

*Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book*

***The Pinter Family of Bureau County, Illinois:  
The Expanded Swiss and German Connections***

by Ken Pinter  
December 2009  
Updated March 2024

Primary sources of information: August Pünter, Stäfa, Switzerland, and ...  
Franz-Josef Hohenbrunner, Forstinning, Germany

---

**I**n May of 2009, I had the opportunity to visit the town of Stäfa in Switzerland. In June 2010, I revisited Stäfa in Switzerland and Forstinning/Aitersteiner in Upper Bavaria. The information in this addendum is derived in large part from these trips and from the people listed above.

Note: Stäfa is pronounced: sch- teff- uh, or steff-uh



Stäfa Coat of Arms

**The Swiss Connection**

**S**täfa is the area in which my Greatgreatgrandfather Heinrich Pünter was born and raised until the age of 7. Today, Stäfa is a developed municipality of over 13000 people. It touches the north shores of Lake Zurich and extends back into the gently rolling hills of the area. It is built up today with two-story homes and buildings with businesses along the Seestrasse. In addition, the area is covered with vineyards.

As you drive away from the lake shore, you immediately can notice that you are going up in elevation almost from the first turn off of the Seestrasse. When you arrive at a point up the hill, you can see how much it slopes to the water and then you can really get a view of the beauty of the area. As you look towards the lake you see the roofs of buildings and you see a lot of grape vineyards. Then you see the blue waters of the lake. Then, on the other side, you see a repeat: First villages, then the gentle rolling green hills, and finally high snow-covered mountains in the distance, but not that far away.

It doesn't take too much imagination to visualize this place 200 years ago. Of course, the development wasn't there but the countryside most likely looked the same. Maybe it was more

wooded, maybe not. Perhaps it was covered in vineyards as today, perhaps not. But the beauty of the area surely has prevailed.

I found and visited the Reformed Evangelical Church of Stäfa. This church, renovated in 1788, was the Pünter family church. Members of Mormon Church visited this church years ago, as they did with many churches in Europe, and photographed and digitized the available church family records. In addition, much of the historical data was moved to the state archives in Zurich. It is from these data sources that I learned much about the Pünter family of Stäfa.

I also visited the family of August Pünter and his wife Kathrin. They own the Pünter Weinbau in Stäfa. The visit was very informative for me and I think as well for August (he goes by the nickname Gusti).

Gusti has already provided me with some materials that he had acquired in the past. This material has proven to be a significant find because it documents the family back in time, from Heinrich back to about the year 1550.

Gusti's relationship to the Pinters of Bureau County is distant. He indicated that by the year 1634, the Pünter family of Stäfa existed as three major tree branches. He is in one branch, the Pinters of Bureau County are in another. The third tree branch apparently disappeared with time according to Gusti.

One can only guess as to the structure of the family before 1634. Perhaps if we go even further back, the three trees become branches of one tree and that is when we become related. But that may never be proven. It is possible that they never merge. But, in the meantime, we will call Gusti a distant relative in Stäfa.

The following information is derived in large part from documentation about the Pünter family provided to me by August Pünter. The data came in the form of papers that were written in Swiss-German and were translated by various translators including myself with the help of the online Google Translator. I do not know when this data was written but it is probable that the material came in large part directly from Church records.

### **Notes On The Reported Places Of Residence For The Pünter Family**

Before we explore the various generations of Pünters, it might be useful to briefly describe the organization of Switzerland and then describe the towns and villages associated with this family as found in the documentation.

Switzerland is divided into political areas called cantons. There are 26 cantons in existence today. However, in the time frame of 1513 to 1798, there were only 13 cantons. Cantons are further divided into districts and these districts are further divided into municipalities.

One of the cantons of Switzerland is the Canton of Zurich. This canton is divided into 12 districts today. One of those districts is Meilen. Today, Meilen is divided into 11 municipalities. One of the

municipalities is Stäfa. The municipality of Stäfa is about 8.59 square km (5.2 square miles) in size and has a population of over 13,000.

We continue to describe Stäfa as the hometown of our ancestors, but in the historical documentation, various other locations are mentioned. These locations are or were small villages or geographical areas within the municipality of Stäfa. They are:

#### Dorf

Dorf is the German word for Village. There is only one town officially named Dorf in modern day Switzerland. This village is some distance from Stäfa to the north and is not the Dorf referred to in the rest of this history. However, there is an area named Dorf on modern and ancient maps of Stäfa. This may be a hamlet or village but it does not appear in a search of Swiss villages. Dorf is located a few kilometers to the east of the Reformed Evangelical Church of Stäfa.

#### Fangen

Fangen is similar to Dorf. It does not appear in any search for Swiss villages. It appears on maps as recent as 1923. In 1923 and before, Fangen is an area a few km to the east of Dorf.

#### Laubisruti

Laubisruti is similar to Dorf except that it does appear in a search of Swiss villages today.

#### Rain

Rain is similar to Dorf. It is a few kilometers to the west of the church.

#### Oberwacht (OW) and Unterwacht (UW)

OB and UW are or at least were geographic areas in or around Stäfa. These areas can be found on a 1783 map of Stäfa. The Oberwacht is an area of land located just below the Reformed Evangelical Church of Stäfa, generally between the Church and the Lake. The Unterwacht is land just to the West of the OW.

These village names will appear later in this report.

### **Generalities about the First Pünters of Stäfa**

The first time in recorded history that the name Pünter appears in records of the village or municipality of Stäfa is the year 1331. The recording was actually of Ulrich Bünter (with a B, not a P) and was found in the records of the monastery of Einsiedeln which can be found today about 6 miles south of a point on the Southwest shore of Lake Zurich opposite Stäfa.

