

Chapter 4

Heinrich and Elizabeth's Early Years in America - 1840 to 1900

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Updated 2018

So far we have established that Heinrich Pinter was born on 17 August 1810 in Stäfa, Zurich, Switzerland, that his family later moved to Bavaria around 1817 to live and work, and that he finally migrated to the US around 1848 or before.

We also have established that Heinrich's wife was named Elizabeth Hohenbrunner and that she was born 3 August 1813 in Aitersteiner in Upper Bavaria in Germany. It is estimated she migrated to the US in 1848.

This is a chronological summary account of Heinrich and Elizabeth's life from birth through about 1880. Additional detail will be available at least two documents found in the Addendum collection for this book.

Birth to 1850

This period of time will be filled with many unknowns for us. We know with some certainty that Heinrich and his family migrated from Stäfa to somewhere in Bavaria around 1817. We don't know where they actually settled and we don't know what they did for a living in that time period.

There is one reference that shows that a Jacob Pünter had the job of "Wegmeister" (one who maintains roads) in the town of Niederneuching, and the job of building inspector in Munich. But, this Jacob may not be Heinrich's father.

A Stafa church record that shows Heinrich and his family states that both were Wegmachers in Feldkirchen in Bavaria, Germany.

Finally, it is possible that at one time they may have lived near Aitersteiner since that is where Elizabeth is from. But, this is unknown.

The 1840 Census

The 1840 US census lists only heads of household, and then numbers of children, etc. in 5-year age categories. The names of spouses and children are not given. This census was not organized by townships and so it appears the census was done at the county level (ie, Bureau). Forty-one pages of raw census data were reviewed. The name Pinter and other names associated with this family and as mentioned in Chapter 1 did not appear, except for the following:

There was an H. H. Painter listed in Putnam Co, IL. He is listed along with one female age 20-30, one male under 5, and one female under 5 in the census. There is also a Henry Painter listed in Quincy, IL, as the head of a family of eight. Neither of these seems to fit.

Heinrich and Elizabeth's Arrival in the US Around 1848

The author has not been able to find any definitive evidence at this time that shows how or when Heinrich entered the US. There is also no confirmation at this time as to what name he used or what name was recorded upon entry. There are quite a few H. or Henry or Heinrich Benders in the ancestry.com's International and Passenger Records but none can be definitively linked to this family at this time.

There is some evidence, however, that Elizabeth immigrated to the US in 1848. This evidence is in the form of a listing in ancestry.com's International and Passenger Records. This record indicates that an Elizabeth Hohenbrunner arrived in the US from Upper Bavaria in 1848 via New York City (see Appendix C).

However, this record was extracted from a list of Bavarian residents who emigrated from Bavaria, and not a ship passenger list. The list was created by a Frederick Blendinger and clearly lists Elizabeth Hohenbrunner from Aitersteining, who emigrated in 1848. It is a good assumption that this is our Elizabeth.

Another piece of proof is a notice of intent to emigrate. This document was published in Bavaria for Elizabeth in 1848 and was required by law for anyone planning to leave the country.

The US President at that time, by the way, was James Polk.

Heinrich and Elizabeth possibly arrived in the US at about the same time, either together or separately. There is no record of their marriage at the Church on the Hill (COH) as confirmed by the Pastor. According to the history of Bavaria as found in Chapter 2, many people immigrated to the US in that time frame. Many of them found their way to Bureau Co. Perhaps Heinrich and Elizabeth were part of that migration.

The newspaper article for Jacob and Justina Pinter's 50th anniversary indicates that Heinrich and Elizabeth were living in a "log cabin" about a half mile north of the St John Evangelical Lutheran Church (COH) near Hollowayville in the early 1850s when Henry and Jacob were born. This cabin

was/is on the farm owned later in 1924 by William Genzlinger. The article further indicates that Justina Croissant was born in the same cabin 7 years later.

Note: Ruth Walch May has suggested that Heinrich and Elizabeth married in Germany before coming to the US in 1848.

