the 5th of June, thus not a month after the death of his first wife, he celebrated a wedding with Anna Hämmerli from Engi, who, in 1622, on the 6th of September, fell to her death from an ash-tree. Of the four children of this marriage, the youngest son, Mathias,

¹ Thus, in 1547, a Phily Norder stood before the council because of timber sales, then again in the years 1548, 1550 (on St. George's Day [*May 6th, under the old calendar*]) and in 1551, on the 15th of June.
In 1548, in January, a Hans Norder received a wine prohibition.
In 1552, on the 22nd of February, Peter Norder was before the council, then several times in the following years.
In 1562, he was put in the neck iron because he made his wife's sister pregnant.
In 1570, on the 15th of May, wine was prohibited to Urban Norder.
In 1578, a Thomas Norder, and Andreas, his brother, appeared before the council, J. J. K.-M. [*J.J. Kubli-Müller*]

1621-1701, became a head of family (Nr. 5 of the family tree). The oldest daughter, Elsbeth, married, in 1638, Konrad Wohlwend from Matt im Brummbach^a. Their little son, Mathias, who was born in 1616, drowned at the age of two, and their daughter, Anna, 1618-1673, married Kaspar Hösli from Haslen in Matt.

The third wedding Peter Norder celebrated in 1623, on the 1st of May, with Regula Lager, born in 1598, daughter of Hans and Ursula Feurer in Engi. From this third marriage came two daughters: Juliana, born in 1627, on the 21st of October (her later fate is unknown), and Ursula, born in 1629, on the 27th of August, six days before the death of her mother, who died on the 2nd of September of the plague. This Ursula married, in 1647, on the 7th of November, Church Steward and *Tagwen*^b Official Josef Blumer, Nr. 5, from Engi (see page 19 [*in* “The Blumers” *chapter* (pg. 2-3 in the *SW translation*)]).

The fourth marriage Peter Norder entered into, in the year 1631, on the 25th of July, with Katharina Joss, born ?, died in 1638, on the 4th of October, daughter of Jost Joss (called the Overjoss!) in Engi. This fourth marriage was dissolved.

In 1633, on the 20th of October, he took for his fifth wife: Magdalena Ott, widow of Chief Bailiff Rudolf Elmer, in Elm, and in 1642, on the 30th of May, he married, at 63 years old, for the sixth time, Regina Dinner, born ?, died in 1663 (of dropsy), widow of Candina Duft from Matt. — The fourth, fifth and sixth marriages remained childless. Among all the heads of family of our Engeler families, Peter Norder stands in first place with six wives!

His only head of family, Mathias Norder (Nr. 5), 1621-1701, was the owner of both the Boden and Mattbrunnen properties, and must not only have been a wealthy, but also a respected, man, for he held the office of a federal councillor, treasurer, church steward, judge, and *Tagwen* official. His first marriage, which he celebrated with Ursula Bähler, born ?, died in 1676, on the 2nd of March, remained childless. Already, in 1676, on the 1st of May, he married again, to Ursula Baumgartner (1643-1712), daughter of Federal Councillor and *Tagwen* official Hans Baumgartner (Nr. 6) from Engi, and produced five children with her: 1. Thomas Norder, 1677-1746, who became a head of family (Nr. 6). 2. Hans Peter, 1678-1736, who died unmarried in Elm. 3. Anna, who died in 1690 at the age of ten. 4. Barbara, born in 1683, who died in 1723 of cholera, as the wife of Pankrazius Elmer of Elm, and 5. Ursula, 1685-1761, who was married to Captain Kaspar Elmer, of Elm².

^a *Flurname - field name. People with identical names were differentiated by adding their occupation or a descriptive term for the area where they lived [SW]*

^b *Tagwen - an ancient Glarner term, from at least the 6th century A.D., which is still used today in Canton Glarus to denote the commune of the citizens, i.e. those who have inherited or purchased the Tagwen rights (this may only partially coincide with the political commune). It is derived from Tage Wann, meaning the work someone could perform in one day in the commonly-held fields, pastures and forests. Over the years the number of Tagwen in the canton has varied considerably, with the present-day number being 29. Also its duties have changed – from jointly working on and enjoying the benefits of its common property, to administering all the commune’s public interests, to (today) administering and enjoying the benefits of its common property. [SW]*

² Both of these sons-in-law of Federal Councillor Mathias Norder were brothers, and sons of Federal Councillor Niklaus Elmer from Elm and Verena Caprez from Ilanz [*Canton Graubünden*]; she, in turn, was a daughter of Cantonal President Pankrazius Caprez from Ilanz and also ancestor of all Pankrazes in the Sernf valley.

The head of family, Thomas Norder, Nr. 6, was also married twice: in 1706, to Rosina Luchsinger, 1673-1709, daughter of Church Steward Hilari Luchsinger, which marriage remained childless, and, in 1722, to Verena Altmann, Engi, who was the widow of Paulus Blumer from Engi. From the second marriage came two heads of family: 1. Mathias Norder, Nr. 8 [7], 1723-1789, and 2. Hans Peter, 1725-1792, Nr. 8. The latter was married twice, but no children survived. The former, Mathias, Nr. 8 [7], married to Barbara Giger (1736-1797), from five children had one head of family.

Fridolin Norder, Nr. 9, 1770-1831, who, in two marriages, produced 16 children altogether! As is well known, the famine years from about 1798-1830 also had an influence on the high children's death rate. Of these 16 children, nine died at the age of one to two years! Two daughters, Barbara and Elisabeth, married; the latter was the mother of the late Joh. Baumgartner, Allmeind. Of two sons, Mathias and Joh. Peter, we know no more, and three sons (Fridolin, Nr. 10, Leonhard, Nr. 11 and Jakob, Nr. 12) became heads of family.

Fridolin Norder, Nr. 10, born in 1808, died in 1856, in May, in Brazil, moved to Brazil in 1855 with his wife and seven children, four sons (two married, Nr. 13 and 14) and three daughters, and remain missing. Only his son, Leonhard, born in ~~1634~~ [1834], Nr. 15, later a cantonal policeman, stayed behind, but, in the 1870's, he emigrated also, to North America, with his wife (~~Anna~~ [Elsbeth] Giger) and three children.

Leonhard Norder, Nr. 11, born in 1810, moved in about 1852 to North America, likewise, with seven children; four sons were born to him then, in addition, in America³.

Also Jakob Norder, Nr. 12, born in 1815, died in 1891 in Monroe [Wisconsin], moved with his wife (A. Katharina Altmann, Engi) and nine children to North America.

Of those Norders who started out for North America, many descendants still live there now, but of them we have knowledge of only a very few. Altogether, 57 = 50% of the members of the Norder family tree emigrated.

Thirteen wives of the Norders, altogether 70%, stemmed from Engi. Of them, 4 are allotted to the Gigers, 3 to the Hämmerlis, 2 to the Altmanns, and only 1 to the Martis, Baumgartners, Luchsingers and Bräms.

(Statistics-Table, see Appendix [at the end of the book])

³ His wife was named Magdalena Stauffacher, daughter of Sergeant Dietrich Stauffacher from Matt.