However, it must be noted that the name Pünter has been found in many other parts of Switzerland. The Swiss word Pünt translates to “vegetable patch” or in other words a piece of land used to grow food. These areas were more or less community gardens and in all probability the family that took over maintenance of the patch adopted the name Pünter as a result. In other words, the name was probably adopted over many years by the people who took care of the “patch“.

As a result, there may be many Pünter families in Switzerland who derived their name in this way, but are clearly not related. One cannot assume, in the farthest reaches of history, that there was one person from whom all Pünters are descended...maybe, but not for sure.

In 1467, the next time that records can be found, two Pünters are listed: Hans and Cuni (or Kueni) Pünter.

By 1469, there were three Pünter families listed in the tax records and living in the Oberwacht area of Stäfa:

Cuni Pünter  
Hans Pünter  
Rudi Pünter (brother of Hans)

These were apparently the only Pünter families in Stäfa. The records may have spelled the names as Bünter.

A variety of population-altering events happened between 1469 and 1634, the next available population list for Stäfa:

- The Plagues of 1529 and 1564 and 1611 and 1629. The Plague of 1529 killed entire families. The death count was about 165 people. Stäfa’s population was around 1000 in 1529 before the Plague, and 818 by 1634.
- The Federal war of Milano, 1512-15. Some Stäfa men fought in this war.

By the census of 1634, there were 3 Pünter families in Stäfa with a family member count of 13. Three of the families were as follows:

- Family A - Rudolf Pünter – a widower with a son and daughter
- Family B - Adelheid Boller – widow of Burkhard Pünter
- Family C - Hans Pünter and (second) wife Verena Oetiker – a judge with one son and two daughters – son of Andreas Pünter and Barbel Wädenswiler who are described in more detail in the next section.

Family A is the family from which August (Gusti) Pünter is descended.

Family B is the family that has reportedly disappeared over time.

Family C is the family from which the Pinters of Bureau County are descended. Hans Pünter is the son of Andreas Pünter and is documented in the next section of this addendum.

Continuing with the family growth in Stäfa, the census of 1707 listed 8 Pünter families and 31 family members in Oberwacht. By 1805 the count was 21 families in Oberwacht and 2 in Unterwacht. By 1965, 12 families were listed in the census with only four living in Stäfa. (the 12 count may have been for the entire Canton of Zurich).

It is important for the reader to note that any details of the family prior to about 1634 is subject to error due to the age of the data.

**The First Known Pünter Generation with ties to the Pinters of Bureau County**

As noted above, the Pünter family actually existed as three trees in 1634. One of those trees is the one from which the Pinters of Bureau County are descended. Researchers who wrote the materials I received referred to this as Tree C. Gusti is in Tree A. Tree B has apparently ceased to exist over time from 1634 to the present.

(Note about the various tables that follow in this Addendum: The shaded areas of the table list the Pünter male who is a direct ancestor of the Pinters of Bureau County, and his wife. The boldfaced name of a child in a table indicates the male Pünter who carried on the family line and who is a direct descendent of Heinrich Pünter who settled in Bureau County Illinois, USA). Of course, a blank cell indicates that data is not available.

It is thought that the oldest known member of Tree C is Jorg Pünter. Very little is known about him, but what we know is provided in this table:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Date</b>
Jorg Pünter	?	?		11/8/1554
Verena Pfenninger, or Verena Spangleri	?	?		
<b>Andreas</b>				
Unknown others				

Andrea and Verena had an unknown number of children, one who was also named Andreas, as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Date</b>
Andreas Pünter	ca 1540-50	?		5/1/1569
Barbel Wädenswiler	?	?		
Andreas	6/4/1570			
Anna	7/1/1574			
Hans	2/5/1576			
Pauli	2/4/1578			

Maria	8/5/1582			
<b>Hans</b>	6/17/1585	10/31/1653		
Barbel	2/16/1587			
Barbel	3/3/1590			

Unfortunately, the data suggests that Andreas married Barbel (Barbara) (in 1569) when he was only about 15 years old. This is possible but not probable. But then we may not ever know for sure.

Assuming that Andreas was born soon after his parents married in late 1554, we might assume he was born in about 1555, but the actual birth date is unknown. He had two sons named Hans. We might assume that the first Hans died probably before 1585 or before his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. In addition, he had two daughters named Barbel after their mother. We might assume that the first Barbel may have died before she was 3 years old. It is also possible that a family could have two sons or daughters with the same name due to the fact that the child's middle name is different, for example, Hans Jacob and Hans Heinrich.

Andreas' second son named Hans continued the family branch that would lead to Heinrich Pünter who immigrated to Bureau County, Illinois, USA.

### Second Generation

Hans Pünter, sixth child of Andreas and Barbel was born 6/17/1585. He married twice as the table below shows and had a total of 7 children.

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Hans Pünter	6/17/1585	10/31/1653		10/26/1606
Kathrin Pfenninger	??	12/1/1629		
Elsbeth	~1612	?		
Melcher	~1617	2/2/1693		
Elsbeth	~1619	?		
Lisabeth	~1622	?	Marx Pfenninger	6/30/1646
Anna Oetiker	10/22/1611	6/8/1641		6/14/1631
Maria	5/5/1632	4/17/1633		
<b>Andreas</b>	4/26/1635	11/5/1697		
Anna	?	?	Jakob Kunz	

- Research in the LDS records suggests that there might have been two Elsbeths, one born in 1612, the other in 1619.
- The Mormon Church records spelled Kathrin's name as Catrina Pfanningerin
- Two names were found in the data for Hans' wife: Verena Oetiker as Anna Oetticker.
- Anna Oetiker was born in the village of Männedorf.
- The LDS records also refer to a son named Melcher born in 1620.
- The missing dates in the table above have not been found in the LDS records or in the materials provided by Gusti.