One can gain some insight into the Heinrich and Elizabeth's journey to America by reading the first paragraph of the chapter titled History of St. Johns in the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Booklet written by Pastor Ernest Lack in 1924.

He wrote of the John Hassler family:

“In the fall of 1833, John Hassler, his wife, six sons and one daughter left their home in Munich, Bavaria.....For months, they had to be on a sailing vessel until they finally landed in New Orleans after many hardships...they wound their way to Peoria on boats. ...in the spring of 1834 they bought land of a Mr. Hall and permanently settled here.....Settling in the timber under primitive conditions was by no means an easy task”

The 1850 Census

At the time of the 1850 census, Henry (age 40) and Elizabeth (age 37) Painter (or Bainter) were living in Bureau County (township and exact location unknown) with no children. The census taker wrote their name such that those who later transcribed the census information on the Web spelled their name Bainter. See the attached census sheets including a list of their closest neighbors.

The census data shows they were living in the same farm or dwelling as John and Anna Landerer (recorded as Landera in the census). Henry listed his profession as farmer, and his place of birth as Switzerland. Elizabeth lists her birthplace as Germany.

For the Landerers, there exists a notice of intent to emigrate similar to Elizabeth's. This notice, also dated March 1848, lists Johann Landerer and his wife Anna Kirchmayer.

This is the first recording of our family in the USA. It should be noted that there are numerous other Pinters and Painters in other parts of the US, including Indiana and Cook Co, IL, and on the east coast, but it is assumed that none of these are related to us. There are also quite a few Pinter families that have roots in Hungary and Prussia.

The spelling of the name Pinter does not appear in the national 1850 Illinois census. I also researched the names Binder and Bender in this census but found nothing of interest. While the name Bainter is not our name spelling, the information seems to match what we know so far about Heinrich and Elizabeth.

The Birth of Henry and Jacob

Heinrich and Elizabeth's first born child, Henry, was born in a "log cabin" as noted above on 20 May 1852 and Jacob was born about 3 years later on 24 June 1855. Henry was born just about 4 years after Elizabeth entered the US. It is curious that they had only two children considering that farm families in that time frame were quite large, but there is no evidence that there were more. Heinrich's COH Death Registry entry in 1900 indicates two children.

Heinrich and Elizabeth's two children are:

Name	Birth date	Location	Death date	Location	Married	Date
Henry	5/20/1852	Selby	3/15/1939	Ladd	Juliana Wunder	1/4/1874
Jacob	6/24/1855	Selby	4/9/1929	Ladd	Justina Croisant	10/28/1878

Henry was born during the Millard Fillmore presidency. Jacob was born when Franklin Pierce was President.

The 1855 Illinois Census

Illinois did its own census in 1855 and 1865. The 1855 census lists a Henry Painter living in Selby Township. It indicates there were unknown number of males under age 10, one male age 30 to 40, one male age 40 to 50, and one female age 30-40. It also indicates 4 family members and one militia in the household. This all fits somewhat except that Elizabeth was 42 and the militia member is unknown.

Heinrich Buys His First Piece of Land – Selby Township, Section 25

Courthouse records show that on 28 November 1856, Heinrich (written as Henry Benter in the courthouse records) and William Young jointly purchased 40 acres of land near Trenton (later DePue) known as: SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 25 of Selby Township. They purchased this land from George and Elizabeth Stringer for \$400. Heinrich, William Young, and Fred Croisant entered into a one-year mortgage with Stringer for \$350. The three men apparently put up the other \$50 in cash.

For the next ten years, Heinrich (Benter) and Young jointly owned these 40 acres identified in the diagram below as Items 1 and 2. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell if Heinrich and Elizabeth lived on this property or if they possibly just used it for timber which was the case for many farmers in this time. This land was heavy in timber in this timeframe.

