


Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book

The Gustav Herman Pinter Family

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Gustav Herman Pinter was born 4 March 1879 in Bureau County, Illinois. He was the first child born to Jacob and Justina Croisant Pinter. The exact location of his birth is not clear, but it may have been on his grandfather Heinrich Pinter's farm in Section 36 of Berlin Township. This speculation is based on the following timeline for the Pinter family:

- 1) The 1877 Voters and Taxpayers of Berlin Township document indicated that both Henry and Jacob "live(s) with father". This would suggest that in 1877, Heinrich and Jacob plus Henry and his wife all lived together in Section 36 of Berlin Township.
- 2) Jacob and Justina married on 28 October 1878. They may well have stayed on this farm until they were able to purchase or rent property of their own.
- 3) Gus was born 4 March 1879.
- 4) In 1880, the census showed that Henry and Julia were living near to Jacob and Justina in Berlin Township and Heinrich was living with Henry. The census data shows there were two different families and two different dwellings, but near to each other (next to each other on the census page). This suggests that either two farmhouses existed on the property in Section 36, or else, one of the families, quite possibly Jacob, was renting a nearby farm, or maybe living in a building reserved for farm workers.
- 5) Heinrich deeded the land in Section 36 to his oldest son Henry in 1882 but Heinrich and Henry and family continued to live on the farm.
- 6) Jacob purchased land in section 30 of Westfield Township in 1882 from his father in law and probably moved his family of 5 there soon after the purchase. It is thought that a farmhouse existed on the very north end of the property but that eventually Jacob built a farm somewhat more south. This is where Gus lived until he married Katie Leyes in 1905.

All of the above suggests but does not prove that when Gus was born in 1879, his parents Jacob and Justina were living in Section 36 of Berlin Township, most likely near his brother Henry and father Heinrich, and that they moved to Westfield Township in 1882 when Gus was about 3 years old.

There is no other evidence now to prove or disprove the above assumptions.

Gus was baptized on 22 June 1879 at the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The name on the certificate was Hermann Gustav Pinter. The Germans often reversed the first and middle names. His certificate of baptism states that his father Jacob was from (born in) Selby Township while his mother Justina was from (born in) Hollowayville in Selby Township. We do not have a birth certificate for Gus.

The picture at right is Gus. The exact date unknown but it was probably taken some time in 1883-85, that is, age 4 to 6.



Gustav Herman Pinter (name as it appears on the confirmation certificate) was confirmed on 26 March 1893 at the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church near Hollowayville (The Church on the Hill). His confirmation certificate and group photo of the confirmation class confirms that his birth date is 4 March 1879.

Gustav married Katharine (Katie) Leyes on 15 January 1905 in Selby Township (Church on the Hill) at the age of 25. Katie was about 23 years old. The marriage certificate states that Gus was from Westfield Township while Katie was from Hall Township. The picture at the right shows Gus and Katie, seated. Attendants were Fred and Justina Pinter Hassler (Justina is Gus' sister).



Katharine Leyes was born in Illinois 18 September 1882, in Hall Township, Bureau County, IL. He was probably born on a farm since her parents were farmers in the 1880 census. She was baptized 14 December 1882 with the name Katharine Leyes.

The name Leyes is pronounced "Lee's" or "Lease".

Chronology of the Gus Pinter Family

The following paragraphs detail significant times in the life of the Gus Pinter family, in chronological order.

1879 to 1905

We don't know much about the day to day life of Gus and his family in this time frame. Gus grew up on two different farms, attended school, and was confirmed in his church. He completed 8 years of schooling. He was the oldest child and began to help with the farm duties as soon as he was old enough which in that time was probably in the age range of 5 to 8 years old. Gus developed many skills, from milking cows to cultivating fields to

building farm structures. Everyone worked and contributed on the farm as soon as they were able.

1905

Gus lived with his parents and brothers and sisters on the Jacob Pinter farm in Westfield Township, section 30, until his marriage to Katie in 1905. There is currently no data available that identifies where Gus and Katie lived immediately after their wedding. One possibility is that they lived with his parents for a while. In this case the residence would have been Jacob's farm in Westfield section 30, but this was a small house and the family was large. Another possibility is that they lived with her parents. There is some precedence for living with a parent in this time. Or, maybe they rented a house or farm in the area. Unfortunately, rentals are typically not documented anywhere and often impossible to track. Rentals or leases were usually consummated with a handshake or simple written agreement in that time.

There is a postcard written by Gus to his wife Katie in August of 1909. The card was postmarked in Sioux Falls, SD. He wrote that they had "65 miles to go yet to get to harvest". This suggests that Gus and perhaps others travelled to South Dakota to help with a harvest. Perhaps the harvest was to be on his dad Jacob's farm in South Dakota, or maybe Gus and others went there looking for harvest work.

If they rented a farm from the beginning, it is difficult to determine where it was. Two possibilities exist. 1) it was another yet unidentified farm somewhere to the east of Ladd, or, 2) it was the property facing Cleveland Street south of Ladd. I will discuss this in the next section titled 1910 Census

1910 census

The following table shows the Gus Pinter family in 1910 per the US census:

Name	Age at census	Actual Birth Date
Gus Pinter	31	3/4/1879
Katie	27	9/18/1882
Herman	4	11/6/1905
Lula	3	11/29/1906

In 1910, the census recorded that Gus was renting a farm that was located in Hall Township, Bureau County. They had two boarders (farm hands). According to the census data, Gus' occupation was listed as farmer.

It is not possible to tell from the census data where the farm was exactly located. It was in Hall Township, but not in Ladd. This information was found in the 1910 census pages for Enumeration District #11 in Hall Township in Bureau Co. Ed #11 includes part of but not all of Hall Township. The specific sections of the township are not provided in the census.

An attempt was made to locate the general area where the farm was located in Hall Township. This was done by comparing plat maps for Hall Township in 1905 and 1916 to the 1910 census (there were no plat maps drawn between 1905 and 1916). The maps show the owners of land in the township in those years. However, the census shows the names of the actual families who lived on the farms. The order of their occurrence on the census sheets corresponds to the route the census taker took, and this should indicate the proximity of one resident to the other.

Unfortunately, the correlation between the census data and the available maps was not sufficient to pinpoint the location of the Gus Pinter residence. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the farm was somewhere around the village of Ladd, IL. It is possible that the farm site in this time frame was the farm facing Cleveland Street south of Ladd. The next section discusses this.

Gus Rents Farm on the South End of Ladd

Later in this timeline, we will see per the 1920 census that Gus and family were living at an address on Cleveland Street in Ladd, IL.

Sometime before 1920, it is thought that Gus and family moved into a rented farm house located on the south side of Cleveland Street and about ½ mile west of Main Street (now aka US Route 89). There are a few reasons why this seems reasonable:

- 1) The 1920 census states this.
- 2) Julia Filippini Pinter stated that she thought that Harold lived at one time south of Ladd and near Main street.
- 3) But, Harold never mentioned this farm.
- 4) There is no record that Gus bought this farm. It was probably rented and agreements for rentals were never recorded in the County.



The picture to the right is the farm house on that property. The entire farm including house and barns was razed in about 2014 or 2015 and no longer exists.

But, what is not known is when they moved onto this farm. Was it just after they were married in 1905? Or, did they live elsewhere and move here between 1905 and 1920?

Depending on when this farm was acquired, Gus and Katie's children Leo (1911), Harold (1914) and Gilbert (1917) (some or all) may have been born on this farm. If they moved here right after their marriage, then Herman (1905) and Lula (1906) may have also been born here. That leaves Lester (1921). It is likely he was born here too.

