

# **From Forest To Fields:**

## **Simon A. Baur, Early Settler Huron County, Michigan**

*By Clemens P. Baur, Arnold J. Baur, Milton A. Baur, Grandsons of Simon A. Baur*

### **PREFACE**

In these few pages Clemens, Milton, and I portray the creation and development of the Baur home in the virgin woods of east-central Michigan. The men with the leadership and courage to put the axe to the timber were John George Baur and his four sons. Our story, however, centers around Simon A. Baur, middle son of John George. Simon, our grandfather, was a wonderful storyteller and it was he who fascinated us with the happenings of the early years. We spent many happy hours as youngsters listening to tales he told and retold. In later years our father, Albert S. Baur, verified many of the stories. He and Clemens prepared an extensive set of notes in 1952 in which they recorded the basic outline of the stories presented here. Thus we can say that each of the events in these pages truly happened, even though time may have changed their dimensions somewhat. We tried to give a more complete picture of the Baur's pioneer life by drawing on several sources to confirm and supplement our own notes and recollections. The most useful sources are listed in the Bibliography, and numbered citations in the text refer to this list.

We wrote mainly about the deeds of the menfolk, but we know that the women in the families shared equally in the labors, hardships, and occasional sorrows, as well as in the good times and happy days. These women had much courage, determination, and ingenuity. We thank all that encouraged us to complete this project, and we are especially grateful to relatives and friends who provided useful information, editorial help, typing, and photocopying.

Arnold J. Baur  
Caro, Michigan  
October, 1980

### **IMMIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

Simon Andreas Baur was born February 2, 1833 in Unterjettigen, Oberamt Herrenberg, Koenigreich Wuerttemberg, Germany. There he went to school and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. In 1848, when Simon was 15 years old, his father, Johann Georg (John George), was granted a government permit to go to America with his wife Margareatha and five children: David, Matthaueus (Matthew), Simon, Anna Maria Katharina (Katharine), and Gottlieb. This family was one of the many that left Germany because of unsettled political and economic conditions which prevailed.<sup>2</sup> David was fourth in the reserve and Matthew was drafted to enter service.<sup>3</sup> By coming to America these two sons avoided military service during the period of the 1848 revolutions. America the land of opportunity was calling!

In Germany Simon's father was a weaver of cloth, but he also owned and farmed one or two acres of land about two miles from the home in town. The family had only one building; the livestock was housed on the ground floor, and the family lived upstairs.

John George and his family began their journey to America on March 15, 1848. Their chosen destination was Ann Arbor Michigan where they would be among Lutheran friends who

had informed them about the good land in Michigan. Leaving Unterjettingen, they traveled by horse and wagon to Ulm, thence by train to Mannheim, thence by steamboat to London and from there to New York City on a three-masted sailing vessel. The ocean crossing was very stormy. Winds drove the ship northward into an area of icebergs where the ship was badly damaged and began to leak. All men on board took turns on four pumps to keep the ship from sinking. By the end of the fourth day the damage was repaired. One storm was so bad it broke the main mast. The sailors hurriedly cut the ropes to free the broken spar, and thus saved the ship from capsizing. Finally the ship sailed into New York harbor, all passengers having undergone immigration inspections a few miles offshore.<sup>4</sup>

Ahead was still more travel by water. Railroad construction was underway in the United States, but in 1848 there was no way to go from New York to Detroit by train.<sup>5</sup> Consequently, the Baur left by boat going the well-traveled immigrant route up the Hudson River to Albany, then west by horse-drawn barge on the famous Erie Canal which had opened in 1825. Arriving in Buffalo they transferred to a Lake Erie steamship bound for Detroit. Here they boarded the central railroad for the short trip from Detroit to Ann Arbor. The track for this stretch was completed in 1839.<sup>6</sup> John George and his family arrived in Ann Arbor June 1, 1848, thus ending their 11-week adventurous journey from Germany to the United States of America.<sup>7</sup>

The family lived four years near Scio, a small settlement about four miles west of Ann Arbor. The men worked mostly as hired hands on nearby farms. Simon worked three years for Mr. Laubengeier and eight months for Mr. Anderson.<sup>8</sup> Simon learned to cut grain with a cradle—and he was a good cradler. One of his favorite reminiscences was the winning of a five dollar bet by cutting an acre of wheat in an hour's time. He even had three minutes to spare when the acre was cut!

## **LAND AND FIRST HOME**

John George and his sons had not come to America to work as hired hands. Their goal was to own land. Rev. Friederich Schmid, the first German Lutheran missionary in Michigan lived in Scio. In 1845 he sent Rev. J. J. Auch, Rev. J. S. Dumser, and Mr. George Sinke as missionaries to the Indians in the Sebewaing region. By 1849 Rev. Auch was encouraging settlers to come to the area because good loam land was available. As a result settlers began arriving from the Ann Arbor area. Two single men and five families had arrived by 1850, and in 1851 another group of 45, including wives and children, joined them.<sup>9</sup>

John George and his oldest son David probably made their first trip to the Sebewaing area in 1851 (Sebewaing was known as Auchville at that time). On this trip they selected Fractional Section 31, Sebewaing Township, Huron County as their land. They admired the beautiful stand of tall trees, mostly white oak, hard maple, basswood, and elm.<sup>10</sup>