- Hans may have been a Richter (judge) in the village of Dorf.
- It is thought that Hans died of natural causes at the age of 68.

The materials from Gusti contain this quote about Hans Pünter:

He was a judge (probably a district judge in the upper area of Stäfa) and lived in the village of Dorf

Hans' second son Andreas continued the family name.

### **Third Generation**

Andreas, who was Hans' 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> child and second son, married Margreth Schaufelberger from the village of Wald. There are three towns named Wald in Switzerland but only one in the Canton of Zurich, about 20-25 kilometers from Stäfa. They were married in Wadenswil on 18 August 1657. Andreas and Margreth had nine children as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Date</b>
Andreas Pünter	4/26/1635	11/5/1697		8/18/1657
Margreth Schaufelberger	?	5/9/1715		
Gilg	10/3/1658	7/29/1691		
Rudolf	10/3/1661	5/22/1727		
Jakob	9/5/1663	?		
Hans	3/25/1666	1/27/1736		
Hans Heinrich	4/12/1668	5/10/1727		
Anna	7/10/1670	?		
Johannes	1/25/1674	4/28/1720		
<b>Andreas</b>	6/12/1677	6/25/1752	Regula Ott	1/9/1703
Hans Ulrich	3/31/1681	?		

Source data suggests that Andreas was a “juror”, living in the village of Dorf, but temporarily living in Rain. A juror in Switzerland in this time frame was an individual who served in an elected position similar to what a jurist does today, but on a fulltime basis. It is safe to assume that the position of “juror” had to do with the legal system in place in Switzerland in that time. If the occupation was of a short duration, it is not known what Andreas Pünter did for a living before and after his position as juror.

Andreas and Margreth's son, also named Andreas, carried the name forward towards Heinrich Pünter of Bureau County, IL.

### **Fourth Generation**

Andreas and Margreth's son Andreas married Regula Ott and had 4 children. Regula died at a young age after bearing 4 children and Andreas subsequently married Anna Steffen and later Barbara Pfenninger. No children were born of these last two marriages according to the records.

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Andreas Pünter	6/12/1677	6/25/1752		1/9/1703
Regula Ott	?	9/13/1726		
Kathrina	9/16/1703			
Hans Jakob	8/11/1709	7/22/1711		
Johannes	3/20/1712	3/26/1720		
<b>Johannes</b>	12/20/1717	7/4/1784	Elisabeth Ryffel	
Anna Steffen	?	2/20/1736		2/3/1728
Barbara Pfenninger	?	1/1/1744		6/21/1740

Andreas and Regula's son Johannes continued the family line forward to our Heinrich.

### Fifth Generation

Johannes Pünter married Elisabeth Ryffel and had four children. When Elisabeth died young, Johannes then married Maria Dolder and had 4 more children. When Maria died, he married Regula Rüeegg and had one more child.

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Johannes Pünter	12/20/1717 or 3/20/1712	7/4/1784		
Elisabeth Ryffel		2/10/1751		
<b>Johannes</b>	5/19/1737		Elisabeth Meili	10/31/1773
Barbara	8/9/1740	4/11/1755		
Margaretha	12/24/1741			
Regula	2/2/1744			
Maria Dolder	2/22/1728	2/11/1766		8/15/1751
Elisabeth	8/13/1752		Johannes Wyssling	
Anna	3/13/1757	1/29/1768		
Barbara	6/23/1761	8/26/1774		
Hans Rudolph	8/7/1763			
Regula Rüeegg	10/23/1732	11/8/1772		10/21/1770
Barbara	11/8/1772			

Johannes Pünter's first born child, a son also named Johannes, continued the family line towards our Heinrich.

The life of Johannes Pünter as listed in the table above exemplifies the challenges of life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century about as well as any other family. While many families



were comprised of a husband and wife and 5 to 10 children, Johannes life was a little different.

Johannes was a Juror. A juror was probably an employee of the court or judicial system that existed in that time. He worked in the village of Fangen.

When Johannes was in his early 20s, he married Elisabeth Ryffel, age unknown. In the seven years between 1737 and 1744, 4 children were born. One child, a girl, died at the age of 15. Seven years after the birth of her last child, Elisabeth died. While her exact age is unknown, it is estimated to be between 35 and 40. Johannes was about the same age.

Johannes, left with 4 children between the ages of 7 and 14, remarried. He married Maria Dolder just about 6 months after Elisabeth died. He was about 39 at the time and Maria was about 23 years old. Johannes and Maria had 4 more children between 1751 and 1766. One of their children died at the age of 11, another at the age of 13. These two plus the child of Elisabeth who died at the age of 15 makes 3 children that Johannes lost in his lifetime.

Maria died at the age of about 38. Johannes was about 54.

Johannes was now left with 7 children between the ages of 29 and 3. It is feasible that the older children were married by this time. However, Johannes could have been left with at least 4 children still at home.

About 4 years after Maria died Johannes married Regula Rüegg in 1770. Johannes was about 58 while Regula was about 38 years old. Two years later, in 1772, Regula gave birth to a daughter but died in child birth. She was about 40 years old.

Johannes was again a widower with possibly 5 children at home. There are no records to indicate that he married again.

