

## *Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book*

# *What did Heinrich and Elizabeth Look Like?*

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**H**einrich and Elizabeth entered the US in or before 1848, it is thought, and settled in Bureau County, Illinois. Their first appearance in formal records is the 1850 federal census.

In the 1850s, their family grew to two sons and they farmed property in Bureau County and were able to purchase their own farm in about 1864.

Elizabeth died from Typhus in 1865 at the age of 52 soon after the end of the Civil War. Heinrich lived until the age of 89, dying in 1900 in Bureau County.

Only one picture exists for this couple: a photo of Heinrich which is shown to the right. There are no known photos of Elizabeth.



This paper will explore what Heinrich and Elizabeth might have looked like in their life in Illinois.

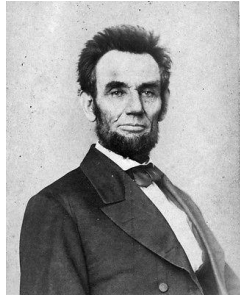
With the exception of the picture shown on the right, all other pictures were found on the Internet and are of people who lived in the time frame of Heinrich and Elizabeth.

### **Heinrich**

Heinrich lived well into the time that photography in Bureau County was available. The only image known of him, however, was possibly taken for the church record since this is the picture that is found in the St Johns Church 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary book published in 1924. The church was founded in 1849. Heinrich was identified as a Charter Member along with many others. It is not likely that this photo was taken soon after the church was formed in 1849. But, the actual date of this photo is currently unknown.

This photo was taken between the ages of 39 and 89 years. Looking closely at the photo, one might say that he is relatively young looking and possibly in the age range of 50 to 70. This would place the picture date between 1860 and 1880.

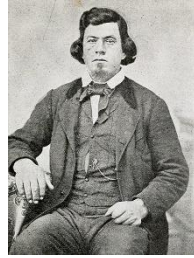
But, his suit and cravat have similarities to men's clothing in the 1860's. Here are a few photos taken in the 1860s, found with a Google search, showing 1860's men's clothing:



Lincoln - 1865



1860



1864



Civil War Era



1860s

Of course, it is also possible that he simply was wearing an old suit from his past since they probably did not have a lot of money. And, it is not clear if photography had yet reached Bureau County in the 1850s. Henry Immke started working in Bureau County in about 1872 but there was also a photographer named William Masters who may have worked in BC earlier than 1872.

The above discussion centers on Heinrich's "Sunday go to meeting" appearance. The image above probably fell into this category. But, what about how he looked working on the farm?

Again, we can only guess. Here are some images of farm workers from the era:



## Elizabeth

We have a photo of Heinrich. This problem is that we do not know when the photo was taken other than to say it may have been in the 1860s.

For Elizabeth, the problem is bigger in that we have no pictures. We can describe what clothing she may have worn but we cannot know her height, weight, or facial appearance.

Women of the 1860s had a distinctive dress appearance that is consistent across most pictures taken in the time prior to her death. Common characteristics of their formal or go-to-church apparel are:

- Hair was matted and parted in the middle and pulled to the back
- Hair was sometimes worn curly
- Older women may have worn a bonnet.
- Dresses had a lace collar
- Dresses had puffy arm sleeves with a cuff
- Dresses had a high waist with a floor length skirt, with a hoop
- Dresses fit snugly to the waste

Here is a collection of photos take in the 1860s of women from various parts of the country:



Emma Pratt, Livingston Co,  
IL – Civil war era - 1860s





Finally, this is a selection of images of the 1860s farm woman in work attire:



## B. Women's Work



- Biggest hardship was being completely self sufficient out in the prairie by yourself
- Women → most of feeding & clothing family but also sometimes worked alongside men in fields
  - Also doctored their fam. & others around them
  - Also sponsored schools & churches to provide for the future



### Conclusion

Based only on the pictures above, and with a little editing, the two images below are a best guess as to how Heinrich and Elizabeth might have looked going to church and working on the homestead in the time of 1850 to 1865:

