

Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book

*The Life of Elisabeth Hohenbrunner and
Heinrich Pünter in Switzerland and Germany*

by Ken Pinter
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Note: There are two Addendums about Heinrich and Elisabeth prior to 1850:

- 1) Heinrich and Elisabeth's Life in Switzerland and Germany (this one)
- 2) Heinrich and Elisabeth Immigrate to the United States of America

It is recommended you read them in the order shown. Note that some information is intentionally repeated between these Addendums.

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner and Heinrich Pünter are my great-great-grandparents. I have written about them in the past but at that time I had limited information. Today, I know more...but not everything....so here is the latest view of their life in Switzerland and Germany.

Significant resources used to create this addendum are listed at the end of the text.

This Addendum is an attempt to describe the life of Heinrich Pünter and Elisabeth Hohenbrunner in their respective native countries up until the time that they both immigrated to America. The content of this writing is based in part on fact, but part is based on generic information about life in 19th century Switzerland and Germany because few if any actual accounts about their early lives are available.

In summary, the Pünter family of Stäfa, Zurich, Switzerland, has roots that can be traced back to the 16th century. However, even with that extensive Swiss heritage, Hans Jacob Pünter chose in 1817 to move his family to Bavaria, Germany. There are numerous reasons put forward by others as to why the Pünters and other Swiss made the move to Germany. These include economic, religious, and political reasons. The why and where of this move will be reviewed in this Addendum.

In this paper, I will first discuss Elisabeth Hohenbrunner. Then I will discuss Heinrich Pünter. Then I will examine their life together.

Please note: I am using the spelling of Elisabeth's name with an "s" and not a "z". In addition, a few documents have listed her as Elisabetha. Most references spell her name with an "s".

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner, my great-great-Grandmother

Elisabeth was born in the small village of Aitersteinerling, in the district of Ebersberg, in the German state of (Upper) Bavaria, Germany, on 3 August 1813 and baptized the same day. The Hohenbrunner family can be found in Aitersteinerling as far back as the late 1600s. Farm homes had names back in that time. The Hohenbrunner house name was Kaiser. It is not known how the house acquired this particular name. The literal translation of Kaiser is Emperor, but that name does not seem to fit this family.

Elisabeth was the 10th child of 11 children in the family of Melchior Hohenbrunner and Elisabeth Köch or Köch. At least three siblings died at an early age. Her family was a farming family. Their home was a large and long building that housed the family's living area on one end while the remainder of the building was devoted to farming (ie, barn). This was a typical design in Germany in that time.

A table showing the complete Hohenbrunner family is found at the end of this addendum.

Aitersteinerling was a village or hamlet of its own back many years ago. Then later it administratively became a "constituent community" of the community of Forstinning. Geographically, they are adjacent to each other with Aitersteinerling being small compared to Forstinning. In the time, houses had names which were not necessarily the names of the occupants. Later, they also had house numbers such as Aitersteinerling 1, Forstinning 53, etc. Aitersteinerling/Forstinning is located about 15 to 20 miles east of Munich in Upper Bavaria. The terrain of this area is mostly flat and partially wooded and conducive to farming and has some similarities to the landscape of Bureau County, Illinois.

Being a farmer's daughter, and one of 11 total children, and one of 4 girls, our Elisabeth was probably tasked with helping with meals and home upkeep and tending to the garden, in addition to other tasks that needed doing on the farm. In a farming family in this era and later, everyone did whatever work that had to be done. Farms in this area in this time usually raised grains and livestock.

In addition, Elisabeth possibly attended some schooling when she was old enough, about 10 years old, but this is unknown. If she did, it may have lasted only through maybe age 15 or younger. Nevertheless, it is thought she probably stayed on the farm, potentially until she left Germany for America in 1848 at the age of about 35.

Tree notes:

Heinfeifer is an estimated spelling.

The Köch family may have come from the village of Moos.

Elisabeth's Ancestry Details

The first Hohenbrunner head of household found in the records is Johann Hohenbrunner. He married Eva Unknown. No other information on this family is known.

One of their sons was Laurent Hohenbrunner, born in Aitersteinerling. In 1724, Laurent married Ursula Wimer (1698 - ?), daughter of Sebastian Wimer and Ursula Unknown. Ursula came from the village of Erlbach.

Laurent and Ursula had a family of 8 children. One was a son Melchior, born in Aitersteinerling in 1744. In 1768 he married Maria Lipp, born in Finsing in 1747. Melchior and Marie had at least 5 children. One child was Melchior (1771 – 1825).

In 1800, Melchior married Elisabetha Köch. Elisabetha was the daughter of Anton Köch and Margaretha Heinfeifer who married in 1769 in Moos. Anton's parents were Paul Köch and Anna Unknown. Elisabetha's parents were Thomas Heinfeifer and Maria Unknown. Anton and daughter Elisabetha were born in the village of Sempt.

The 11th child of Melchior and Elisabetha is our Elisabeth.

The Early Days of Elisabeth's Childhood

Note: The given names Melchior and Elisabeth appear frequently in this report and may represent different people.

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner was born and baptized in Aitersteinerling, Forstinning, Ebersberg, Bavaria, Germany, on 3 August 1813. She was the tenth child of Melchior and Elisabeth Hohenbrunner. There were a total of 11 children, but at least 3 died within about three years of birth. Melchior was a farmer in Aitersteinerling according to records found at the Catholic Church Archives in Munich. The Hohenbrunner family was Catholic as was a large portion of the population of Bavaria.

Elisabeth's father and mother were farmers in the village of Aitersteinerling showing that Elisabeth was a farmer's daughter for most of her life in Germany.

Melchior Hohenbrunner and Elisabeth Köch married on 15 May 1800. A family record held in the Catholic Church archives shows that they had a child before they married. This child was also named Melchior, born in 1798. This child died in 1799. Their second child, Joseph, was born in 1800, also possibly before his parents married in May.

