

The History of the Citizen Families of Engi and their Development

[Zur Geschichte der bürgerlichen Geschlechter von Engi und ihre Entwicklung]

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

X. The Norder Family

Probably the younger generation of today's Engi citizens will no longer know about the existence of this family in our commune. As was already emphasized in the Introduction, the Norders are an old Engi citizen family whose last descendants now live in America. However, all of today's citizen families have linked so closely with the Norders through marriage and other such connections that discussing this family was not taking a detour.

The Norders, like the last families I dealt with, have developed very sparsely from the beginning onward. Even into the 1880s they had only increased to 15 families. Since then, moreover, as far as we know, 5 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, like the Baumgartners and Hämmerlis, they came into our canton at the time of the Reformation, of one of the two religious faiths. The Norders certainly also appear in the council minutes at that time¹.

This Thomas Norder is very probably the father of Mathias Norder, Nr. 1 on the family tree, who, in 1566, acquired the rights of citizenship for around 140 florins, and became a citizen of Engi. At the time of the beginning of the church books *[about 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 forth 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 on May 6, 1614. Already on June 5, 1614, thus not a month since the death of his first wife, he celebrated a wedding with Anna Hämmerli from Engi, who, on September 6, 1622, fell to her death from an ash-tree. From the four children of this marriage, the youngest son, Mathias, 1621-1701, became a head of family (Nr. 5 on the family tree). The oldest daughter, Elsbeth, was married in 1638 to Konrad Wohlwend from Matt im Brumbach. Mathias, the son born in 1616, drowned at the age of two, and the daughter, Anna, 1618-1673, was married to Kaspar Hösli from Haslen in Matt.

The third wedding Peter Norder celebrated on May 1, 1623, with Regula Lager, born in 1598, daughter of Hans [*Lager*] and Ursula Feurer in Engi. Two daughters resulted from this third marriage: Juliana, born on October 21, 1627 (the later fate of her is unknown), and Ursula, born on August 27, 1629, six days before the death of her mother, who died on September 2nd of the plague. This Ursula was married on November 7, 1647 to church steward and *Tagwen*^a official Josef Blumer, Nr. 5, from Engi (see page 19 [*in the chapter on the Blumers*]).

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

On October 20, 1633 he took for his fifth wife Magdalena Ott, widow of Chief Bailiff Rudolf Elmer, from Elm, and on May 30, 1642 he was married, at 63 years old, for the sixth time to 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 families of our Engler 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 estates, and is known not only as a wealthy man but also a respected one, as he held the office of federal councillor, treasurer, church steward, judge, and *Tagwen* official. His first marriage, which he celebrated with Ursula Bähler, born ?, died March 2, 1676, remained childless. Already on May 1, 1676 he was 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 10; 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 given in marriage to Captain Kaspar Elmer, of Elm².

Head of family, Thomas Norder, Nr. 6, was also married twice: in 1706 with Rosina Luchsinger, 1673-1709, daughter of church steward Hilari Luchsinger, which marriage remained childless, and in 1722 with Verena Altmann, from Engi, who was the widow of Paulus Blumer from Engi. From the two marriages came forth two heads of family: 1. Mathias Norder, Nr. 8, 1723-1789, and 2. Hans Peter, 1725-1792, Nr. 8^b. The latter was married two times, but no children survived. The former, Mathias, Nr. 8, was married to Barbara Giger (1736-1797), and had one head of family out of 5 children.

That one was 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 really had an influence on the high children's death rate. Of these 16 children, 9 died at between one and two years of age! Two daughters, Barbara and Elisabeth, were married; the latter was the mother of the late Johannes Baumgartner, of the common pastureland. Of two sons, Mathias and Johannes Peter, we know no more, and three sons (Fridolin, Nr. 10, Leonhard, Nr. 11 and Jakob, Nr. 12) became heads of families.

Fridolin Norder, Nr. 10, born in 1808, died in May 1856 in Brazil, moved to Brazil in 1855 with his wife and 7 children, 4 sons (2 married, Nr. 13 and 14) and 3 daughters, and they remain missing. Only his son, Leonhard, born in 1634^c, Nr. 15, later a cantonal policeman, stayed behind, but in the 1870's he emigrated also, to North America, with his wife (Anna^d Giger) and three children.

Leonhard Norder, Nr. 11, born in 1810, moved in about 1852 to North America, likewise with 7 children; 4 additional sons were then born to him in America³.

Also Jakob Norder, Nr. 12, born in 1815, died in 1891 in Monroe [*state unknown*], moved with his wife (A[*nna*] Katharina Altmann, from Engi) and 9 children to North America.

Many descendants of those Norders who emigrated to North America still live there now, but about them we have very little information from them. Altogether, 57 = 50% of the relatives 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.

¹ Thus, in 1547 a Phily Norder stood before the council because of selling timber, then again in the years 1548, 1550 (St. George's Day [*May 6th, under the old calendar*]) and June 15, 1551.

In January 1548 a Hans Norder received a wine prohibition.

On February 22, 1552 Peter Norder was before the council, then several times in the following years. In 1562 he was put into the neck iron because he made his wife's sister pregnant.

On May 15, 1570 wine was forbidden to Urban Norder.

In 1578 a Thomas Norder, and Andreas, his brother, appeared before the council. (J.J. Kubli-Müller).

^a *Tagwen* is a now-obsolete Glarner term meaning "full citizenship" in the commune. Citizens with *Tagwen* rights had the right to vote on all issues concerning the commune, they could use the common lands, and they were supported if in poverty. [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.

^b As Mathias Norder is also listed as Nr. 8, and as there is no Nr. 7 but there IS a Nr. 9, it would seem likely that the author is in error here, and that Mathias should actually be Nr. 7.

^c The Glarus Landesarchiv records list his birth date as 1834.

^d The Glarus Landesarchiv records list his wife's name as Elsbeth, not Anna.

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