

Appendix A

Farms of the Pinter Family of Bureau County, Illinois

by Ken Pinter
Updated December 2018

This Appendix summarizes, to the best of the available resources, the property ownership of Heinrich, Henry, and Jacob Pinter. It evolved because I wanted to know where Heinrich and his boys and families lived, and I also wanted to know where each of his children was born. In addition, I found the available documentation of land purchases to be confusing and scattered and I needed to get this information organized.

Heinrich, Henry and Jacob were involved in numerous land purchases in the townships of Berlin, Westfield, Selby, and Hall within Bureau County, and Livingston County, IL, as well as property in South Dakota.

In the following discussion, the property purchases will be defined by a simple section map or aerial photo and will be identified by the Township and Section Number.

It is interesting to study the real estate transactions of 1800 farming communities. It seems that those who had more land and wealth helped those who didn't have as much. There are frequent examples of transactions between friends and relatives. These transactions involved buying and selling land and lending cash via mortgages.

It is also important to note that property rental was seldom if ever documented, at least officially. So, while many people purchased their farms, some simply rented them and thus there are no records of the rental transactions.

Upon Arrival in America

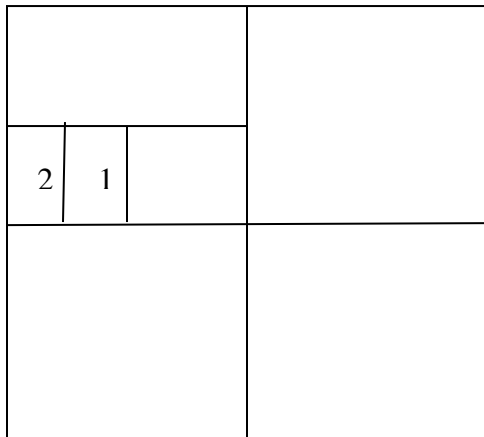
From the time Heinrich and Elizabeth arrived in Bureau County until 1864, we can only guess as to where they were living. We do know that in 1850 they were sharing a dwelling with John and Anna Landerer (recorded as Landera in the 1850 census and Landerer in a German emigration publication). While this could have been a boarding house, it is probably that it was a farm and that Heinrich and Elizabeth and the Landerers were hired hands on this property. But, the census data does not suggest this as a possibility. Or perhaps the Landerers owned this property somewhere in Bureau County. However, this Landerer family has never been found in Bureau County except for the reference in the 1850 census. There was a reference to a John and Nona Mae Landers in the Bureau County Grantee/Grantor records it is felt this is not John and Anna.

We do know now, however, that Heinrich was involved in two land purchases prior to 1866.

Heinrich Buys Land in Selby Township Section 25

Courthouse records show that on 28 November 1856, Henry Benter (spelling per courthouse records) and William Young jointly purchased 40a of land near Trenton (later DePue, IL) known as: the SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 25 of Selby Township. This heavily timbered land was located just south of Hollowayville. They purchased this land from George and Elizabeth Stringer for \$400. Heinrich, William Young, and Fred Croisant entered into a one year mortgage with Stringer for \$350. Heinrich and William apparently put up the other \$50 in cash. Fred Croisant’s involvement seemed to be mostly one of helping his fellow Germans get started. This was Heinrich’s first land purchases since arriving about eight years earlier.

For the next ten years, Benter (our Heinrich) and Young jointly owned these 40 acres identified in the diagram below as Items 1 and 2. Also shown is a current photo of the property. This land was heavy in timber in this time frame and was probably purchased for the firewood and building materials that it provided. This was the norm in this time.



Selby –Section 25
(E1/2 SW NW 25 16 10)

Heinrich Buys Land in Selby Township Section 14

In 1864, Heinrich borrowed money and purchased this 80-acre piece of land from Nathaniel and Henrietta Chauncey on 5 October 1864 for \$800. The Chaunceys apparently lived in Philadelphia, PA, at the time of the sale. This was Heinrich's second land purchase since his arrival in America.