Their first two children were illegitimate according to the church records (as were many German children in the 1800s due to restrictions put on marriages to control over-population). But, while the laws could prevent marriages, they could not prevent births. The church archives also show the parents of Melchior and Elisabeth as follows:

Parents of Melchior Hohenbrunner

Father: Melchior Hohenbrunner, called Kaiser, inhabitant of Aitersteinerling

Mother: Maria Lipp

Note: the significance of the statement “called Kaiser” is not known

Parents of Elisabeth Köch

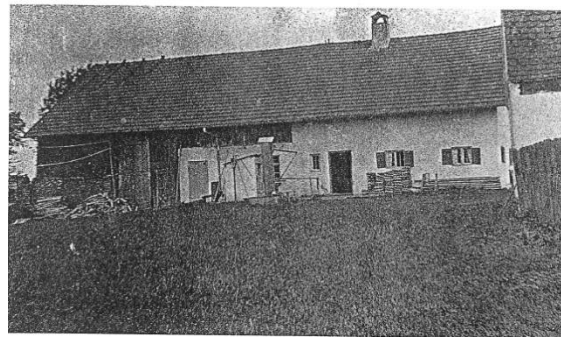
Father: Anton Köch, a miller in the village of Sempt (Sempt is a few miles to the north of Aitersteinerling)

Mother: Margaretha Heinfeifer

In the time of this family, Aitersteinerling was a village by itself. Today, Aitersteinerling has become a part of the municipality of Forstinning. Aitersteinerling is still identified by road signs.

Elisabeth’s Home in Aitersteinerling

The picture at the right is a farmhouse in Aitersteinerling that may well have been the home of Elisabeth as a child. This building is actually a farmhouse and barn combined. It was typical on German farms in that time to build at least one building that houses the farm family on one end and farm animals on the other end.



Some of the following information about the family home came from a German-language book titled Chronik der Gemeinde Forstinning published in 1995.

While there is no record found so far that tells when the Hohenbrunner family acquired or built their farm home, it is presumed that the family acquired the house/farm at Aitersteinerling 1 before 1744. Our Elisabeth was born to Melchior and Elisabeth in 1813, presumably at Kaiser House at Aitersteinerling 1.

Melchior, Elisabeth’s father, died on 14 March 1825. Elisabeth, her mother, and Elisabeth’s siblings continued to live in this home/farm.

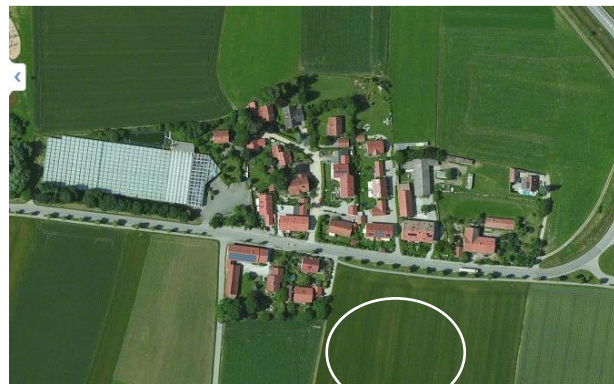
According to an ownership history of this farm, on 15 June 1837, Elisabeth, the widow of Melchior, sold or otherwise transferred ownership of this house to her son, another Melchior (b: 1805) and his wife Monica Moser. The record says that Melchior and Monica married on 14 January of unknown year. Another record says 4 Feb 1839, an apparent conflict of information.

We can assume that Elisabeth the widow continued to live in this house until she died. Our Elisabeth would have been 24 in 1837 but we don't know if she was living in this house or elsewhere. She did not emigrate to America until 1848. However, records that will be discussed later suggest she was with Heinrich and perhaps living on the family farm.

This farm was sold to another family by the Hohenbrunner family in about 1893 and now does not exist having been demolished sometime after 1954. The picture at the right shows the likely location of the farm.



The aerial photograph to the right shows the present village of Aitersteinerling and the circle marks the approximate location of the farm house, although the exact location is still unproven. Forstinning is just to the west (left) of this image and Munich is 30 miles further to the west.



Elisabeth's Childhood

But what about Elisabeth's childhood until 1837? As a child, it is thought that Elisabeth experienced a typical child's life. She may or may not have attended any schools and, until the age of about 10, probably just amused herself with dolls and other child toys of the time. From the age of about 10 and older, Elisabeth more than likely became a more integral part of the life of a farm family. Her tasks might have included housekeeping and tending to any garden they might have had. In the time, a garden was critical to the survival of the family. Aitersteinerling is essentially flat and green so gardens and general farming were productive.

In the meantime, Melchior and his sons worked the land producing the popular crops of the time including potatoes. And, they likely had animals to tend to.

Farming life in the time was difficult at best. Crop failure occurred. Melchior's land may not have been sufficient in size or quality to make a living. But, nevertheless, it seems that only Elisabeth emigrated. There is no other evidence that any of her siblings emigrated.

In 1823, Elisabeth attained the age of 10 years and had become a productive member of the family. But soon she would come of age to marry. What was going on in her life between 1823 and 1838, a span of about 15 years.

- 1) Did she remain single living at home during this time?
- 2) Did she marry someone else in this time and did she have children? If so, what happened to that family?

But as usual, answers to these questions are elusive.

I have included a table later in this report that shows the complete known family members of our Elisabeth's family.

Heinrich Pünter, my great-great-Grandfather

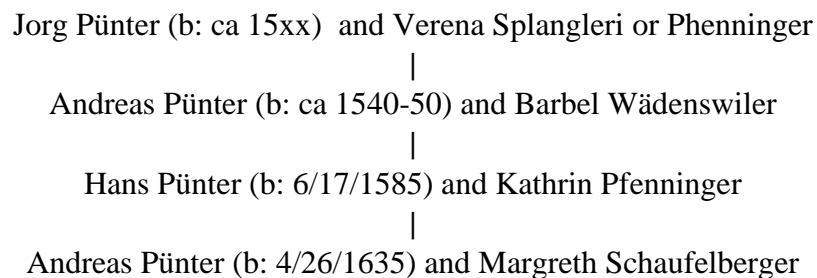
Next, I will discuss Heinrich Pünter, my great-great-grandfather. Heinrich ultimately married Elisabeth Hohenbrunner and went with her to America to live and raise a family. It is unproven if they married in Germany or Illinois, or maybe not at all. A marriage record for this couple has not been found in various records in Germany and in Illinois.

Heinrich was born in the village of Stäfa, in the Canton of Zurich, in Switzerland on 15 August 1810. Stäfa is found on the northeastern shores of Lake Zurich. His family can be traced back to the 1500s in Stafa.

Regrettably, we do not have as much information on Heinrich as we do on Elisabeth.