2	1		

Selby Township –Section 25

Heinrich is Naturalized

Heinrich petitioned the United States on 3 February 1855 to become a US citizen. The petition document recorded his name as Henry Pinder of Bureau County, IL. It also states that he must renounce his allegiance to “Sedgwich Governor of the Republic of Switzerland”. The document was signed with the name Heinrich Pinter or Pinder (his handwriting makes it difficult to differentiate a “t” from “d”). (Note, from 1853 to 1857, Theodore Sedgwick Fay (with a “k”) was the US minister to Switzerland. This is apparently why the name Sedgwick is listed on Heinrich’s petition to become a US citizen).

Heinrich became a citizen of the US on 6 April 1857. Photos of both of these documents are included in Appendix C. James Buchanan was President.

It must be noted however that the naturalization certificate spells his name as Henry Bender. This document was obtained at the Bureau County Genealogical Society and has his name hand written at the top of the page. This identification was made by an unknown person sometime earlier and there is always the remote chance that this is not his paperwork.

Brief discussion about the naturalization papers: The document indicates that Conrad Weisenberger (spelled “Weisenber” on the actual paperwork) and Henry Gleich vouched for Henry Bender on 6 April 1857. The document states that Weisenberger and Gleich knew Henry Bender for at least the past five years and that Bender applied for citizenship at least two years prior to 6 April 1857 and that Bender was resident of Illinois for at least the past year. It further states that Bender renounced his allegiance to the Governor of The Republic of Switzerland when he became a US citizen.

Dorrie Simon has indicated that Henry Bender and Conrad Weisenberger were also sponsors to the citizenship of her gg-grandfather, Freiderick Walter, also on 6 April 1857. Finally, Henry Gleich was naturalized on the same day, with Conrad Weisenberger and Joseph Rauh as sponsors.

Dorrie also said that her ggg-grandfather and gg-grandfather (F. Walter) came to the US in 1848 and speculates that all or many of these people may have come to the US at the same time, or if not at the same time, may have known each other in the old country.

Other Historical Recordings

1860 Census of Bureau County

This census was observed at the Bureau County Historical Society (BCHS).

This census lists Henry, Elizabeth, Henry and Jacob Painter living Selby Tsp. This is on page 107 of the census. There is also an Anna Painter age 12 living in the household of G. Bubough and his wife and children (ranging in age from 20 to 7) in Dover Tsp, but this person seems to be unrelated. She was born in the state of Ohio in 1847.

No references to the names Bender, Binder, or Pinter were found in this census.

Illinois Mortality Index 1850 and 1860

Found at the BCHS. No one found.

Directory of Bureau County 1858-59

The Directory of Bureau County, 1858-59, as found in the BCGS, lists Henry Bender as a farmer in Selby Tsp. This directory is divided into two parts: “Residents in Trenton” (later to be renamed DePue) and then “Residents in Township”. Henry Bender is listed in the Residents in Township section. No other information is given. Later we will see that this residence was involved in a sale by Heinrich in 1865. Trenton and the COH are both in Selby Tsp. so they could have been at either location at the time of the 1860 census. A copy of the appropriate page is contained in the Appendix C.

20 Years of Deaths – 1858 – 77

This book was found in the BCGS. It did not have any listings for the names Pinter, Painter, Hohenbrunner

The 1860 Census

At the time of the 1860 national census (June 20, 1860), Henry (age 50) and Elizabeth (age 47) Painter (spelling per the census documents) were living in Bureau County, Selby Tsp, with sons Henry (8 years) and Jacob (4) on their own farm or dwelling. The census does not pinpoint the

exact location of this farm. They valued their real estate at \$1000 and their possessions at \$200. The census paperwork also lists their Post Office as Hollowayville. The location of their property may have been a piece north of the COH cemetery or it may have been the piece in Section 25. Since Heinrich did not actually purchase this piece of land until 1864 as you will see later, perhaps they were renting it.

1865 Illinois Census

Illinois conducted a census of its own in 1865. Bureau County was counted in July, two months after Elizabeth died. In the 4-township area, only one person was found who might be our Heinrich. The name was spelled Henry Beinder and he was in Selby Township. The data indicated two males under age 10, one male age 50 to 60 and one female age 40 to 50. There are two errors here: the boys were actually over age 10 and Elizabeth had died 2 months earlier. So, it can't be determined if the data is in error or if this is not Heinrich even though the context says it is. There were no other people recorded with names such as Pinter, Painter, Pinter, Punter, or Binder in these townships.

