

- *ID:* I3288
- *Name:* John (Hansley) Winger , Bishop (i1749.9.9) G31
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* 1740
- *Death:* FEB 1828
- *Note:* Hansley means small John in German. Arrived in America at the age of nine. Inherited land from his father in Rapho Twp., Lancaster Co., PA. Married Elizabeth Eschlemen, 1758,, ^ on Aug. 24, 1777 He was one of the founders of the River Brethren, 1787. He and his family immigrated to Canada in 1788 with his sisters, Anna Damude and Maria Sider and friends and neighbors. John petitioned for land in 1797 and settled in Short Hills, Pelham Township, Welland Co., (near the present town of Fonthill). They found life in Short Hills difficult because of a number of factors including the sandy soil and along with the Siders packed up and headed back to PA. They changed their minds when they reached the Niagara River and Bertie Twp.. John petitioned for 200 acres near the present village of Stevensville eventually settling along Black Creek between Stevensville, Ontario and the village of Black Creek at the mouth of Black Creek near the Niagara Falls. He purchased 200 acres near Black Creek in Welland Co. on Dec. 16, 1799. He was the second ordained minister of the Tunker Church. He was the first Elder or Bishop of the Tunker Church, now known as the Brethren in Christ Church (River Brethren). He is mentioned in the article on Brethren migration to Canada, (Penn. Menn. Heritage, Vol XVII #1, Jan. 1994). ALW claims that John Winger G121 was the first Bishop, but RLW has identified John G31 as filling this role. He lived his life before the first church was built in Bertie Twp.. It was eventually located about three miles west of Stevensville. The family record made in an Ausbund. His birth date is from ALW. In 1808 John was called before the colonial government at York to give a statement and confession of his faith. The authorities were satisfied and acknowledged him as Elder and permitted the church to be registered under the name Tunker. The name Tunker orginated in Canada and orginated from the Penn. Dutch dunk meaning to dip. He was granted exemption from military service due to his faith under a law made in 1808. He was the first minister outside of the Church of England to be given permission to soleimize marriages in Canada. Buried on his land on the banks of Black Creek. A stone monument erected in 1932 by the Brethren in Christ Church (Tunker) marks his grave. The inscription states, "Sacred to the memory of Bishop John Wenger, one of the founders of the River Brethren Church in U.S.A. 1787, and founder of Tunker Church in Canada 1793. He fell asleep in Jesus 1828". The cem. is called the Winger Black Creek Pioneer Cem. (Boroland) and is on College Road in Bertie Twp., Welland Co., Ontario. The names of his children and dates are confirmed via a translation of a list by John giving his family. The translation was done by Mrs. Maria Letheman on Aug. 11, 1977 (location of original list not known).

Father: [Christian Wenger , \(i1749.9.9\) G3](#) b: ABT 1715

Marriage 1 [Elizabeth Eschlemen](#) b: 1758

Children

1. [Christian Winger , G311](#) b: 27 JUL 1778
2. [Magdalena Winger , G312](#) b: 3 NOV 1779
3. [Elizabeth Winger , G313](#) b: 5 JAN 1781
4. [Johannes Winger , G314](#) b: 1 DEC 1782
5. [Elizabeth Winger , G315](#) b: 29 NOV 1785
6. [Abraham Winger , G316](#) b: 7 JUL 1788
7. [Esther Winger , G317](#) b: 24 JUL 1791
8. [Jacob Winger , G318](#) b: 17 JUL 1792
9. [Joseph Winger , G319](#) b: 13 AUG 1794
10. [Peter Winger , Bishop G310](#) b: 22 AUG 1796