Heinrich's Ancestry

First, we will look at Heinrich's ancestry. The lineage diagram has been presented elsewhere, but I present it here for reference. This diagram shows the Pünter/Pinter family line from about 1540 to Heinrich (b: 1810):



|
Andreas Pünter (b: 6/12/1677) and Regula Ott
|
Johannes Pünter (b: 12/20/1717 or 3/20/1712) and Elisabeth Ryffel
|
Johannes Pünter (b: 5/19/1737) and Elisabeth Meili
|
Hans Jacob Pünter (b: 5/1/1781) and Regula Wyssling
|
Heinrich Pünter (b: 08/17/1810) and Elisabeth Hohenbrunner (b: 8/3/1813)

The Pünter Family Moves to Germany

Heinrich didn't live in Switzerland for very long. In 1814, his mother Regula Wysling died, and his father Hans Jacob remarried in the same year.

Then, as recorded in Stäfa church records, Hans Jacob Pünter (Heinrich's father), age 36, and his wife Magdalena (Heinrich's step-mother), age 30, and their children: Anna Barbara, age 11, Hans Jacob, age 9, Heinrich, age 7, departed Stäfa in April 1817 and travelled to Bavaria, Germany, to live.

It is highly likely that they left because of the starvation that prevailed as a result of the continual winter that occurred in 1816. It was recorded that around 3000 people migrated to the US in 1817. In the Pünter's case, they migrated to Bavaria, Germany.

Soon after their arrival, Heinrich's step-brother, Jacob, was born on 17 Sept 1815.

They settled initially in the village of Feldkirchen, not too far from Aitersteinerling (there are at least 2 Feldkirchens in Bavaria). There, both Heinrich and his father worked at one time or another as road maintenance workers (Wegmacher) for an unknown number of years.

It is not clear what Heinrich did as an occupation between when he became old enough to hold a paying job, in approximately 1825-30, other than the road maintenance job. However, we now know that by 1838 or earlier, he had settled in or near Aitersteinerling.

A table showing the entire family of Heinrich is found later in this paper.

Employment in Germany

We do not know Hans Jacob's occupation in Switzerland up until 1817 nor do we know exactly what caused them to leave. But, as discussed above, it may have been the fact that Switzerland was having a difficult time with famine caused by heavy population growth coupled with

Switzerland's inability to feed all of its inhabitants. As a result, many people left Switzerland in the 1816 to 1817 timeframe.

After the family settled in Bavaria, near Feldkirchen, Hans Jacob eventually took a job as a Wegmacher. A Wegmacher is one who maintains a section of roadway. Hans Jacob's assigned roadway was RosenheimerStrasse in Feldkirchen which means that is probably where they were living. We also know that Heinrich was employed with the same type of job sometime in his life.

(Note: as mentioned earlier, there are at least two Feldkirchens on modern day Bavarian maps: one is just to the east of Munich approximately halfway between Munich and Aitersteinerling. The other is some miles southeast of Munich on the way to Rosenheim. There is a Rosenheimerstrasse in this Feldkirchen but not in the Feldkirchen closer to Munich.)

Today that road is called by various names including M12, St2078, Rosenheimer Landstrase, Munchner Strase, Ayinger Strase, Durrnhaarer Strase, and Rosenheimerstrase, as it makes it way from Munich to Feldkirchen (Feldkirchen-Westerham) and then on to Bad Aibling and then Rosenheim. Feldkirchen is about 25 miles from Munich and about the same distance to Aitersteinerling, straight-line distance.

The other Feldkirchen is due east of Munich about halfway between Munich and Aitersteinerling. There is no reference to Rosenheimerstrasse near this town and so it is assumed this is not the town where Hans Jacob and family lived and was employed.

From this web site, we have a definition of a Wegmacher, literally translated from German:

<http://www.asamnet.de/~maschmid/Berufe.html>

Until the 70s of the last century occurred in the municipalities in the occupation of Wegmachers. Streets were commonplace. Especially in the larger cities, the streets were constantly "talk" to. Drainage channels led wastewater, waste water was directed to the streets freely. This meant that the paths, lanes and streets fell again in a bad state. Originally, many places were responsible for keeping clean and repair the local residents. Since these were often overtaxed, took over these tasks, the magistrates of cities and towns. The profession of "Wegmachers" was born. The profession itself was built about 1700, when the roads and the bridge was accelerated and systematized. The roadways were whether as county, district or Staatsstraßen rule "bound water" of gravel or dirt roads. Only rarely are the roads were paved. The patch technique of the Romans had been forgotten. The geschottertenWege had to keep the Wegmacher repaired. Two-wheeled carts, shovel, broom and Kotkrücke were his most common tools. Meanwhile, the "Successor profession", the road maintenance is a recognized profession. The first paved road comes from the Basel engineer Merian from 1849, the first motorway was the 1909th.

Another translation:

“called "Wegmacher" because of his work as a street worker”

Another record, containing a list of employees of the government of Upper Bavaria, lists a Jakob Pünter employed as a “Wegmeister in Niederneuching, k. Bauinspektion Munich I”.

This phrase may actually denote two different occupations, performed either one after the other or simultaneously.

The translation of wegmeister or wegemeister is “route master” or “route champion”. It is possible that a wegmeister was some sort of manager or foreman of people who worked on roads in that time. Therefore, the first occupation might be Route Master in Niederneuching. Niederneuching today is a village about 8 miles straight-line distance to the north of Aitersteining. It is feasible that Hans Jacob relocated to Niederneuching with or without his family in order to be a foreman, but of course this is not known. Had this happened, it would have put Heinrich much closer to Aitersteining where his future wife Elisabeth was born and lived.

Bau is German for “building” or “construction”, so a Bauinspektor may be one who inspects buildings or construction. The meaning of the “k.” and the “I” are unknown.

Heinrich’s Life in Bavaria - from 1817 to about 1838

Heinrich arrived in Germany at the age of 7. It is not known when he got the Wegmacher job. It was probably not until he was at least 15 years old or even earlier, for example, if he simply helped his father. Assuming that, then he got this job around or before 1825.

We don’t know what transpired with his life between about 1825 and about 1838. It is interesting, however, to speculate on the various different life scenarios that may have played out for Heinrich. They are:

- 1) He simply worked as a single man for those 13 years.
- 2) He joined the German and/or Swiss military.
- 3) He married someone other than Elisabeth and had a family, all of whom died before 1838.
- 4) He moved back to Switzerland, and then later returned to Bavaria.
- 5) There is a hand-me-down story in the family that Heinrich married Elisabeth in Germany.

Heinrich experienced the death of most of his family (presumably in Germany but their exact location of death is unknown) before he migrated to Illinois, as follows:

1. Heinrich’s natural mother died in Switzerland in 1814 when Heinrich was about 3 ½ years old.

2. Then, his brother Hans Jacob died in or before 1820 at the age of about 12. Hans Jacob's actual fate is unknown. One record says he was "missing" in 1820.
3. Then, his sister Anna Barbara died in 1836 at the age of 30.
4. Then, his stepmother died in 1841 at the age of 54.
5. Lastly, his father died in 1843 at the age of 62.