In the fall of 1852 the entire Baur family moved from Scio to their land about four miles southwest of Sebewaing, or two miles north of Unionville. This was a distance of about 120 miles. John George chose to take his wife, daughter Katharine, and youngest son Gottlieb by lake boat from Detroit to Bay City, thence back to Sebewaing by a small sail boat which could navigate the shallow channel entrance. Their temporary destination was the Schmidt home about one mile south of Sebewaing. The Schmidts welcomed them warmly and asked them to stay a few days until they could build their own shelter.<sup>11</sup>

David, Matthew, and Simon left Scio about the same time as those who went by boat, but they traveled with oxen and wagon to Sebewaing. They covered the 120 miles in six days. Four

young men, Peter Schairer, Phillip Schlemmer, John Strieter, and a hired man joined them for the trip. Together they brought two yoke of oxen, 14 cows, four dogs, and a steer. Provisions for the winter, tools, and the pigs, were carried in the wagon. Starting on Monday morning they stopped that night at Brighton, Tuesday at Fenton, Wednesday at Flint or Genesee, Thursday at Birch Run, and Friday, at Watrousville. Here the road ended so they hired a guide for five dollars, to help them through the woods for the last leg of their journey. The guide used a compass to keep going in a northerly direction until they reached the Wiscoggin River (Wiscoggin is derived from the Indian name Wishkawking). After crossing the river the men followed an Indian trail northeastward for about four miles to the Schmidt home. It was Saturday evening and the family was glad to be reunited.

The Indian trail leading to the Schmidt home passed near the northwest corner of Fractional Section 31. After resting a day at the Schmidts the men used part of the trail to walk back about three miles to reach the northwest corner of their land. Now they had to select the site where they would build their home. They chose to locate on the west line of their land about 40 rods south of the northwest corner. The government land survey had marked trees along township lines and corners which served as location guides. The site they selected was a fortunate choice because soon the west line in front of the house became part of the road between Unionville and Sebewaing. This road eventually became State Highway M-25. Other settlers began taking up government land in the Unionville area between 1852 and 1856.<sup>12</sup>

After picking their location the men quickly constructed a 15x15 foot log hut for use as temporary shelter. As soon as the hut was ready the family thanked the Schmidts for their hospitality and moved onto their own land. The men were now ready to begin work on their log house. They first cleared the site and then felled trees of a certain uniform size and chopped them into specified log lengths. When they had cut enough, they notched the ends to fit one on the other. Then it was time for a “raising.” The men from six or eight families living around “Auchville” were asked to help put up the logs for the house. Small trees were used for rafters, poles were cut for roof-boards, and shingles were made from band-split oak about two and one-half feet long. Floors were made of split logs. The cracks between the logs around the outside and the inside of the house were plastered with stiff clay. The house was rectangular and had a hallway, across the middle that separated the ground floor into two sections. Each section had two rooms and there was sleeping space upstairs under the rafters—an adequate home for a family of seven: the parents and five grown children; Later on this house served two families. After the house was completed a small fenced-in yard was added to the original hut so it could be used as a shelter for cattle and pigs.

Next the men started to clear land by cutting and burning the trees. This was hard work and a big waste of timber—but the cleared ground was needed quickly; in later years logs were sold or used for building on the farm. By the spring of 1853 they had a sizeable piece of ground ready for planting oats, corn, and potatoes, and for a small garden near the house. That fall they planted this ground to wheat. They kept clearing more ground every year to add to their fields. Tilling the soil full of roots and big stumps was not easy. Some of the stumps were four to five feet in diameter but after a few years they were partly rotted and could be dug up and pulled out by the oxen. An A-shaped drag with spiked teeth was used for tilling between the stumps. This drag had a wooden bow across the back end and could be lifted to avoid hitting stumps or to drop roots that might have collected in the spike teeth. The grain was sowed by hand, cut with cradle, and threshed by flail.

The first few years the wheat was taken to Vassar, where some of it was ground for flour, and any surplus was sold. When the men made the 25-mile trip to Vassar, they brought back all kinds of provisions for the winter. One year the weather and roads were so bad they could not make the usual trip. To keep from going hungry the family ground their own corn and made cornmeal "Johnny-cake." Cornmeal along with meat was their main food all that winter. There was usually plenty of meat, mainly pork and some beef. In the early days fish, venison, rabbit, partridge, and other game were plentiful.<sup>13</sup>

One spring Simon and one of his brothers went fishing along the Wiscoggin River. Fortunately the time they picked was during the sturgeon run. Hordes of these big fish were on the move into the shallow waters of Saginaw Bay and up the nearby rivers for spawning. In a short time the men had a big pile of fish on dry land. One of them stayed with the fish while the other brother went home to get the oxen and wagon. They hauled home a wagon box full of fish, some of which they smoked for use during the summer. When Simon held one of the biggest of the fish over his shoulder, the tail touched the ground. Sturgeon attain weights of over 300 pounds, lengths of seven feet, and the meat is tasty, white, and flaky.<sup>14</sup>

The first spring the cows broke out of the yard during the night and headed toward Ann Arbor. In the morning John George, with Simon and one of his other sons, set out after the cattle by following their tracks in the soft ground and leaf mat under the trees. By the time the men found the cows near Watrousville, it was getting dark and too late to return home. After tying the cows to trees, the men lit a fire and ate supper from their knapsacks. Simon and his brothers lay down and went to sleep, but John George stayed awake all night keeping the fire burning for safety against wolves. The next day the cows were led home without incident.