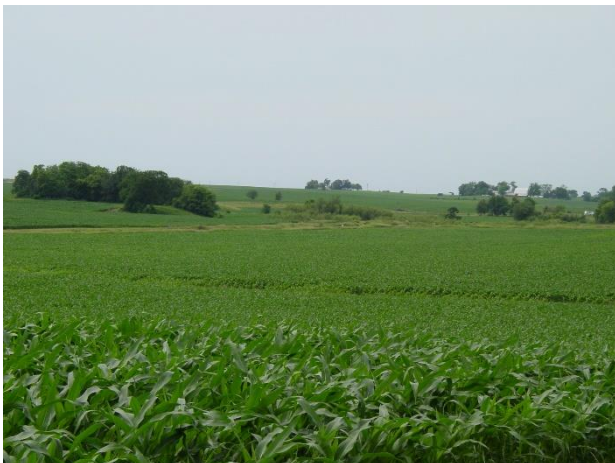
This parcel of land is located just to the north of the Church on the Hill Cemetery. This parcel has been described in various resources as being "1/2 mile north of the COH" and as being in Hollowayville. A creek, Brush Creek, meanders through the property and it is possible that Heinrich's farm home was near this creek which is on the west side, but this is unknown. Today, the farm on this property is located near the southeast corner.

It is also reported that Henry and Jacob were born here in 1852 and 1855. Various people and writings have suggested that Henry and Jacob were born in a "log cabin about a half-mile north of the church". This places their home/farm on this property.

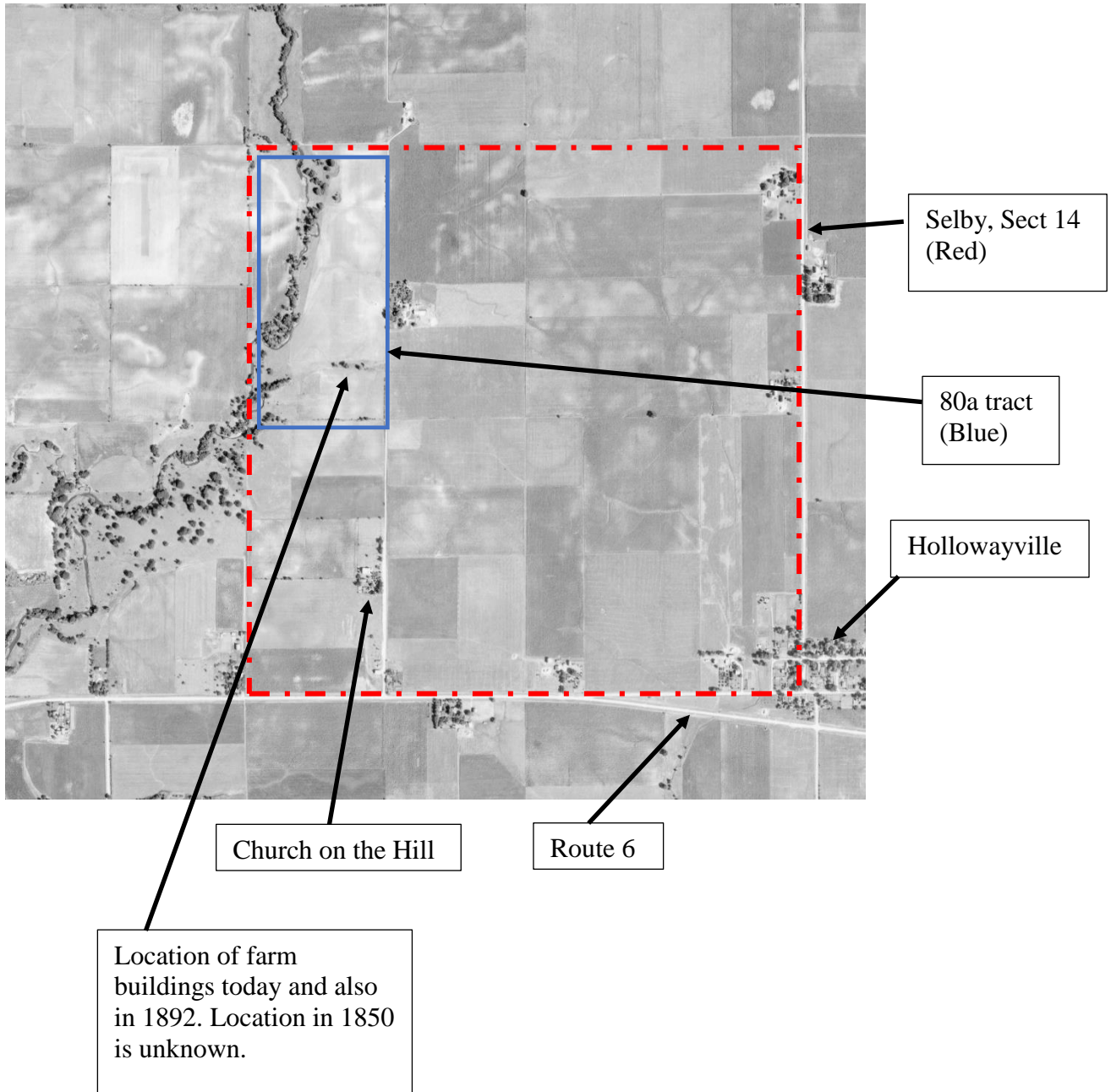
Here is what may have happened, but cannot be definitely proven: Heinrich and Elizabeth, having arrived in Bureau County around 1848, possibly found and rented this land or else became hired hands on an existing farm. This property was probably owned by the Chauncey family in this time frame.

