

Chapter 2

The Pünters of Switzerland Prior to 1850 The Hohenbrunnners of Germany Prior to 1850

By Ken Pinter
Updated March 2024



This chapter documents the history of the Heinrich Pinter family of Bureau County, Illinois, prior to their arrival in Illinois. This chapter will establish that the family has its roots in Switzerland, specifically the village of Stäfa which is found in the Canton of Zurich, and in Germany, specifically the village of Aitersteiner in Bavaria.

Stäfa is a thriving town today. It can be found on the northeast shores of Lake Zurich more towards the lower end of the lake. Stäfa is green and is not in the Alps. The elevation of Stäfa is only about 408 meters (1339 feet) above sea level.

Aitersteiner is a local district found within the town of Forstinning in Upper Bavaria in Germany.

Both this chapter and Chapter 3 contain additional information about the villages of Stäfa and Aitersteiner.

Most of the data in this chapter supporting the Pünter family history comes from old Stäfa church records that were photographed and converted to microfilm by volunteers of the Mormon Church and from historic records found in the Zurich State Archives.

Most of the data in this chapter supporting the Hohenbrunner family history comes from Hohenbrunner family members living in Aitersteiner today, and from the Catholic Archives located in Munich, Germany.

If there was any doubt about the homes of Heinrich and Elisabeth, it was put to rest when the certificate of baptism for Heinrich's son Henry Pinter was found. This certificate contains the following information, actual spellings:

Father: Heinrich Pinter

Father is from: Stäfa, Canton Zurich, Switzerland

Mother: Elisabeth Pinter

Mother is from: Forstinning, Langericht Ebersberg, Bayern

Name of Child: Heinrich (no middle name indicated)

Birth date: 20 May 1852 in Bureau County.

Date of baptism: 28 May 1852, LaSalle County
Witnesses: Franz and Therese Obele
Pastor: Ritter
Date Certificate was prepared: 21 October 1864

Note: not sure why the Baptism was in LaSalle County.

This certificate is in Appendix C of this book.

Research Methodology Notes

Before reading about the family's origins in Switzerland, you should be familiar with how this information was obtained.

Genealogy research requires the consultation of many sources of information. Here are some of the key record sources utilized:

*The Mormon Church (Later Day Saints) - The Mormon Church has dedicated themselves to the pursuit of knowing about one's ancestry. They have an extensive genealogy Web site on the Internet and it is provided free of charge for family research. Within this web site is their International Genealogical Index (IGI) which is found at www.familysearch.com. This Index is a compilation of the work of many volunteers who, in previous years, have visited churches worldwide and microfilmed pages of church record books. They then made these microfilms available to the general public at their Family History Centers. In addition, they then digitized this information and placed this data online in the IGI.

Microfilmed images of actual Stäfa Church record books were found within the libraries of the Mormon Church. These films for Stäfa were examined.

The records referred to in this chapter are microfilm images of actual church records for the **Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche Stäfa (translation: Reformed Evangelical Church of Stäfa)**. The entries in the records were apparently made at the time of the event (ie for a birth) and updated later (ie, for a death). The handwriting is in some cases very legible, but in some cases a combination of document age and poor hand writing coupled with the fact that it was written in 18th and 19th century German script and then photographed on microfilm make some entries difficult to read.

One particular microfilm was found that provided a goldmine of information. This was a 35mm film reel, some 3 to 3.5 inches in diameter, and it was fully loaded. It contained hundreds of microfilm photos of actual handwritten Stäfa church records. The church record entries were manually entered in German and included much information about Stäfa families such as parents and children's names, marriage dates, and birth and death dates. Copies of some of these pages are included in Appendix C of this book.

This film is referred to by the number **FHL INTL Film (2061026)** and has the following titles of each of the 6 sections of the film.

Haushaltungsrodel (1779) 1699 - 1793
Haushaltungsrodel (1774) 1686 - 1779
Haushaltungsrodel (1765) 1684 - 1775
Haushaltungsrodel (1820) 1735 - 1876
Haushaltungsrodel (1805) 1719 - 1819
Haushaltungsrodel (1793) 1707 – 1805

Haushalt literally translates to the English word “household”
Haushaltung literally translates to “housekeeping”
Haushaltungsrodel is an early register of the occupants of each household

After viewing this film which contains photos of the actual church record books (not transcribed information), I found a family entry that included the birth of Heinrich Pünter on 17 August 1810. This date matches the recorded birth date of our Heinrich Pinter.