In the first years wolves and other predatory animals were abundant.<sup>15</sup> Many winter nights the family could hear wolves howl near their log house. One time a bear snatched a small pig out of the yard and carried it into the woods. Neither bear nor pig were ever seen again! Another danger of pioneer life was sickness. There was no doctor among the first settlers in the woods. The women had to do the best they could with materials at hand. They extracted juices from roots and herbs by cooking and used them as medicine.

The number of predators decreased as the country became more and more cleared. This made it practical to have sheep for producing wool to supply some of the family's clothing needs. Equipment to process the wool was needed too so Simon walked to Vassar and bought three spinning wheels. He carried all three of these wheels 25 miles home on his back. One of the wheels was for the Baur family;<sup>16</sup> the other two were for neighbors.

Simon made many trips on foot in his younger years. Once he walked to Ann Arbor shortly before Christmas. After visiting a day he decided to return home. He was on his way long before dawn on December 24<sup>th</sup>. That night he opened the door at home as the clock struck 12:00, having walked close to 120 miles at an average of five to six miles per hour.

Early settlers took turns going to Watrousville for mail. Delivery by a United States mail carrier began in July 1857 on a route from Vassar to Sebewaing. For a year the carrier traveled his route once a week on foot.<sup>17</sup>

Near the end of the Civil War, Simon hired a Canadian mercenary for \$200.00 as his substitute in the military draft. The mercenary reported for duty, but the war ended before he saw action in the field.

Life on a pioneer farm was not all grim work. For instance the dancing bear was an exciting event, especially for the children. For a number of years after roads were opened, two men came through the country with a trained bear. They would stop by every farmhouse and ask

if the inhabitants wanted to see the bear dance. For fifty cents the men began to sing and the bear, standing on his hind legs, danced in a circle. The men led the bear by a chain attached to a ring in his nose.

## INDIAN TALES

During the summer the Baur's pastured their cattle on the big prairie about one and one half miles west of the farm.<sup>18</sup> They also cut some of the prairie grass for hay and put it in stacks. When winter came, the hay was hauled home with the oxen. The first two or three days of each spring Simon and his brothers had to drive the cattle out to the prairie. After the cows knew where to go, they would head for pasture every morning by themselves, but the boys always had to get them in the evening. The cattle trail went by a Chippewa Indian camp or village about one mile west of the farm. This site was known as Wishkawking. It consisted of about 60 dwellings and was near the Wiscoggin River.<sup>19</sup> The Indian men knew where the cattle were every evening, and when the boys came by the Indians would point in the direction where the cattle were pasturing. They were always right! One evening, however, when the boys went for the cattle no Indian men were in sight. In an attempt to get their usual help, the boys went to a "wigwam" and looked inside. There sat an old squaw. As soon as she noticed the intruders she got up and grabbed a big stick. The boys turned and ran! That evening they had to find the cattle without help from the Indians.

One morning Simon, his brothers and father were cutting firewood by the house with a new crosscut saw. Suddenly six or seven Indians came along and addressed them in their language, which the Baur's could not understand. Without warning one of the Indians picked up the saw and, followed by his companions, walked into the woods to the east. Simon asked his father if they were going to let the Indians get away with the saw. But John George said, "We can't take the saw away from those big men." That same night the Indians returned the saw and laid it on the spot from which it had been taken. Three days later they came by the house with a big canoe made of a white pine log. The log had been cut with the crosscut saw and hollowed out with tomahawks.

Canoes were used by the Indians to take furs and hides to Bay City. On their return from the city they brought supplies and usually some "firewater." That same night there would be a big celebration in the Indian camp. The Baur folks a mile away could hear them yell and sing throughout the night.

Later the Indians formed a habit of coming to the settlers' homes on Christmas-morning. One Christmas morning when Simon got up, he was surprised to see ten or twelve Indians standing in the hallway. The Indians greeted him by saying, "Gismus, Gismus!" They had come so quietly that the dogs had not even heard them. The Indians were given some bread and bacon; then they went on.

As more white people settled and cleared the land, the Indians gradually moved away. Most of the Chippewas left the Sebewaing area between 1854 and 1856. Some moved to Harbor Springs, others to the reservation near Saginaw, and a few traveled to Canada.<sup>20</sup> It appears that the Indians one-mile west of the Baur farm followed this pattern, although a few families remained in the area for many years. In their contacts with these people, the Baur's always found them friendly and trustworthy.