So, by the time Heinrich migrated to America, his entire family was deceased.

Heinrich and Elisabeth, the Couple

Sometime in the 1830s, Elisabeth met Heinrich. The circumstances of this are unknown. Maybe he was a farm hand on the Hohenbrunner farm. Or maybe he simply lived and worked in the Aitersteiner area and met Elisabeth (a farmer's daughter) in the village.

Whatever the circumstances, it seems that they developed a serious relationship and wanted to marry. German marriage laws were strict then. The couple practiced different religions, and Heinrich was not a German citizen (he renounced his allegiance to Switzerland only when he became a US citizen in 1857). It is possible that they were not allowed to marry because of these laws.

Nevertheless, our Elisabeth gave birth to a son in 1839. The birth records show that not only was Heinrich the father, but that the child, Anton, was illegitimate, meaning Heinrich and Elisabeth were not married. The record also shows her residence to be Aitersteiner 1, the house shown above. It is not clear from the record if Heinrich was also a resident of the same house at this time.

Anton died 9 days after he was born. Six years went by while Elisabeth and Heinrich continued to be together and, in 1845, Elisabeth gave birth to another son of Heinrich, also named Anton, also at Aitersteiner 1. Anton was also recorded as being illegitimate and died about 24 days after he was born. Church records confirm these births. There are no records of any other children born to Elisabeth and Heinrich in Germany.

Handwritten birth records for the two Antons were found in Catholic Church Archives that are held in Munich, Germany, and which were digitized and placed online.

In summary, Heinrich and Elisabeth had two children while unmarried in Bavaria:

Anton, born on 9 June 1839 and died 18 June 1839

Anton, born on 28 January 1845 and died 24 February 1845.

Our Elisabeth had a younger sister, Maria. She was three years younger than Elisabeth. It is interesting that Maria also gave birth to two illegitimate children in about the same timeframes as her older sister Elisabeth. Here are Maria's children.

Elisabeth, born 7 August 1839 and died 17 August 1839

Unknown name born 19 July 1843 and died 13 August 1843

Much of the information provided above came from Catholic Church birth records. However, there are three other records in the Catholic Church records from Aitersteinerling/Forstinning that show the members of the Melchior/Elisabeth family (our Elisabeth's family) and the Melchoir/Monica family (family of our Elisabeth's brother Melchior). These records show family households and would be roughly equivalent to today's census records. The dates when these records were created are not given.

The first record simply shows the Melchior/Elisabeth family. Melchior is not listed because he is presumably deceased. Listed are his wife Elisabeth plus the last 4 of her children who were still living at home on the farm, that is, Melchior, Franz, our Elisabeth, and Maria. It is estimated that this record was created between 1825 and 1843 (Melchior's and Elisabeth's death dates). Again, see a listing of the complete family at the end of this report.

The second record shows the family household of Melchior and Monica presumably living at the same place, Aitersteinerling 1. The date of the record is not shown, which is unfortunate. This record shows Melchior and Monica (our Elisabeth's brother and sister-in-law) and 8 of their 10 children. But included in the household are also Melchior's mother Elisabeth, plus 3 of Melchior's siblings, including Franz, our Elisabeth, and her sister Maria. In this record, both Elisabeth and Maria have their first illegitimate children listed also. These two children were born and died in 1839. Heinrich is not listed in the household record. This record gives a little insight into how families lived together in that time.

Note: As was often the case in Germany and Swiss church records, family records like these were created and then updated after a family event occurred. For example, if someone died, the record keeper would go back to a family record and add the update information. This practice makes determining the date of the record difficult while providing a wealth of family information.

There is a third record which was possibly added six years later. This record shows the entire Melchior/Monica family (Melchior is our Elisabeth's brother). In this record, Melchior and Monica have 10 children listed. In addition, listed at the bottom of the record are our Elisabeth plus her brother Franz and her sister Maria. Also listed with both Maria and Elisabeth are the birth and death dates of their two illegitimate children. This record also does not have an associated date.

Again, considering the record update practice mentioned above, it is difficult to determine the dates of these records. However, these records show how the families stayed and lived together back in that time.

It is clear from the above that Elisabeth and Heinrich had made at least two attempts to have a family in spite of the German marriage laws. Again, this was not an uncommon occurrence in that time. Both children died soon after birth. The above data suggested that Heinrich and Elisabeth

may have been living together at Aitersteinerling 1, perhaps as if they were married, along with her mother and brother and family, between at least 1838 and their departure for America in 1848.

Following the death of Elisabeth's second son in 1845, Heinrich and Elisabeth decided that they needed to leave Germany and immigrate to America.

Details of Elisabeth and Heinrich's Decision to go to America

In March of 1848, Elisabeth filed a notice with the country of Germany and the state of Bavaria of her intent to move to America. This was a requirement of anyone emigrating from Germany (or just Bavaria). It was designed to be sure that the individual did not leave Germany still owing debts to others. The notice was placed in a Munich newspaper on 12 April 1848 and has the appearance of either a newspaper article or else a poster that was displayed in a public place, or both.

Elisabeth was apparently cleared of any debts in May 1848 and sometime later in 1848 or maybe 1849 she left Germany and traveled to the USA.

No such filing can be found for Heinrich. Perhaps it was because he was not a German citizen at that time and was therefore not required to do so.

Johann Landerer and Anna Kirchmayer

Interestingly, there is a record showing that Johann Landerer went through this same exercise. He did in fact also place a notice in the Munich newspaper. He was also granted permission to emigrate on 23 April 1848. This notice included his wife Anna Kirchmayer (there is no proof they were married). This is significant because Heinrich, Elisabeth, Johann, and Anna were all living in the same farm dwelling near Hollowayville in Bureau County, IL, USA, as of the 1850 census, after their arrival in what is thought to be 1848. There is a connection between these four people.

Johann Landerer was a resident of Baldham, Parsdorf, in the district of Ebersberg, or about 8 miles from Aitersteinerling.

Anna Kirchmayer was a resident of Zorneding, near Baldham, and also about 8 miles from Aitersteinerling. It is not clear if Heinrich and Elisabeth knew Johann and Anna in Bavaria or if they met on the ship or after their arrival in the USA.

Interestingly, while Anna was mentioned in the newspaper posting, she does not appear in any records of approval to emigrate.