*[www.ancestry](http://www.ancestry.com).com – this for-fee service has significant data resources online, both for domestic records and international records. This data includes census data, births, deaths, marriages, ship manifests, and much more.

*Church on the Hill family records and vital statistics of it’s members – the COH has many record books on its membership with birth, christening, marriage, and death information dating back to the early 1800s.

*Zurich State Archives – additional microfilm records were found here.

*Members of the Pünter family in Stäfa and the Hohenbrunner family in Germany - I personally visited with them in their homelands and obtained valuable information.

Other resources too numerous to detail here.

A Note on the Surname Pinter

Note: The surname of the family being tracked in the Stäfa records is actually spelled **Pünter** (with an umlauted u) in the church records. There were no names in the microfilmed records spelled Puentner or Pinter. The volunteers who inspected and documented these microfilmed records probably resorted to spelling the name Puentner as a translation of Pünter since they perhaps had no way to type or enter the umlauted u (ü). The village of Stäfa was heavily populated with Pünters. It was a popular name there.

Heinrich Pünter (my greatgreatgrandfather)

Heinrich Pünter's Grandparents

Note: details of the family prior to this generation can be found in the Addendum titled Addendum – Expanded Swiss Connection.

Refer to Appendix C of this book for images of church records that support the following information.

According to the Stäfa Church register, one Johannes Pünter was born on 19 May 1737 (Johannes would be Heinrich's grandfather as you will see later).

Johannes married Elisabeth Meili (Heinrich's grandmother) on 31 October 1773. He was 36 years old at this time. She was about 27 when she married Johannes. Elisabeth was born in the town of Bubikon, Canton of Zurich, on 17 December 1746. Bubikon is about 5 miles to the northeast of Stäfa.

Interesting Note: There is a town along the north shores of Lake Zurich named Meilen. One could wonder how the names Meilen and Meili relate, if at all?

Johannes and Elisabeth had at least 10 children according to the following table:

Name	Born	Died	Note
Johannes Pünter	19 May 1737	29 Jan 1809	Married: 31 October 1773
Elisabeth Meili	17 Dec 1746	24 Mar 1834	
Johannes	2 May 1775	8 Nov 1827	
Anna	17 Aug 1776		
Anna	13 Aug 1777		
Hans Jacob	8 Aug 1779	apparently died young	
Hans Jacob	6 May 1781	23 Jan 1843	Father of Heinrich
Katherina	14 July 1782	apparently died young	
Susanna	15 Sept 1783		
Hans Heinrich	11 Jan 1785	apparently died young	
Maria	10 Feb 1788		
Heinrich	29 Sept 1789		

The unknowns above stem from the poor legibility of the record.

Heinrich Pünter's Immediate Family

Continue to refer to Appendix C.

One of Johannes and Elisabeth's children was Hans Jacob Pünter (spelled Jakob in the church records book). Jacob was born 6 May 1781 in Stäfa, Zurich, Switzerland, according to the above table. Jacob is Heinrich's father. Jacob married Regula Wyssling on 6 September 1805. Regula Wyssling was born on 12 September 1779 in Stäfa. She was therefore 26 at her marriage to Jacob. Jacob was 24. It is assumed that they were married in Stäfa.

About six and one-half months later, on 25 March 1806, A. Barbara (Anna Barbara?) was born to Jacob and Regula. Note that the church records only refer to her as A. Barbara. Anna Barbara was Heinrich's sister.

Then a boy, Hans Jacob, Heinrich's brother, was born on 14 May 1808. Jacob's name was crossed off in the records which may mean he died. One research resource states he died in 1809.

Heinrich was born (or christened) about 2 years after Jacob on 17 August 1810. This is clearly noted in the records.

Regula, Heinrich's mother, died on 3 February 1814 at the age of about 34. The details of her death are unknown. Heinrich was about 3 ½ years old at that time. His sister was about 8 years old.

According to the church records, Jacob remarried. His new wife was Magdalena Furrer. She was born 1 July 1787 in the town of Fischenthal, Canton of Zurich. She and Jacob married on 25 July 1814. Jacob was 33 years old, Magdalena was about 27. Heinrich was nearly 4 at that time. The records clearly refer to Frau 1 (wife 1) and Frau 2 and which children were born to each woman. Heinrich and his sister Anna Barbara and brother Jacob were born to Frau 1, Regula Wyssling.