## TOWNSHIP AND CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Shortly after the Baur's moved into their home the men in the area met to petition the State of Michigan for the organization of a township. On February 12, 1853 the Legislature passed an act creating "Auchville Township." The first township meeting was held the first Monday in April, 1853 with 18 men present, including John G. Baur. The name was changed to Sebewaing Township in 1857 and the name of the settlement was also changed to Sebewaing. It is an Indian name given to the little river that runs through the town and is variously translated as "Little River," "Crooked River," "At the Creek," or "By the Creek." Early French traders had named it Du Fil, or "Thread River."<sup>21</sup>

In the fall of 1852 a few men undertook to organize a place of worship independent of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing which had been established in 1851 under Rev. J. J. F. Auch. These men were Peter Schairer, John George Baur, Philip and John Strieter. They were joined by a few more families the following year. The group requested help from Rev. Friederich Schmid of Salem Lutheran Church, Scio, who had been their pastor before they moved north. Rev. Schmid agreed with the group in the fall of 1853. After a private service conducted by the pastor, the group organized as a congregation and chose the name New Salem in honor of the mother congregation in Scio. The congregation was served by Rev. Volz, a traveling missionary, before the arrival of the first resident pastor, Rev. F. Nuffer, in 1855. The families held church services in their log homes from 1853 until a log church was built in 1856 on a twenty-acre site two miles southeast of Sebewaing. The log church was replaced by a substantial wood-frame church in 1873. This building was enlarged and remodeled in 1892, moved to Sebewaing in 1935, and today, after many improvements, serves as an attractive church home for New Salem congregation with 300 members.<sup>22</sup>

John George, Simon, and their wives were active lifetime members of New Salem, as were all of Simon's children except two who moved away after marriage to become members of other Lutheran congregations. Today four of Simon's descendants remain as members of New Salem in Sebewaing.

## **THE LAND<sup>23</sup> AND THE FAMILY**

John George planned to divide the land into four east-west strips of about 103 acres each: one for each of his sons. The north-strip with the house was for Simon, the next strips successively to the south were for David, Gottlieb, and Matthew. Unfortunately Matthew did not live to enjoy his share. He lost his life by drowning. This event occurred in 1855 while he was working for the sawmill at the Caseville camp. Part of the operation was to float lumber on a scow from shore to a lake boat. One day an unusually strong wind and high waves caught the men trying to bring an unloaded scow back to shore. Matthew lost his footing and was swept overboard. After Matthew's death it was said that his share of land would go to Katharine but this plan was not fulfilled. The title abstract for the south strip shows that it was sold by John George to Christopher Hahn in 1858.<sup>24</sup> Katherine married William Brady in 1862, and may have received part or all of the proceeds from the 1858 sale.

Simon married Maria Stoll March 24, 1863. She was born in Germany October 4, 1841, and was six years old when she came America with her parents, Adam and Maria (Zimmer) Stoll. This family lived in Tiffin, Ohio for only a few years when the father died. Shortly thereafter, in 1855, the mother and children moved to the Sebewaing area to live with her brother, Nicholas Zimmer. This is where Maria lived until she and Simon were married.

As noted, Simon's share of land-included the log-house. When he married Maria arrangements were made for them to live in one end of the house. By this time David and Katharine were married and Matthew was dead. This left John George, Margareatha, and Gottlieb to occupy the other end. The two families lived in these quarters until 1875 when Simon and his father built a large frame house near the site of original log structure. The two families now moved into more spacious, well-lit rooms. John George lived only two more years to enjoy the new house before his death. Albert was the first child born to Simon and Maria in the new house. One brother and four sisters preceding Albert caught their first breath of life in the old log house. After Albert there were four more children—one boy and three girls.

### **SIMON'S PROGRESS ON THE FARM**

Even before he married in 1863, Simon cleared more and more land on his 103 acres, and also on the additional 40 acres across the road to the west which he bought from the state of Michigan in 1859 for \$1.25 per acre.<sup>25</sup> In 1891, he bought a second 40-acre tract to the west so that his land extended to the north-south line which is now the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad track. This "40" he bought from John G. Wagner for \$865.<sup>26</sup>

The Wagner "40" was wet land. Other parts of Simon's land produced good crops, even though wetness during rainy periods, especially in spring, caused difficulty. Some years spring tillage and planting had to be delayed, and crops occasionally were damaged by too much water on the surface, and in the soil.<sup>27</sup> The main crops were wheat, corn, oats and hay. The hay and most of the corn and oats were fed to livestock. Crops marketed included surplus corn and oats, and all the wheat except the small amount ground into flour for home use. A small amount of corn was also ground for home use. Prosperity for the Baur and other settlers depended on productivity of the land, good transportation, and satisfactory markets. In the beginning the nearest dependable markets for the Baur were Vassar and Bay City, each requiring a 25-mile trip by oxen or horses and wagon. Marketing became easier in the late 1860s when the Sebawaing River was dredged to open Sebawaing as a port for schooners. Soon these boats carried goods between Sebawaing and other ports. The Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron Railroad built a line from Saginaw through Unionville and Sebawaing in 1880-1881. This railroad was a great benefit to freight and passenger transportation. Ownership of the line changed hands to the Pere Marquette Railroad Company in 1900, then to the Chesapeake and Ohio system in 1948.<sup>28</sup>

