

*Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book*

*An Analysis of  
The Life of Heinrich and the Boys  
between 1864 and 1874*

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**Introduction**

This essay will provide a discussion on the Heinrich Pinter family between 1864 and 1874. This is the period of time between when Heinrich bought his first farm, and when his first son Henry married. This period, of course, includes the death of Elisabeth and the subsequent actions of Heinrich and the boys after her passing.

I am writing specifically about this time period because it is a confusing time with many unknowns.

This timeline contains all the known family milestones in the period of 1864 and 1874 with some milestones before 1864 to establish text.

The reader should keep these points in mind:

1. Much of the data in this Timeline can be substantiated by courthouse and other reliable records.
2. Rental records essentially are unavailable. Purchases were recorded, but rentals were not typically recorded in official records.
3. Renter's names are recorded in the 10-year censuses, not the owner's names.

**Timeline 1848 to 1964**

First I will review the time frame from 1848 to 1864 which will set the stage for the period 1964 to 1874.

#### 1848 or 1849 – Heinrich and Elisabeth arrive in America

The arrival date, port, and ship name are unknown as of this writing. The arrival date for Elisabeth is likely in 1848. Heinrich's arrival is unknown. We will assume 1848 until we learn otherwise.

#### 1849-1850 – Heinrich and Elisabeth settle into a farm house

This farm is likely the 80-acre farm just north of the Church on the Hill. It is likely that they rented this farm.

#### 1852 – Henry is born

#### 1855 – Jacob is born

#### 28 November 1856 – Heinrich and his partner Wilhelm Young buy 40a of timberland

Heinrich and a partner purchased 40 acres of timber land in Section 25 of Selby Township. Farmers typically owned a small parcel of wooded land to provide a source of firewood and logs for building homes. This was Heinrich's first land transaction.

#### 6 April 1857 - Heinrich is granted US Citizenship.

We have no record that Elisabeth did the same thing.

### **Timeline 1864 through 1874**

#### 30 September 1864 – Heinrich Buys his First Farm

Heinrich and family had been living and working on a presumably rented farm since their arrival in 1848. The farm's location is unknown but was probably the 80 acres just north of the St. John's Lutheran Church (Church on the Hill) in Section 14 of Selby Township. This is based on an article that states that Henry and/or Jacob were born in a "log cabin one-half mile north of the Church on the Hill" in 1852 and 1855. The farm was purchased from Nathaniel Chauncey for \$800 and is well documented.

#### 8 May 1865 – Elisabeth Dies

The family had owned their farm for a mere 8 months when Elisabeth was infected with Typhus, and subsequently died. She was 52 years old. Her sons were only 12 and 9 years old. Heinrich was 55 years of age. For perspective, Abraham Lincoln died 23 days earlier, on 15 April 1865.

#### 4 August 1865 – Heinrich sells the Farm

Three months after burying Elisabeth, Heinrich did an unusual thing: he sold their 80-acre farm to George Halte for \$3000. This sale included Heinrich's 20-acre share of a site that was used for wood and which he had acquired earlier in partnership with Wilhelm Young.

It appears that Heinrich and the boys may have remained on the farm after the sale but there are no records to prove this except for the next timeline milestone.

### 3 March 1866 – Heinrich has an Estate Sale

Posters were nailed to trees and fence posts in Bureau County, and on March 3 an auction was held on the property in which all of their possessions and farm equipment were sold. By that evening, Heinrich and the boys had no farm and no personal possessions to their name...only cash.

It is not clear at this time exactly where Heinrich and the boys were living after the auction.

### 27 April 1866 – Heinrich Sells Another Piece of Timber Land

Heinrich still owned an additional 20-acre share of timberland in section 25. On this date, he sold this interest to William Young. This ended Heinrich's ownership of any property in Bureau County and elsewhere.