### **Sixth Generation**

Johannes Pünter was born on 19 May 1737 in Stäfa. At age of about 36, he married Elisabeth Meili. Elisabeth was about 27 years old and was born in the village of Bubikon. Johannes and Elisabeth had 10 children. Two children apparently died very young and so subsequent children were named after them. The first Anna apparently died before the age of one. The first Hans Jacob apparently died before the age of 2.

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Johannes Pünter	5/19/1737	1/29/1809		10/31/1773
Elisabeth Meili	12/17/1746	3/24/1834		
Johannes	4/24/1775			
Anna	8/17/1776	childhood		
Anna	8/13/1777		Jakob Wirz	9/6/1805
Hans Jakob	8/8/1779	childhood		
<b>Hans Jakob</b>	5/1/1781	1/23/1843	Regula Wyssling	10/8/1805
Katharine	7/14/1782			
Susanna	9/15/1783		Rudolf Bosshart	7/21/1813
Hans Heinrich	1/11/1785			
Maria	2/10/1788		Jacob Pfenninger	9/19/1814
Heinrich	9/29/1789			

Notes:

- Johannes Pünter was a “juror” in the village of Fangen and later the village of Laubisrüti.
- Anna married Jakob Wirz from the town of Bubikon on 6 September 1805.
- Susanna married Rudolf Bosshart from Sternenbergn on 21 July 1813.
- Maria married Jakob Pfenninger from Bäretswill on 19 September 1814.

Fangen and Laubisrüti and also Dorf were villages near Stäfa in this time frame. Today Fangen does not appear on maps while Dorf and Laubisrüti do.

The documentation from Switzerland suggests that Johannes was a Geschworne which literally translates from Swiss German to English as “juror”. A juror in 18<sup>th</sup> century Switzerland was an employee of the judicial system in place at the time.

The source also shows that Johannes owned some amount of land in Fangen containing vineyards and trees and sold all or part of that land in 1793 at the age of about 56, about 16 years before his death. Perhaps this occurred when he retired or changed job location. The documentation suggests that he sold 15 acres of vineyards and 120 acres of woodlands. The measurements were actually in terms of Jucharten (plural). One Juchart (singular) was about 30 acres.

The source also suggests that in 1801, it is presumed based on a land recording, that Johannes purchased land in Laubisrüti and then lived there. The records show he purchased:

40 acres of vineyards	56 acres meadowland
45 acres field	60 acres of woods
A house, barn, and garden	

One son, Hans Jakob, carried on the family line when he married Regula Wyssling in 1805.

## Seventh Generation

Hans Jakob Pünter was born in Stäfa on 1 May 1781. We do not know Hans Jakob's occupation in Stäfa. On 8 October 1805, at the age of about 24, he married Regula Wyssling. Regula was born on 12 September 1779. She was about 26 years old. Her parents were Jakob Wyssling and Susanna Oetiker. Hans and Regula had three children.

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Hans Jakob Pünter	5/1/1781	1/23/1843		9/6/1805
Regula Wyssling	9/12/1779	2/3/1814		
Anna Barbara	3/25/1806	5/7/1836		
Hans Jakob	5/14/1808			
<b>Heinrich</b>	08/15/1810 or 17th	1/12/1900	Elisabeth Hohenbrunner	
Magdalena Furrer	7/1/1787	9/3/1841		7/25/1814
Jakob	9/17/1815			

Their third child, Heinrich, is my greatgreatgrandfather. Heinrich was born on either the 15<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1810 in Stäfa. Both dates have been found. It is probable that he was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> and was christened on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In the US, he gave his birth date as 17 August 1810.

There is a conflict in Heinrich's birth date. Some records from Stäfa show a birth date of 15 October 1810. Church records and death records and Heinrich's death certificate all show an August 1810 birthdate, so August may be the correct month. It is remotely possible that he was born in August and christened in October.

Regula died at age 34 years, 4 months, and 19 days of age, on 3 February 1814 when Heinrich was about 3 ½ years old. The cause of death is unknown. Within six months, Hans Jakob remarried. He married Magdalena Furrer. Magdalena was about 27 when she married Hans Jakob, He was about 33. Magdalena was born in Fischenthal, Switzerland. Hans Jakob and Magdalena immediately had another child, Jakob. (Note: Fischenthal is a village about 10 miles straight line distance to the northeast of Stäfa).

Here is what we know about Heinrich's brothers and sisters:

- Anna Barbara died in 1836 at the age of about 29.
- Hans Jakob was missing or unaccounted for at the age of about 12 (1820) – The Swiss German statement regarding Hans is “Fehlt 1820” which translates literally to “missing 1820”.
- Heinrich's half-brother Jakob married in Bavaria.

In 1817, Heinrich's father Hans Jakob moved his entire family to Bavaria, Germany. Heinrich was about 7 years old at the time of the move. He grew up and worked in Germany until about 1848 when he and Elisabeth Hohenbrunner emigrated from Germany to America and settled in Bureau County, Illinois.

(Research data shows that at least 3 people from Tree C other than Heinrich had migrated to America by 1855).

Various written records have provided this information about Hans Jacob and Heinrich's occupation:

Hans Jakob Pünter immigrated to Bavaria in 1817 where he was employed as a Wegmacher in the Kingdom of Bavaria for the street of Rosenheimer in Feldkirchen. Heinrich was similarly employed.

The above statement was translated from Swiss German. Here is an explanation.

1. Feldkirchen is a village about 10 km (6 miles) to the southeast of Munich, Germany, and about 10 km due south of Aitersteiner, Germany.
2. A Wegmacher is or at least was at that time a person who was paid to maintain a particular section of a road.
3. Rosenheimerstrasse is the name of a road in present-day Bavaria that runs from the town of Rosenheim to Munich. It passes through Feldkirchen and it is assumed that the road existed in Hans Jakob's day.