It is known that some emigrants from Bavaria (and other areas of Europe) had sponsors that helped them emigrate. It is possible that Johann and Anna were sponsors for Heinrich and Elisabeth, or at least escorts. This is based on the fact that they are not found in the USA in the 1860 census. Maybe they went back to Bavaria.

Timeline Summary Leading up to their Departure

Here, then, is an approximate timeline of events leading up to the emigration of Heinrich and Elisabeth. These dates are confirmed by civil records in Bavaria as found in the Munich State Archives.

1 March 1848 – Elisabeth is approved to emigrate.

16 March 1848 – Johann Landerer and Anna Kirchmayer write a notice of intent to leave Bavaria.
(they are apparently friends of Heinrich and Elisabeth)

24 March 1848 – their (Landerer and Kirchmayer) notice appears in Munich newspaper.

31 March 1848 – Elisabeth writes notice of intent to leave.

12 April 1848 – Elisabeth’s notice is published in a Munich newspaper.

12 April 1848 – Landerer and Kirchmayer approved to emigrate.

April 18 1848 (estimated) - approximate first date that Landerer and Kirchmayer could depart *

April 26 1848 (estimated) – approximate first date that Elisabeth could depart *

After 26 April 1848 – Elisabeth departs LeHavre, France, going to New York

* Based on two-week requirement after newspaper notice is published

Note: no similar data has been found for Heinrich.

Heinrich and Elisabeth’s Emigration

A few records of Elisabeth’s actual emigration have been found...none for Heinrich. But unfortunately, passenger lists showing their migration have not been found.

It is possible they traveled together but equally possible they traveled separately with Heinrich coming earlier to find a residence, for example. This was a common practice.

One researcher, Freidrich Blendinger, listed 1144 Bavarians who emigrated between 1848 and 1852. Elisabeth and Johann are listed. Heinrich and Anna are not.

The Friedrich Blendinger list for Elisabeth and for Johann Landerer have the following information:

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner, age 35, Catholic

From the village of Aitersteiner in the district of Ebersberg

Farmers daughter

Going to New York carrying 250 Guilden (currency unit at that time)

Reason: “Hoping for a better life”

Date travel was approved: 1 March 1848 for departure from LaHavre, France

Johann Landerer, age 39, Catholic

From the village of Baldham in the district of Ebersberg

Farmers son

Going to New York carrying 520 Guilden

Reason: "Hoping for a better life".

Date travel was approved: 23 April 1848 for departure from LaHavre, France

Note: everyone on the list gave the same Reason, or at least the recorder wrote the same Reason, via ditto marks.

The above information helps to narrow the search for their ship records. The search can be limited to ships that sailed from LaHavre to New York after about 26 April 1848.

After Immigration

We know, however, that Heinrich and Elisabeth were here by 1850 because they appear in the 1850 United States Census residing in Bureau County, Illinois. Johann Landerer and Anna Kirchmayer were with them, living on the same property.

We can also not find any record that they ever married in the US. The Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church on the Hill) that they belonged to in Bureau County has many good membership records, but no marriage is recorded for Heinrich and Elisabeth. But her headstone shows she is the wife of Heinrich Pünter. Her name is spelled "Elsabeth Hohenbrunner, wife of Heinrich Puentner" on her headstone).

Nevertheless, Heinrich and Elisabeth had a family of two children in the US, Henry and Jacob, and worked a small farm in Illinois on the 80-acre piece of land adjoining the north end of the COH Church property.

Elisabeth contracted Typhus, a disease not uncommon on the farm, and died in Bureau County, Illinois, on her farm on 8 May 1865 just 23 days after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

Curiously, about a year later, in 1866, Heinrich sold his farm completely and then later purchased some farm property in Livingston County, Illinois, and acquired a passport for himself and his two sons. Then, the family could not be found in the 1870 US census. But they reappeared later, sold the Livingston County farm, and acquired another farm back in Bureau County and soon after the marriage of son Henry.

Elisabeth is buried in the older part of the Church cemetery on the site of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church on the Hill) near Princeton, Illinois, about 30 feet from Heinrich Pinter, who died in 1900. Here are their headstones.



Heinrich and Elisabeth left their mark on Illinois, to be sure. Their two sons, Henry and Jacob, began farming on their own and did quite well by all accounts. And, by one head count taken in about 2010, there were over 900 people who have a direct bloodline to them.

What we Don't Know Yet

We still have questions about Heinrich and Elisabeth:

1. When did they actually arrive in America....Date, Port, Ship, etc?
2. What did Heinrich and the boys do after Elisabeth died? (this is addressed in another research paper)
3. What happened to Johann and Anna?

Some Notes about Bavaria in the early 19th Century when Heinrich and Elisabeth Resided in Upper Bavaria

The following is a list of some points that give you an idea of what Bavaria was like in the first 50 years of the 19th century (1800-1850) when Heinrich and Elisabeth lived in Bavaria.

1. Levi Strauss lived in Bavaria until 1847 at which time he emigrated to America and formed his jeans company.
2. The Munich Oktoberfest was started in Munich in 1810 and so existed in the time of Heinrich.
3. Lederhosen were prominent men's wear for performing physical labor. Their popularity dropped sharply in the early to mid-1800s. They resurged in around 1880.
4. 1825 – 1848 - King Ludwig I made Bavaria a center of the arts and the sciences.
5. 1835 - The first railway line in Germany is opened between Nuremberg and Fürth.
6. 1806 - Bavaria became a kingdom.
7. 1818 - Bavaria was granted a constitution.
8. Until 1815, Germany was actually a collection of over 100 small states. In 1815, this was reduced to about 39 states. Bavaria was one.

Here are a few points about Bavarian society in the first half of the 19th century:

1. Bavaria was primarily an agrarian society. Industrialization lagged behind in this time.
2. Poverty, malnutrition and poor health were wide-spread.
3. People spent most of their income on food. They spent 10% of their income on beer.
4. Typhus, typhoid, etc were prevalent.
5. Desperation and crime were also widespread.
6. The major food was rye (a grain).
7. There was a food crisis in the time of 1845-47.

In summary, life in Bavaria was not particularly pleasant for the Pünter and Hohenbrunner families. It is not hard to see why Heinrich and Elisabeth chose to leave this country and travel to America.

Also, What happened to the House in Aitersteinerling?