The villages of Fischenthal, Bubikon, and Stäfa, all in the Canton of Zurich, can be seen on the map which is in Appendix C.

Jacob and Magdalena had at least one child together, Jacob, Heinrich's half-brother. Jacob was born 17 September 1815. Heinrich would have been almost 5 years old at the time. There is conflicting data on Jacob's birth. Some say he died in 1816. Another source say she married in 1854. There are no other notes in the records regarding other children.

The following chart summarizes this blended family:

Name	Born	Died	Notes
Hans Jacob Pünter	6 May 1781	23 Jan 1843	Married: 6 September 1805
Regula Wyssling	12 Sept 1779	3 Feb 1814	
Anna Barbara	26 Mar 1806	7 Mar 1836	
Hans Jacob	14 May 1808	1809	
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	1816?	

It was always thought that Heinrich and his family migrated to Bavaria when he was young. This theory is proven by a note that was written on a Stäfa church records page for this family. It said:

“...nach Bayern ins 1817” (translation: “....to Bavaria in 1817”)

It can be interpreted then that Jacob and Magdalena and family moved to Bavaria in 1817 when Heinrich was about 7 years old. While it is not known why the family moved to Germany, the following historic articles might shed some light:

“Population growth and famine were two important factors which forced hundreds of thousands of Swiss to emigrate during the 19th century. In particular there were waves of emigration in 1816-17, 1845-55, and 1880-85. Most emigrants went to North America, but Swiss Colonies were established all over the world”.

Source: <http://www.swissworld.com>

“Switzerland is a small, mountainous country lacking in agricultural land, and until comparatively recently, it was unable to feed all its inhabitants. This inevitably lead to as continual stream of emigration over the years with major waves after the great famine of 1816-17...”.

Source: <http://jeanmarc.vonallmen.club.fr>

It is presumed that the family remained in Germany indefinitely and that Heinrich and his father and brother had jobs in Germany. For example, it is known that Heinrich and his father were for some period of time employed as Wegmachers (road maintenance). But it cannot be proven if they ever returned to Switzerland.

Heinrich's father, Jacob, died on 23 January 1843 at the age of about 61. It is not clear where he was living at the time of his death, but his death date is recorded in the Stäfa records indicating that either he moved back to Stäfa or that the family communicated with family back home in Stäfa.

Heinrich's sister Anna Barbara died at a very young age on 7 March 1836. She was about 30 years old at her death. Little is known about this woman in terms of her own family, children, etc.

Nothing is known about Heinrich's brother Hans Jacob and half-brother Jacob.

Magdalena, Heinrich's stepmother, died on 3 September 1841 at the age of about 54.

In about 1848, or earlier, Heinrich migrated to the USA. He became a farmer and raised a family. He died in Bureau County, Illinois, USA, on 12 January 1900 at the age of 89, the longest to live of all the members of his immediate family.

The Family of Regula Wyssling (Heinrich's mother)

(Note that the exact spelling of the name Wyssling is uncertain. Other spellings found include Wyslig and Wysling. I feel certain these are variations of the same name. Wysling seems to be the predominant spelling in the actual historic records, but in modern day Stäfa the spelling is Wyssling).

Andreas Wyssling (Heinrich's gggrandfather), with an unknown birth date, married Marie Bodmer, date unknown. They had at least one son, Heinrich Wyssling, born 11 November 1711, died 4 Feb 1759.

Heinrich Wyssling then married Margreth Itschner on 7 November 1748. She was born in 1709, died 23 April 1766. Heinrich and Margreth Wyssling had at least one son, Hans Jacob Wyssling, born 10 March 1750, died 23 January 1805. Hans Jacob was Heinrich's grandfather on his mother's side.

Hans Jacob Wyssling married Susanna Oetiker on 19 January 1779. Susanna was born to Hans Jacob Oetiker and Ester Daendliker on 5 September 1752, christened 10 September 1752, and died 29 August 1784.

The following children were born to Hans Jacob and Susanna:

Name	Born	Died	Notes
Hans Jacob Wysling	10 Mar 1750	23 Jan 1805	
Susanna Oetiker	5 Sept 1752	29 Aug 1784	
Regula	12 Sept 1779	3 Feb 1814	Heinrich's mother
Heinrich	29 Oct 1780	5 May 1782	
Jacob	7 Dec 1782	25 April 1783	

Regula Wyssling, daughter of Hans Jacob and Susanna, is the mother of our Heinrich Pünter.