According to a job description of a Wegmacher (the occupation of Heinrich and his father in Bavaria) dated 1872, a Wegmacher's job was to maintain a given section of a road. Here are some excerpts from the job description. The language is the literal translation of the original German text and thus the sentences are not structured as we would expect:

### **Instruction for Salaried Bavarian Wegmacher**

Each receives its Wegmacher Street Circuit instructed that he supervise and in good position to receive mobile has. All the occurring bridges, culverts, retaining walls, and the shore, water, Railings, stone weir, signs, trademarks, fencing and street trees hedges be under his direct supervision.

The ordinary work of the Wegmachers are as follows:

a.) The cleaning of ditches and road curbs, which work mainly in Spring is to be executed. Hiebei has exactly the same to the instructions of the Land technician to maintain and Unskilled workers only to the extent to use, as someone for nothwenig consider. In the mountain roads is a special custody belonging to

the state holding the ditches to be used to assist in driving rain damage to the Roadway to avoid.

b.) The feeding of the railways, combined computing, dismantling the Rolling Stones and Ausebnen the potholes.

c.) The disconnecting the Rõth from the roadway, which pile up at the same Roadside and the early elimination of his errand. At some point can hence the road embankment and supplements to balance any unevenness will.

d.) The fixing of the street trees on the supporting rods;

e.) The suspension and pruning of street living enclosures during the spring;

According to the source information, Heinrich also performed this same kind of work for some unknown period of time in Bavaria before he and Elisabeth Hohenbrunner of Aitersteinerung immigrated to America in about 1848.

### **A Side-Note About Swiss Children's Names**

The top 10 names given to children by Stäfa parents between 1560 and 1960 were:

Jakob	30
Rudolf	27
Elisabeth	24
Johann	24
Anna	23
Barbara	20
Heinrich	15
Hans	9
Regula	9
Catharina	8

Most of these names were brought to America by immigrants and used in their own families.

As best as I know recall, here are some pronunciations:

Jakob	Yak ob
Elisabeth	El-sa- bet or El-sa-betta
Anna	Ahhh-na
Heinrich	Hein-rishh
Hans	Hahhns

## The German Connection

**A**s noted above, Hans Jacob Pünter, his wife Magdalena Furrer and their children Anna Barbara, Heinrich, Hans Jacob, and Jacob, all left Stäfa and migrated to Upper Bavaria. The documented date was April 1817, when Heinrich was about 7 years old.



Forstinning  
Coat of Arms

In Bavaria, Heinrich grew up, became employed, and ultimately met Elisabeth Hohenbrunner from the village of Aitersteinerling, and they migrated to America in 1848.

During my visit to Germany in June 2010, I connected with a Hohenbrunner family that is related to Elisabeth. From that visit, I was able to gain a little information on the Hohenbrunner family. Unfortunately, we do not know as much about this family as we do about the Pünters. We may never know more than we know now.

I also found and visited the Catholic Church which Elisabeth possibly attended in the village of Forstinning. I also visited the Catholic Church Archives in Munich and was able to get some key information from them.

Finally, I was able to walk the grounds where the family lived and where Elisabeth presumably grew up.

According to the COH records, and substantiated by Catholic Archives, Elisabeth Hohenbrunner was born on 3 August 1813 in Aitersteinerling. At that time, Aitersteinerling was a small and separate village. Today it is a part of the municipality of Forstinning. Physically, there are signs denoting that you are entering and leaving Aitersteinerling, but administratively, it is part of Forstinning.

Elisabeth's parents were named Melchior Hohenbrunner and Elisabeth Köch (or Keck). The following table lists the entire Hohenbrunner family from which our Elisabeth is descended:

Name	Birth Date	Baptism Date	Died	Married
Melchior Hohenbrunner	?		?	15 May 1800
Elisabeth Köch	?		?	
Melchior	5/9/1778	5/9/1778	5/6/1799	
Joseph	2/28/1800	2/28/1800		
Monica	5/4/1801	5/4/1801	12/20/1804	
Melchior	12/13/1802	12/13/1802	1/6/1805	
Melchior	9/3/1805	9/3/1805		
Anna	9/3/1807	9/3/1807		
Georg	1/31/1810	1/31/1810		
Franz	5/16/1811	5/16/1810		
<b>Elisabeth</b>	8/3/1813	8/3/1813	5/8/1865	
Maria	2/10/1816	2/10/1816		

Elisabeth's father Melchior was a farmer in Aitersteinerling. Her mother's maiden name was Köch or Kech. There is a conflict in the spelling of this name as provided by the Archives.

Note: The Catholic Archives made a point of noting that Elisabeth's oldest two brothers, Melchior and Joseph, were born before their parents were married and were therefore illegitimate. Of course, the term illegitimate meant, in that time, that the parents were not married.

The Hohenbrunner family I visited in Aitersteinerling is descended from Melchior who was born on 3 September 1805 (see above chart).