In 1875, the house was transferred by inheritance from Melchior and Monica to Franz Hohenbrunner (oldest son of Melchior and Monica) and his wife Elisabeth and they lived there until 1893. In 1893, the house was bought by another family thus ending the ownership of Kaiser House by the Hohenbrunner family. Of course, by 1875, our Elisabeth had immigrated to, lived in, and died in America,

In 1894, and after the Hohenbrunners had sold the property, the house was partially destroyed by a tornado. According to the above-mentioned book (literal translation):

Hurricane: stable and barn completely destroyed, demolished roof truss on the residential building, partially smashed the tiled roof on the oven with a cart. (a literal translation by Google Translate)

Many homes were damaged by the storm which was most likely a tornado.

It is likely that the house was repaired. It is thought, unfortunately, that the house was completely torn down sometime around 1954.

Today there is a structure at Aitersteinerling 4 but it does not look like the above building, so it is feasible that the house was razed and a new one was built in its place.

Brief Mention of the Weisenburger Family

Here is one more fact about houses in Aitersteinerling that fits well here. The Weisenburger family name is found in Bureau County. According to various genealogy documents, the following Weisenburger families lived in Bavaria and emigrated to the US settling in Bureau County:

1. George Weisenburger family – including wife and 6 children - from Weissenfeld
2. Elisabeth Weisenburger – from Aitersteinerling
3. Leonhard Weisenburger including wife and 4 children - Aitersteinerling
4. Katharina Weisenburger – from Baldham

They all traveled to the US together on the same ship, landed in New Orleans on 8 November 1847, and worked their way up the Mississippi River and Illinois River to Bureau County.

The Forstinning book mentioned above references the Weisenburger name. One house, in Aitersteinerling, was apparently owned by Leonhard Weisenburger in 1813 when the records began. In 1835, he gave it or sold it to Phillip Weisenburger, presumably his son although that is not certain. This house had the house number Aitersteinerling 5. This house was possibly near the Hohenbrunner house meaning they probably knew each other prior to 1847 when the Weisenburgers emigrated. That may have enticed Heinrich and Elisabeth to do the same in 1848. In 1854, the house was sold to another family. I have no records that show what became of Phillip and his wife Christine. Phillip is not found in the list of emigrants from Bavaria.

There is another house in Aitersteinerling associated with the Weisenburger family. The house name was Weisenburger and the book referred to it as the Weisenburger estate. It was referred to as Aitersteinerling 3 at one time. I have no more information on this house or its inhabitants.

The Family of our Elisabeth Hohenbrunner

Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Notes
Melchior Hohenbrunner	11/15/1771	3/14/1825	Married: 5/15/1800
Elisabeth Köch or Köch	4/4/1775	11/28/1843	
Melchior	1798	1799	
Joseph	1800	?	
Monika	1801	1804	
Melchior	1802	1805	
Melchior	1805	1882	
Anna	1807	?	
George	1808	?	
George	1810	?	
Franz	1811	?	
Elisabeth	8/3/1813	5/8/1865	Our Elisabeth
Maria	1816	?	

The Family of our Heinrich Pünter

Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Notes
Hans Jacob Pünter	5/6/1781	1/23/1843	Married: 9/6/1805
Regula Wyssling	9/12/1779	2/3/1814	
Anna Barbara	3/25/1806	5/7/1836	
Hans Jacob	5/14/1808		
Heinrich	8/17/1810	1/12/1900	Died in Illinois
Magdalena Furrer	7/1/1787	9/3/1841	Married: 7/25/1814
Jacob	9/17/1815		

Extra - A Brief Look at Swiss History

To understand what happened to the Pünter family in Switzerland, it might be useful to have a basic understanding of Swiss history:

Brief History of Switzerland

Switzerland came into being in about 1291 when the ruling families of 3 territories came together to form a confederacy against the Habsburg Empire. During the 14th century, the Swiss confederacy ultimately gained independence from the Habsburgs around 1388.

The Swiss Confederacy continued to exist and grow after 1388, and in 1499 it gained its independence from the German Empire and remained stable and more or less an independent state until about 1798. Based on other wars, Switzerland assumed a neutral stance in the affairs of others in about 1515.

In terms of religion, religious reformation got its start in northern Switzerland in the early 1500's and spread across the country. Wars occurred in 1656 and 1712 that were motivated by religious antagonism and caused the end of Catholic domination in Switzerland.

Starting in about 1600, a period of time referred to as the Ancien Regime existed. This was a loose confederacy of 13 cities and villages that dominated the rest of the country. A few families had control of state affairs.

The European 30 Years War (1618-1648) saw Switzerland as a "peaceful island". At the end of these wars, Switzerland emerged as a recognized independent nation.

However, peace did not last long. Starting in 1653 and extending until about 1798, revolts happened all over the county. Basically, the people revolted against the ruling classes. In 1656 and again in 1712, civil wars, motivated by religious antagonism, broke out in the country.

In 1761, the Helvetic society was formed by Swiss scholars. Their objective was political reform.

In about 1789, the French revolution was beginning. This led to movements in Switzerland to do the same thing, and led in 1798 to the Swiss revolution and the formation of the Helvetic republic. Between 1798 and 1802 the country was occupied by French troops and they sided with some Swiss revolutionaries and as they promoted their own objective in wars with Russia and Austria.

The concept of Cantons, which had existed for some time, was abolished. However, the republic encountered severe economic and political problems and uprisings as the population was in general dissatisfied with the republic. In 1798 the country became a battlefield of the Revolutionary Wars, culminating in the Battles of Zürich in 1799.

Hans Jacob Pünter, Heinrich's father, was born in 1781 and so he was about 16 years old and living in Stäfa when Napoleon overran Switzerland and also when the various revolutionary wars were happening. Perhaps he was involved in some way.

The confederacy continued to exist and grow. In 1803, Napoleon enacted the Act of Mediation which partially restored the sovereignty of the Cantons. The Congress of Vienna of 1815 fully re-established Swiss independence by reestablishing the Swiss confederacy and the European powers agreed to recognize permanent Swiss neutrality in international law. Switzerland grew to its present-day size. At this time, Heinrich was 5 years old and was just 2 years away from leaving Switzerland.

The above is quite simplified but shows that during Hans Jacob's life and for a brief part of Heinrich's life, Switzerland was in a state of war. They were continuing to try to break away from the various entities that ruled Switzerland. Heinrich and his family were certainly directly affected by this strife. However, even after Switzerland gained some kind of independence and neutrality, the Pünter family still opted to leave the country. Perhaps there was more than this involved in their decision.