It is even possible that this farm was shared with the Landerers. The photos below are views of this property looking approximately north from the COH cemetery.

Since the rental of property in this time was not well documented, there are no records of farmland/home rentals for Heinrich.



This image is an aerial photo of the property taken in about 2018. The area bordered by a blue line was Heinrich's property.



Elizabeth Dies and Heinrich Sells Out

Over the years, Heinrich and family acquired possessions. I'm not sure of the extent to which they developed wealth, but as we have seen in a previous chapter, when Heinrich sold his estate in 1866, they had acquired a fair amount of personal possessions and about 100 acres of property.

Elizabeth developed an illness called, in that time, Nervenfieber (nerve fever) and died on 8 May 1865, just as the family was making headway establishing their life in Illinois. Today, that illness is called Typhus.

For reasons we will never know, Heinrich sold all of his land holdings to George Halte for \$3000 on 4 August 1865, only three months after Elizabeth's death. George was a fellow charter member of the COH. Specifically, he sold:

- ✓ West half of the NW quarter of Section 14 Selby Township (80a) –the piece north of the COH
- ✓ E1/2 of SW quarter of NW quarter of Section 25 Selby (20a) – the piece near Trenton (De Pue)

Then, on 3 March 1866 Heinrich sold all of his personal possessions in an auction. It is a guess that he rented the farm he just sold to George Halte for at least 7 months or more after the sale.

On 27 April 1866 Heinrich sold his interest in the other 20a of SW NW Section 25 Selby back to his partner Wm Young for \$200. In other words, Heinrich liquidated all his property and possessions within about 11 months after Elizabeth's death such that he had cash in the bank but no farm and personal property.

On 13 October 1866 Heinrich applied for and received a passport for himself and his two sons. All of the above transactions are well documented.

When Heinrich sold his 80 acres in section 14 to George Halte, a Mortgage was created. Halte finally paid off this mortgage to Heinrich on 8 February 1869, a few years late since it was supposed to be paid off in September 1866.

It is unknown where Heinrich and the boys lived over the next few years but it likely was rented property somewhere. Since Heinrich was owed money after the farm sale in 1865, one might think that they stayed in the area until the mortgage was paid off. But, before that mortgage was paid off to him in February, 1869, Heinrich purchased property in Livingston County, IL, in February 1868.

Then Heinrich and his sons more or less vanished. They cannot be found today in an kind of documentation including the 1870 census.

Heinrich Buys Land in Livingston County

Let's review. The period from October 1866 to October 1874 will probably always be a mystery to us. However, these paragraphs will attempt to make some sense of this time.

Heinrich sold everything he owned, and then obtained a passport which is typically issued to those who plan to leave the country and later return. We cannot demonstrate that Heinrich and the boys actually used their passport. A survey of passenger records of ships arriving in the US between

1870 and 1874 has so far been inconclusive (outbound records are not readily available). But it is curious that he sold all his worldly possessions in 1865 and 1866.