Here are Elisabeth's grandparents:

Grandfather and grandmother on her father's side:

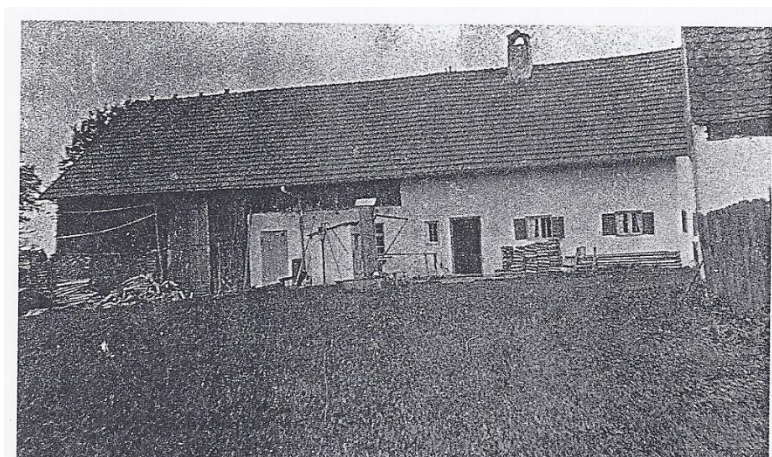
- Melchior Hohenbrunner (also referred to as Kaiser) - lived in Aitersteinerling
- Maria Hohenbrunner

Grandfather and grandmother on her mother's side:

- Anton Keck, a miller from the village of Sempt (Note: the name may be spelled Köch)
- Margaretha Keck

The area of Upper Bavaria where Aitersteinerling is located is, for the most part, flat farmland. Aerial photos of the area show a patchwork of green fields of what appears to be corn and grains. There are no mountains and only a gentle hill here and there. One might say that the area resembles the Illinois prairie to some extent. Also, the area has a patchwork of forests with tall straight pine trees. One particularly large forest exists just a mile or less south of Aitersteinerling. It is likely that forests covered more of the land in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area is known as Upper Bavaria because its elevation is generally higher than the rest of Bavaria.

The following picture was scanned from a German-language book titled *Chronik der Gemeinde Forstinning*. (Chronicle of the Municipality of Forstinning). This book is a history book of Forstinning and contains the history of many buildings in the Forstinning/Aitersteinerling area.



It is thought that this is the home that our Elisabeth was born in.

According to the records, this house was sold in 1837 to Melchior Hohenbrunner (our Elisabeth's brother, born 1805) by his mother, a widow, Elisabetha Hohenbrunner. The exact literal translation of the wording of this transaction on 15 June 1837 as found in the above book is as follows:

Melchior Hohenbrunner has the imperial court according to a letter from the 15 June 1837 of his mother, the widow Elisabetha Hohenbrunner during the value posted to 1339 guildens and 50 Kr. Taken over and according to the marriage contract of 14 January of the wife Monika, born as Moser, to the joint ownership in marriage.

The widow Elisabetha is presumed to be the mother of our Elisabeth, Heinrich's wife.

In other words, Melchior married or was married to Monika Moser and then bought this home from his mother in 1837. It is from this description that we might assume that this is the home of our Elisabeth Hohenbrunner and her mother and brother and possibly the entire Hohenbrunner family. In 1837, Elisabeth would have been 24 years old. Of course, it is not clear if Elisabeth was living there or if she continued to live here after this transaction. The home is large and was comprised of a home and barn in one structure.

(Note: it was common in this time to construct long two-story buildings on a farm. One end of the building was the living area while the remaining space was a barn. In the photo above, the right half of the building was probably the living area while the left side was a barn. This construction is common in this part of Bavaria today as well as in the past. Many of the old buildings in existence today were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later renovated.)

Melchior passed the home down to his son Franz and wife Elisabeth in 1875. In 1893 the house was sold to a buyer outside of the Hohenbrunner family.

The particular building described above and owned by the Hohenbrunner family no longer exists. A massive tornado hit the Forstinning/Aitersteiner area on 14 July 1894 and destroyed many buildings. According to the house records, the storm did damage to this house (Google Translate translation):

Stables and barns destroyed totally, at the house roof torn off, the oven with Wagenschupfe Ziegeldachung partially destroyed.

The home was probably rebuilt after the storm. The house records have entries for as late as 1954 so the building was probably razed in or after 1954. The date of the above photo is unknown.

The house sat on the main road of Aitersteiner. This road today is the main street that connects Aitersteiner and Forstinning and other towns as it heads west to Munich passing through the villages of Neufarn, Parsdorf and Weissenfeld, and also east to Neupullach.



Finally, the house pictured above had a name, Kaiser, in the early days of its existence. Houses had names in that time frame. It is interesting that Kaiser is also a name associated with Elisabeth's grandfather Melchior Hohenbrunner and thus helps to justify that this house was the home of Elisabeth and her family. However, the word Kaiser is related to German emperors so, in the context of the Hohenbrunner house, the word Kaiser may have a meaning other than emperor.

### **Other Families from the Aitersteiner Area**

Here is a list of villages near Aitersteiner. The village is listed first, and the municipality it belongs to is shown in parenthesis. Under the village name are family surnames that we also find in Bureau County. The date shown is the estimated date of immigration:

Neufarn (Parsdorf)

Phillip and Katharina Doll and family 1847

Philippine Doll 1847

Parsdorf (Parsdorf)

None known from this village

Weissenfeld (Parsdorf)

Gottlieb Hahn 1847

Rachel Hahn 1846

Georg and Eva Weissenberger and family 1847

Aitersteiner (Forstinning)

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner 1848

Elisabeth Weissenberger 1847

Leonhard (or Bernhard) and Elisabeth Weissenberger and family 1847

Baldham (Parsdorf)

Johann Landerer 1848

Katharina Weissenberger 1847

Neupullach (Hohenlinden)