Susanna died 29 August 1784. On 11 January 1785, Hans Jacob Wyssling remarried. His new wife was Barbara Pünter, born 23 July 1761. It is not known if or how Barbara Pünter is related to the Pünter family described above.

Hans Jacob Wyssling and Barbara had three children as follows:

Name	Born	Died	Notes
Hans Jacob Wyssling	10 Mar 1750		
Barbara Pünter	23 July 1761		
Rudolph	16 Oct 1785	3 Dec 1849	
Elisabetha	23 Jan 1787		
Barbara	15 Aug 1790		

This marriage makes Barbara Pünter Regula's stepmother and Heinrich's Half Great Aunt.

A Pedigree diagram including the Pünter and Wyssling families is contained at the end of this chapter.

The Town of Stäfa and the Canton of Zurich

Stäfa is located on the northeast bank of Lake Zurich. It has a size of about 8.59 km² today, (3.3 mi²) and it has a current population of only about 12-14000 people (12,305 in 2007). The population in the 17th and 18th centuries is unknown. The local dialect is Swiss-German and is specifically known as *Stäfe*. English language information on the web is limited, but here are two contemporary facts :

- ✓ They are known for their production of wines, particularly Riesling-Sylvaner, Rheinriesling, and Clevner (Pinot Noir).
- ✓ A major hearing aid company, Sonova (formerly Phontak), is headquartered there today.

The Canton of Zurich is located north of the Alps but not by much. Maps show that the Alps begin just south of the southern-most part of the Lake. The canton of Zurich is about 1729 km² (668 mi²) in size and about 30 percent of the canton is forest land. Eighty percent of the land in the canton is considered productive today. Most of the canton is made up of shallow river valleys which drain towards the Rhine to the north of the canton. The idea that Switzerland might be completely mountainous is incorrect. Stäfa is only about 408 meters (1339 feet) above sea level and is situated on the shores of Lake Zurich.



Today, most of the land is cultivated. In earlier times, most of the land was probably considered cultivatable but in all probability it was not. While there is considerable manufacturing in the canton today, in earlier times silk and cotton weaving were important. Perhaps Heinrich and his family grew cotton or otherwise were in the textile business in some way.

Brief History of Switzerland (See Chapter 3 for more history)

The following paragraphs are a very brief history of Switzerland. They are intended to show that the country endured a considerable amount of strife and war in the time frame of the life of Heinrich and his parents and grandparents.

The area of Switzerland was a part of the Holy Roman Empire for many years. In 1648, via the Treaty of Westphalia, the Swiss Confederacy attained legal independence from the Empire although they had been independent for all practical purposes since the Swabian War in 1499.

Over time, the Confederacy congealed into 13 cantons, including Zurich. Various revolts and wars occurred in the time frame between 1648 and 1797 as the people revolted against such things as currency devaluation and an authoritarian environment which suppressed public opinion.

Switzerland became caught up in the French Revolutionary War in the late 18th century. As the revolutionary armies rolled eastward, Switzerland became involved in a war with Austria. In 1798, Switzerland was overrun by the French and the Confederation collapsed. On 12 April, 1798, the Helvetic Republic was proclaimed by Napoleon. Switzerland became a battlefield of the French Revolutionary Wars and this culminated in the Battle of Zurich in 1799. Napoleon's forces established a centralized state and abolished the concept of the independent canton. Coup attempts occurred to rid Switzerland of the ideals supported by the French, but these coups mostly failed.

Local resistance along with financial problems caused the republic to begin to fail. Napoleon brought in more troops in 1803 and ultimately introduced a new order to the land through the Act of Mediation. The centralized Helvetic state was abolished and partial sovereignty was restored to the cantons. The new state lasted until 1815. In 1815, the Congress of Vienna fully established Swiss independence and the European powers agreed to recognize Swiss neutrality. The period of time after 1815 is now known as the Swiss Restoration.

During the Restauration, the free cities of Switzerland gained more power, but this was not acceptable to the rural population. Rebellions and violent conflicts occurred until about 1847. At this time, after much of the hostilities between religious factions had ceased, the modern state of Switzerland was formed by the first Federal Constitution.