Simon bought his first team of horses in Flint. The steady oxen had served well for clearing away the forest and for farming around stumps. Now with more land to till Simon needed faster moving horses. By the 1870s he was able to plant enough grain to justify buying a reaper. This machine cut grain and dropped it in bunches. These bunches were then tied by hand with straw bands. By this time Simon had children old enough to help tie the grain—including the girls. After tying, the sheaves were set up in shocks and left in the field to cure for four to five days before being hauled into the barn. After the grain was in the barn for a while, it would be time for the threshing machine to appear at the Baur farm. This horse-powered machine served the entire neighborhood. The grain was fed into the machine by hand and the whole operation was slow yet it was much more efficient than threshing with a flail. It would take at least two or three days to finish the threshing job. Later steam engines replaced the horses, making the job go twice as fast. The next major mechanical improvement for the farm was the grain binder purchased about 1885. This machine used twine to tie the grain into bundles automatically. The immense improvements made in the area of farm tools and machinery during

the latter half of the nineteenth century were reflected on farms throughout the country. The Baur, too, found farming easier and more efficient than in the days of plowing around stumps.

Throughout Simon's life the family ate food mostly grown on the farm. Potatoes were the mainstay of the diet, but for variety there were apples and other fruits, cabbage, root crops such as beets, carrots, and rutabagas, and other kinds of fresh, dried, or preserved vegetables. Home-grown grains—wheat and corn—were taken to the local grist mill to be ground for the family's flour. Every winter four or five hogs, each weighing 300 to 400 pounds, were butchered.<sup>27</sup> Most of the meat was smoked or put in salt brine. This pork along with some-small quantity of veal, beef or mutton, served as the meat staple for the family. Much of the baking was done in a large outdoor brick oven. The necessary bread was baked first, but the bricks retained enough heat to bake pies and cakes.

Simon's years spanned the change from forest to fields. He liked to reminisce about the early times, but he also spoke with love about the excellent fields which replaced the magnificent virginal forest. He marveled at the many changes and improvements which had taken place during his lifetime. In his last ten or fifteen years, the telephone came to his home. The highway was paved, and a deep drainage ditch was dug in front of the house where he lived. The ditch was followed by tile drainage of the fields. Grain and corn harvesting machinery was improved, and the first automobiles and gasoline tractors appeared. He enjoyed riding in his son Adolph's first auto—a seven-passenger Studebaker.

John George died December 19, 1877. His wife Margareatha passed away May 26, 1894. The old folks were missed—for 31 years Simon and his family had shared part of the house with them.

When Simon was ready to retire, he deeded 103 acres to his youngest son, Adolph. He and Maria spent the remaining days on the old home place, sharing the big 1875 frame house with Adolph and his family. Simon boasted of never having been sick in bed during his life until he fractured a hip at the age of 87.

Both Simon and Maria were kind and friendly people; their requirements were few and simple; they were devout Christians. Maria died December 26, 1926. Simon was lost in mourning and followed her in death on April 8, 1927.

## **APPENDIX I BAUR FAMILY RECORD<sup>29</sup>**

Simon Andreas Baur was born on the second day of February 1833 in Unterjettigen, Oberamt Herrenberg, Koenigreich Wuerttemberg, Germany. Here he was baptized, educated and confirmed by Pastor Machdolf. As a 15-year old boy along with his parents, three brothers and one sister immigrated to America leaving March 15, 1848. After sailing across the ocean they landed in New York and then journeyed to Ann Arbor, Michigan arriving there on June 1, 1848.

They had coarse and rugged fare on the ship which was sometimes given sparingly and will not be forgotten. After four years of residence near Ann Arbor Simon with his parents, brothers and sister came to Sebawaing Michigan in October 1852 and settled in the middle of the primeval forest with 16 or 17 families in the vicinity, some of which lived ten miles away.

The first fall trees were cut down to build a log house. The trees and brush were cleared away and by the next spring eight acres of land were ready to be planted. Potatoes and corn were planted and more land was cleared up so that eventually there were 80 acres.



Although only a mile from us a tribe of Indians numbering several hundred had their village and as wild as these people were they were friendly and peaceful with the early white settlers.

Therefore one can look back over the years and see the improvement in the surrounding area as well as in our own until one has reached an old age and with contentment think back of the past.