Gus Acquires the Farm in Section 9 Hall Township North of Ladd

On 19 January 1912, according to the Bureau County Grantee Index and a legal affidavit found in the Bureau County Courthouse, Gus purchased the farmland on the north side of Ladd from Henry and Sophia Hoerner of Peru, IL. This was the east half of the NE quarter of Section 9 of Hall Township. It was 78.1 acres. Approximately 1.9 acres of this 80 acre 1/8th section were not included in the sale.

An agreement was drawn up between Gus and the Hoerners. The purchase price was \$10,200 (about \$130 per acre) and it was agreed that Gus would make payments of \$500 per year between 1913 and 1921 and he would then pay a balloon payment in 1922. This agreement is on file in the Bureau County Courthouse. A very important caveat in this agreement was how the payments would be made and what would be the consequences of default. In essence, this sale involved seller financing and the Hoerners would be the mortgagors and would have the option to retake possession of the farm in the event of a default. The caveat would prove to be a problem for Gus in the future.

It is not known if there was a residential dwelling, but the agreement required Gus to provide insurance for all buildings on the land. We don't know if Gus and family immediately moved there or if a house had to be built first. If a home was built, more than likely Gus built it.

A 1916 map of Hall Township shows that Gus H. Pinter owned this property and that it was 78.76 acres. It is not clear where the additional fraction of an acre (0.66 acres) came from.

It is important to note here that there is evidence that the residence of Gus and family was probably at another location but not on this farm site for a period of years after he bought this farm in 1912. This will become evident when we look at the 1920 census.

An interesting sidelight: Ladd's first public school was built on this land in 1864. At the time, the property was owned by Irwin Borger. The school was named the Borger School. Sometime before 1900, the school was moved to land south

of Ladd. When it was on the Borger land, it was situated just a short distance south from the spot of the future Gus Pinter home. This small square of land was apparently not part of the acreage that Gus purchased this making his ownership less than the typical 80a that a one-eighth section is comprised of.

Sale of Katie's Parents Farm

In 1914, Katie (and Gus), her sister Lizzie Helm, and sister Barbara Hassler, and sister Pena (and Henry) Walch sold a property in section 20 of Hall township. This property belonged to Joseph and Anna Leyes (Katie's parents) and was an inheritance. They both died just months apart in 1912. The property was the E1/2 of the NW quarter of section 20, Hall Township. This property today is located south of Route 6 and about half way between Seatonville and Route 89.

One Other Land Transaction

In 1916, Gus purchased a lot within the city limits of Ladd for \$90. This lot was Lot 12 Block 44. This lot was in town on the east side of Main Street and a block north of Cleveland St. where Selby and Locust streets intersect today. Cleveland St is the east/west street that defines the southern edge of Ladd. This lot was purchased from John Blee. It is thought that Gus never lived at this location. Perhaps the property was purchased as an investment or for retirement.

Gus Registers for the Military Draft

On September 12, 1918, Gus registered for the military draft. All U.S. males in a certain age range were required to register because of WWI. The war ended soon after he registered. From Gus' registration, we find the following personal description information:

Gustav Herman Pinter
Age 39, dob March 4, 1879
Farmer
Medium height, medium build
Brown eyes, brown hair
Nearest relative: Kate Pinter
Place of residence: Ladd, Bureau, IL

1920 Census

A 1916 township map for Hall Township shows that Gus was owner of the farm in Section 9 (north of Ladd). However, in 1920, the census data indicated that Gus and family were

living on Cleveland Street in Hall Township. The recording on the census page indicated that Gus was a farmer and that he owned his farm and that he had a mortgage. The census shows that they had 5 children and two boarders: Irwin Hassler and one other (Note: Irwin Hassler was the son of Barbara Leyes Hassler, Katie's sister). Gus' occupation was given as Manager, General Farming.

This table shows the Gus Pinter family in 1920:

Name	Age at census	Actual Birth Date
Gus Pinter	40	3/4/1879
Katie	37	9/18/1882
Herman	14	11/6/1905
Lula	13	11/29/1906
Leo	8	12/28/1911
Harold	5	4/28/1914
Gilbert	2 ½	2/15/1917

This data is seemingly contradictory to the fact that Gus purchased the north Ladd farm in 1912.

In addition, one other farmer was listed on Cleveland Street: Catherine Nellis. It is not clear if she was living in a residence or physically on a farm. The remaining approximately 13 residents on Cleveland Street were miners or railroad workers. In addition, they were all found in Enumeration District 11 which in 1920 was bounded on the south by Cleveland Street. To be in ED #11, one had to be living on the North side of Cleveland Street. In Ladd, these were all single-family residences.

The most likely explanation that fits this unlikely scenario is that the farm in section 9 possibly had no farm house or one was being built or renovated. Therefore, the family needed a home and so they rented a farm house on the south side of Cleveland Street in Ladd, IL. This is more plausible than the idea that Gus had two farms. This suggests that the family lived about a mile from the farm they were working.

Trouble for Gus

When the balloon payment of about \$7532 came due in 1922, Gus apparently could not pay it and so he went into default. He and Henry Hoerner entered into another agreement on 1 October 1922 extending the agreement to about 1930. Little did they know that the Great Depression was coming.

By 1925, when another Hall Township map was drawn, this map showed that Gus was still the owner of the farm in Section 9.

The Great Depression

The Great Depression began in August 1929, but it was not felt by citizens until the market crash of October 1929. This began a 10-year period of economic chaos and ups and downs. From Wikipedia:

The market crash marked the beginning of a decade of high unemployment, poverty, low profits, deflation, plunging farm incomes, and lost opportunities for economic growth and personal advancement.

Industries that suffered the most included construction, agriculture as dust-bowl conditions persisted in the agricultural heartland, shipping, mining, and logging as well as durable goods....

Unfortunately, Gus and his fellow farmers in Bureau County were trying to gain traction in their farming businesses in this time frame.

1930 census

Here is the family in 1930:

Name	Age at census	Born
Gus Pinter	57	3/4/1879
Katie	48	9/18/1882
Herman	24	11/6/1905
Leo	18	12/28/1911
Harold	16	4/28/1914
Gilbert	13	2/15/1917
Lester	9	1/6/1921

Gus' work classification was "working on own account" on a farm in ED #24 this time. ED #24 included all of Hall Township but excluded Ladd, Dalzell, Spring Valley and Seatonville. The census asked if they had a Radio Set. They answered Yes. The farm they lived on in 1930 was probably the farm to the north of Ladd because of the sales noted below. The census data indicated they owned this farm.

When the mortgage balloon payment came due in 1930, Gus was again unable to pay it. Once again, Henry Hoerner agreed to extend the agreement. This extension occurred on 21 January 1930. The balloon payment this time was to be about \$8139. Gus and Henry agreed that Gus would pay the balloon in 1935.

In 1931, Gus sold Right of Way rights to the Continental Construction Company for \$320 involving the E ½ part of the NE quarter of section 9 (his farm north of Ladd). The record does not indicate if this ROW was along a road or railroad track or where specifically this ROW applied. It does mean that Gus still owned the property in Section 9 in 1931.

Note: in later documents, reference is made to a pipeline that passes through this property. Perhaps this ROW is related to that pipeline.

In 1934, an interesting transaction was recorded in the Bureau County Courthouse. On 31 March 1934, a petition was filed and then a judge decreed that certain parts of Gus' section 9 property be disconnected from the Village of Ladd. This transaction assumes that all of Gus property was at some time earlier annexed to the Village. The disconnect affected a piece of land at the north end of the 1/8th section, the Borger School one-acre piece, and the 0.918 acre piece in the southeast corner. This disconnect had no material effect on Gus except for the possibility that any taxes paid to the Village may have been reduced. This process of disconnection was found for numerous other properties around the Village.