### 6 October 1866 – Heinrich Obtains a Passport

In a move that is completely unusual, Heinrich acquired a passport for himself and the boys. One gets a passport with the intent to leave and then maybe return to a country. That apparently was his intent. He was now poised to go presumably back to Europe, with his sons.

### The Period October 1866 to February 1868

We have no information as to where Heinrich and the boys were located in this time frame.

Maybe he and the boys did in fact leave the USA and go to Europe for a time. But why? He had no reason to stay in the USA. Maybe he was returning to seek another wife. After all, his father remarried a few months after his mother died when he was young. Maybe he intended to start over in Germany or Switzerland.

But we may never know his intent or location of residence.

### 17 February 1868 – Heinrich buys a farm in Livingston County, IL

It is now about 16 months since Heinrich obtained a passport. Much can happen in 16 months. Again, it is not clear where Heinrich and the boys were living up until this time. But whatever happened up until now, Heinrich was apparently in a position at this time, apparently while still in the US, to purchase property in Livingston County, IL, which he did.

He bought 82.5 acres in Livingston County, IL, for the sum of \$2100, with the apparent intent to start over again in the US. If he had been in Europe, there is no evidence he came back with a wife or partner. The purchase document stated that Heinrich was a resident of Livingston County which means he was living in Livingston when he purchased the farm, perhaps as a farm laborer or farm renter.

### 8 February 1869 – Halte pays off the purchase of Section 14 from back in 1865

In another twist to the story, Halte, who was the buyer of the farm in Section 14 in August of 1865, and who had signed a promissory note to pay the full purchase price by 15 September 1866, finally

came through with the payoff...in 1869. He was a little late, but his obligation to Heinrich was nevertheless met 12 months after Heinrich used his available funds to buy the Livingston farm.

#### July 1870 – US Census

A census of the United States was taken in 1870. Considering that Heinrich had been in the US when he bought the Livingston County farm in 1868, it might be expected that he and the boys would be found in this census. However, that was not the case.

A manual search of the census documents for the townships of Owego, Saunemin, Pontiac, and Odell in Livingston County, and the townships of Berlin, Selby, Westfield, and Hall in Bureau County was done, to no avail....no Heinrich and sons. A nationwide search of this census was also done, with numerous name spellings, without success. One plausible reason for not being counted is, of course, if he was not in the country, as discussed above. Another is that his name was grossly misspelled. Another is that he was very simply missed in the census.

#### 4 January 1874 – Henry Marries

We now fast-forward to 1874. We do this because we have no other timeline landmarks between about 1869 and 1874. Henry married Julianna Wunder in 1874. The newspaper announcement of their wedding stated that they went to live and farm in Livingston County, presumably on the farm bought by his father Heinrich in 1868. Perhaps Heinrich and brother Jacob were also living there.

#### 3 October 1874 – Heinrich sells the Livingston County Farm

Ten months later, Heinrich, Jacob, Henry, and Henry's wife Juliana made a decision to return to Bureau County. So, on this date, he sold the 82.5a property in Livingston. The farm was sold to Martin Johnson for \$2500.

#### 15 October 1874 – Heinrich buys a farm in Berlin Township, Bureau County

On this date, just 12 days after selling the farm in Livingston County, Heinrich bought a farm in section 36 of Berlin township, Bureau County, IL, at a price of \$4400. This purchase required that Heinrich borrow \$2400 from Frederick Walter. The family was finally back in Bureau where they would remain.

It should be noted that all of the above land transactions are real and are documented in county courthouse record books in both of the mentioned counties.

### **Timeline Summary**

It is reasonable to believe that, after Elisabeth's passing, Heinrich would have stayed on the farm he and his family had worked so hard to build. It is reasonable to believe that he may have sooner or later remarried. That was not an unusual response after the death of a spouse in that time, especially on a farm. His father, Hans Jacob, did just that back in Switzerland after his wife died when Heinrich was 4 years old in 1814. Hans Jacob waited only 3 months.