Heinrich Buys More Land

Bureau County Courthouse grantor/grantee records show that Henry Pinder (actual spelling) purchased 80 acres of land from Nathaniel Chauncey and Henrietta Chauncey on 13 September 1864 for \$800. This purchase is the second so far for Heinrich. This land is described formally as the W ½ of the NW quarter of Section 14 of Selby Township. This property is located just north of the COH cemetery. Chauncey apparently inherited or acquired this land from Elihu Chauncey who purchased or acquired it from the US Government on 8 June 1838. Illinois Public Land Grant records show that Elihu Chauncey purchased all of NW Section 14 Selby Tsp from the State for \$1.25 per acre on 16 November 1835.

We do not know how and when Heinrich came to live on this land, but it has been written that his sons were born in this same vicinity (1/2 mile north of the church) and this land is certainly in that location. Perhaps he rented or otherwise worked this land in the 10 years span earlier and was then ultimately able to buy it from Chauncey.

This land is just north of the COH cemetery. This land is also in the same place as described in Jacob's obituary wherein they describe that he was born in a log cabin ½ mile north of the church. However, this transaction occurred 10 years after he was born, so it could be assumed that Heinrich and Elizabeth rented or in some other way worked this farmland previous to buying it.

Elizabeth Dies

As we have noted, Heinrich's wife was named Elizabeth (or Elisabeth) Hohenbrunner and that she was born 3 August 1813 in Aitersteinerling which is today incorporated within the town of Forstinning in Ebersberg, Bavaria, Germany

A map of Germany showing these towns is included in this book. The towns are just east of Munich.

About 17 years after her arrival in Bureau County, Elizabeth died on 8 May 1865 at the age of about 52 in Selby Township. She died less than a month after President Abraham Lincoln died of gunshot wounds and about a month after the end of the Civil War. Heinrich was about 55 years old, Henry about 14, and Jacob about 10 years of age. The cause of her death was identified as Nervenfeiber. This word translates to nerve fever but is known today as Typhus.

Her headstone in the COH cemetery shows her maiden name. It also states that she is the wife of Heinrich Puentner. (actual spelling on the headstone). Elizabeth's death record in the COH records spells Heinrich's name as Pünter (with an unlauded u).

A copy of the church death record is included in the Appendix C but it is difficult to read.

Elizabeth's headstone is closer to the church building than is Heinrich's and they are not together. They possibly buried people in order of death rather than grouping them according to family. Her headstone is smaller than Heinrich's being maybe 3 feet tall and 1.5 feet wide and about 3 inches thick. See pictures in this book.

To find her headstone in the cemetery, stand next to the Church on the North side, count 5 rows from the left most row and moving towards the right (Heinrich's row being row 1). Elizabeth's headstone is the third one from the church in row 5.

Heinrich Sells Out

On 14 August 1865, about 3 months after Elizabeth's death, courthouse records indicate that Heinrich sold all his land to George Halte. He sold the land for \$3000, a healthy profit considering he owned this land for only about a year.

This land sale transaction included the 80 acres just to the north of the COH and also included a 20 acre piece of land described as E ½ of the SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 25 of Selby Tsp. This 20 acre piece is the piece located just to the north of the boundary of DePue, which in that time frame was called Trenton.

Then, on 3 March 1866, Heinrich auctioned off all his possessions. A public notice sign (see Appendix C) announced the auction for 10AM on that day at the Henry Pinter farm, "one mile west of Hollowayville". Heinrich's possessions auctioned included (in the exact words of the public notice):

- 5 good work horses
- 3 mares
- 2 geldings
- 3 milch cows (actual spelling)
- 1 heifer
- 1 two-horse wagon
- 2 sets double harness
- 1 Bob sled
- 2 two-horse plows
- 2 good iron-tooth harrows
- 2 beds and bedsteads
- 1 table
- 1 cupboard
- Chairs and other articles

Interestingly, this auction occurred six months after he sold his land.