A decree by a judge in 1930 listed Fred Hoerner as the holder of legal title to the land, and Gus as holder of equitable title because he was "in occupancy and possession" of the property.

In 1935, Gus again found himself in a position where he could not make the balloon payment, and further, he failed to keep up with the insurance and tax payments for the years 1934 and 1935. In fact, the only payment Gus was able to make in this time frame was \$850 that was received as an insurance payout for damage to a building on the farm site for which Hoerner had paid the premium.

Nevertheless, it is thought that in about 1935, the Pinter family opened and operated the Pinter's Machine Shop in Ladd. It was located at the extreme north end of Chicago St. (See picture at right). Since this shop was within the limits of Ladd, Gus either rented the lot from its owner or the City of Ladd. There is no record that he purchased this lot and building.



Gus and at least two of his sons, Harold and Gilbert, worked there. They operated this Machine Shop for about 17 years. Harold left Ladd for Peoria in about 1937 and Gilbert probably left the shop in about 1952 to take full time employment. It is likely that the shop was shut down in about 1952. This suggests the shop was started in about 1935 when Gus was 56, Harold was 21 and Gilbert was 18. Harold told the story that Gus was very forgiving about fees owed him for machine shop work (and also possibly charged too little for the work), and thus went bankrupt once or twice as a result.

Also, in 1935, Gus granted 0.918 acres of the property in section 9 (North of Ladd) to the village of Ladd as an easement. This means he still owned the land in section 9 in 1935. This 0.918 acres was located in the extreme southeast corner of Gus' 1/8th section and was a piece of land 200 feet square. The reason why the City of Ladd needed this is unclear. But note.....

(Since the machine shop was opened at the same time as the 0.918 acre transaction, is it possible that this was a land swap with the Village of Ladd in order for Gus to get the land for (and perhaps the building) for his machine shop although there is no other transaction noted in the court house records.)

In 1938, Gus and his sisters and brothers sold some part of their father Jacob's land in section 30 (160 acres) to C.B. Blakely for \$19200. This was done to liquidate the estate of Jacob who died in 1929. Justina lived in Ladd until April 1948.

1940 census

Here is the Gus Pinter family in 1940:

Name	Age	Born
Gus Pinter	60	3/4/1879
Kathryn	58	9/18/1882
Gilbert	23	2/15/1917

The census data indicated that the family lived on a farm and paid a rent of \$15 per month. The data also showed that Gus was a Blacksmith and owned his shop. It also indicated that they lived in the same place in 1935 (a new question for the census added in 1940). It is clear that the family still lived on the farm in Section 9. The blacksmith shop was probably the building in the northwest corner of Ladd.

The census page was identified as ED 6-24 which was defined to be all of Hall Township except Ladd, Dalzell, Spring Valley, and Seatonville.

The 1940 census also recorded the other children of Gus and Katie, who were out on their own, as follows:

Herman (34) and Marie (28) were married with children Herman (5) Wilma (4) and Velma (3) living in Seatonville, IL. They rented their home for \$4 per month and had a family income of \$780/year. The data showed that he had completed 8 years of school.

Lula (33) and Phillip Merkel (36) were married with children Wayne (5) and Gene (1) living on a farm in Berlin Township. They were farmers.

Leo (28) was married and living in Cook County (Chicago) IL. He was a machine operator at a steel mill. While he was listed as married, his wife was not listed in the census. The data showed he had completed 4 years of high school.

Harold (25) was single and living in Peoria, IL. He was employed as a stationary engineer at a gas company. His income was \$1700 per year.

Lester (19) was single and living in Cherry IL. He was employed as a garage mechanic and lived as a boarder in the same house as his employer since at least 1935.

Gus Ends His Farming Career

Gus' problems were not over, unfortunately. On 3 January 1940, the sheriff served Gus with a 30-day notice to pay or be evicted from the farm in section 9. Gus unfortunately could not comply with the notice. Another notice was delivered on 5 February 1940. On 14 February 1940, Hoerner began proceedings and was granted a judgement that would evict Gus.

Interestingly, based on an apparent enduring friendship between Hoerner and Gus, a lease was drawn up that would allow Gus and family to remain living in the house and have access to a workshop and tools (but apparently not the farm land) on the farm until 1 March 1941.

The affidavit, from which the above details were obtained, states that a demand was served to Gus and Katie on 3 March 1941 demanding that they vacate. This affidavit was drawn up to convince a new buyer of the land that it would soon be available for purchase from Hoerner.

Absent any other details, we will assume that Gus and Katie vacated the farm on or after about 3 March 1941. Records in the Bureau County Courthouse show that Henry Hoerner then sold the farm in section 9 on 3 March 1941. After owning this farm for about 29 years and with all the ups and downs he endured, Gus likely walked away from this farm with nothing except the blacksmith shop, if that.

And then, Gus and Katie rented or purchased a small house on Bureau Street in Ladd, IL, where they lived until they passed away in 1953. Again, since the house was probably rented, there is no record of this rental in the courthouse or the Ladd village hall. During these last 11 or 12 years, Gus operated the shop (for a time) plus he worked at other factory jobs to make a living as noted below.

Other 1940s Notes

Gus driver's license and car registration are available for 1941. It indicated the following information about Gus:

Gray eyes and hair
5' 9" tall, 150 pounds
Dob: 3/4/1879

It also indicated the information about his car in 1941:

1929 Studebaker Sedan
6 cyl, 27.3 horsepower
The picture at right is an example



Gus worked at the Green River Ordinance plant in Dixon, IL, for some period of time in 1942.

In 1944, Gus sold lot 12 block 44 in Ladd to Tobias Barry for the very low price of \$50.

Also, in 1944 and 1945, we know that Gus worked at The Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, Ship Building Division, in Seneca, IL. His wage was about \$2.20 per hour. He would have been about 65 years old in this time frame.

Other Notes on Farm Locations

Julia Pinter indicated that when she and Harold were dating, he lived in the farm north of Ladd. This would be in the time frame of 1937 to 1940. There are a few pictures of Harold at that approximate age in front of the farm house north of Ladd.

Before that, she thought he lived south of Ladd. This would be the Cleveland street address noted above. She thought the farm was near Main Street.

She didn't know the location of their home when Harold was born.

Picture at right, ca 1935: Standing: Harold, Lula, Gilbert, Herman, Leo, Lester. Seated: Katie and Gus



Possible Summary

Based on the above discussion, here is a suggested sequence of events for Gus and Katie:

Gus and Katie married in 1905.

Between 1905 and an unknown date, they lived in a rented farm somewhere in Hall township in an area generally to the east and south of Ladd. In this time frame, they farmed and raised a family. About 3 of their 6 children (that is, Herman, Lula, and Leo) were born in this time frame on this farm.

Sometime before 1912 and ending after 1920, the family rented a farm addressed on Cleveland Street in Ladd.

In 1912, Gus purchased a 78-acre farm in Section 9 of Hall Township just to the north of Ladd. But, they continued to rent the farm on Cleveland Street in Ladd. The rest of Gus and Katie's children were probably born in the rented house on Cleveland street (that is, Leo ?, Harold, Gilbert, and Lester?).

Sometime after 1920, they moved from the rented farm to section 9. Here the family matured and farmed the land and struggled financially as the depression raged on in the country.

In about 1935, Gus and his sons Harold and Gilbert opened and operated a blacksmith shop on the outskirts of Ladd.