In 1868, he purchased this property in Livingston County, IL:

- ✓ West 1/2 of the SW quarter of Section 9 Owego Tsp (80a)
- ✓ Lot 2 in the SE quarter of Section 31 Owego Township (2.5a)

It is also curious that Heinrich waited about 23 months after selling out in Bureau before purchasing land in Livingston and that this purchase was completed before the section 14/25 mortgage was paid off by George Halte.

It is also curious that Heinrich and the boys do not appear in the 1870 census anywhere in the US with any of the names we are familiar with.

So, what happened? Here are two possibilities:

Possibility One

Heinrich and the boys stayed in Illinois, location unknown, for the 23-month period from 3 March 1866 to 17 February 1868 doing odd jobs or serving as farm hands. Then, they purchased the 82.5 acres in Owego Township in Livingston County from Severin and Lucinda Olson for \$2100 on 17 Feb 1868. Then they waited for the section 14 property to be paid off by Halte, which happened in February, 1869. And then they headed for New York and booked passage to Europe with the intent to return.

This suggests that Heinrich invested his money in land to be farmed in the future and then left the country for some period that included the year 1870 (census year), the year in which they are not recorded. In addition, in the 1870 census for Owego Township, at least two dwellings in that township were recorded as having no occupants. Maybe one of those farms was Heinrich's. In addition, a complete review of the 1870 census data showing Owego Township residents reveals no family whose given names and circumstances match Heinrich and the boys.

Possibility Two

Heinrich and boys never left the US. Instead, they waited until they had enough cash in the bank to buy the property in Livingston in 1868 but before the section 14 mortgage was paid in 1869. And they then simply established their home in Livingston County.

Possibility Two unfortunately does not explain why they were not counted in the 1870 census.

Please refer to images at the end of this Appendix for photos of the Livingston County property.

Return to Bureau County

Whichever possibility actually occurred, Heinrich and the boys were back in Illinois some time before January 1874 (Henry's marriage) (unless Henry came back to Bureau earlier). When Heinrich returned from Europe (assuming they went there in the first place), he and the boys

probably settled on the Livingston property. It has been written that when Henry and Juliana married in Bureau County in 1874, they went back to Livingston County and lived there for some time. This sequence of events is unproven, but it makes sense because his father and brother were living there most of the rest of the year.

It is known that Heinrich sold these two land parcels in Livingston on 3 October 1874 to Martin Johnson for \$2500 (a \$400 gain) fully 9 months after his son Henry married Juliana Wunder in Bureau County. In that same month, Heinrich bought 80a in section 36 of Bureau County Berlin Township.

So, for some months after Henry married Juliana, the couple lived with his father and brother, first in Livingston Co and then later in Section 36 of Berlin Township.

Heinrich Buys Land in Berlin Township Section 36 — later sells to Henry

As mentioned above, on 16 October 1874, Heinrich purchased the 80-acre farm in Section 36 of Berlin Township from Lawrence and Wilhemina Schreiner for \$4400. The purchase was facilitated by a mortgage between Schreiner and Fred Walter where Heinrich was to pay \$400 per year for 10 years. In other words, Walter provided the \$2400 to Schreiner and Heinrich put up the other \$2000 in cash. This is all well documented. It is not known if there were buildings on this property or if they had to build them. Nevertheless, Heinrich and the boys lived on this property for some time.

Here is a 2018 aerial view of the property purchased in Section 36 (Blue border). Additional pictures can be found at the end of this Appendix. The property is officially called the East half of the NE quadrant of Section 36 of Berlin Township.



In 1877, the book Name Index: Voters and Taxpayers of Berlin Township, 1877, was published. It showed that Heinrich and the boys were all living on this property in Section 36. Since Henry was already married, one possibility is that he and Juliana as well as Heinrich and Jacob were all living here, either in one dwelling or multiple dwellings. The Index gave this information:

Henry Bender	Republican	80 acres	from Germany
Henry Bender Jr.	Democrat	Lives with Father	from Illinois
Jacob Bender	Democrat	Lives with Father	from Illinois

If Henry and Juliana went to Livingston County for a year after they married in 1874, then they probably returned back to Bureau after Heinrich purchased the property in Section 36 in October 1874.

Four years later, Jacob married Justina on 28 October 1878. By 1880, they had one son, Gus.