What About the Pünter's Life in Stäfa?

One can only wonder the extent to which the Pünter family was affected by the strife and wars that occurred in their homeland. Did they fight in these wars? Was their lifestyle essentially isolated from these conflicts? Were they involved or did they manage to remain out of the mainstream of war, accidentally or on purpose?

What did they do in this time frame? Perhaps they were simple farmers. Perhaps they raised animals for local sale and consumption. Perhaps they raised cotton or produced silk. Perhaps they simply existed and were self-supporting, toiling daily on their farms raising the essentials needed to sustain their life.

Perhaps they lived a life of poverty. It is written that Switzerland, in reality, lacked the land required to feed all its inhabitants during its early history. This resulted in a continuous stream of emigration. Major waves of emigration occurred in 1816 and 1817 during the great famine, and other waves occurred in the periods 1845-55 and 1880-1885. Church records show that Heinrich and his family left Switzerland in 1817 to go to Bavaria in Germany. Perhaps they were caught up in the poverty and famine that gripped their country in this time frame and simply decided to abandon their homeland for a better life in Germany.

There is more historical data regarding Switzerland in Chapter 3.

Names

If you have not already noticed, the given names that appeared most often in the Stäfa church records were:

Jacob	Johanne (John)
Heinrich (Henry)	Magdalena (Lena)
Regula	Anna
Elisabeth (Lizzie)	Barbara

In addition, one of the more confusing aspects of researching families in Switzerland was the extensive use of the names Jacob and Heinrich (or Henry). In later chapters you will see that the Pinter family of Bureau County continued that tradition.

Now we know the source of our many of our given names.

Pedigree Diagram

The last page of this chapter is a pedigree diagram of the Pünter and related families up to and including the birth of Heinrich. Chronologically, the diagram flows from right to left and is typical of pedigree diagrams with younger generations shown on the left of the diagram.

But first, we will look at the Hohenbrunner family.

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner (my greatgreatgrandmother)

Elisabeth Hohenbrunner was born in the village of Aitersteinerling in Bavaria, Germany, on 3 August 1813 according to her death record in the COH death records.

The baptismal certificate for her firstborn child Henry lists her birthplace as:

Forstinning Landgericht Ebersberg, Bayern.

The word Landgericht is German for “higher (provincial) court”. So, the translation of this might be: “Forstinning, in the higher court (or county) of Ebersberg in Bavaria”.

Aitersteinerling was a small village less than a mile to the east of Forstinning. It is referred to as a local district. In fact, Google Maps refers to the town this way:

Aitersteinerling, Forstinning, Germany.

So, the complete location of Elisabeth’s birthplace (in German) is therefore:

Aitersteinerling	- local district
Forstinning	- municipality
Ebersberg	- administrative office (like a county)
Oberbayern	- Upper Bavaria - government district
Bayern	- Bavaria - state
Deutschland	- Germany - country

Today, Aitersteinerling is a local district in the town of Forstinning and they are physically adjacent to each other and are located about 15 miles east of Munich.

Google Maps of this area show it to be quite flat and green and it looks that way in person. It has the appearance from the air of that of Illinois, an endless patchwork of cultivated fields.

It is interesting to note that there are a number of villages in this area whose names beginning with the letters “Hohen”. There is in fact a village named Hohenbrunn. The word “hohen” literally translates to the adjective “high” or big or grand or other synonyms.

See Appendix C for a map of this area of Bavaria.

While the author found considerable information about Stäfa and the Pünter family in the Evangelical church records as recorded in the Mormon Church IGI web sites and microfilm records, a similar search of the name Hohenbrunner (and its spelling variations) resulted in nothing found in Germany and in any country. This may be because the Mormons recorded only Catholic Church records in Forstinning but only for the period after 1850. The Catholic religion was prevalent in this area in the early 19th century. Elisabeth was Catholic, but she left Germany before 1850.

Regarding Elisabeth's arrival in the America, a search of genealogy.com's International and Passenger Records resulted in one record found, as follows:

Name: Elisabeth Hohenbrunner

Port: New York City

Date: 1848

Permanent entry number: 1893459

Source annotation: Emigration to North America from the government district of Oberbayern (Upper Bavaria) 1846-1852. From the state archives of Oberbayern in the Hauptstaatsarchiv at Munich.