Over time, one by one, the children married and/or moved out of the house until by 1940 only Gilbert remained at home with his parents.

This arrangement continued until 1941. Between 1912 and 1940, Gus nearly lost his farm no fewer than 4 times, but in each case, he managed to survive through the generosity of Henry Hoerner, the holder of the title to the section 9 farm that Gus was working so hard to buy.

Time ran out for Gus in 1941 and he was finally required to leave the farm and so he rented a house in Ladd, Illinois where he then worked various jobs including the blacksmith shop, until his death in 1953.

Other stories about Gus and his Family

Moonshine: there is a story that Gus ran an illegal moonshine operation on his North Ladd farm. Some have said that they were caught but I never found anyone who could say that they suffered any consequences. It is known that they had grape vineyards on the property to be used for wine making.

Ladd Street Lights: A popular story in Ladd is that Gus was instrumental in the installation of new Street lights on Main Street in Ladd. These lights were placed before 1940 but the exact year is unknown so far. Gus surveyed and then placed the lights, so the story goes. It is thought that his son Gilbert helped.



Saying: Gus had a favorite saying: Take hold of your own nose and you'll have a handful.

Master Builder: There is a story that Gus would design and then precut all the lumber for a barn or building before ever starting to assemble the building.

Barn on Section 9 Farm: Gus and family constructed a very large barn on the property. It was later destroyed by a fire.

Band: Gus was a musician. He played the horn (trumpet or coronet) in a band. Currently there is no data available to tell where the band played or when this occurred. There are a couple of pictures of him in the band.

Hernia: Gus apparently suffered with a hernia for many of the last years of his life. He wore a corset for relief but never had the hernia fixed.

Sleeping arrangements: Harold told the story that he and his brothers and sister would sleep in the same bed in the winter in order to stay warm.

Children in the War

Three of Gus and Katie's children were involved in WWII.

Lester - Lester was a member of the 503rd Parachute Infantry during WWII. His rank was Technician Fifth Grade and he was trained as a medic. Lester was killed in Corregidor, Philippine Islands, in 1945. See the section on him later in this addendum.

Leo - In February 1943, Leo enlisted in the Navy. He was trained as an airplane mechanic. He became airplane mechanic 3rd class while in the service. His airplane was the PV-1 Ventura (Vaga Ventura Land Based Patrol Plane.)

Harold – Harold enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was trained as an airplane mechanic. He was deployed to Japan and the Philippines, but this occurred possibly after or very close to the cease fire.

Gus and Katie Pass Away

Katie died on 16 June 1953 after suffering a stroke while sweeping her porch. She was about 71 years old.

Gustav died very soon thereafter on 7 July 1953 after a two-year heart-related illness. He was about 74 years old.

They are both buried in the Spring Valley Memorial Cemetery.

Gus and Katie have:

- 6 children
- 23 grandchildren
- 58 great grandchildren

Gus and Katie's Children

This table lists the complete family of Gus and Katie Pinter:

Name	Born	Location	Died	Married to	Date
Gustav Hermann Pinter	3/4/1879	Selby	7/7/1953		1/15/1905
Katharine Leyes	9/18/1882		6/16/1953		
Herman Gustav	11/6/1905	Hall Tsp	7/29/1967	Marie Fenwick	7/19/1933
Lula Katherine	11/19/1906	Hall Tsp	7/30/1996	Phillip J. Merkel	1/10/1928
Leo Jacob	12/28/1911	Hall Tsp	10/5/1988	* Rose Bernardoni * Laura Kankovsky * Edith Lunsford * Mary ?	2/25/1933 11/13/1942 8/25/1949 ??
Harold Philip	4/28/1914	Hall Tsp	11/1/1988	Julia Filippini	9/26/1940
Gilbert Louis	2/15/1917	Hall Tsp	2/2/1998	Lena Bartoluzzi	5/24/1941
Lester Ralph	1/6/1921	Hall Tsp	2/26/1945	Lillian Harris	7/25/1942

The following tables list Gus and Katie's children and their families.

Herman Gustav Pinter Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married to	Date	Children
Herman G.	11/6/1905	7/29/1967		7/19/1933	7
Marie Fenwick					
Herman G, Jr.	5/4/1934		Josephine Crawford	10/15/1960	3
Wilma K.	11/15/1935		Fred Gallandt	11/22/1952	2
Velma	2/9/1937		Robert Oliver	3/10/1961	3
Patsy	6/16/1940		Thomas Hawsbeck	6/26/1960	3
William Dale	2/18/1943		Sally L. Vader	6/26/1965	3
Duane	8/11/1945		Carolyn Carmody Marie Shultze	12/11/1968 2/14/1976	1 ??
Warren	8/29/1946		Ann Tadajewski	2/28/1969	2

Lula Katherine Pinter Merkel Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married to	Date	Children
Lula Katherine	11/29/1906	7/30/1996		1/10/1928	3
Phillip Merkel	7/30/1903	3/10/1970			
Wayne Carl	3/22/1935	7/5/1981	Jane Genzlinger	12/4/1958	3
Gene H.	4/21/1938		Lois Mitchel	6/7/1959	4
Warren C.	8/29/1943	8/22/2005	Nancy Russell	9/28/1963	3

Leo Jacob Pinter Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married to	Date	Children
Leo Jacob	12/28/1911	10/5/1988		2/25/1933	2
Rose Bernardoni	2/16/1911	1/7/1978			
Doris R.	11/29/1933		Dale Billhorn	1/13/1951	6
Elaine M.	11/20/1935	9/9/1997	Ronald Summers	7/11/1953	2
Laura Kankovsky				11/13/1942	0 ??
Edith Ellen Lunsford	6/6/1929	~1996		8/25/1949	5
Brenda Gail	5/28/1950				3
Wyman Leo (Dean)	9/2/1953				1
Katherine Gay (Kippy)	7/28/1955	3/11/1958			0
Dale Galen	7/28/1958	12/10/1974			0
Crystal Fawn	11/24/1960		Robert Elias		1 #
Mary E. unknown	5/15/1918	12/6/1999			0

Harold Phillip Pinter Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married to	Date	Children
Harold Phillip	4/28/1914	11/1/1988		9/26/1940	3
Julia Filippini	4/24/1919	6/28/2007			
Kenneth R.	5/4/1947		Christine Flagge Diane Newberry	11/15/1969 12/30/1989	2 2 #
Kathy Ann	12/6/1951		John Hein	8/8/1976	3
Kim Marie	6/24/1964		Bruce Spengler	10/17/1998	2

means by a previous marriage

Gilbert Louis Pinter Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married to	Date	Children
Gilbert Louis	2/15/1917	2/2/1998		5/24/1941	3
Lena Bartoluzzi	5/24/1918	12/9/2004			
Lester	4/2/1945	5/7/2004	Susan Kastigar	1/8/1966	1
Gary	4/24/1950		Beth Alpaugh	4/22/1972	4
Alan	2/22/1953		Claudette Cormier Karleen Kmitta	4/13/1974 6/9/1984	3 1

Lester Ralph Pinter Family					
Name	Born	Died	Married	Date	Children
Lester Ralph	1/6/1921	2/26/1945		7/25/1942	
Lillian Harris	11/20/1922				

Lester Ralph Pinter

Lester was a member of the 503rd Parachute Infantry during WWII. His rank was Technician Fifth Grade. He was inducted in the Army in October 1942 and was trained as a medic. He arrived in the Pacific in October 1943. He saw action in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies, and, in the Philippine Islands on Leyte, Mindoro, and Corregidor.