But instead, our Heinrich did a radical thing. He sold out. He liquidated his 80-acre farm, his timber land, and all his farm animals, furniture, tools...everything, in 1866.

Then he obtained a USA Passport in 1866.

Then 16 months passed where we have no landmarks that tell where he and the boys were.

Then he purchased land in Livingston County, IL in 1868.

Then, the 1870 US Census was taken, and he and the boys were not recorded....anywhere.

Then son Henry married Juliana Wunder in 1874, four years after the census, and they went to live in Livingston, presumably with his father and brother, this per a newspaper article about Henry's marriage.

The four returned to Berlin Township in Bureau County in late 1874 after Heinrich sold the Livingston property and purchased a farm in Berlin Township.

Those are all the major landmarks we have for this family in this period. We are left to speculate. That's all we can do.

### **What MIGHT have Happened**

Here I present some possibilities for Heinrich and his sons. These are of course unproven as of this writing. Maybe.....:

1. They did in fact return to Europe right after obtaining the passport. A lot can happen in 16 months. Then they returned and bought the Livingston farm. Or, they purchased the Livingston farm and then went to Europe. Or.....
2. They rented another farm during some or all of this time. Renting farms was not uncommon and, as mentioned, were not typically recorded except in the censuses. Or, .....
3. The three worked as farm hands, except that if they were doing this work in 1870, they typically would be recorded in the census.

### **What Might Have Happened – A Short Hypothetical Story**

Absent any other information that can prove the whereabouts of Heinrich and his boys after Elisabeth died, I present here a hypothetical story of what happened to Heinrich and the boys during the period in question:

We know that Heinrich and Elisabeth arrived in Bureau County sometime in 1848 or 1849 with little to their name. They were in the company of Johann Landerer and Anna Kirchmayer. The four rented a farm in Bureau, perhaps the property just to the north of the COH (Church on the Hill)

and potentially the property Heinrich might own later. They all appeared in the 1850 census, in the same farm and dwelling.

They continued to farm this property, joined the church as early members, and Elisabeth gave birth to two sons, Henry and Jacob. Heinrich became a citizen of the USA in 1857. Sometime between 1850 and 1860, Johann and Anna departed. They possibly went back to Europe because they are also not found in the 1860 and later censuses. Heinrich and Elisabeth appeared in the 1860 census with two sons.

By 1864, Heinrich was able to finally purchase the farm he and Elisabeth were renting. He had been able to obtain the \$800 needed to buy it. This is the farm on the 80 acres just to the north of the 80 acres containing the Church on the Hill and cemetery.

Sometime in early 1865, Elisabeth contracted Typhus, a disease frequently found on a farm in that time. She died in May 1865. We don't know how long she suffered with this disease. Heinrich and the boys were now on their own, without the support of a wife and mother.

A distraught Heinrich perceived that he could not continue with the farm. He held on for about 8 months. Then he sold out. An auction was held in March 1866 where everything that the family had acquired was sold. He had previously sold the farm in August of 1865 but continued to earn an income by working as a renter or farm hand. But all his furniture, animals, etc had been sold.

Heinrich apparently had in mind to return to Europe, permanently or temporarily, perhaps to find another wife because, in October 1866, 6 months after he sold his last piece of land, he obtained a passport.

However, he and the boys remained in the County for as many as 16 months, perhaps working as farm hands or renting another farm. He then purchased an 80-acre farm in Livingston County.

He waited another 12 months until the buyer of his original property paid off his debt to Heinrich. They were finally able to leave America. Sometime after February of 1868, or maybe after he received the final payoff from Halte in 1869, he and the boys departed.

They remained in Europe (or their final destination) until sometime after the 1870 census which happened in July 1870. They then returned to the USA and returned to the Livingston County farm to start over again. There is no evidence that he returned to the USA with a new wife.