One of the timelines used to create the above story states that 3000 Swiss left the country in 1817 and went to North and South America and Russia "to flee from starvation and looming economic prospects" and that until about 1860, about 40,000 more people emigrated. The timeline goes on to say that the country entered a period of "pauperism" from 1840 to 1860 as "masses of people sank into poverty". Perhaps Hans Jacob and others could see this coming and removed their families out of Switzerland before this era occurred.

The timelines mentioned above describe Switzerland's economy from 1750 to 1900 as industrialization. There were considerable textile products produced in Switzerland in this time. The Swiss started building their own machines as early as 1801 and by 1814, most manual textile production had been replaced by machines.

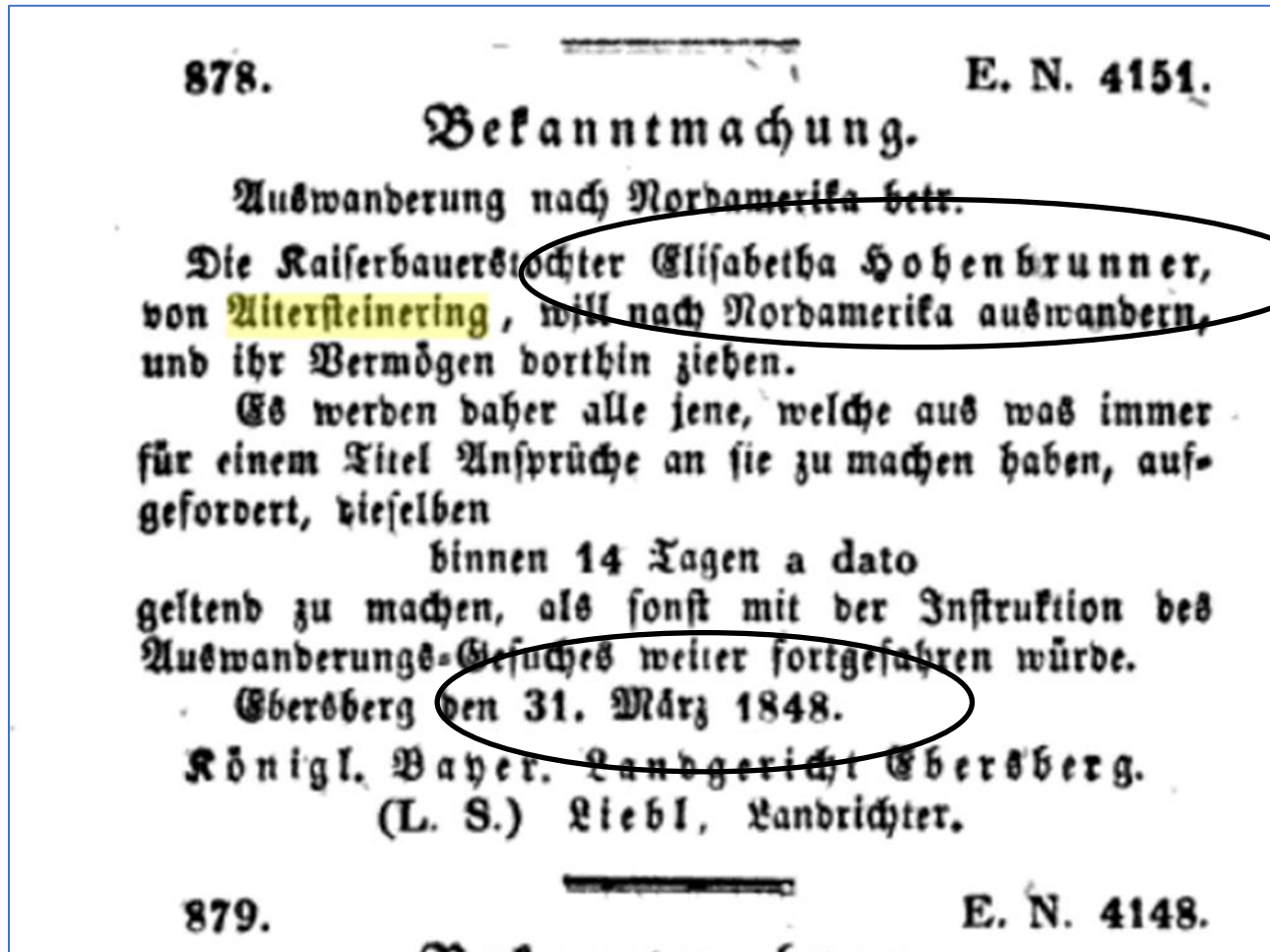
A Year without Summer

In addition to the political and religious conflicts and wars that plagued Switzerland during its early existence, economic issues also prevailed. One of the worse scenarios played out in about 1816.

In 1815, the volcano Tambora in Indonesia erupted sending tons of ash into the air. This ash eventually made its way to Europe and other parts of the world including the United States. It hit Switzerland particularly hard due to its altitude. The country experienced an entire year of winter. 1816 became known as “a year without a summer”. Each month of that year recorded freezing temperatures and snow. Crops were non-existent in 1816 and violence prevailed as food became more and more scarce. This provides another explanation for the 1817 exodus.

Associated Images

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner's Notice of Intent to Emigrate to North America



From a book titled: Allgemeiner Anzeiger für das Königreich Bayern, Vol 16
Or....
General Notice for the Kingdom of Bavaria, Vol 16

The Above Newspaper Notice Literal Translation by Google Translate

Notice

Concerning emigration to North America.

