JAKOB RUBI

JAKOB RUBI was born August 4, 1684 in Reichenbach, the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, the son of Peter Rubi (born in 1653) and Anna Catharina Gebfert, the daughter of Hans Gebfert and Ann Catherine Schlosser of Hofweier.

Very little is known of the childhood and young adulthood of Jakob and his four brothers and two sisters. The village life in the Community of Reichenbach, until the opening up of the Kander and the Kien Valleys by the foreign trade, was almost exclusively of a rural character. Many professions were represented there only insofar as the needs of the population demanded them. However, because of the rural character of the village, most of those who lived there were, of necessity, farmers. The land consisted of a great deal of meadows which was not plowed but was mostly used for cattle grazing. Besides farming, the raising of cattle was most important. There was very little land used for raising of grain and vineyards. Around the early 1700s there began work at home as an additional source of income. One of these sources was the raising of sheep. This not only provided the family with meat and tallow for the making of candles, but also the wool for spinning for the sewing of garments for each member of the family. The selling of the sheep and the extra wool also supplemented the income for the family. The main income, however, was from the cattle which were sold on the Cattle Market Days held three times yearly. Even in the middle ages cattle raising and selling was of great importance. They were sold as far away as Italy, Southern Germany and France. Even today, as in centuries before, there are three markets held every year in Reichenbach and the neighboring villages. The Cattle Market Days are looked forward to with great anticipation as the opportunity to sell their cattle and sheep and other farm products as well as the opportunity to see and visit with old friends. Many weddings were performed at this time - most of them in the Zum Baren Inn where the reception following was also held - this added to the festivities.

It is to be assumed that, since the daughters helped their mother with the various household chores, gardening, candle making, and spinning and sewing the garments worn by every member of the family, that Jakob and his four brothers would help their father with the farming and cattle. There did not seem to be enough time left for schooling except for what their parents or the pastor of the church could provide. Jakob must have, at some time in his early years, had some schooling as he was referred to many times in the "Rubi Periodicals" as "Jakob Rubi - Notary and Scribe." This is not a talent one is born with, but must be taught.

We do not know what the social life was in Reichenbach, but village life then as now, usually is centered around the church. There were many happy occasions such as weddings, and baptisms and, of course, the Cattle Market Days where they gathered together for celebrations.
In a section of the Civil Archives of Reichenbach, Jakob Rubi is identified as a Notary and Scribe. A copy of this section is shown below:

Unterschrift von Jacob Rubi, Landschreiber u. Notar, Faltchen (1717-1768)

Jakob Rubi married Verena Murner on December 26, 1703 in the Free Reformed Church of Reichenbach. They were quite young, Jakob was nineteen and Verena was eighteen. It seemed to be the custom for the young people to marry young in that village. Dr. John Dahl, a Genealogist from Salt Lake City, sent us a copy of the Marriage Record of Jakob and Verena from the Civil Archives of Reichenbach, and also from the Marriage Register of the Church. Mr. Mogen-Mogensens Gallati, a Swiss Genealogist also sent the same records along with the names and birth dates of Verena's parents and brother and sister.

Verena was born December 26, 1685 in Reichenbach, the daughter of Anthoni Murner and Cathrina Muller. Anthoni was born September 19, 1658, the son of Gilg Murner and Verena Muller. Cathrina was born November 29, 1663, the daughter of Caspar Muller and Elysabeth von Kanel. They were married November 19, 1683. They had two other children beside Verena, they were Magdalena who was born May 8, 1687 and Anthoni, Jr., who was born July 24, 1689. We were not able to find out any more information on Verena's family. However, Mr Gallati wrote that Verena may have come from "an aristocratic family of some influence." He did not elaborate on this, so we do not know what he meant.

As we wrote in a previous chapter, we were privileged to visit in Reichenbach, in the Zum Baren Inn in 1982. The Inn Keeper's son, Jacob Murner very graciously shared with us the information on the Murner Family chart which showed Jakob Rubi and Verena's marriage date - December 26, 1703. We were pleased to find this additional proof.
Jakob and Verena had twelve children and according to the several genealogists who have given us the results of their research on the Rubi-Ruby families, their names, birth dates, marriages, children and death dates (when known) are listed below: All of the children were born in Reichenbach - the reference sources are from the Civil Registrar's Office in Reichenbach and the genealogists whose records are shown on following pages.

1. Verena Rubi was born October 5, 1704. (Bd IV 1704 No.371)
   Witnesses: Gilgian Botschen
               Barbara Wittwer
               Barbara Mürner

2. Agnes Rubi was born December 19, 1706. (Bd IV 1706 No.40)
   Witnesses: Gilgian Botschen
               Barbara Mürner
               Barbara Mürner or Wittwer
   Agnes died November 1758.