According to the 1880 census, Henry and Jacob's small families were recorded next to each other on the census sheet and that each family was in their own dwelling. Heinrich was living with Henry. This implies that there were two physical dwellings on this property. Unfortunately, the census sheet does not reveal if these were two separate properties or just one. However, considering the purchases made by Henry and Jacob after 1880, it is thought that the property of residence in 1880 was the farm in Section 36 of Berlin Township. It is not a stretch to think that Jacob and Justina possibly occupied what might be considered a "hands" quarters on this property during this time as an interim home.

This close living relationship continued until 1882.

On 12 August 1882, two events happened:

1. Heinrich sold his property in Berlin Section 36 on 12 August 1882 to his eldest son Henry for \$5.00.
2. Heinrich, Henry Jr, and Jacob on that day also signed an agreement whereby:
 - a. Heinrich conveyed the property in Section 36 to his eldest son Henry, as noted above.
 - b. Henry agreed to give Jacob \$2000. This \$2000 appears to have been an attempt to compensate Jacob for the land transaction that favored Henry. The agreement stated that the \$2000 was "part of the purchase money of the property". To get the \$2000, Henry borrowed it from George L. Vroom, thus establishing a 4-year mortgage
 - c. Both sons agreed to provide for Heinrich's retirement by giving him \$300 per year (\$150 per son) to live on. However, until his death it seems that Heinrich he lived with his sons.

It is interesting to note that there was an additional piece of property involved with this conveyance to Henry. Heinrich apparently also owned a 10 acre “lot” in Hall Township. This property was identified as Lot 9 in Section 30 of Hall Township and was located in a row of similarly shaped lots just west of Ottville on or near Negro Creek. This well may have been a source of timber for the family because to this day the area where the lot was located is heavy in timber. So far, I have not been able to find a record of when this 10-acre property was purchased.

Heinrich and Henry and his family continued to live on Berlin Section 36 until March 1894 when Henry purchased property in Westfield Section 31. While they ultimately established a home in Westfield, Section 31, he retained the 80 acres in Section 36 Berlin and it ultimately became a continuous part of his farm.

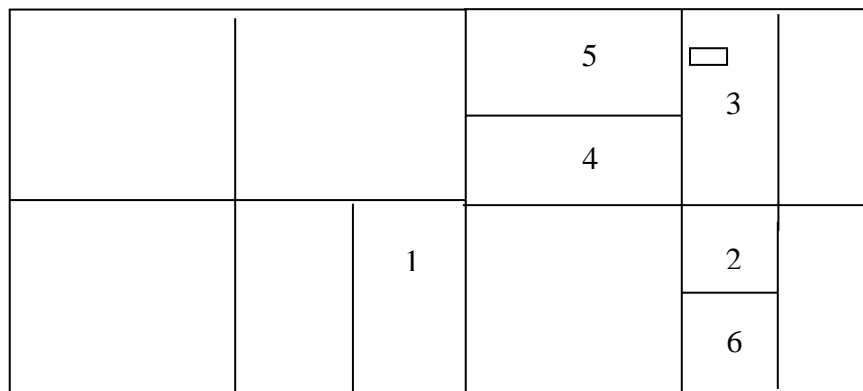
Jacob purchased property in Westfield Township Section 30 from his father-in-law on 20 April 1882. It is thought that Jacob moved his family to this property soon after he purchased it. Again, it is not known if there were buildings on this land or if he had to build them first.

Jacob Buys Land in Westfield Township Section 25 and 30

Jacob acquired his first property on 31 July 1880 when he purchased 80a from his father-in-law in Section 25 Berlin Township for \$2000.

Then, on 3 January 1882, he acquired a 40-acre tract in Westfield Township from William Rawson for \$1900. This was followed 3 months later on 20 April 1882 with the purchase of 80 acres from his father-in-law Wilhelm Croisant. This second parcel is the land that Jacob and his family occupied until his retirement. Through a series of additional purchases, Jacob expanded his holdings to over 320+ acres including the property in South Dakota.

The following diagram and list of transactions provides a best guess as to how this occurred:



**Section 25
Berlin
(25 17 10)**

**Section 30
Westfield
(30 17 11)**

1 – 80a purchased from William Croisant for \$2000 in Berlin Tsp. (80a deed granted to Wm Croisant on 25 January 1884 for \$2000 per Grantor Index.)

