



# HERSCHER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

SUPPLEMENTAL NEWSLETTER #14

MAY 2023

*From past generations to future generations*

## THE HERSCHER SIBLINGS

by Bob Voss

Mary Herscher (24 May 1832)  
Jacob Herscher (15 Dec 1834)  
Frederick Herscher (17 Oct 1839)  
John Herscher (24 May 1842)

All of the Herscher siblings were born in Vogelgrun, Haut-Rhin, Alsace France. They all immigrated to the United States on July 5, 1851 with their parents, except for Frederick who came later.

The family located in Wayne County, New York and came to Illinois in 1854. In 1855 they settled in Pilot Township.

It is at that point that I pick up on the lives of each of the siblings.

Because John and Frederick files are quite large, I will include them in an upcoming Supplemental Newsletter.

## MARY ANNE HERSCHER

Mary Anne Herscher married Alexander Ehrenreich Betz on February 2, 1856 in Kankakee, IL. After their marriage, Mary and Alexander rented ground in Pilot Township and became a farming family. Then they bought property in Section 4 of Pilot Township on November 23, 1863 and continued life as farmers.

Alexander and Mary bought Lots 8 & 9 in Block 12 on S. Main on 30 Oct 1880 which is 241 S. Main. They probably built a house on that lot for their retirement, but I can't say that for sure. A modern house sets on that lot now.

Mary and Alexander were the parents of William (1856-1880), George (1858-1876), Edward (1860-1883), Amelia (1863-1941), Julia (1866-1900), Emma (1874-1952), and Louis (1875-1894).

The descendants are numerous in the Herscher area with names like Schlaich, Mau, Siedentop, Smith, etc.

Mary Anne Betz died on 10 Dec 1882 and is buried at the Zion Lutheran Cemetery on Rte 17.



## Mary Anne Herscher

**BIRTH** 24 MAY 1832 • Vogelsheim, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France

**DEATH** 10 DEC 1882 • Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

### Facts

#### Age 0 – Birth

24 May 1832 • Vogelsheim, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France

#### Age 19 – Immigration

4 July 1851 • Wayne County, New York, USA

Came with her father, mother, brother Jacob, and brother John

#### Age 22 – Residence

1854 • Cook County, Illinois, USA


#### Age 22 – Residence

5 May 1855

Moved to northern Pilot Township

#### Age 23 – Marriage

2 Feb 1856 • Kankakee, Illinois, United States

 **Alexander Ehrenreich Betz**  
(1829–1884)

#### Age 28 – Census

1860 • Pilot Township, Kankakee Co. IL

#### Age 38 – Census

1870 • Pilot Township, Kankakee Co. IL

#### Age 48 – Census

1880 • Herscher, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

#### Age 50 – Death

10 Dec 1882 • Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

#### Burial


1882 • Bonfield, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

Zion Lutheran Cemetery


### Family


#### Parents


 **Andre Herrscher**  
1792–1846

 **Catherina "Dutch" Walch**  
1804–1877


#### Spouse and children

 **Alexander Ehrenreich Betz**  
1829–1884


 **William Betz**  
1856–1880


 **George Betz**  
1858–1876

 **Edward Carl Johann Betz**  
1860–1883

 **Amelia Louise Betz**  
1863–1941


 **Julia Betz**  
1866–1900


 **Emma Marie Betz**  
1874–1952


 **Lewis Betz**  
1875–1894

### Sources


#### Ancestry sources

 1860 United States Federal Census

 1870 United States Federal Census

 1880 United States Federal Census

 Geneanet Community Trees Index

 Illinois, County Marriage Records, 1800-1940

## JACOB HERSCHER

We know that John Herscher was the founder of Herscher and began building the Village in 1878. However, John died in 1885 and his brother Frederick masterfully continued on with the development of Herscher. They also had a brother named Jacob. So what do we know about Jacob?

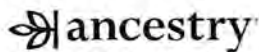
- 1834 – born in Alsace, France
- 1851 – immigrated to the US
- 1854 – resident of Cook Co. IL
- 1858 – married Mary Sophia Burgess
- 1859 – had a daughter named Ellie who died the next year
- 1860 – Census – Salina Township
- 1861 – had a son named Adelbert
- 1 Oct 1861 – Enlisted in Co. B, 113<sup>th</sup> IL. Infantry
- 4 Nov 1863 – died of disease at Corinth, MS during the battle of Vicksburg on a sanitary ship.
- 1863 – buried at Veterans Cemetery, Vicksburg, MS is one possibility. The other possibility is that he is buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. In an email from Craig Chapman (mentioned below) “ Jacob died at Vicksburg but family tradition claims that his wife was with him in Corinth when he died. I would’ve thought that she would bring his body back to Illinois for burial. Maybe she didn’t have the money to pay for moving him.”  
There is no record of Jacob being buried at Zion other than by Find-a-Grave.

Jacob wrote a letter to Frederick from Vicksburg in 1863 which was donated to the Wisconsin Historical Society. If you are interested in viewing that letter, please contact me at [robertlvoss@aol.com](mailto:robertlvoss@aol.com)

Jacob’s son, Adelbert, moved to Oklahoma and fathered six children. One of his daughter’s name was Mary Maud. Mary married Ingle Jerde Sr. They had a son named Ingle (Jr.) who had a daughter named Mary Ann. Adelbert would be Mary Ann’s great grandfather.

Mary Ann married Craig Chapman and currently live in North Carolina. Mary Ann and Craig visited Herscher in 2018.





## Jacob Herscher

**BIRTH** 15 DEC 1834 • Vogelgrun, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France

**DEATH** 4 NOV 1863 • Corinth, Adams County, Mississippi, USA

### Facts

#### Age 0 – Birth

15 Dec 1834 • Vogelgrun, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France

#### Age 16 – Immigration

4 Jul 1851 • Newark, Wayne, New York, USA

Along with his mother, father, one brother (John) and sister.

#### Age 20 – Residence

1854 • Cook County, Illinois, USA

#### Age 23 – Marriage

24 Aug 1858 • Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois, USA



**Mary Sophia Burgess**  
(1840–1910)

#### Age 26 – Census

1860 • Salina, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

#### Age 26 – Residence

1860 • Salina, Simoda, Kankakee, Illinois, USA

#### Age 26 – Military

1 Oct 1861

Enlisted in the Co. B 113th Infantry Illinois Regiment

#### Age 28 – Death

4 Nov 1863 • Corinth, Adams County, Mississippi, USA

Died of disease

#### Burial

1863 • Vicksburg, Warren, Mississippi, USA

Veterans Cemetery

### Family

#### Parents



**Andre Herrscher**  
1792–1846



**Catherina "Dutch" Walch**  
1804–1877

#### Spouse and children



**Mary Sophia Burgess**  
1840–1910



**Ellie Frances Herscher**  
1859–1860



**Adelbert Preston Herscher**  
1861–1923

### Sources

#### Ancestry sources



1860 United States Federal Census



Illinois, County Marriage Records, 1800-1940



Illinois, Marriage Index, 1860-1920



U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865



U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current