

Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book

***Simple Timeline of the Pünters of Switzerland
and Germany***

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Introduction

With the help of various resources, we have been able to draw a reasonably accurate timeline of the Pünters of Stäfa Switzerland back to about 1550. Of course, the further back one goes, the less accurate and less detailed the ancestry becomes. But, the timeline back to the mid-1700's is quite accurate.

This paper will define, with as much detail as is known, the Hans Jacob Pünter family beginning in about 1737. Hans Jacob is the father of Heinrich Pünter who immigrated to Bureau County, Illinois. Hans Jacob is my 3 times greatgrandfather. He was married twice and fathered four known children. One was Heinrich. He took his family from Switzerland to Germany in 1817 presumably looking for a better life and apparently never went back to Switzerland to live. However, resources show that notices of some of the events of his life while in Germany somehow found their way back to Stäfa as shown in some hand-written Stäfa civil and church records.

Resources

The names and dates shown in this timeline were extracted predominately from these resources:

- 1) Handwritten civil and possibly church records found in the State Archive of Munich (Germany) and the State Archive of the Canton of Zurich (Switzerland).
- 2) Family records of the Reformed Evangelical Church of Stäfa acquired at an LDS research facility (microfilm).
- 3) Translations of the above records by myself and others.

Three Recent Generations of the Pünter Family

Johannes Pünter Family

Johannes Pünter is the first family member to be detailed in this timeline. He is my 4-times great grandfather. For the purposes of this paper, I have chosen to start with him simply because less is known about the generations before him. Here is his complete family as we know it:

Name	Born	Married	Died	Notes
Johannes Pünter	5/19/1737	10/31/1773	1/29/1809	Grandfather of Heinrich
Elisabetha Meili	12/17/1746	10/31/1773	3/24/1834	
Johannes	5/2/1775	4/11/1804	11/8/1827	
Anna	8/25/1776			
Anna	8/21/1777	9/6/1805		
Hans Jacob	5/6/1781	#1 – 9/6/1805 #2 – 7/25/1814	1/23/1843	Heinrich's father
Susanna	9/21/1783	7/4/1813		
Maria	2/10/1788	9/19/1814		

The Hans Jacob Pünter Family

Johannes' son Hans Jacob Pünter is the next generation moving forward. Hans Jacob Pünter is my 3-times great grandfather. His son Heinrich immigrated to the US in about 1848 or earlier and established the Pünter/Pinter family in Illinois. This table shows the Hans Jacob Pünter family in total as it existed in the late 1700s and into the early to mid-1800s:

Name	Born	Died	Notes
Hans Jacob Pünter	6 May 1781	23 Jan 1843	Married: 6 Sept 1805
Regula Wyssling	12 Sept 1779	3 Feb 1814	
Anna Barbara	25 Mar 1806	7 May 1836	
Hans Jacob	14 May 1808		unverified
Heinrich	17 Aug 1810	12 Jan 1900	
Hans Jacob Pünter	6 May 1781	23 Jan 1843	Married: 25 July 1814
Magdalena Furrer	1 July 1787	3 Sept 1841	
Jacob	17 Sept 1815		Married on 11 May 1854

Hans Jacob was born in Stäfa, Zurich, Switzerland.

Regula's birthplace is undetermined.

Regula died in 1814 and Hans Jacob married Magdalena 6 months later.

Magdalena's birthplace is Fischenthal, Zurich, Switzerland

We also have the names of the parents of Heinrich's mother Regula Wyssling (Heinrich's maternal grandparents):

f: Johann Jacob Wyssling (1750-1805)

m: Susanna Oetiker (1752-1784)

Magdalena Furrer's parents are:

f: Unknown

m: Unknown

Heinrich Pünter

Heinrich migrated to Germany with his family when he was 6 years old. He migrated to the USA in about 1848. We do not know if he migrated to the USA alone, with Elizabeth Hohenbrunner, his wife or future wife-to-be.

Hans Jacob Pünter's Family Time Line

Here is the detailed timeline for this family as we know it today, beginning with Johannes Pünter, Heinrich's grandfather:

19 May 1737	Johannes Punter is born <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heinrich's grandfather
17 December 1746	Elisabetha Meili is born <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heinrich's grandmother
31 October 1773	Johannes marries Elisabetha
12 September 1779	Regula Wyssling is born <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regula was Hans Jacobs first wife and she is the mother of our Heinrich.• It is believed she was born in Stäfa
6 May 1781	Hans Jacob Pünter is born to Johannes and Elisabetha <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hans Jacob is the father of our Heinrich• Born in Stäfa, Zurich, Switzerland
1 July 1787	Magdalena Furrer is born <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She is Heinrich's step mother• Born in Fischenthal, Zurich, Switzerland
6 September 1805	Hans Jacob and Regula Wyssling marry
25 March 1806	Anna Barbara is born to Hans Jacob and Regula <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heinrich's sister
14 May 1808	Jacob is born to Hans Jacob and Regula <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heinrich's full brother
29 January 1809	Johannes dies
17 August 1810	Heinrich is born to Hans Jacob and Regula

3 Feb 1814	<p>Regula dies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Died in Laubrisuti (part of Stäfa) at age 34 years • She is Heinrich's mother • Heinrich was about 4 years old
25 July 1814	<p>Hans Jacob and Magdalena marry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob remarried about 5.5 months after Regula died. • She is Heinrich's step-mother
April 1817	<p>Hans Jacob Pünter family moves to Germany</p>
17 September 1815	<p>Jacob is born to Hans Jacob and Magdalena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is Heinrich's half brother
7 May 1836	<p>Heinrich's sister Anna Barbara dies at age 30</p>
3 Sept 1841	<p>Magdalena dies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heinrich's stepmother
23 January 1843	<p>Hans Jacob Pünter (Heinrich's father) dies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He died at age 61 in Feldkirchen, Bavaria, Germany • This shows that Jacob never returned to live in Switzerland
1838	<p>Heinrich and Elisabeth have a child together in Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anton – died in infancy
1845	<p>Heinrich and Elisabeth have another child together in Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anton – died in infancy
1848	<p>Heinrich and Elisabeth immigrates to USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an estimated date. The exact date is unknown.
1848+	<p>Heinrich marries Elisabeth Hohenbrunner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and Date unknown • Elisabeth is from Aitersteiner in Bavaria
1850 to 1900	<p>Heinrich and Elisabeth raise two sons in Illinois</p>
11 May 1854	<p>Heinrich's half-brother marries Elisabetha Jager Huber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was from Eglharting, Bavaria, Germany
8 May 1865	<p>Elisabeth dies in Bureau County, Illinois USA</p>
12 January 1900	<p>Heinrich dies in Bureau County, Illinois, USA</p>

Where Did They Live?

It is generally known that the Pünter family lived in the Village of Stäfa in the Canton of Zurich in Switzerland. However, in the ancient days, Stäfa had a number of “areas” within it with different names. Today they might be called suburbs but that is a guess. A few of those areas were Dorf, Fangen, Laubrisuti, and possibly a few others. In addition, some Pünter spouses came from other parts of the Canton of Zurich. This is interesting because it shows that people of this time did not necessarily stay in one village but rather tended to branch out a little.

We can pick out a few pieces of location information from the above references, but this is minimal at this time. Here is what we know:

- 1) Heinrich’s grandfather, Johannes Pünter, and family may have lived in Fangen.
- 2) When Heinrich’s mother Regula died, she and her family lived in Laubrisuti.
- 3) Heinrich’s stepmother Magdalena Furrer was born in the village of Fischenthal.
- 4) Hans Jacob moved his family to Bavaria, Germany, in 1817 and may have settled near Feldkirchen which is near Rosenheim.
- 5) Hans Jacob died in Feldkirchen, Bavaria, Germany.
- 6) Heinrich’s half-brother Jacob married Elisabetha from Eglharting, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 7) Heinrich’s grandmother Elizabeth Meili was born in Baretswil.
- 8) Heinrich raised a family and died in Bureau County, Illinois, USA.