2 – 40a purchased from W.H. and Mary Rawson in 1882 for \$1900.

3 – 80a purchased from father-in-law Wm. Croisant on 20 April 1882 for \$1500. Jacob agreed to pay William \$40 per year. It appears that Jacob borrowed money from Fannie Mathessen to make this purchase and that that loan was paid off in May 1891.

4 – Jacob acquired these 80a on 4 October 1898. The actions that occurred in this transaction are confusing.

The grantor/ee index shows that Margaretha Croisant granted a quit-claim deed for this land to Jacob suggesting that she owned it and gave it to Jacob. Also in this transaction, Margaretha “releases said property from a lien of an annuity of \$40 specified in a deed executed between” her and her husband William, and Gus Hassler.

Another entry on the same day shows that Gus Hassler granted a deed for the same property to Jacob for \$4400 in considerations.

5 – 80a purchased from Otto Weisenberger in March 1917 for \$16800. Borrowed \$8000 from bank.

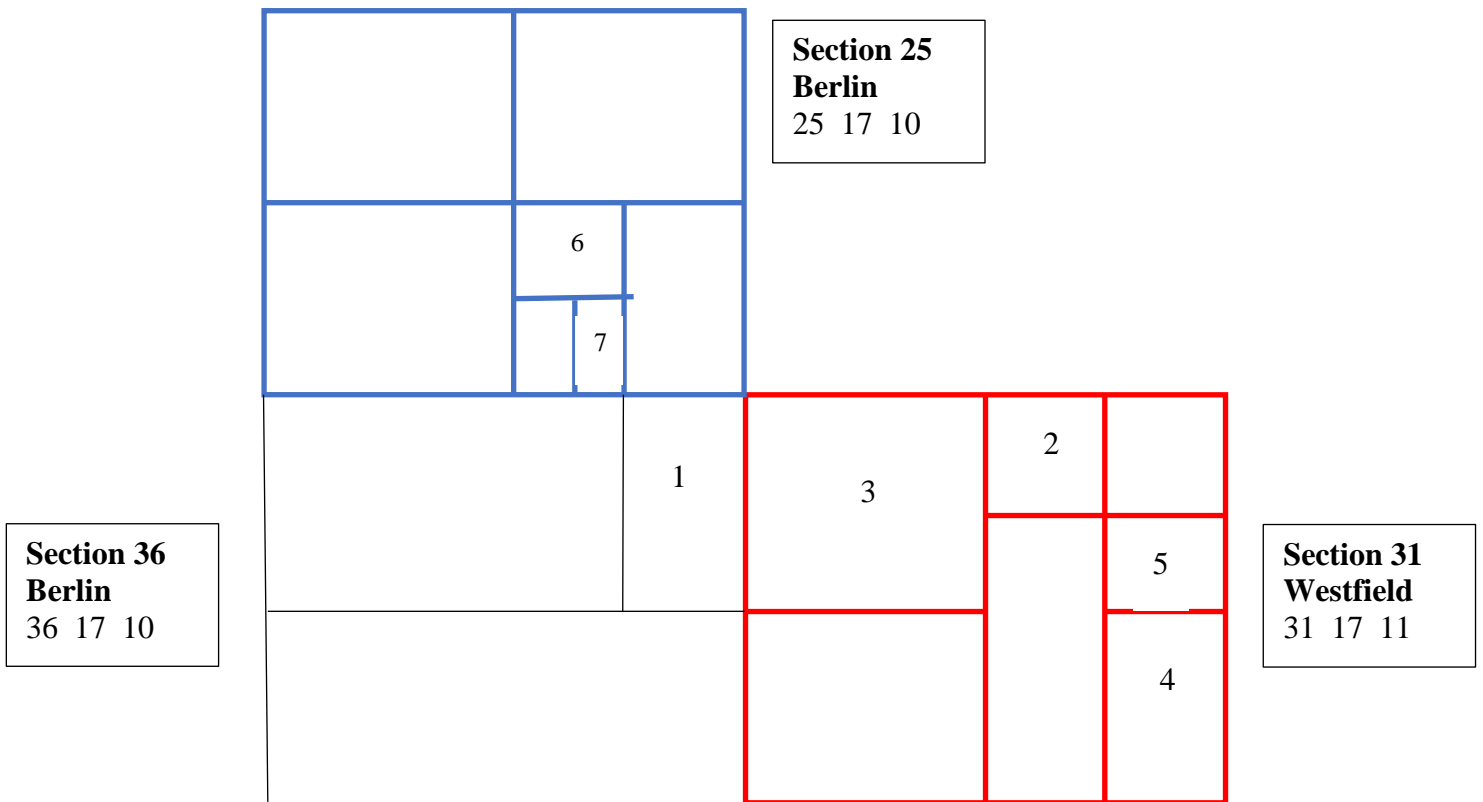
6 – 40a purchased from Selby Smith on 14 April 1920 for \$16000 (or \$8000). Smith may have provided part of the financing via a loan.