This record was derived from a list of about 1144 people from Bavaria who emigrated from Germany to the US between about 1846 and 1852. The list was prepared by researcher Friedrich Blendinger. This list shows that Elisabeth was from Aitersteining and emigrated to New York in 1848.

In addition, a document was found that announced, via a public forum (perhaps newspaper or poster) that Elisabeth Hohenbrunner was intending to emigrate to the US. It was the custom for Germans in the day (or probably a law) that they announce their intent to emigrate in case anyone had financial claims against them. Elisabeth posted her notice in March of 1848.

This document and translation can be found in Appendix C.

Elisabeth's immediate family and possible home are known to us. This following table is the family of Elisabeth Hohenbrunner of Aitersteining:

Name	Birth	Death	Notes
Melchior Hohenbrunner			
Elisabeth Keck or Köch			
Melchior	5/9/1778	5/6/1779	
Joseph	2/28/1800	n/a	
Monica	5/4/1801	12/20/1804	
Melchior	12/13/1802	1/6/1805	
Melchior	9/3/1805	n/a	Married Monika Moser
Anna	9/3/1807	n/a	
Georg	1/31/1810	n/a	

Franz	5/16/1811	n/a	
Elisabeth	8/3/1813	5/6/1865	Married Heinrich Pünter, died in US
Maria	2/10/1816	n/a	

Of course, blank cells or n/a indicate that we don't know that information.
This list was provided by the Catholic Archives in Munich.
It is unfortunate that little else is known about her and her family in Germany.

Brief History of Bavaria, Germany

The following is an abbreviated history of Bavaria up to 1848. The content was taken from the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia and was edited to reduce the length and level of detail. This time frame was chosen because this is the time when Elisabeth would have been growing up in Aitersteiner/Forstinning and it is also the time frame when she and Heinrich, who was also probably living in this area (perhaps they were even married), decided to go to America (1848/50). Of course, we don't know the extent to which they were affected, directly or indirectly, by this history:

The Kingdom of Bavaria (German: *Königreich Bayern*)

The Kingdom of Bavaria was a German state that existed from 1805 to 1918. Elector Maximilian I Joseph of the House of Wittelsbach became the first King of Bavaria in 1805. The monarchy would remain held by the Wittelsbachs until the kingdom's dissolution in 1918. Most of Bavaria's modern-day borders were established after 1814 with the Treaty of Paris, in which Bavaria ceded Tyrol and Vorarlberg to the Austrian Empire while receiving Aschaffenburg and parts of Hessen-Darmstadt. As a state within the German Empire, the kingdom was second in size only to the Kingdom of Prussia. Since the unification of Germany in 1871, Bavaria has remained part of Germany to the present day.

In 1805, the Holy Roman Empire recognized Maximilian I's claim to be King of Bavaria, officially changing the Electorate of Bavaria to being the Kingdom of Bavaria. The new kingdom faced challenges from the outset of its creation. It relied on the support of Napoleonic France and had to change its constitution in accordance with France's wishes. The Kingdom faced war with Austria in 1808 and from 1810 to 1814, lost territory to Württemberg, Italy, and then Austria.

However with the defeat of Napoleon's France in 1814, Bavaria was compensated for some of its losses, and received new territories such as the Bishopric of Würzburg, the Archbishopric of Mainz (Aschaffenburg), parts of the Grand Duchy of Hesse, and in 1816, Palatinate from France.

On 26 May 1818, the constitution of the Kingdom of Bavaria was proclaimed. The parliament would have two houses, an upper house comprising the aristocracy and noblemen, including the high-class hereditary landowners, government officials and nominees of the crown. The second house, a lower house, would include representatives of small landowners, the towns and the peasants. The rights of Protestants were safeguarded in the constitution with articles supporting the equality of all religions, despite opposition by supporters of the Roman Catholic Church. The initial constitution almost proved disastrous for the monarchy..... the debacles lessened and the state stabilized with the accession of Ludwig I to the throne following the death of Maximilian in 1825.

In 1825, Ludwig I ascended to the throne of Bavaria. Under Ludwig, the arts flourished in Bavaria, and Ludwig personally ordered and financially assisted the creation of many neoclassical buildings and architecture across Bavaria. Ludwig also increased Bavaria's pace towards industrialization under his reign.