3. Anton (or Anthoni) Rubi was born February 10, 1709. (Bd VI No.118)
   Witnesses: Gilgian Botschen
               Jacob Botschen (Verena's brother-in-law)
               Barbara Mürner
   Anton's name may have been Anthoni as Verena's father was Anthoni Mürner. Anthoni (Anton) served in one of the highest positions of honor, that of the Office of Landsvenner in the Community of Aeschi. As its Chief Officer, the community lay in his jurisdiction during his four years in the office. He also had the right to seal all official documents. Anthoni assumed this office of Landsvenner in the year 1750.
   Reference: "Rubi Periodicals" Year 8, No.1 September 1963, page 6.

4. Catharine Rubi was born December 4, 1712. (Bd V/25 No.235)
   Witnesses: Hans von Känel
               Margaretha Kernen
               Christina Müller

5. PETER RUBI was born in 1715. There were no formal records in the Civil Registrar's Office, however, there were records in the Register of the Free Reformed Church of Reichenbach. He left Switzerland and arrived in America in 1738. A complete history of his life in Switzerland and in America is shown on following pages.

6. Jacob Rubi was born January 24, 1717. (Bd V/56 No.263.)
   Witnesses: Peter Wäfler
               Hans Sieber
               Anna Durian

7. Caspar Rubi was born July 7, 1720. (Bd V90 No.365)
   Witnesses: Peter Heimann
               Gilgian Zürcher
               Anna Luginbühl

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Caspar Rubi married (first) Susanna Magert von Reudlen on March 1, 1744. The records did not show the date of her death, however, it is known that she did not accompany Caspar when he left Switzerland and sailed for America. The exact date of his departure is not known but we know that he arrived in America September 7, 1748. A complete history of Caspar and his life in Switzerland and America is shown on following pages.

8. Barbara Rubi was born August 24, 1721 (Bd.V/97 No. 388).
   Witnesses: Hans Sieber
               Barbara Carli
               Verena Heimann
   Barbara died August 24, 1721.

9. Hans (John) Rubi was born December 20, 1722. (Bd. V/108 No.421)
   Witnesses: Jacob Büeler
               Hans Längacher
               Elsbeth Münner
   Hans died October 12, 1723 at the age of ten (10) months.

10. Hans (John) Jacob Rubi was born November 8, 1723. (Bd.V/120
     No. 466.)
    Witnesses: Casper Sieber
              Peter Wäfler
              Madlena von Känel
    John left Switzerland and travelled to Rhenish Bavaria. Then
    to America arriving in Philadelphia September 24, 1742. A
    complete history of John Jacob is shown on following pages.

11. Abraham Rubi was born (a twin to Isaac) on February 8, 1728.
    (Bd V/140 No. 538)
    Witnesses: Peter Wäfler
               Gilgian Zürcher
               Anna Luginbühl
    Abraham died April 20, 1729 at the age of one year and two
    months.

12. Isaac Rubi (a twin to Abraham) was born February 8, 1728.
    (Bd. V/140 No. 539).
    Witnesses: Anthoni Münner
                Hans Münner
                Anna Längacher
    Isaac died March 22, 1734 at the age of six years and one
    month.

Note: The information on the children of Jakob and Verena was furnished by Dr. John Dahl of Salt Lake City; Mr. Mogen M. Mogensen Gallati a Swiss Genealogist; Drs. Arnold, Robert and Josef Ruby, the authors of "The Rubi Periodicals" and Mrs. Erwin Lochner of Decatur, Indiana. Mrs. Lochner reported that there may have been one other child born to Jakob and Verena in 1725, but we were unable to substantiate this fact. All of the researchers were in accord as to the names, birth dates and other data on the children of Jakob and Verena.
Reichenbach, with its meager land could scarcely be expected to maintain the continually growing population. Jakob with a wife, four sons and three daughters, was able to provide a substantial living for them with their help. However, as time went on and the sons grew to manhood, it was only natural they would marry and want to have families of their own with their own land. There is an old Swiss saying - "Many sons - small property." There was not enough land to be divided among so many and still leave Jakob with enough to support the remaining members of his family. In many of the Reichenbach homes this same problem existed. The sons felt compelled to leave and seek their fortunes elsewhere. Some became mercenaries and entered military service in any country where their services were needed. Still others left and went to other countries where new possibilities of settlement were being set up. For example; As a consequence of the "Thirty Year War", many went to Southern Germany, France, Prussia, Holland and as many as 19 persons from Reichenbach went with their families to Alsace Lorain where they found a warm welcome. This same thing was true in Jakob and Verena's family. Three of their sons also felt the need to leave home and seek their fortunes elsewhere. They decided to sail for America where the possibility of a chance to make a new life beckoned and most of all they were told they would have the assurance of worshipping God as their consciences dictated.