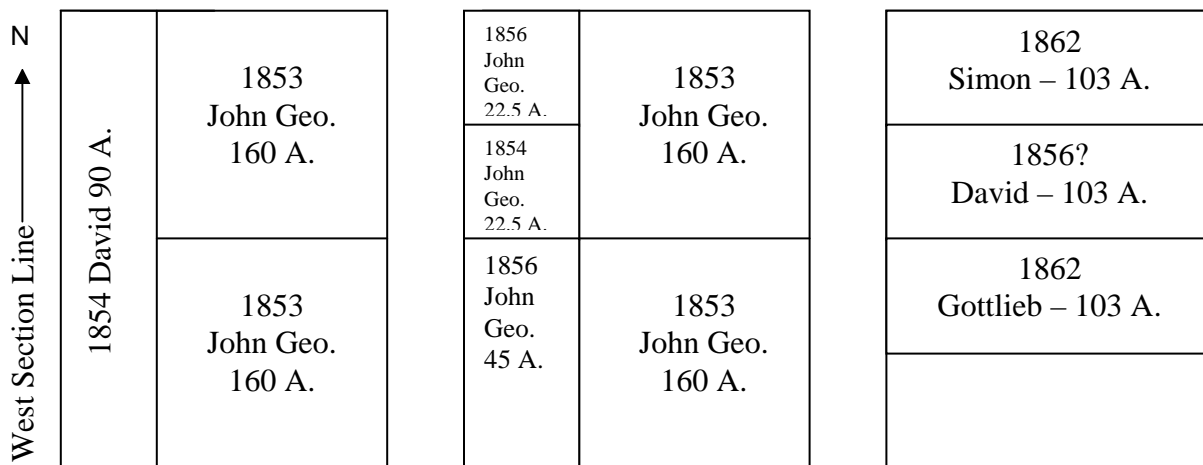
## APPENDIX II SEQUENCE OF LAND OWNERSHIP

John George Baur and his son David came to the Sebewaing area in 1851 or early 1852 to select land for the family. They chose Fractional Section 31. Sebewaing Township, Huron County. Their next step was a visit to the United States Government Land Office in Genesee (near Flint) to register their claims. At this time they could either pay for the land or make a deposit and pay the balance in 1852 while enroute from Scio to Sebewaing. Payment gave them the right to occupy the land even though final ownership documents from the United States government are dated 1853 and 1854.

The transfer of Fractional Section 31, containing 410 from the United States government to the Baur is recorded in three warranty deeds or patents.<sup>30</sup> Two of these deeds, dated 1853 are for quarter sections of 160 acres each. One of these quarters was originally allotted by the government to Private John Lamour and the other to Private Michael O'Bryan for military service in the infantry. These two men chose to take cash rather session of the land. They relinquished all claims by providing warranty deeds to the General Land Office. Thus, the two quarter sections were made available to the Baur at the office. Simon claimed that his father paid one dollar for this land.

The third warranty deed or patent, dated 1854 is a record of the transfer of two small fractional quarter sections of Fractional Section 31 from the United States government to David Baur. These two tracts totaled 90 acres. The 90 acres added to John George's two 160-acre quarters comprised the 410-acre total. David transferred his land, except for 22.5 acres to John George in 1856.<sup>31</sup> The 22.5 acres later became a part of David's farm.

In time the family's plan for dividing the land into four strips was fulfilled. Ownership of the north strip of 103 acres was transferred to Simon A. Baur in 1862. The south strip was removed from the Baur family by sale to Christian Hahn in 1858. Transfers of the two middle strips to David and Gottlieb took place in the late 1850s and early 1860s. (David already owned 22.5 acres which were included in his strip.) As time passed, ownership of the middle strips passed to persons outside the Baur family. The pattern of early ownerships is diagrammed on the following page.



1858 Christ. Hahn – 100 A.
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All of Simon’s land, including the 80 acres in Akron Township, has been continually farmed by direct descendants of John George Baur as follows:

1. One hundred and three acres in Fractional Section 31, Sebewaing Township.<sup>32</sup>

1852-1862	John George Baur.
1862-1906	Simon A. Baur
1906-1966	Adolph C. Baur and heirs
1966-to present	Elson Baur, great great grandson of John George
  
2. Eighty acres in Section 25, Akron Township, Range 8E, Township 15 N, Tuscola County.<sup>33</sup>

1859-1902	Simon A. Baur consolidated two tracts
1891-1902	
1902-1949	Albert S. Baur
1949-to present	Clemens P. Baur, presently farmed on a rental basis by Raymond E. Baur, great grandson of Simon

The barn nearest the highway on the Clemens P. Baur farm was built in 1859 on the 40 acres originally purchased by Simon A. Baur. This barn, in use for over 120 years, is a landmark. Most of the original white pine siding is still on the barn. These boards, never painted, are deeply weathered to a soft gray color. The barn was remodeled in 1909 by adding a gambrel roof, known locally as a hip roof.

The barn remodeling was done by Albert S. Baur seven years after he became owner of the land. Most of the construction was done by Albert with the help of “exchange labor” by his brothers and neighbors. He kept a record of cash expenditures in a small notebook. The following items selected from this notebook. include most of the expenditures:

Adam Zimmer	100 cement blocks	\$ 11.20
Adam Zimmer	10 barrels of cement	15.00
Wm. Birshing	5 wagon loads of-gravel	1.25
E. Heinitz	700 bd. ft. pine sheeting	17.50
Wm. Kuhl	Shinglemill charges for cutting	
	22.5 M. shingles	22.50
J. H. Kemp & Co.	4 pairs hinges & latches	2.00
Wilson & Skirlo	Sawmill charges	25.75
Oscar Baur	Woods work, cutting logs	12.00
Steve Metzger	Carpenter work	70.00
Adam Lass	1 day labor	1.00

### APPENDIX III

MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY – PIONEER RECORD\*

(1) FULL NAME OF PIONEER Simon A. Baur

*He settled in* Sebewaing *township* Huron county 1852  
*Date*

*He came here from* Washtenaw county Michigan state

*His next previous residence was* Unterjettingen Oberamt county Herrenberg, *state*  
 Wuerttemberg, Germany