The European Revolutions of 1848

These revolutions, known in some countries as the **Spring of Nations** or the **Year of Revolution**, were a series of political upheavals throughout the continent. Described by some historians as a revolutionary wave, the period of unrest began on 12 January 1848 in Sicily and then, further propelled by the French Revolution of 1848, soon spread to the rest of Europe.

Although most of the revolutions were quickly put down, there was a significant amount of violence in many areas, with tens of thousands of people tortured and killed. While the immediate political effects of the revolutions were reversed, the long-term reverberations of the events were far-reaching.

Alexis de Tocqueville remarked in his *Recollections* of the period that "society was cut in two: those who had nothing united in common envy, and those who had anything united in common terror."

Great Britain, the Kingdom of Poland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Principality of Serbia and the Russian and Ottoman Empires were the only major European states to go without a national revolution over this period.

These revolutions arose from such a wide variety of causes that it is difficult to view them as resulting from a coherent movement or social phenomenon. Numerous changes had been taking place in European society throughout the first half of the 19th century. Both liberal reformers and radical politicians were reshaping national governments. Technological change was revolutionizing the life of the working classes. A popular press extended political awareness, and new values and ideas such as popular liberalism, nationalism and socialism began to spring up. A series of economic downturns and crop failures, particularly those in the year 1846, produced starvation among peasants and the working urban poor.

Large swathes of the nobility were discontented with royal absolutism or near-absolutism.

Both the lower middle classes and the working classes wanted liberal reform. The revolutions of 1848 were an expression of this sentiment. While much of the impetus came from the middle classes, much of the cannon fodder came from the lower. The revolts first erupted in the cities.

Urban poor

The population in French rural areas had rapidly risen, causing many peasants to seek a living in the cities. Many in the bourgeoisie feared and distanced themselves from the working poor, who had shown their muscle in 1789. The uneducated, teeming masses seemed a fertile breeding ground of vice. Urban industrial workers toiled from 13 to 15 hours per day, living in squalid, disease-ridden slums. Traditional artisans felt the pressure of industrialization, having lost their guilds. Social critics such as Marx became popular, and secret societies sprang up. At the time of the Revolution, there was widespread unemployment as a result of an economic crisis that began in 1846, and workers agitated for the right to vote and for state subsidies to the major trades.

The situation in the German states was similar. Prussia had quickly industrialized. Worker living standards had dropped; alcohol consumption had gone up in the 1840s. During the decade of the 1840s, mechanized production in the textile industry brought about inexpensive clothing that undercut the handmade products of German tailors. Reforms ameliorated (improved) the most unpopular traditions of feudalism, but industrial workers saw little immediate gain from the emerging socio-economic system of capitalism and the accompanying social changes.

Rural areas

Rural population growth had led to food shortages, land pressure, and migration, both within Europe and out from Europe (for example, to the United States). Population concentration led to disease, especially cholera, which contemporary scientists had not yet connected with contaminated water supplies. In the years 1845 and 1846, a potato blight, originating in Belgium, caused a subsistence crisis in Northern Europe. The effects of the blight were most severely manifested in the Great Irish Famine (where it was combined with rack-rents and concurrent export of cash crops), but also caused famine-like conditions in the Scottish Highlands and throughout Continental Europe.

Aristocratic wealth (and corresponding power) was synonymous with the ownership of land. Owning land at this time was practically synonymous with having peasants under one's control, often duty-bound to labor for their masters. In a problem mirroring that of slaveholders in the United States, a principal aristocratic problem was controlling one's laborers. Peasant grievances exploded during the revolutionary year of 1848.

Revolution in the German states

The "March Revolution" in the German states took place in the south and the west of Germany, with large popular assemblies and mass demonstrations. They primarily demanded freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, arming of the people and a national German parliament.

Following the Revolutions of 1848 and Ludwig's low popularity, Ludwig I abdicated the throne to avoid a potential coup, and allowed his son, Maximilian II, to become the King of Bavaria. Maximilian II responded to the demands of the people for a united German state by attending the Frankfurt Assembly, which intended to create such a state. Maximilian II stood alongside Bavaria's ally, the Austrian Empire, in opposition to Austria's enemy, the Kingdom of Prussia, which was to receive the imperial crown of a united Germany. This opposition was resented by many Bavarian citizens, who wanted a united Germany, but in the end Prussia declined accepting the crown and the constitution of a German state they perceived to be too liberal and not in Prussia's interests.

Pedigree Diagram