On 15 February 1945 Lester parachuted onto the island of Corregidor in the Philippine Islands. He was killed in action on Corregidor on 26 February 1945. Details of this are included later. On 11 May 1945 a letter was received by Katie Pinter, his mother, from the 503rd Chaplain indicating his death. This letter indicated that he was given a Christian burial and was buried at Mariveles, Bataan, Philippine Islands in a “well kept cemetery”.

Around June 1945 his brother Harold received a letter from Richard Peterson of the 503rd. In this letter, Richard described that Lester died instantly and without pain and suffering and without really knowing what had happened. He also indicated Lester’s grave was on the Bataan Peninsula and that he had personally seen the grave site and that he had also seen Lester shortly after his death and before burial. This man had apparently, according to his letter, helped carry Lester and others out of the kill zone.

Harold began a series of letters to the War Department trying to gain information about Lester with the intent to find him and bring him to the US for burial here. In June 1948, he received a letter from the Office of the Quartermaster stating that no remains of Lester had been recovered.

In January 1950, Harold received another letter stating that remains had not yet been found.

In August 1951 he received another, this time longer, letter from the same office. These quotations came from this letter:

“..your brother was killed in action at Monkey Point, Corregidor Island, Philippine Islands, on 26 February 1945 when a huge arsenal contained in the underground room and communicating tunnels of the radio installations was exploded by enemy action”.

Regarding an attempt to find his remains at Monkey Point in 1951, the letter stated that “no information pertaining to the location of his remains could be found”.

Regarding the possibility that he was buried at the American Military Cemetery as an unknown, the letter stated that “identifying data pertaining to your brother were compared with available identifying data of unidentified remains recovered from Corregidor Island and the three other small islands adjacent to it. This comparison also failed to reveal any remains which could be identified as your brother.”

Regarding the apparent conflict between the War Departments accounts and those of Richard Peterson and others, the letter stated that “None (of the people contacted) were able to furnish any definite information”.

And, "...the Department of the Army has been forced to determine that the remains of your brother are not recoverable". That ended the line of communications.

A reference to Lester Pinter was found in online records of the American Military Cemetery (Manila, Philippines) in 2002.

Finally, details found on this Web explain the circumstances of his death:

http://corregidor.org/heritage_battalion/abbott/navytunnel.html

On the morning of 26 February, as the First Battalion was getting ready to resume their attack to the East, a huge explosion went off in the Navy Intercept Tunnel. The actual cause of that explosion will, undoubtedly, never be known for certain. What is known is that a very large supply of high explosives was set off. People who were close to the site at the time have two somewhat different theories. One is that the Japanese, occupying the tunnel, chose to commit suicide by setting off the explosion, thereby taking many of the Paratroopers with them. This was not an inconceivable concept considering the Japanese had not hesitated to do the same thing in other locations, but on a much smaller scale. The other version, and the one which seems more likely, is that the explosion was set off accidentally by the tank, sitting on a small mound near the Main Entrance firing into the mouth of the tunnel. The force of the explosion was such that the tank was blown into the air and landed upside down. Whichever version is correct there is no doubt but what the explosion was a catastrophic event. Available records give the number of casualties for 26 February but do not break out those due to this event alone. It appears, however, there were about 30 Paratroopers killed outright and about 125 seriously injured. The real number of injured will never be known since a number of men with cuts and bruises, which would have been considered seriously disabling under other circumstances, did not seek help because they knew others needed help much more than they.

Lester Ralph Pinter received the Bronze Star, Silver Star (for "gallantry in action on Feb. 24, 1945"), and the Purple Heart.

Joseph and Anna Leyes Family

Gustav Herman Pinter married Katharine (Katie) Leyes on 15 January 1905. Katie was the daughter of Joseph and Anna Leyes. This section summarizes the Leyes family. More detail can be found in the addendum titled Addendum – Joseph Leyes Family.

The name Leyes is pronounced "Lee's" or "Lease".

Katharine (Katie) Leyes was born in Illinois on 18 September 1882, in Hall Tsp, Bureau Co. The family lived some time in Malden, IL. She was baptized on 14 December 1882.

Joseph Leyes Arrives in the US

Katharine Leyes' father was Joseph Leyes. He was born in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France (Northeastern France) on 3 May 1838. A Joseph Leys (spelling on the manifest) was found on the passenger list of the Ship Edward Stanley. This ship sailed from Le Havre, France, and docked in New York City on 19 May 1857. He was 18 years old. He apparently was never naturalized after his arrival in the US.

Katherine's mother, Ann (or Annie) May Leyes, was born in 28 March 1845 in Illinois. (Note: May is her maiden surname, not middle name). Her parents were German, born in Bavaria. The baptismal certificate is written in German. The 1880 census also confirms that her parents were born in Bavaria.

COH records at the Bureau Co Genealogical Soc show they were married in 1866. This record shows his origin as Frankreich (France), hers as Bairn (Bavaria).

Note: There was a Catherine Leys (actual spelling) on board the Edward Stanley. She was 48 years old, from France, and headed to Illinois, as was Joseph. It is not known what relationship, if any, she had to Joseph Leyes, but as we will see later, it is possible that this is Joseph's Aunt Catherine. Joseph and Catherine were not listed next to each other in the list.

1860 Census

Joseph, having arrived in the US in 1857, found his way to LaSalle County, IL, and became employed as a farm laborer in the town of Waltham. He worked and lived on the farm of Alpine and Margaret Meyer. Alpine was a native of France. Joseph was listed as Joseph Lise in the census. He was 20 years old.

1870 Census

By 1870, Joseph had met and married Anna May. By 1870, Anna had given birth to 3 children, but only one survived: a daughter, Elizabeth, aged 10 months. Joseph was 32, Anna was 25, and they were farmers in Berlin Township.

1880 Census

By 1880, they had two children: Lizzie aged 10, and Barbara, aged 3. Now they were living on a farm in Hall Township. Their farm in Hall Township was probably in Section 20 since that piece of land was later sold by the Leyes children after Joseph and Anna's death. The north edge of Section 20 touches present day Route 6 and is about half way between Highway 89 and Seatonville.

1890 Census

1890 census data was destroyed in a fire.

1900 Census

By 1900, Joseph was now 62 and Anna was 55. They owned a farm in Hall Township. They had two children living at home: Philippina (Pena), aged 19, and Katharine (Katie), aged 17. Elizabeth and Barbara were now out of the house and presumably married.

1910 Census

By 1910, Joseph was 72 years old, Annie was 65. He was listed as a farmer in Hall Township. Their daughter, Barbara Leyes Hassler, was living with them along with Barbara's 10-year old son, Irwin. Barbara and her husband were divorced according to the census.

Joseph and Anna both died in 1912.

Looking at the 1900 census data, it is clear that the Joseph and Anna Leyes had 7 children, of which 4 survived. These specific numbers (7/4) are written on the census forms. The survivors were daughters.

Here is the listing of the Joseph Leyes family:

Name	Born	Died	Married	Date
Joseph Leyes	5/3/1838	11/30/1912		3/1866 or 9/2/1866
Annie May	3/28/1845	4/13/1912		
William Henry	7/23/1866	1867	--	--
Justina Barbara	6/26/1868	1868	--	--
Elizabeth Pricilla(Lizzie)	9/1869		Phillip Jacob Helm	3/10/1892
Wilhelm	11/18/1871	8/22/1872	--	--
Barbara	2/19/1877	1/6/1962	Phillip J. Hassler	3/4/1897
Philippena (Pena)	6/9/1880	11/19/1962	Henry Walch	9/18/1904
Katharina (Katie)	9/18/1882	6/16/1953	Gustav Pinter	1/15/1905

Barbara married Phillip Hassler but was divorced at a young age. She is listed in the 1910 census at the age of 33, divorced, living with her 10-year old son Irwin at the home of her parents, Joseph and Annie Leyes in Hall township section 20. Joseph was 72 at this time and lists his occupation as farmer. Annie was 65.

