

# Berczy Gt

Sign of the times

## Berczy family immigrated to accept offer of free land

William Moll Berczy and other German emigrants left Hamburg in 1792 and came to America in search for a better life.

Unhappy with their short stay in New York State, they accepted an offer of free land from John Graves Simcoe of Upper Canada who wanted the land to be developed.

Berczy and his followers found the land north of York (Toronto) to be good and became the first settlers of Markham Township (south-west corner) in 1794.

They began clearing the land and developing Yonge St. as one of the roads.

The area first settled became known as German Mills. The first saw and grist mills were established there, and there was also a distillery.

A plaque has been placed along John St. in Thornhill in

dedication of the Berczy settlers of German Mills. The old German Mills School (1874) is maintained as a community centre.

Other German families settled further north. On Bayview Ave. the Lunau's, Quantz's and Stiver's were side by side and later moved further to the east. Some families settled in the Buttonville-Unionville area and Lutheran churches were built.

There are several streets in Markham bearing German names. A street off the 9th Line just south of Hwy. 7 is named Berczy Gate.

Eckardt Ave. is one of the old streets in Unionville and Summerfeldt Cres. is in the subdivision to the west. (The Eckhardts built some of the mills and John Summerfeldt was a captain in the York Militia (early 1800's).

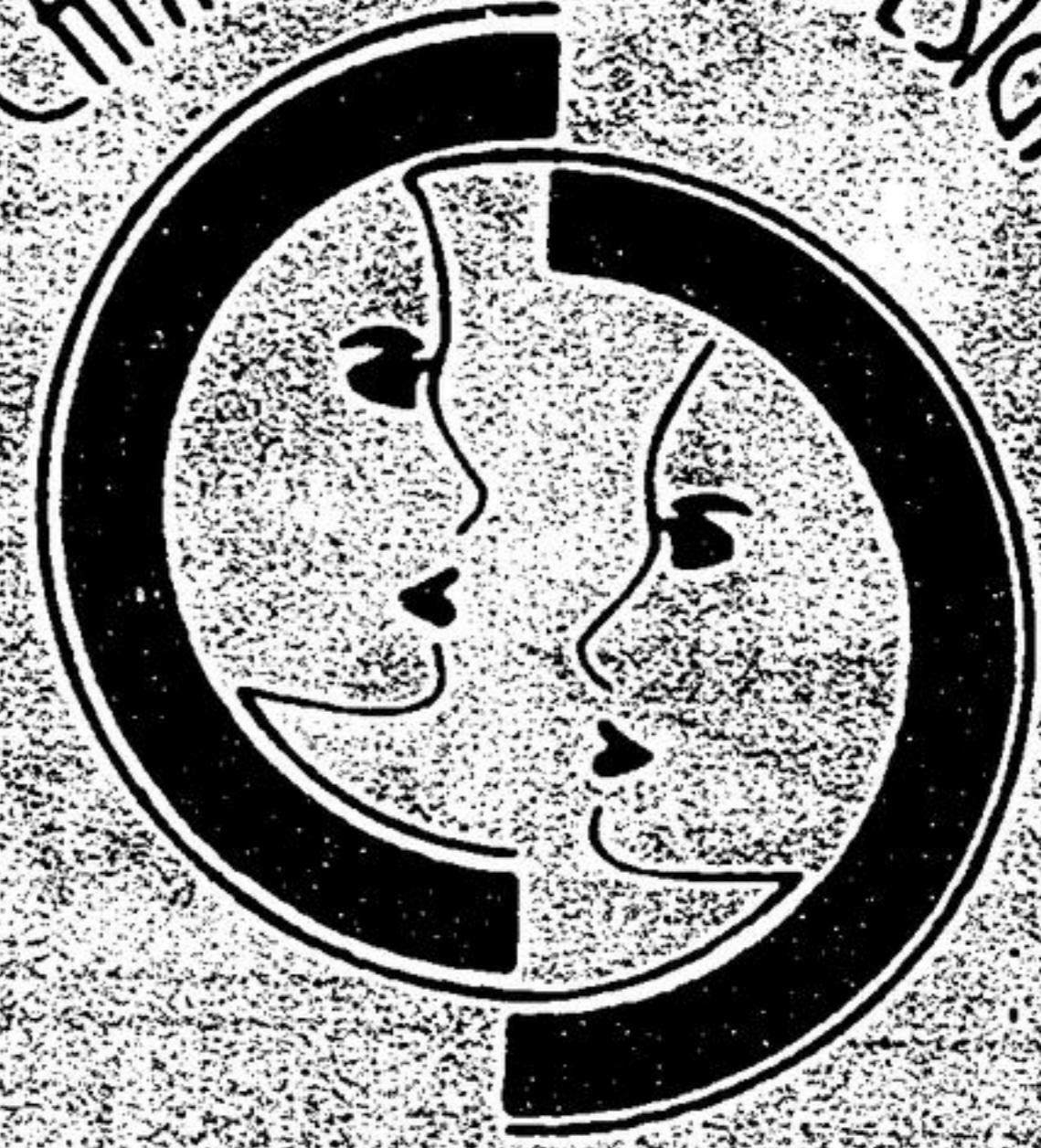
There is Stiver Crt. — the Stivers were farmers, millers and teachers. Lindemann St. in Thornhill is named after an early blacksmith.

Hagerman Blvd. is found in Unionville and was named after Hagerman who farmed at 14th Ave. and Kennedy Rd. Another early name was Schmidt which has become Smith.

John Lunau, presently of Markham and a well-known local historian is descended from Joachim Lunau (1770-1841) who came with the Berczy settlers.

The Lunau Bethel Cemetery is found down Warden Ave. by the Markham Hydro building. And up McCowan Ave. at 16th Ave. is the Quantztown Cemetery in the area that used to be known as Quantztown.

CATALDO HAIR DESIGN

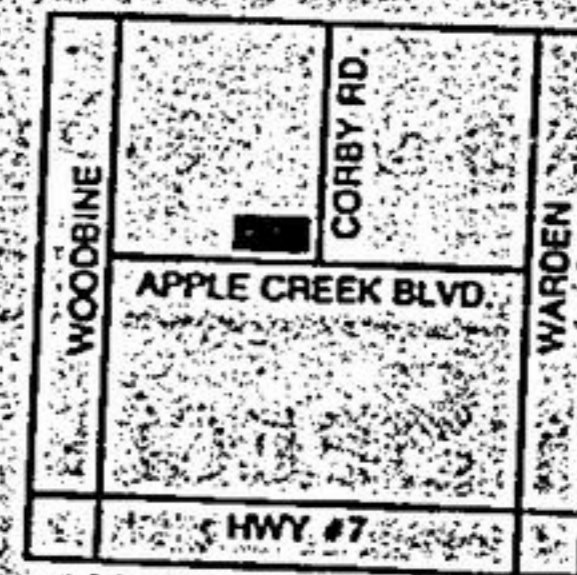


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