		<i>Town</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>Date of birth</i>	February 2, 1833	<i>place</i> Unterjettingen,	Werttemberg,	Germany
<i>Date of death</i>	April 8, 1927	<i>place</i> Sebewaing,	Huron County,	Michigan
<i>Buried</i>	April 11, 1927	<i>place</i> Sebewaing,	Huron County,	Michigan <sup>34</sup>
<i>Date of marriage</i>	March 24, 1863	<i>place</i> Sebewaing,	Huron County,	Michigan
<i>Number of times married</i>	Once			

PIONEER'S PARENTS

(2) *His father's name* Johann Georg Baur

*Date of birth* July 10, 1799 *place* Unterjettingen, Werttemberg, Germany

*Date of death* December 19, 1877 *place* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan<sup>35</sup>

*place buried* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan  
 (New Salem Lutheran Church Cemetary)

(3) *His mother's maiden name* Margareatha Barbara Niedhammer

*Date of birth* January 26, 1801 *place* Wuerttemberg, Germany

*Date of marriage* January 26, 1825 *place* Wuerttemberg, Germany

*Date of death* May 26, 1894 *place* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan

*place buried* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan  
 (New Salem Lutheran Church Cemetary)

PIONEER'S WIFE (of No. 1 above)

(4) *Maiden name in full* Maria Stoll

*Date of birth* October 4, 1841 *place* Fuerth, Kreis Ottweiler, Preussen, Germany

*Date of death* December 21, 1926 *place* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan

*place buried* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan<sup>36</sup>

*At time of marriage she lived in* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan

*Names of other husbands* None

WIFE'S PARENTS

(5) *Her father's name* Adam Stoll

*Date of birth* *place* Germany

*Date of death* *place* Tiffin, Ohio

*place buried* Tiffin, Ohio

(6) *Her mothers maiden name* Maria Zimmer

*Date of birth* May 13, 1812 *place* Fuerth, Preussen, Germany

*Date of marriage* \_\_\_\_\_ *place* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of death* January 22, 1892 *place* Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan  
*place buried* New Salem Lutheran Church Cemetary,  
 Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan

*\*If you have earlier records of this pioneer family, or fuller record of the pioneer's children, copies will be welcome, to file with this Pioneer Record.*

*Surname* Baur

*(7) Children of Pioneer:*

<i>Name of child</i>	<i>Born (Date)</i>	<i>Died<sup>37</sup> (Date)</i>	<i>Married (Date)</i>	<i>Married To Whom</i>
Margaretha Maria Dorothes	2/8/1864	1/29/1933	11/29/1887	Albert Mueller
Mathilda Katharina	11/15/1865	4/30/1035	Not married	
Dorothea Louisa	8/18/1869	1/19/1969	Not married	
Lydia Philippine	3/14/1872	10/12/1926	1/14/1897	George Johann Irion
John Gottlieb	11/11/1873	3/3/1954	4/18/1901	Emma Caroline Leyrer
Albert Simon	9/21/1875	10/10/1958	1/22/1903	Clara Dorothea Schairer
Emma Rosina	11/14/1877	5/18/1955	6/10/1903	Leonhard Friedrich Haag
Adolph Conrad	11/11/1879	10/29/1949	3/24/1909	Emelia Lydia Skirlo
Maria Ida	7/18/1881	1/2/1961	4/20/1904	Rev. Karl Gottlieb Leyrer
Martha Caroline	10/19/1884	5/4/1964	Not married	

*(8) Profession or occupation of pioneer* Farmer

*(9) Public offices held* None

*(10) Political party* Democrat

*(11) Where educated* Germany

*(12) Church affiliation* Evangelical Lutheran Church

SOURCE REFERENCES:

1. Baur Reunion records.

2. Stoll family passport, Germany to U.S.A., dated February 22, 1847.

Note: Johann Georg Baur and Margareatha Barbara Neidhammer were married 1/26/1825.

Nine children were born to this marriage. Four of these died in infancy; five came to America with their parents in 1848.

The five were: David 1825-1893  
 Matthaesus 1828-1855  
 Simon 1833-1927  
 Katharina 1835-1928  
 Gottlieb 1840-1906

*This record submitted by:*

*Name*

*Address*

*Date*

Clemens P. Baur

R #3, 7407 N. Unionville Rd.  
Unionville, Michigan 48767

August 1, 1959

*Relationship to the pioneer:* Grandson (Son of Albert S. Baur)

mail to:

MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY  
LANSING

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Dunbar, Willis F. *All Aboard; a History of Railroads in Michigan*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdman's Publishing Co., 1969. See pp. 46, 65, '73.
2. Erickson, Robert E. *History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Huron, Samilac, Tuscola, and Lapeer Counties*. Detroit, Michigan: The Author, 1922. See "New Salem Lutheran Church."
3. "History as given by Simon A. Baur in July 1923 and charted by Johanna Margaretha Baur." Typed copy in the possession of Ervin Strieter, Bay Port, Michigan.
4. "History of the Simon Baur Family" a collage of clippings from the *Unionville Crescent* [1922-1969] compiled by L. S. Armbruster, Caro, Michigan.
5. Huffs, Carl and Karl Lagler. *Fishes of the Great Lakes Region*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 1947-48. See pp. 37-38.
6. Luckhard, Charles F. Article in the *Sebewaing Blade*, July 28, 1955.
7. Luckhard, Charles F. *Faith in the Forest*. Sebewaing, Michigan: The Author, 1952. See pp. 16,
8. Millerwise, Herman G. *History of Sebewaing: 1853-1953*. Sebewaing, Michigan: The Author, 1953. See pp. 4-12, 30.
9. New Salem Ev. Lutheran Church, Sebewaing, Michigan, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, October 15, 1978. Program.
10. [Schmid, Friederich] *A Short Sketch of the Missionary Activities of the First Lutheran Pastor in Michigan, The Rev. Frderick Schmid, from 1833 to 1871*. [Written by Friederich Schmid, Jr. in 1908; translated from German to English by H. Rittmeyer; published by Robt. E. Erickson in 1932.] See pp. 2, 7-11, 17.
11. Schultz, Gerard. *New History of Michigan's Thumb*. Elkton, Michigan: The Author, c1964, 1969. See p. 34.
12. *Unionville Crescent*, "Silver Anniversary Edition," v. XXVI (April 6, 1917) reprinted for the Centennial Celebration, August 17-19, 1979. See "Biographical Sketches and Reminiscences of Early Unionville Days and its People," p. 7.
13. Wittke, Carl. *Refugees of Revolution; the German Forty-Eighters in America*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1952. See Chapter 5.

### ENDNOTES

1. Information concerning immigration can be found in the Baur Reunion Records in possession of Mrs. Albert Festerling, Bay City, Michigan.

2. Wittke, Carl. *Refugees of Revolution; the German Forty-Eighters in America*.
3. "History as given by Simon A. Baur in July 1923 and charted by Johanna Margaretha Baur."
4. Ibid.
5. Dunbar, Willis F. *All Aboard; a History of Railroads in Michigan*.
6. Ibid.
7. "History as given by Simon A. Baur ..."
8. Ibid.
9. Luckhard, Charles F. *Faith in the Forest*.  
     [Schmid, Friederich] *A Short Sketch of the Missionary Activities of the First Lutheran Pastor in Michigan, The Rev. Frderick Schmid, from 1833 to 1871*.
10. See Appendix II for a question and transfers of the land in Fractional Section 31.
11. "History as given by Simon A. Baur ..."
12. Erickson, Robert E. *History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Huron, Samilac, Tuscola, and Lapeer Counties*.  
     "History as given by Simon A. Baur ..."  
     "History of the Simon Baur Family."
13. *Unionville Crescent*, "Silver Anniversary Edition."
14. Schultz, Gerard. *New History of Michigan's Thumb*.
15. Huffs, Carl and Karl Lagler. *Fishes of the Great Lakes Region*.
16. Schultz.
17. The Baur wheel eventually was given to Garnetta (Haag) Mertz, granddaughter of Simon and Maria Baur. Garnetta recently donated the wheel to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Schools for display in the school's museum located on East Bay Road, Sebewaing. Garnetta wrote a note which accompanies the wheel, "This spinning wheel belonged and was used by my grandmother, Mrs. Simon (Mary [Maria] Stoll) Baur Simon Baur carried this spinning wheel from Vassar to Unionville on foot.. Mrs. Arthur (Garnetta) Mertz, Saginaw, Michigan."
18. *Unionville Crescent*.
19. This area lies to the west of Forest Road. The original vegetation was wetland grasses and sedges. The more favorable part of the area is now drained and used for cropland.
20. Luckhard. *Faith*.
21. Luckhard, Charles F. Article in the *Sebewaing Blade*  
     Millerwise, Herman G. *History of Sebewaing: 1853-1953*.
22. Millerwise.
23. Erickson.  
     125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, Program.  
     [Schmid, Friederich].
24. See Appendix II for detailed description of the acquisition and transfer of land mentioned in this section and the next.
25. Vernon Zimmer, Unionville, Michigan. "Title Abstract."
26. Clemens P. Baur, Unionville, Michigan. "Title Abstracts."
27. Ibid.
28. This land, including the Wagner "40," is now tile drained. Tile eliminates wetness problems or reduces them to a minimum.
29. Millerwise.
30. Copied from the Baur Family Record by Albert S. Baur, March 15, 1911.  
     Translated from German by Milton A. Baur, Unionville, Michigan, February 2, 1980.

31. Mrs. Henry Engelhart, Bay Port, Michigan. File of early legal documents.
32. Ibid.
33. Elson Baur, Unionville, Michigan. "Title Abstract."
34. Clemens P. Baur, Unionville, Michigan. "Title Abstract."
35. Buried, New Salem Lutheran Church Cemetary.
36. Ibid.
37. "Died date" column added in 1980; not listed in record submitted to Michigan State Library in 1959. All except Emma Rosina and Maria Ida were buried in New Salem Lutheran Church Cemetary, Sebewaing, Huron County, Michigan.