Finally, Jacob and Justina Pinter were involved with a transaction in 1884 that is a little puzzling. They sold an 80a parcel in Section 25 of Berlin Township back (conveyed a deed) to William Croisant in January 1884 for \$2000 per the Bureau County Grantor Index. William owned it in 1875 per old maps and also owned it in 1890. In between, maybe Jacob bought the land from William and sold it back in 1884 for various possible reasons. Perhaps it was to raise cash for another transaction. William effectively served as Jacob’s banker, so to speak. There was a mortgage on this property held by Hiram H. Piper for \$2500. In the transaction of 1884, William agreed to pay off the mortgage with interest. That is, the money that would go to Jacob for the sale actually went to pay off the mortgage. Piper was made whole, Jacob had nothing to show, and William now owned the 80 acres....again.

This shows that immigrant farmers back then understood how to make real estate deals.

Henry Buys Land in Westfield and Berlin Townships

Through a series of purchases, Henry expanded his holdings to about 300 acres in Westfield in addition to about 120 acres in Berlin Township including that which he acquired from his father Heinrich in 1882 (see earlier paragraph). Here is the best guess as to how this occurred:



- 1 – 80 acres acquired from his father Heinrich in 1882.
- 2 – 40a probably purchased from Henry Hahn (other details cannot be determined)
(Reasoning: One Westfield map shows that Hahn owns this property, a later map shows that Henry Pinter owned it)
(Henry’s farm home was located in this 40 acre piece)
- 3 – 160a purchased from William and Ellen Brown in 1894 for \$6000.
- 4 – 55a purchased from L. Zearing in March 1918 for \$12600.
- 5 – 40a involved in some kind of agreement with L.Zearing in March 1918 (details unclear).

6 and 7 – about 65a purchased by auction on 7 March 1903 for \$5275. Actual parcels of land include:

6-N ½ W ½ SE1/4 25 17 10, and
7-E side of S ½ W ½ SE 25 17 10

Sources of the Above Information

Much of the above was determined by examining the Grantor and Grantee Indexes at the Bureau County Courthouse as well as various township maps that showed property ownership. The Platt Index for Berlin Township was also reviewed.

It appears that many farmers acquired property by borrowing money from other people in the area. Or, perhaps they purchased property by what we would call today seller financing. There are a few instances where a mortgage was set up with a bank but many were established with what seems to be private citizens.

Henry and Jacob acquired quite a bit of property in their lifetimes, perhaps to farm, perhaps to just hold for a profit. It is possible that some land purchases were missed in this research. If the above is not the complete story, it certainly is the majority of it.

Strength in Numbers

Henry and Jacob stayed close to each other throughout their lives. They either lived on the same piece of property or they purchased properties near to each other. Such was the way of life in that time, I suppose.

South Dakota

In the early part of the 1900's, the state of South Dakota started an advertising campaign that farmland was plentiful and available in South Dakota and that people should come and invest. Henry and Jacob did so along with many others from Bureau County. Some people in fact moved to South Dakota. Henry and Jacob did not.

By 1925, Jacob had acquired about 240 acres of farm land in Section 33 and 34 of Township 106, Range 55, which is in Miner County, South Dakota.

By about this same time, Henry had also acquired about 240 acres in Miner County, South Dakota, exact location unknown.

The author was not able to determine exactly how this property investment was utilized by Henry and Jacob but it was likely made productive by hired hands.