Pena Leyes married Henry Walch. Henry's father also has roots in the Alsace Lorraine region of France.

Anna May Ancestry (May is her surname)

Katharine Leyes Pinter was the daughter of Joseph Leyes and Anna May Leyes as I have noted.

Anna May Leyes' father was Johan Georg May, born in Germany in 1808. He migrated with his family to America sometime between 1841 and 1845.

There is some confusion and conflict about Anna May Leyes' mother's given name. Three possible names have been found for her mother and these will be discussed below:

- Julia, as found in the 1850 census
- Catharine, as found in the 1860 census
- Kunigunde Barbara Florer as found in the LDS International Records.
(Note: **Pronounced:** koo-nee-GUWN-də)

Arrival in America

We have concluded that Johan and his wife and four children arrived in America sometime between 1841 and 1845. This is based on the fact that their fourth child, Barbara was born in Germany in 1841 while Anna, the 5th child, was born in Illinois in 1845.

1850 Census

In 1850, John G. May and his wife Julia were found in Bureau County, township unknown. John was a farmer. He and Julia had 7 children. Their first 4 children (John George, John Fredrick, John Leonhart, and Barbara) were born in Frauenaaurach, Mittelfranken, Bavaria. Their next three children were born between 1845 and 1849 in America (Bureau County).

It is interesting to note that daughter Barbara, age 9, was not listed by the census taker as living at home with her family. Rather, a Barbara May was recorded as living with another family a few farms away. It might be reasonable to conclude that Johan's daughter Barbara was living in another household perhaps as a servant, but this cannot be proven.

1860 Census

By 1860, the May family had grown to 11 people. Their farm was in Selby Township and was in the general vicinity of the William and Margaret Croisant family and the Phillip and Catharine Doll family. Their real estate was valued at \$3300.

This census recorded John's wife as Catharine. It was Julia in 1850. It is not known if this is the same person or a different wife. Since the age difference is the same in both censuses, it may be the same person. Perhaps one name is her middle name. By 1860, their first five children were out of the house, but 2 new sons were added.

Anna was about 15 in 1860 yet she was not listed in the household. An Anna May was found in Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1860, listed as 14 years old. She was found in a list of residents at Illinois College in Jacksonville. (The census taker wrote that it was Illinois

Con. College....the significance of Con. is not known.) The census pages are very washed out and hard to read but it appears that Anna was recorded as a nurse and not a student. Perhaps she was a nursing student. There are no other Anna Mays in the 1860 census data that fit her known profile.

(Today, Jacksonville, located in Morgan County in west central Illinois, has two colleges. One is Illinois College, founded in 1829. It is the oldest college in Illinois and the first to grant a degree, in 1835.)

1870 Census

By 1870, only John and Catharine were listed, meaning that children were born in the 1860's. They were in Selby Township, possibly in Hollowayville, and had retired from farming. John's occupation in 1870 was saloon keeper. The value of his real estate was \$5000.

1880 census

No records of this John and Catharine May could be found in the 1880 census meaning that they may have passed away between 1870 and 1880.

Here is a chart of the complete Johan Georg May family:

Name	Age in 1860	Birthdate	Location	Deathdate	Married	Date
Johan Georg May	53	1/21/1808	Germany	10/18/1876		
Catharine , or.. Julia, or.. Kunigunde Barbara Florer	51	~1811	Germany			
Anna	--	6/30/1832	Germany	10/31/1835	--	
Johan Georg Jr.	26	2/20/1834	Germany	11/8/1863	Elizabeth	
John Fredrich	24	1/5/1836	Germany	1/15/1902		
John Leonhart	21	2/3/1839	Germany	9/7/1910		
Barbara	19	3/6/1841	Germany	11/08/1922	? Lang	
Anna	15	3/28/1845	Illinois	4/13/1912	Joseph Leyes	
William	12	3/18/1848	Illinois		Pena Halde	
George	11	6/15/1849	Illinois	1/8/1904		
Henry	7	10/24/1852	Illinois	11/23/1925		
Jacob	6	12/9/1853	Illinois	9/16/1929		

This chart is a composite of data from the 1850 and 1860 census and data obtained from the LDS International Index. Note that Johan's first child was a daughter who lived only about 3 years after her birth.

Now for the confusion about Johan's wife or wives:

According to the LDS International Index, Johan Georg May married Kunigunde Barbara Florer on 21 August 1831 in Frauenaaurach, Mittelfranken, Bavaria. Yet, in the US in 1850, his wife is listed as Julia, and in 1860 and 1870, his wife is Catharine. The LDS data gives no death date for Kunigunde. Since the age differences and children's names match up for these census years, we will assume that Johan's wife used the names Julia and Catherine after arrival in the US in 1843. Both were deceased by 1880.

Johan Georg May's Parents

Johan was the son of Johan May and Anna Maria Fuchs. I have no other information about this generation of Mays.

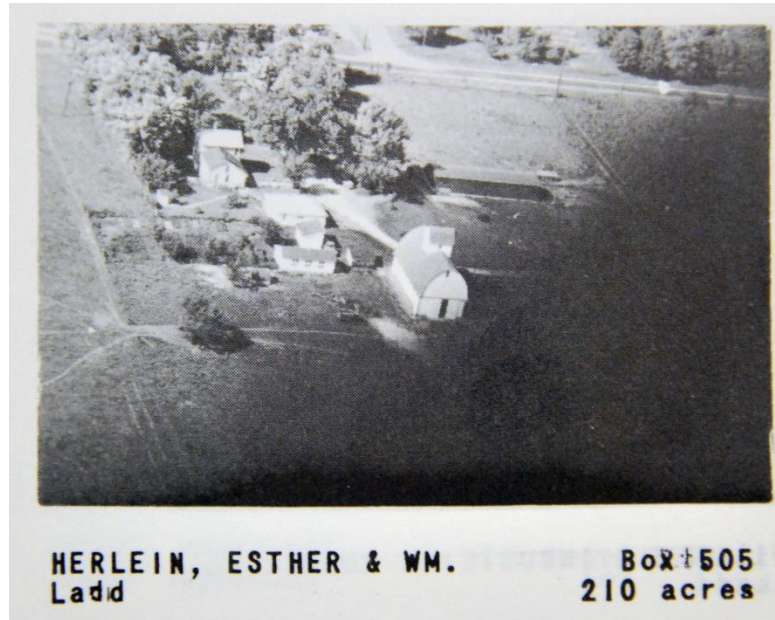
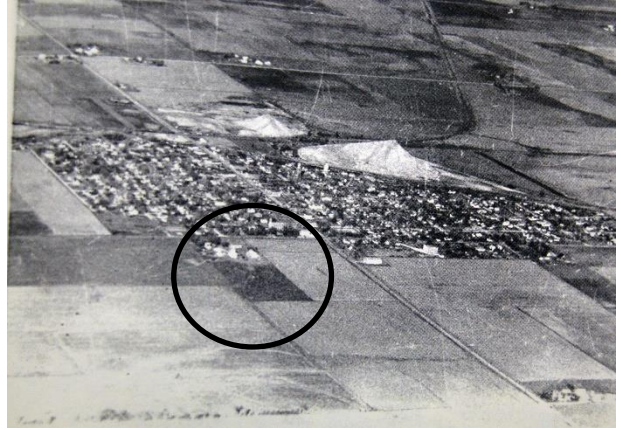
The Walch Connection

Gus' son Harold used to talk about Uncle Henry Walch. While I recall the name, I don't recall the context in which he mentioned Walch's name. Now we know that Henry Walch married Pena Leyes in 18 September 1904. Pena was Katie Leyes' sister and was born 9 June 1880. Henry Walch was born 26 July 1877. Henry Walch's dad, Charles Walch, Sr was born apparently in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France.