What did Hans Jacob and Heinrich do for a Living?

It is always interesting to explore what kinds of occupations our ancestors had. This is not always easy because not much written information exists that show their occupations. And, some occupations that existed then no longer exist today. But, we fortunately have some information and I will relate that in this section.

For example, I have found documents that tell that Heinrich’s grandfather and greatgrandfather had the occupation of Geschworner. This word literally translates from SwissGerman to the English word “juror”. A juror in 18th century Switzerland was an employee of the judicial system that existed at the time.

In addition, there is a document obtained from the State Archives of Zurich titled Family of Hans Jacob Pünter of Stäfa from Fangen in Bavaria, April 1817 (literal translation). It lists the members of the Hans Jacob Pünter family and contains these notes about their occupations in Bavaria.

- 1) Occupation of Hans Jacob Pünter (Heinrich’s father):

“Royal road builder in Feldkirchen in the region of Rosenheim in Bavaria.”

There is another translation of this that was found in a document prepared by Swiss historians who translated some of the church records from Stäfa:

“In 1817 he emigrated to Bavaria, where he became the Bavarian Wegmacher on Rosenheimerstrasse in Feldkirchen.”

2) Occupation of Heinrich Pünter:

“Royal road builder in the district of Ebersberg, Bavaria.”

Alternate translation by Swiss historians:

“was also bayr. Wegmacher” - that is, Bavarian road worker

The Swiss-German word Königlicher precedes the job title and translates literally to Royal. It is not clear the significance of this word in the descriptions of these two jobs but it is thought that it translates to the adjective “Bavarian”.

It is easy to believe, then, that Hans Jacob and Heinrich had the occupation of road maintenance after arrival in Bavaria because, in the days before 1900, roads were maintained by people called Wegmachers or Wegmeisters. Here is a translation of an excerpt of a document that explains this:

“.....and the first roads were paved only some 150 years ago. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the Wegmacher, who often lived with their families in houses that passed "their street" directly, had the task of maintaining the roads, which were mostly made of crushed gravel and gravel.”

From: <http://trift.org/features/beruf-wegmacher>

In addition to the above records, the following entry was found in a record of people working in Bavaria:

Pünter, Jakob, geb. ? in ?, + ?, Wegmeister in Niederneuching, k. Bauinspektion München I Laufzeit: 1821 - 1837

Explanation: This person was a Wegmeister (road worker) in the village of Niederneuching and a Bauinspektion (building inspector) in Munich. It is not at all clear, however, if this is our Jacob Pünter.

Here is more information on the occupation of Wegmacher:

From: <http://trift.org/features/beruf-wegmacher>

Like many other professions, the Wegmacher has been lost over time. Although many family and place names are reminiscent of "Nagelschmiede", "Bader", "Müller", "Seiler" or "Wegmacher", they all point to craft professions that have become obsolete by industrial production or the use of modern machinery.

So it is not surprising that the professional image of the Wegemacher is removed from the minds of the people. We live in such a "civilized" world that it is more natural to complain about bad road conditions than to abandon the stale idea that "nature" retains its place without any elaborate construction and maintenance work. However, in about 200,000 years of human history, it was not until the 18th century that roads were built that resembled those of today, and the first roads were paved only some 150 years ago. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the Wegemacher, who often lived with their families in houses that passed "their street" directly, had the task of maintaining the roads, which were mostly made of crushed gravel and gravel. After that, they were replaced by public sector road maintenance.

Now that the "paths" are now called "streets", full-time Wegemacher are nowadays only to be found in some alpine regions. They take care of the maintenance of hiking trails in areas where the ROI of a well-preserved road system is undoubtedly provided by tourism revenues.

End of Addendum