

Germany, the first of the large body of native Germans who, mainly, made of the little village the most important German centre as well as the foremost manufacturing town in Canada.

Jacob Hailer was born in Wilferdingen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, November 20th, 1804. He came to America in 1829, landing at Baltimore, Md. There, through her father, brother and sister, who had been fellow passengers with him, he met Margaret Riehl (born 1807), a native of Muehlhausen in the then French Province of Alsace, who with a younger brother had come over the year before. In those days, which saw the feeble beginnings of ocean steam navigation, the voyage to America was by sailing vessel and was a hazardous undertaking. Margaret Riehl and her young brother were ninety-two days at sea. Their vessel (named the Henry Clay), driven out of its course by adverse winds, was given up for lost, and passengers and crew were on the verge of starvation before port was gained, and this was Baltimore, instead of New York, the intended destination. Jacob Hailer accompanied the Riehl family to Buffalo in 1830, and there, in the same year, married Margaret Riehl. For a while they lived at Chippewa, on the Canada side of the Niagara River, where was born their first child, a daughter, Margaret, in 1831, in the fall of which year they came to what is now Waterloo Township, and lived for a year or longer