On 27 April 1866, Heinrich sold his remaining interest in the other 20a of SW NW Section of Selby back to his partner William Young for \$200. Heinrich now owned no property.

Finally, about six months later, on 13 October 1866, Heinrich applied for and received a passport. The passport listed Henry and Jacob as fellow travelers. All of the above transactions are well documented.

So, what did Heinrich and the boys do?

Did they go to Livingston County.....?

On 17 February 1868, 14 months after selling out in Bureau County, Heinrich purchased 82.5 acres in the township of Owego in the county of Livingston. Specifically, he purchased:

- W1/2 of the SW quarter of Section 9 Owego Tsp (80a)
- Lot 2 in the SE quarter of Section 31 Owego Tsp (2.5a)

This property was purchased from Severin and Lucinda Olson for \$2100.

Jacob's 50th year anniversary article (1928) indicated that Heinrich and his two sons then moved to this farm in Livingston County, IL, a "few years" after Elizabeth's death. They farmed there for a "few years" and then all returned to Bureau County where each boy took up farming for himself, according to the article.

What happened in the 14 months before and in the time frame after this purchase is unclear.

One somewhat interesting side note: Joseph Hoffert and his family were found in Cornell, Saunemin Tsp, Livingston County in 1870. This family, who had been living in Bureau County, Westfield Tsp. in 1860, was found in Livingston in 1870, and were back in Bureau County in 1880. Joseph was married to Katherine (Kate) Doll and had a total of 7 children. Joseph was 36 in 1870 while Heinrich would have been 60. So, there are other Bureau County connections to Livingston.

.....Or, did they go back to Europe?

One of the more interesting finds regarding Heinrich's life is that he applied for a US passport on 13 October 1866 and was granted this passport on 16 October 1866. This event occurred within 7 months after Heinrich's estate sale of March, 1866.

The passport has the name Henry Binder but is signed as Heinrich Pünter and indicated that Henry Binder age 12 and Jacob Binder age 9 would be traveling with Heinrich. The actual passport document can be found on ancestry.com. A copy is included in Appendix C.

The application and approval are interesting. They are hand written and signed by Heinrich and an official. The passport number is 28373.

In addition, the passport application/document contains this information about Heinrich:

Age:	56 years
Height:	5 feet 11 inches
Forehead:	High
Eyes:	Blue
Nose:	Ordinary
Mouth:	Ordinary
Chin:	Ordinary
Hair:	Red, gray mixed.
Complexion:	Fair
Face:	Long

But there is no evidence that they ever used the passport.

Conclusion for the period 1866 to 1874

So, what did Heinrich and the boys do? Here is a possibility:

Heinrich and the boys stayed in Illinois (in Livingston or Bureau County) for the 14-month period doing odd jobs or serving as farm hands and then, with over \$3200 and passports in their possession, purchased 82.5 acres in Owego Township in Livingston County on 17 Feb 1868.

Perhaps they then traveled to Europe for an undetermined period of time that included the year 1870. This makes some sense because there is no reference to this family in the 1870 census meaning that they were either not in the country, or were recorded with yet another name, or were somehow otherwise missed in the count. It also makes sense because Heinrich sold his entire estate earlier and obtained a passport.

This suggests that Heinrich invested his money in land to be farmed in the future and then left the country for some period that included the year 1870. In addition, in the 1870 census for Owego Township, at least two dwellings in that township were recorded as having no occupants. Maybe one of those farms was Heinrich's. In addition, a complete review of the 1870 census data showing Owego Township residents reveals no family whose given names and circumstances match Heinrich and the boys.

No other series of events really fits with the above timetable.

But why did Heinrich do this? Perhaps he was disenchanted with the USA. Perhaps he felt a need to go back and tell of Elizabeth's fate. Perhaps he just wanted to be back there. Whatever his intention, it was serious because he sold his entire estate. We will probably never know what he was thinking but since he purchased land in Livingston before his departure, it makes sense that he was planning to return.