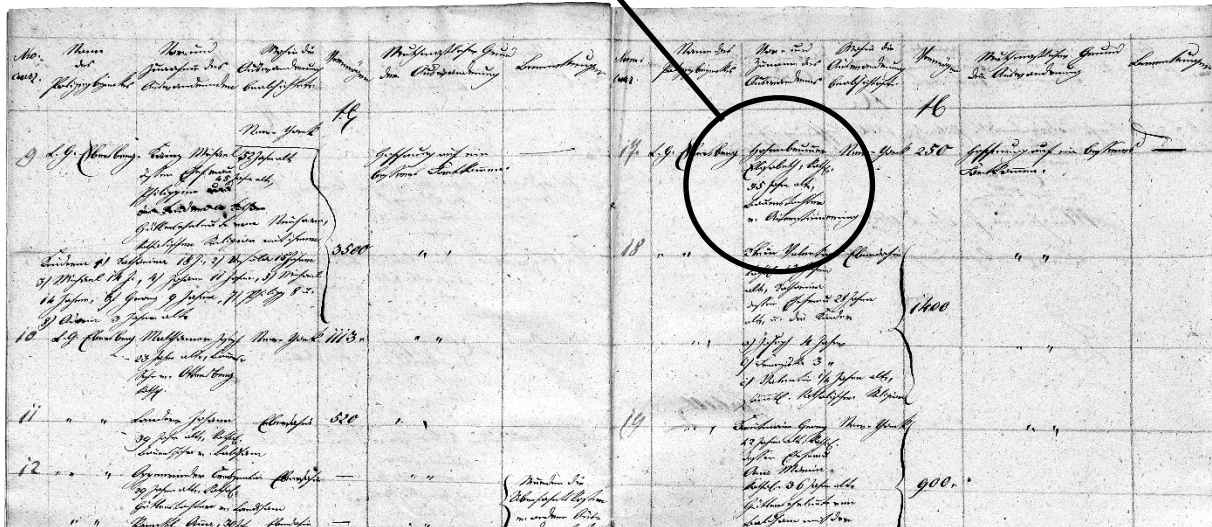
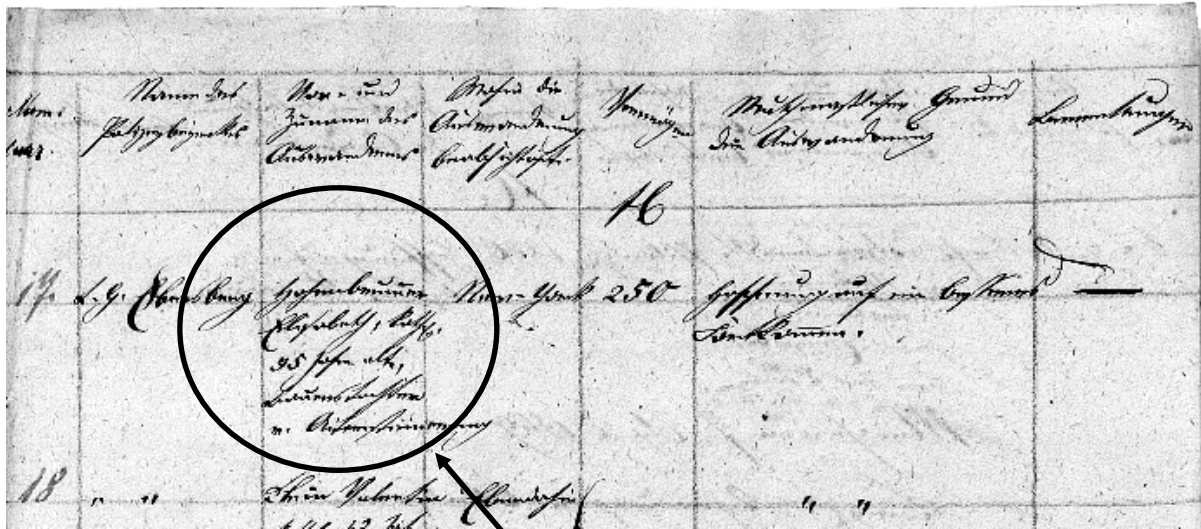
The Emperor farmer daughter Elisabetha Hohenbrunner of Aitersteinerung wants to emigrate to North America, and withdraw their assets there.

Consequently, all those who have made always to do something for a title claims to them, be required to provide the same within 14 days of a previously argued, as was otherwise proceed with the Instruction of Auswanderunge-request further.

Ebersberg the 31 March 1848

Ronigl Baber District Court Ebersberg

Emigration Documents for Elisabeth found in the Munich State Archives



The above two emigration records are actually the same record. The first one is magnified. The record lists this information about Elisabeth:

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner, from Aitersteiner, district of Ebersberg, age 35, carrying 250 Gulden, destination New York, reason “to find a better life”.

Der Ausgewanderten						Datum und Anzahl der Ausgewanderten auf Schiffen No. des Schiffs	Merkmal des Ortes der Abreise	Kategorie	Anmerkung
No. der Person	Namen	Alter	Reli- gion	Stand	Erziehung Beruf				
21	Woelinger Ferdinand	26				1000/6			
22	Woelinger Konrad	31							
23	Woelinger Karl	9							
24	Woelinger Elise	7	Cath.	Holländ. maler	Ordnungs- ling				
25	Woelinger Ludwig	5							
26	Woelinger Ferdinand	3				1000/6	1. May 1848	New York	in La Havre
27	Woelinger Maria	1/2							
28	Heinrich Adame	39	Cath.	Landw.	Ordnungs- ling	1000/6	1. May 1848	do	do
29	Hohenbrunner Elise	35	Cath.	Landw. Lebter	Ordnungs- ling	150/6	1. May 1848	do	do
30	Klein Sebastian	17				1400/6	1. May 1848	do	do
31	Klein Paulmann	28							
32	Klein Josef	11	Cath.	Holländ. Familie	Handfarn				
33	Klein Friedrich	3							
34	Klein Sebastian	1/2				900/6	1. May 1848	New York	in La Havre
35	Wiederman Georg	12	Cath.	Holländ. Familie	Handfarn				
36	Wiederman Anna Maria	26	Cath.	do	Handfarn	900/6	1. May 1848	do	do
37	Wiederman Anna Maria	4	Cath.	Holländ. Familie	Handfarn	1000/6	1. May 1848	do	do
38	Wiederman Anna	32	Cath.	Holländ. Familie	Handfarn	1000/6	1. May 1848	do	do
39	Berghammer Josef	30	Cath.	Holländ. Familie	Handfarn	190/6	23. "	do	do

Staats-
RA 166

The circled record provides the following: Elisabeth Hohenbrunner, age 35, Catholic, farmer's daughter, from Aitersteining, approved to emigrate 1 March 1848 to New York from La Havre.

To be Continued

The remainder of the story of Heinrich and Elisabeth, which includes their migration to America, is continued in the addendum titled:

Heinrich and Elisabeth Immigrate to the United States of America.

Information Resources

Book: Chronik der Gemeinde Forstinning, 1995

Web site: <https://digitales-archiv.erzbistum-muenchen.de/actaproweb/altview.jsf?id=48#>

This web site contains many hundreds of images of Catholic Church records from many but not all Church parishes in Germany.

This web site was provided by Rose-Marie Kunzlmann, partner of my 4th cousin Anton Hohenbrunner both of whom are residents of Bavaria.

Many hours were spent translating these German-language sources, some of which were handwritten in old German script, and in a few cases, Latin.

Also, thanks to Andrea Hofer in Bavaria for researching records at the Munich State Archives.

<< The End >>