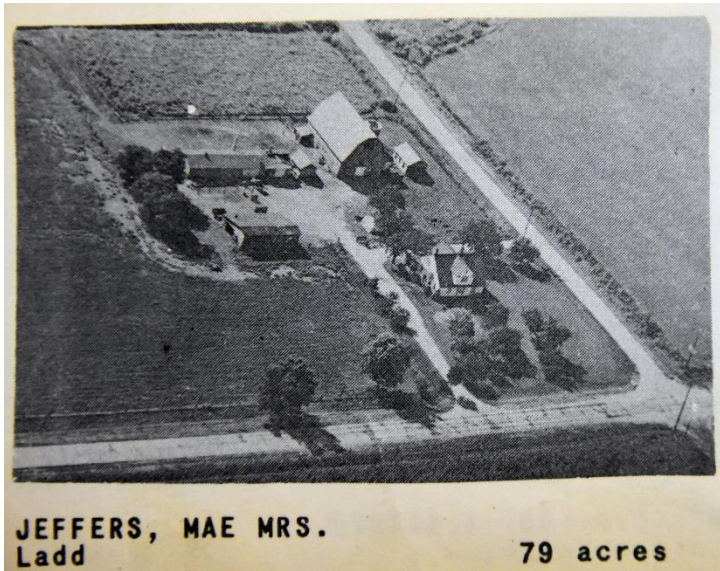
Henry is remembered in part today for his pigeons. He apparently raised them as a hobby.

Photos of Gus Pinter's Farms

South of Ladd, on Cleveland Street



North of Ladd, Section 9 of Hall Township



Picture taken
between 1935 and
1965



ca 1965

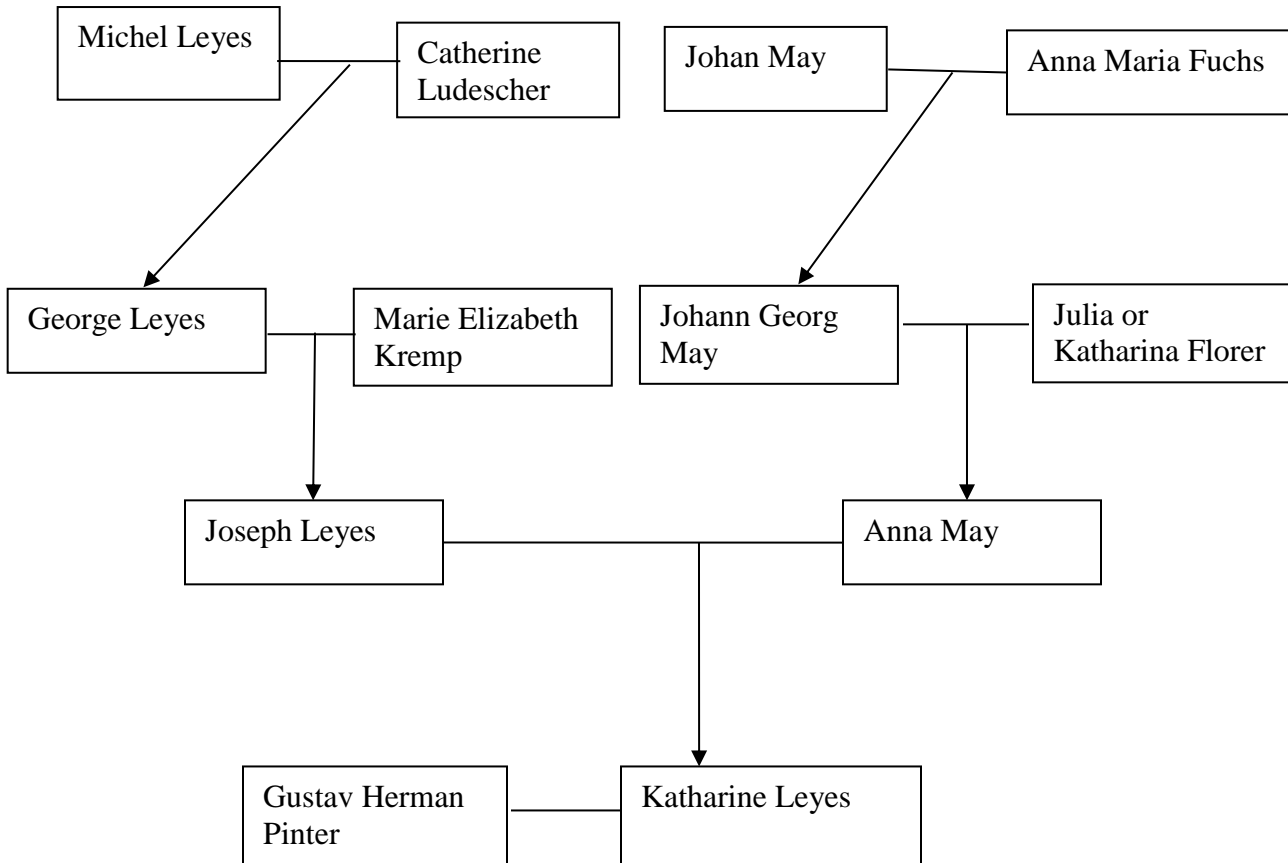


ca 1967

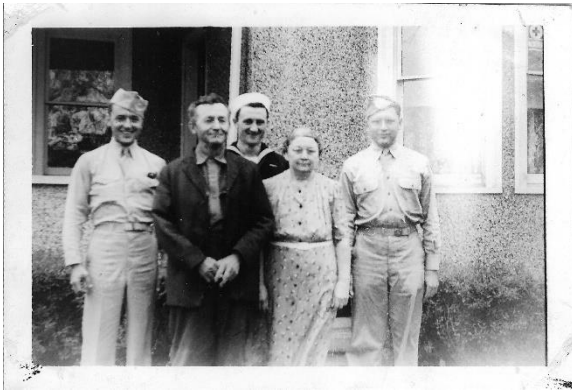


ca 1935

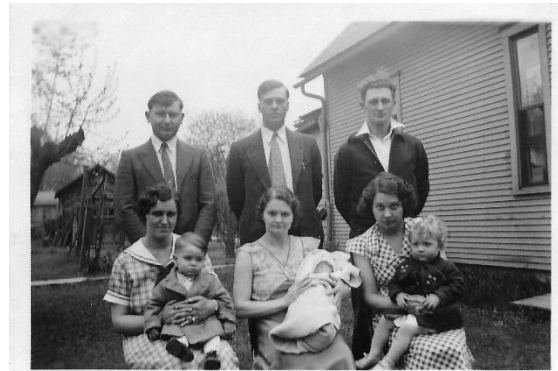
Leyes and May Simple Tree



Gus Pinter Family Miscellaneous Picture Album



Lester, Gus, Leo, Katie, Harold, 1943



Herman and Marie, Lula and Philip, Leo and Rose, ca 1935



Herman, Katie, Gus, Gilbert



Gus in the band (#6)



Katie's parents, Annie and Joseph Leyes



Gus and Katie, ca 1912



Katie Leyes, date unknown



Gus Pinter farm house under construction, date unknown
(Half mile north of Ladd)