The Return to Livingston County

Sometime after the 1870 census and between 1870 and 1874, Heinrich and his two sons apparently returned to Livingston County from wherever they had been living and settled on his Livingston County property.

Henry Marries

In 4 January 1874 Henry and Juliana were married at her parents' home in Bureau County. Family stories suggest that Henry and Juliana then went to Livingston County and stayed there for a year. Perhaps Heinrich and Jacob and Henry and Juliana were all living together on the land/farm Heinrich bought years earlier.

Both boys' marriage certificates can be found in Appendix C.

Heinrich sells the Livingston County Property, buys in Bureau County Section 36

On, on 25 April 1874, Heinrich signed paperwork to borrow \$2400 from Fred Walter. We will see later that he used this money to purchase 80 acres of land in Berlin Township. The US President at that time was Ulysses S. Grant.

Heinrich sold the Livingston property on 3 October 1874 to Martin Johnson for \$2500 about 10 months after Henry married.

Then, a few days later, on 15 October 1874, Heinrich bought 80 acres in section 36 of Bureau County Berlin Township from Lawrence Schriener using the money from Walter and the proceeds of the sale of the Livingston property to Johnson.

Specifically, the transaction states that Lawrence Schriener and wife sold to “Heinrich Binder of Livingston County” (actual spelling in the various books in the courthouse, specifically the Sectional Index and the Deeds books) the land listed below for the amount of \$4400 “subject to the mortgage made by Shriener to Fred Walter dated 25 April 1874 to secure \$2400 of the payment whereof is assumed by Heinrich Binder”.

The land he purchased in Berlin Township was:

E ½ of the NE quarter of section 36 of Berlin Township (or in other words:
E1/2 NE 36 17 10).

(This piece of land is in the extreme southeast corner of section 36 of Berlin Township and borders on the west side of the land that his son Henry would purchase later in section 31 of Westfield tsp. See a map in Appendix C).

The establishment of this mortgage and the sale of this land are documented in records in the Courthouse. It was recorded that Henry Binder was living in the County of Livingston at the time of the purchase.

It seems then that Heinrich, Henry and Juliana, and Jacob then moved back to Bureau County in late 1874. Three years later, in 1877, the Voters and Taxpayers of Berlin Township shows that they were all living on the same piece of property, or at least all in Section 36.

Voters and Taxpayers of Berlin Township 1877

In 1877, the document titled Name Index: Voters and Taxpayers of Berlin Township, 1877 captures the Heinrich Bender (Pinter) family as follows:

Henry Bender					
Sect 36	P.O Arlington	Republican	from Germany	80a	\$4000
Henry Bender, Jr.					
Sect 36	P.O Arlington	Democrat	Lives with father		from IL
Jacob Bender					
Sect 36	P.O Arlington	Democrat	Lives with father		from IL

In this time frame, Rutherford B. Hayes had just been elected President.

This list lists no one with the name Pinter, Painter, or Binder.

Jacob Marries

Jacob and Justina married on 28 October 1878. Justina was a mere 16 years of age and so the marriage certificate contained the written permission of her father, William Croisant. It is not known where they lived immediately after their marriage. However, 1½ years later the 1880 census captures them in Berlin Tsp with one child, Gustav, while Henry and Juliana are also in Berlin Tsp with two children and with Heinrich living with them.

It is likely that Heinrich, Henry and Juliana, and Jacob and Justina all occupied the farm in section 36 at the time of the 1880 census. This theory is supported by these facts which are discussed below:

- 1) Heinrich deeded the section 36 property to Henry in 1882.
- 2) Jacob bought his first piece of farmland in 1881 from his father-in-law.

Henry's and Jacob's marriage certificate can be seen in Appendix C.

1880 Census

The 1880 census is particularly interesting for this family. The census data shows that Henry and Jacob both had families and were listed adjacent to each other on the census data sheet. The census data sheets are organized by county and township and sometimes the post office village is listed.

The data sheets do not identify where in the township the family lived. However, both families were listed as residing in one dwelling even though they were listed as two different families. This can be interpreted in one of two ways: 1) the two families lived in one structure or 2) one family lived in an outbuilding such as hired-hand quarters.