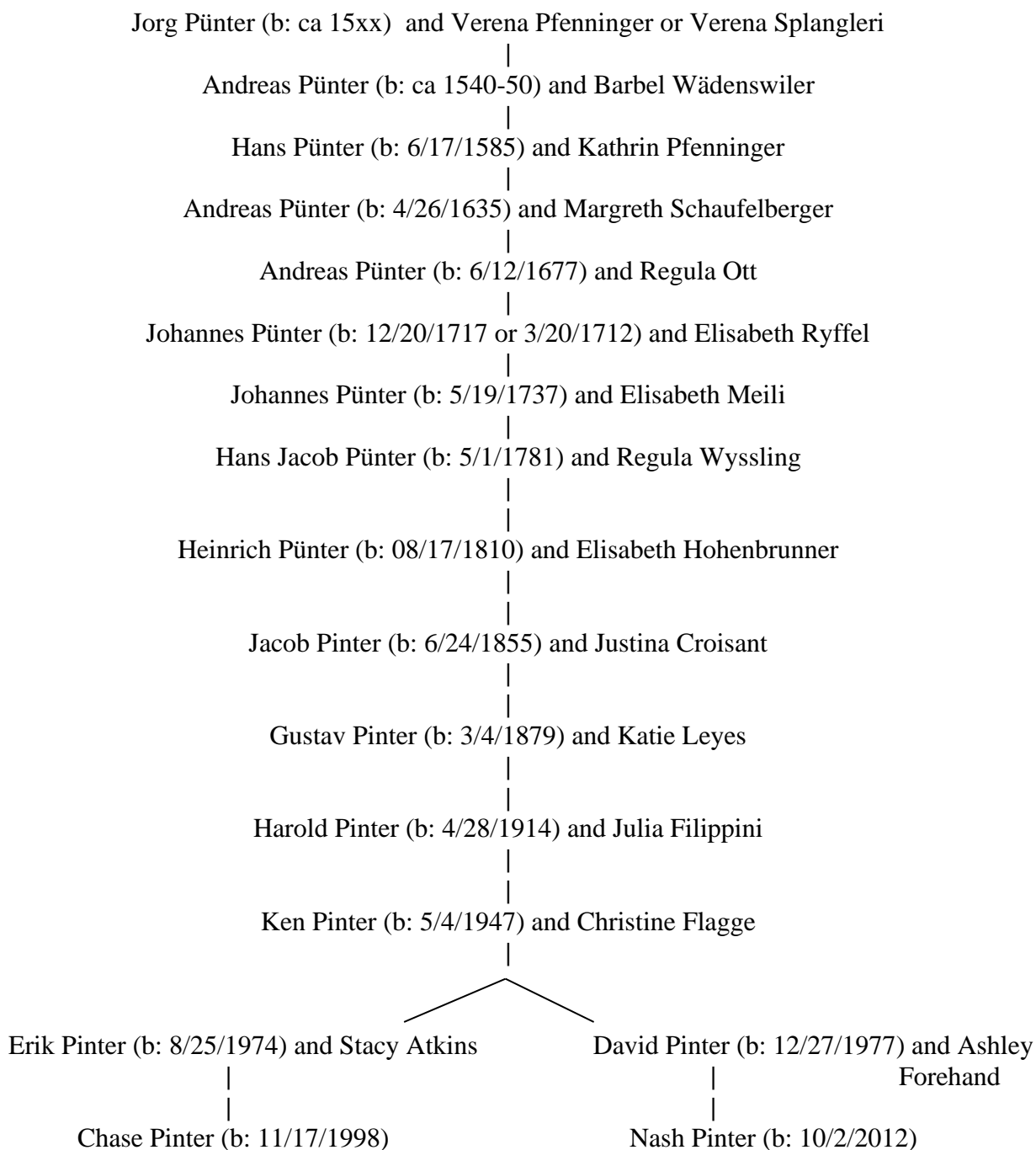
Nikolaus and Katharina Schlegel 1852

Note: each of these villages belongs to a higher-level community (aka Gemeinde). That community name is shown in parentheses. The date shown is the year of emigration from Bavaria.

Note that this listing demonstrates how many family names that we find in Bureau County have connections to this part of Germany,



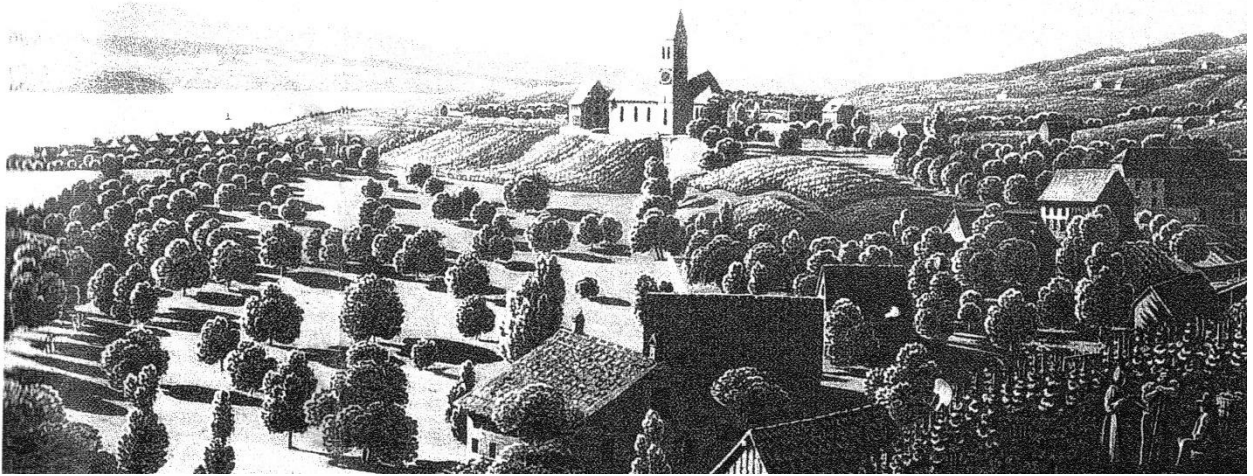
# The Pinter Family Line – 500 Years of History – Tree C