Gus ?? and his new car, date unknown



Katie Leyes and her sisters
Back: Katie and Pena
Front: Barbara and Lizzie



Gus Pinter holding Ken and Gary
 ca. 1950-1952

Confirmation class 1893
 Gus is in back row, second from left



Katie and Gus Pinter
 Date unknown



Gus Pinter Family
 ca. 1935



Katie Leyes
Date unknown



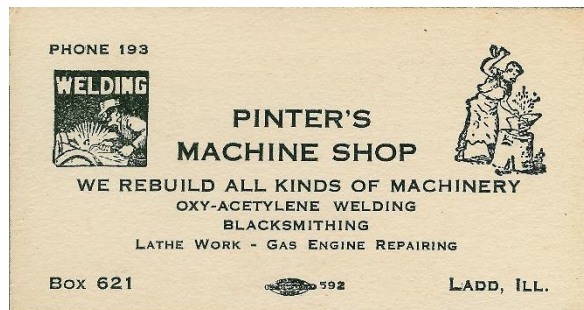
Gus Pinter in the band
(front row, fourth from right)



Gus Pinter
Date Unknown

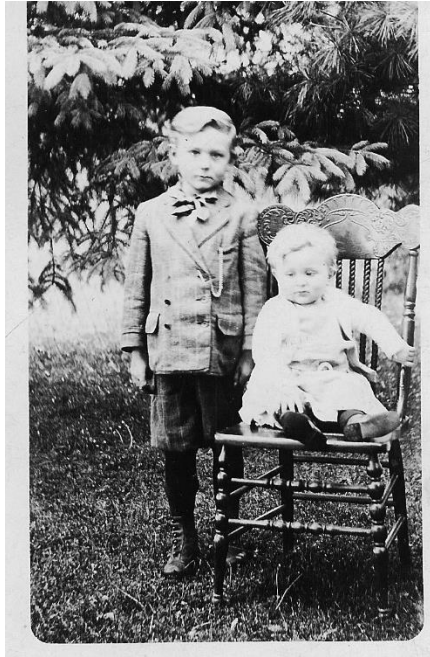


Back: Harold, Lula, Gilbert,
Herman, Leo, and Lester
Seated: Katie and Gus
ca. 1935



Pinter Machine Shop
Business card

Earliest Pictures of Gus and Katie's Children



Herman and Leo
ca. 1912-14



Lester Pinter
ca. 1923-24



Lula, ca 1912



Leo, ca 1912



Herman, ca. 1912



Gilbert and Harold
ca. 1919

506D PARACHUTE INFANTRY
Office of the Chaplain

APO 321,
11 May 1945.

Mrs. Katherine Pinter,
Box 536,
Ladd, Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Pinter:

It is with the deep sense of the inadequacy of words that I wish to extend my sympathy in the death of your son Lester. By now, I know that his Commanding Officer has written to tell you all the circumstances of his death that are permitted to be revealed.

In spite of difficulties your son received a Christian funeral and all the military honors due a brave man who has died for his country. He is buried in a well kept cemetery at Mariveles, Bataan, Philippine Islands.

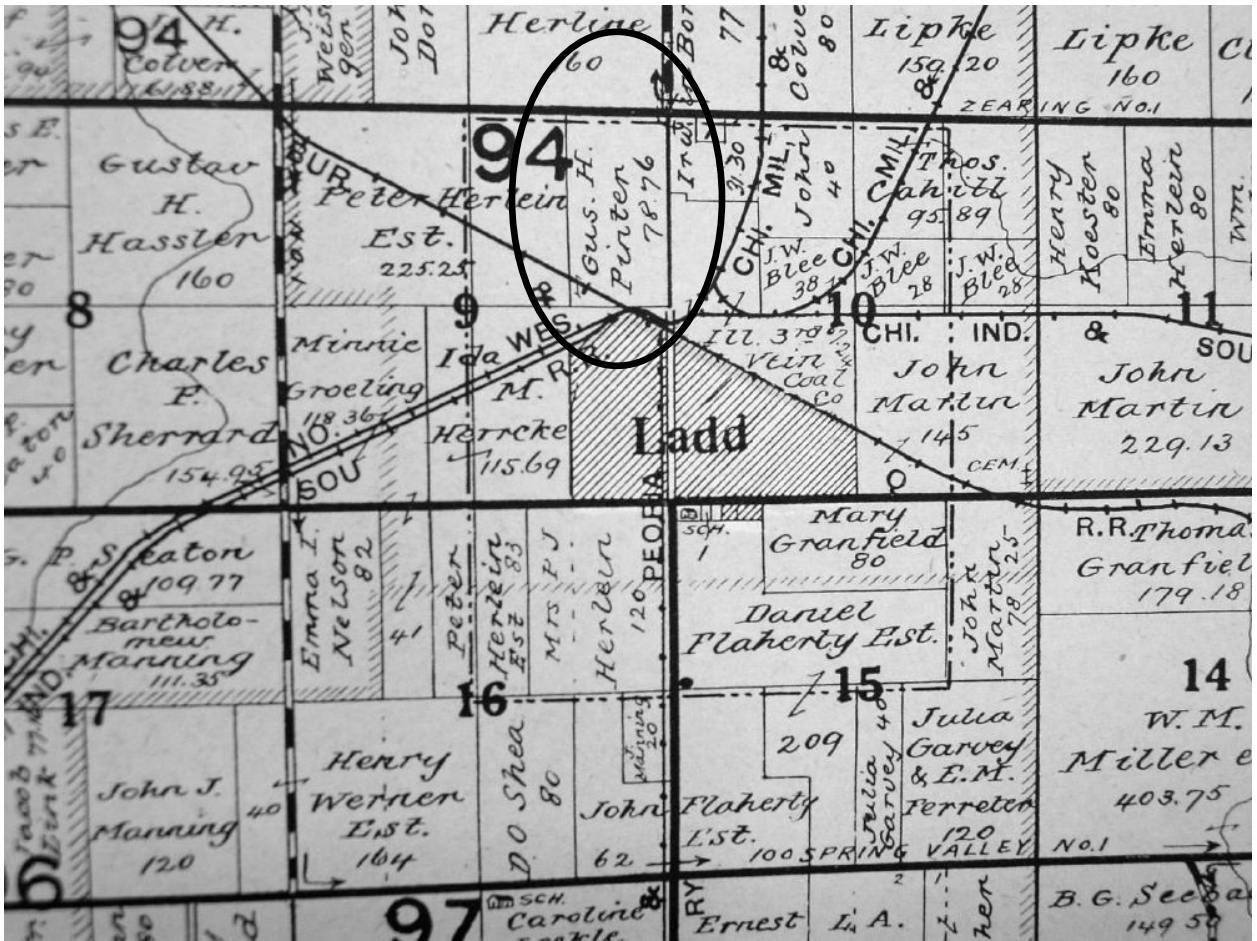
If I can be of any help to you or if there is some question you have pertaining to your son please feel that I wish to assist.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. POWERS,
Chaplain, Captain, AUS.

John J. Powers.

Notice of Lester Pinter's death



1916 Hall Township Map (partial)

Wedding Photos of Gus and Katie and Children



Gus and Katie 15 January 1905



Harold and Julia
26 September 1940



Gilbert and Lena
24 May 1941



Herman and Marie
19 July 1933



Lester and Lillian
25 July 1942



Phillip and Lula
10 January 1928



Leo and Rose
25 February 1933



Leo and Laura
(Wedding photo not available -
Picture taken day after wedding)
13 November 1942



Leo and Edith
(Wedding photo not available)
25 August 1949