Henry's First Property

On 12 August 1882, Heinrich (H. Pinter as it was spelled in the documentation) deeded this land to his son Henry Jr. for \$5.00. The deed lists the seller as "Heinrich Pinter, Sr, a widower."

Note that, later, two other transactions occurred regarding this land:

On 18 November 1887, Henry Pinter et al (including his wife Juliana and possibly Heinrich) sold ROW (right of way) rights of this land for \$520 to the IV and N Railroad. Today, the Burlington Northern train tracks cut through this property.

On 28 July 1888, (Sr.?) Heinrich Pinter along with Henry Jr and Juliana sold coal rights to this land to Whitebreast Coal (or Fuel) Company of Iowa for \$1200.00. Henry Jr received the \$1200.00 because he took ownership in 1882 while Heinrich who apparently

still had an interest in the land also, gave up his coal rights for \$1.00. It was apparently commonplace for land owners in this time frame to sell coal rights to the local coal companies. In this transaction, Heinrich was referred to as a widower of (the town or township of) Selby. There is no visible evidence of coal mining in this area.

In 1941, this land was apparently sold to R.L. Hassler for \$19,500 thus ending the ownership of this parcel of land by Pinters. The seller was J.H. Pinter et al. This is probably either Jacob Herman or John Henry, Henry's sons.

(Note that I inspected the complete Grantor Index at the Bureau County Courthouse. The names Binder, Bender, and Pinder do not exist...only Pinter is recorded. There is one Painter, which I concluded is not related.

Over time, Henry acquired additional property in Berlin and Westfield Townships up to nearly 400 acres. In addition, he acquired land in South Dakota also.

Jacob's First Property

Jacob and Justina purchased their first farm from Justina's father William Croisant on 31 July 1880. It is likely that they relocated themselves to this farm soon after that. Over time, they acquired additional farmland up to about 400 acres. Additional land was acquired in South Dakota.

Heinrich Dies

According to the COH records, Heinrich died on 12 January 1900 at the age of 89 years and is buried in the cemetery at the COH. This is documented on page 341 of the Death Registry at the COH. A copy of this entry is found in Appendix C. The entry is hand written and is in German. He is the first entry in the registry for the year 1900. The record indicates the following:

Heinrich Pinter Senior
Died 12 January 1900
Buried 15 January 1900
Cause of death: Alterschwache - translation: literally, decrepitude, or in other words, Old Age
Age: 89 years, 5 months, 9 days
Number of children: 2 sons
Number of grandchildren: 18

William McKinley was President when Heinrich died.

He is buried in the cemetery at the COH. He has a headstone that is nearly 6 feet tall. Pictures of this headstone can be found in this book. All headstones in the older part of the cemetery are quite weathered, but it is clear that this one is his. It is not known when the headstone was erected, but it is quite weathered.

Heinrich's nearly six-foot tall headstone can be found as follows:

Stand on the cemetery side of the Church on the Hill, back to the church, facing the cemetery. Look to the left and note the first row of tall headstones. They are on the edge of the cemetery, the west edge. A large field is on the left as is a row of trees that marks the edge of the church property. Count nine (9) headstones from the church. This is Heinrich's headstone.



At the time of his death, he was living with his son Henry on Henry's farm. He was 89 years, 5 months, and 9 days old according to the COH records.

Elizabeth's death record entry includes the following decipherable information:

Elizabeth Hohenbrunner
Wife of Heinrich Pünter (Umlauted u)
(Punter on the headstone)
Born in Aitersteinering, Baiern, 3 Aug 1813
Died 8 May 1865 Selby tsp
Buried 9 May 1865



Henry and Jacob after 1900

Henry and Julianna lived for a short time in Berlin Tsp before purchasing or otherwise acquiring a farm of their own in Westfield Tsp. Here they stayed until they retired in 1920 and moved to Ladd. Juliana died on 15 February 1936 and then Henry made his home alternatively with his 8 living children until he died on 15 March 1939.