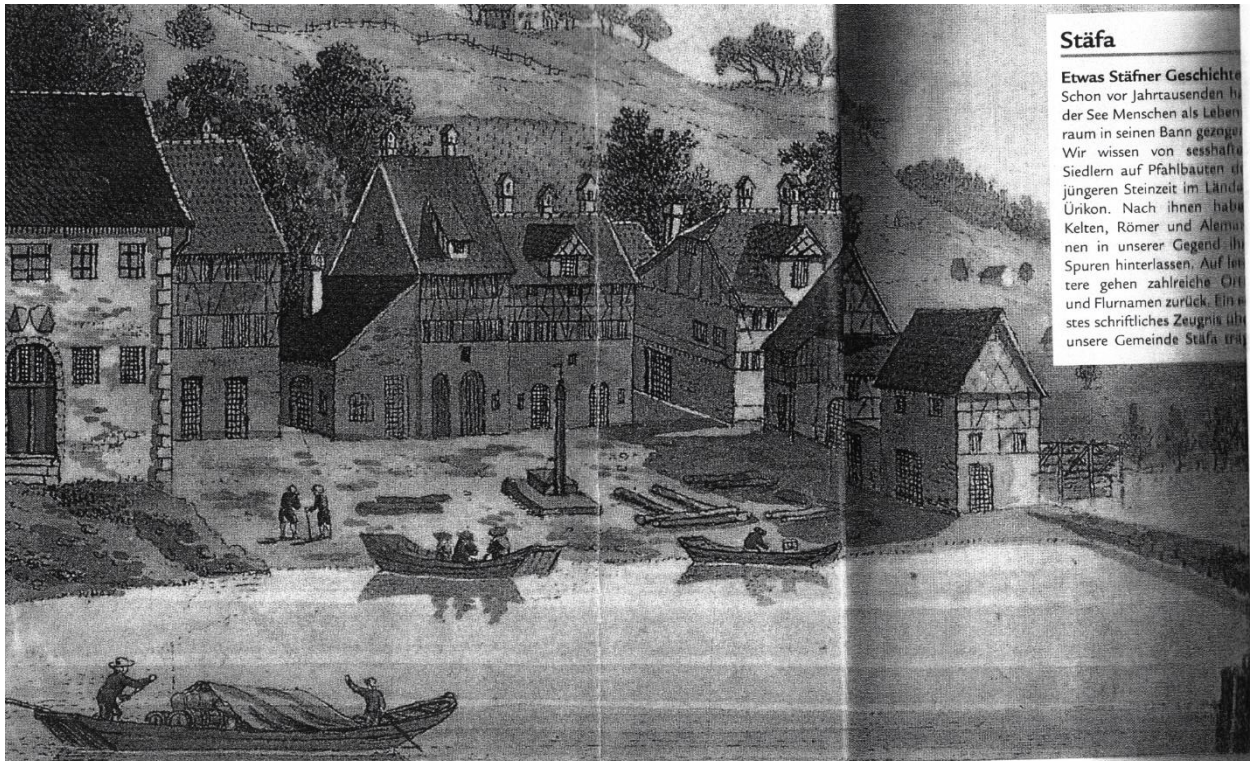
With all due respect to the women of the Pünter/Pinter family, this tree is intended to show the direct path or “line” from Jorg Pünter in early 1500s (the first known Pünter male in our tree) to my sons and grandsons and I in the present day. It is not intended to be a complete family tree since that would simply not fit on even a few pages.

## Stäfa Picture Album

(See more pictures on the web site at [www.kenpinter.com](http://www.kenpinter.com))



Westward view of the Church of Stäfa as it appeared in 1830 – Ink drawing by Joseph Meinrad Kälin – Original in Zentralbibliothek Zurich



The village of Otiker showing the granary built in 1835/36 and demolished in 1868 – by Heinrich Brupbacher, 1790 – original in Zentralbibliothek Zurich





From a series of engravings of villages on Lake Zurich by Johannes Hofmeister and Heinrich Brupbacher, 1794. This is the village of “La Källhof a Stäfa: (Kehlhof) adjacent to present day Stäfa.





Lake Zurich

Unter Wacht

Ober Wacht

Church

Dorf

Map of 1783 Stäfa from a book titled: "Stäfa: Wohnen Arbeiten Mitreden Leben"





Stäfa and Lake Zurich



The Pünter's church in Stäfa



Possible location of Heinrich's home



Possible location of Heinrich's home



Possible location of Heinrich's home



Tannery owned by a Pünter from Tree A



Painting of old Stäfa - Date unknown



Painting of old Stäfa  
1893



## Aitersteinerling Picture Album

(See more pictures on the web site at [www.kenpinter.com](http://www.kenpinter.com))



Entering Aitersteinerling



Catholic Church – Forstinning  
(probably the Hohenbrunn's church)



Location of Elisabeth's home in early  
19<sup>th</sup> century



Location of Elisabeth's home in early  
19<sup>th</sup> century



RosenheimerStrasse  
marker



Section of RosenheimerStrasse  
near Feldkirchen



Countryside around Aitersteinering



Countryside around Aitersteinering



Countryside around Aitersteinering