There are a number of problems with the above scenario, not the least of which is the question of where they were living in the years after he sold his original farm. But another question has to do with son Henry. Henry married in January 1874 while they were living in Livingston County. Yet, his bride Juliana Wunder was a resident Bureau County.

When Henry married, the newspaper article of their wedding stated that they went to Livingston to live, presumably with Henry's father and brother Jacob.

But Heinrich wanted to get back to Bureau, so in late 1874 he sold the Livingston farm and purchased one in Bureau. The family moved back and remained there permanently. Subsequently, Jacob married in 1878. Henry and Jacob began their farming careers after their marriages. Heinrich went to live with son Henry and died on 12 January 1900 at age 89 after a difficult but successful life.

The above story assumes that Heinrich and the boys left the country and spent some of the time between about 1868 and 1874 in Europe or elsewhere. It is not impossible that they simply resided in Livingston after the purchase and remained there until 1874 and were missed in the 1870 census.

Minus any additional information, we may never know what really happened.





Heinrich's Estate Sale - 1866

**PUBLIC SALE!**

The undersigned, will sell at Public Sale, at his residence, one mile west of HOL-  
LOWAYVILLE, on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1866.**

At 10 o'clock, A. M., the following described property, to-wit: 5 good work Horses,  
8 Mares, 2 Geldings, 8 milch Cows, 1 Heifer, 1 two-horse Wagon, 2 sets double Har-  
ness, 1 Bob Sled, 2 two-horse Plows, 2 good iron-tooth Harrows, 2 Beds and Bed-  
steads, 1 Table, 1 Cupboard, Chairs, and other articles too numerous to mention.

**TERMS OF SALE!**

All sums under \$10 Cash; all over \$10, six months credit with approved security.

Dated Feb. 21, 1866  
**HENRY PINTER.**  
**CHARLES SAVAGE, Auctioneer.**  
Republicans Job Printing House, Princeton, Ill.

Heinrich's Sale of First Farm – 4 August 1865

569

MORTGAGE.—Culver, Page & Hayes, Stationers, 125 and 127 Lake Street, Chicago.

*1864 2.*  
*2*  
*1869*  
*8th of Henry 10. 1869*  
*18. 1869*  
*18. 1869*

**This Indenture,** Made this *fourth* day of *August* in the year of our Lord  
one thousand eight hundred and sixty *five* BETWEEN *George Daulton and his wife*  
party of the first part, and *Henry Pinter*  
party of the second part:

Witnesseth, That whereas, the said party of the first part is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of *three hundred*  
and \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars, secured to be paid by \_\_\_\_\_ certain  
*promissory bearing even date and being due even before Sept. 15.*  
*4. 1866.*

Now, Therefore, this Indenture Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for the better securing the payment of the money  
aforesaid, with interest thereon, according to the tenor and effect of the said *promissory note* above mentioned: And, also,  
in consideration of the further sum of one dollar, to \_\_\_\_\_ in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at the delivery of these presents,  
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he *do* granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents *do* grant, bargain, sell and  
convey unto the said party of the second part \_\_\_\_\_ heirs and assigns forever, all the following described lot piece or parcel of land,  
situate in the County of *Bureau* and State of *Illinois* and known and described as follows, to-wit:

*The West half of the north east quarter*  
*of section (14) fourteen in Twp. (16) sixteen North of Range 10 East (10)*  
*East of 4 P. M. Also the East half of the south west quarter of*  
*north west quarter of section (25) twenty five in Township sixteen (16)*  
*North Range 10. East of 4 P. M.*