Jacob and Justina also lived for a short time on the Berlin Township Section 36 property before acquiring their own farm. They added to their holdings and farmed until about 1915 when they retired and moved to a house in Ladd, IL. Jacob died on 9 April 1929. Justina died on 4 April 1948.

Jacob and Justina celebrated 50 years of marriage in 1928. The author of the Jacob Pinter 50th Anniversary article mentioned earlier described Henry and Jacob this way: "...In the course of

the years, both became prosperous and well-to-do. They were of the old staunch, sturdy and diligent pioneer stock who were no mean factor in building up the country.”

It is apparent that Henry and Jacob independently purchased land in Miner County, South Dakota near the town of Howard during this time frame.

Heinrich’s Land in Summary

All of the above describes the sum total of knowledge to date regarding Heinrich’s land dealings while in Bureau and Livingston Counties. It confirms that:

- He owned 80 acres of land just north of the COH, but sold it shortly after Elizabeth died.
- He also co-owned 40 acres of land just north of DePue, IL.
- He owned land in Livingston County
- He later owned 80 acres in SE Berlin Tsp.
- He sold this tract later to his eldest son Henry Jr.

Or, in other words....

Heinrich Pinter owned at one time or another, these pieces of land in Bureau and Livingston County:

- 1st - E ½ of the SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 25 Selby Tsp (25/16/10)
(parcel north of the COH)
- 2nd - W ½ of the NW quarter of Sect 14 Selby Township (14/16/10)
(parcel near DePue (Trenton))
- 3rd - W ½ SW Section 9 Owego Tsp Livingston County (80a)
 - Lot 2 SE Section 31 Owego Tsp Livingston County (2 ½ a)
 - Note these two pieces are not adjacent to each other.
- 4th - E ½ of the NE quarter of section 36 of Berlin Tsp (36/17/10)

See property sketches in Appendix C.

The Ragula Mystery

In 1929, when Jacob died, the obituary in the Ladd paper indicated that he was born to Henry and Ragula Pinter. Gilbert Pinter also has this name on the master family tree, but he may have obtained it from the obit. I have not yet found any census record of Ragula.

So what is the origin of the name Ragula in the family history?

One explanation is that Heinrich possibly remarried, to a woman named Ragula. This could have occurred in Europe or in Livingston County. This explanation does not seem likely since no proof has been found.

The other and more plausible explanation is that Ragula may have been Elizabeth's middle name. Myrna Schlegel Teauseau provided a note based on a discussion with her Aunt Edith Diedrick. Her note states that "She (Aunt Edith Diedrick) believes that Elizabeth was either Ragula's middle name or a name she preferred. No one knew her by Ragula".

Additional note on Ragula: The Illinois Statewide Death Index (1916 – 1950) lists Caroline Rett's death. This index lists her middle name as Regula. According to other data I have, her middle name is Justina. The reason for this discrepancy is unknown. Jacob's will states that Caroline's name is Carolina Regalia Rett. Since we don't know Elizabeth's middle name, it is feasible that it is Ragula, Regula, or Regalia. Often I have found that Germans use their middle name or reverse their first and middle names.

Finally, the name Regula appears as a common name in old Swiss church records.

Church Affiliation

The St. Johns Evangelical Church in Selby Township was founded in March of 1849 after several "years of unstable church conditions", this quote from the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Booklet written by Pastor Ernest Lack in 1924. The first building was built in 1851. This is the time frame when Heinrich and Elizabeth were making their way from Germany and settling in Bureau County.

The booklet mentioned above indicates that Hy (Heinrich) Pinter was a charter member and shows a picture of him. (Note that apparently the book's editor accidentally reversed the names of Pinter and Hoppler because in the copy I saw, the typed names were hand-corrected). Other charter members with pictures in the booklet include Carl Hassler, C. Stadler, Joseph Rauh, Adam Wunder, John George May, John Hoppler, George Weissenberger, and George Halte. There may have been others but these are the only charter members mentioned in the booklet. The church membership in 1858 was only about 48-53 "mentioned" families according to the booklet.

End of Chapter 4

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