Peter, their fifth child and the first one to leave, left home and journeyed to Southern Germany where, we believe, he sojournered for a while in the home of his grandparents, Peter Rubi and Anna Catharine Rubi. They had migrated to Southern Germany in Hofweier in 1711, four years before Peter was born (1715). His grandfather had founded the Hofweier/Baden branch of the Rubi families. We do not know the exact date Peter left his grandparents' home and continued on his way to Holland to board the Ship "Robert and Oliver" last out of Dublin from the Rotterdam Harbor via Dover. In Ralph Beaver Strassburger's book, "Pennsylvania Pioneers, Vol. 1, 55 AOB-C", it states:

"Peter Rubi was on the list of passengers on the Ship Robert and Oliver, late of Dublin from Rotterdam via of Dover who arrived in Philadelphia September 11, 1738 and took the Oath of Allegiance that same day."

A complete history of Peter Rubi, the Immigrant, is shown on a following page. Reference Chapter III.

Hans (John Jacob) Rubi was the next son to leave home. He went to Duchy Deux Ponts (French) in Rhenish Bavaria (Zweibrucken - German). From there he made his way to Rotterdam Harbor where he boarded the Ship "Robert and Alice" Hartley Cusack, Captain, from Rotterdam, last for Cowes sailing for America. He arrived in Philadelphia, September 24, 1742 and took the Oath of Qualifications to the Government. A complete history of Hans (John Jacob) is shown on a following page as a part of Peter Rubi's history.

The third and last son to leave Jakob and Verena's home was
Caspar Rubi who was born in 1720. We have the record that Caspar was married to Susanna Magert von Reudlen in Reichenbach in 1744. However, there was no mention of Susanna on the Ship's list when Caspar sailed to America. We assume that she must have died before he left Switzerland. Caspar left home and made his way to Holland where he boarded the Ship "Hampshire" at the Rotterdam Harbor arriving in Philadelphia September 7, 1748. A complete history of the three brothers, Peter, Hans and Caspar is shown on a following page.

Jakob and Verena wanted, as all parents do, only the very best for their children but it must have been with heavy hearts that they bade farewell to their three sons knowing full well they might never see them again. They also realized there was no future for them if they remained in Reichenbach. They were, from all indications, devout Christians and must have instilled in their children their own unfailing love and trust in a God who had promised to love, guide and keep them always wherever their paths might lead them. When Peter, Hans and Caspar left for their new homes in a new country they took with them the love and blessings of parents, brothers, sisters, friends and pastor and their trust in God.

TRUST

I know not what the future holds,
Of good or ill for me and mine;
I only know that God enfold
Me in His loving arms divine.

So I shall walk the earth in trust
That He who notes the sparrow's fall
Will help me bear whate'er I must
And lend an ear whene'er I call.

It matters not if dreams dissolve
Like mists beneath the morning sun,
For swiftly as the world's revolve
So swiftly will life's race be run.

It matters not if hopes depart,
Or life be pressed with toil and care,
If love divine shall fill my heart
And all be sanctified with prayer.

Then let me learn submission sweet
In every thought, in each desire,
And humbly lay at His dear feet
A heart aglow with heavenly fire.

We were not able to find the records of the deaths of either Jakob or Verena or where they were buried. It is certain though that they are buried in the cemetery of the Free Reformed Church in Reichenbach. The original cemetery was completely destroyed in a
mud slide that covered the entire cemetery burying all of the old tombstones of the Rubi families. So, as we wrote in a preceding chapter, the old stones of the Rubi-Ruby families are lost forever except in our memories. A new cemetery was established and there are tombstones of a newer generation of our family buried there. We can be comforted with the thought that beneath these newer stones lie the remains of all the Reichenbach Rubi-Ruby ancestors and the ground becomes sacred and hallowed forever.

"THE BURIED GRAVEYARD."

"We stood like children, hand in hand beside the burying ground
Where once there lay my honored dead
and this was all I found!

They say the mountain one dark day embraced the land with slime
and moved and covered everything that I had come to find.

"I came so far and they are gone!"
I cried to you in tears.
You answered me in words so low
I could not believe my ears,

"They are not gone my darling,
you found them as you dreamed
They lay beneath the sacred earth
Their schemes have all been schemed.
They linger in your bright blue eyes.
They linger in your loving heart
and they linger in your fears.
We cannot keep our graves intact
or the world would overflow
We honor them and go our way
then write down what we know."

Together we stood there hand in hand
and watched the setting sun
and blessed the mountain without tears
and felt our work was almost done."