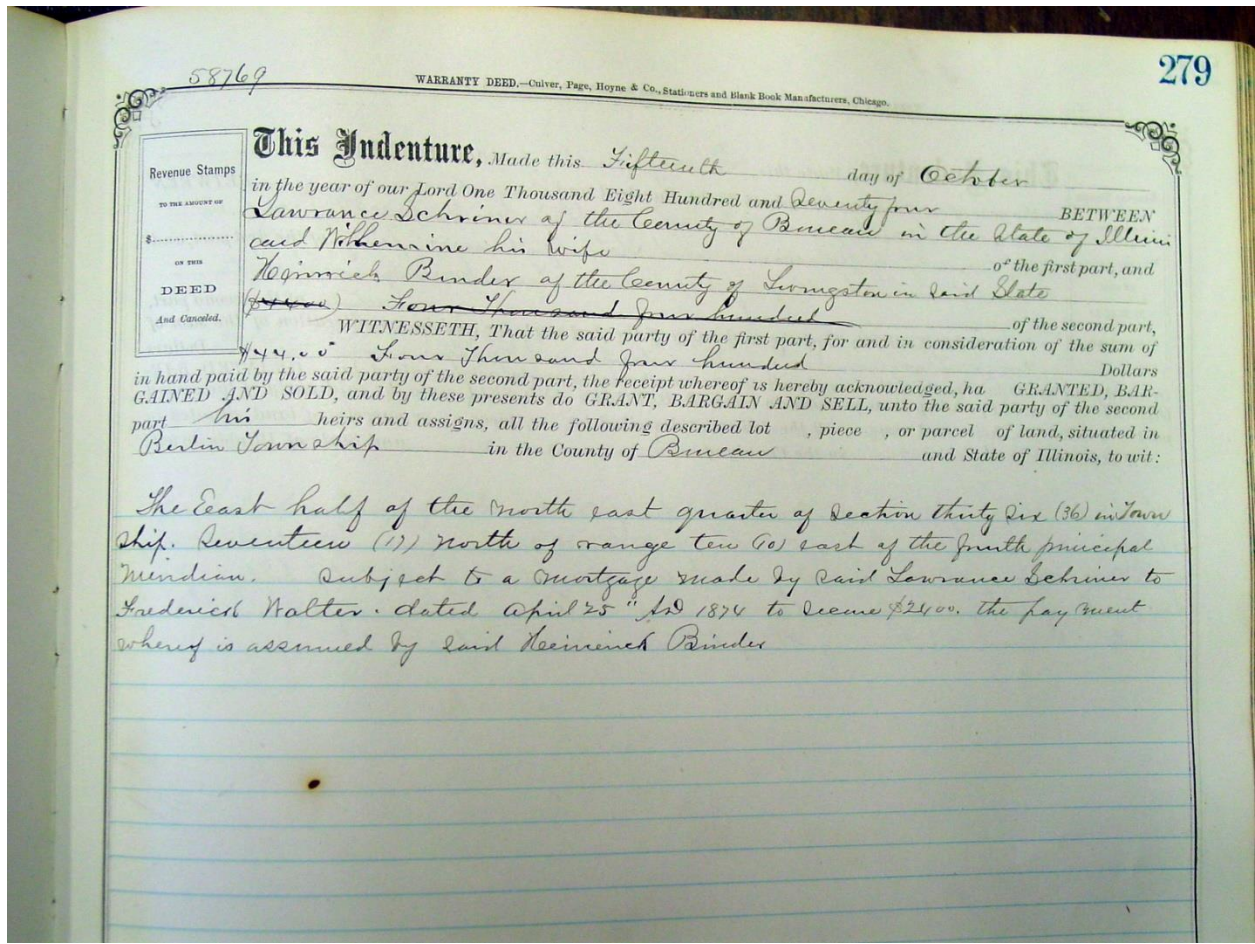
*W. D. D.*  
*1865*  
*cancelled*

To Have and to Hold the Same, Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, privileges and appurtenances thereunto  
belonging, or in anywise appertaining: And, also, all the estate, interest and claim whatsoever, in law as well as in equity, which the party of  
the first part has, or shall have, in and to the premises hereby conveyed unto the said party of the second part \_\_\_\_\_ heirs and assigns, and to their





Heinrich Buys Farm in Section 36 Berlin Township – 15 October 1874



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