Retirement in Ladd, Illinois

Henry and Jacob purchased lots in Ladd, Illinois later in life with the intention of retiring there. Upon their retirement, that is exactly what they did.

Jacob purchased 2 lots, numbers 7 and 8, in block 31 (Bureau Street between Elm and Pine) in 1919 while Henry purchased lot 12 in block 9 (corner of Chestnut and Central) also in 1919. They paid an average of \$4000 for these purchases. It is not clear from the resources whether or not Henry and Jacob were buying existing houses or if the lots were vacant. The photo at the right is an old photo of Jacob's home in Ladd, date unknown. The photo below it is a current photo of the Henry's home in Ladd.



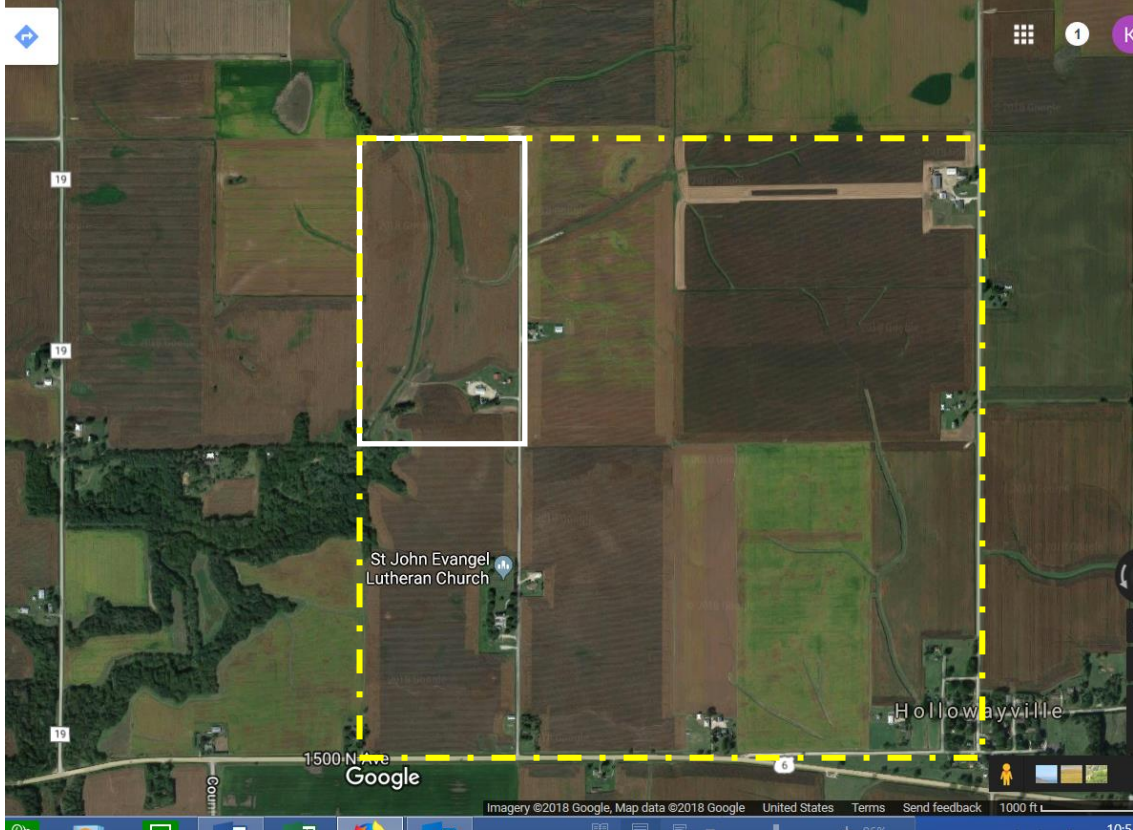
Upon retirement from farming, Jacob, and probably Henry too, still owned a substantial amount of property. Jacob's Will in 1925 demonstrated that his holdings included acreage in Bureau County as well as South Dakota. This means that they did not just sell off their holdings at retirement but rather held them and passed them on. There is plenty of evidence to show that Bureau County farmers frequently sold or passed on their property and prosperity to their children.



See below for additional photos

Additional Photos

Heinrichs Property in Selby Township Section 14 (80a one-eighth section)

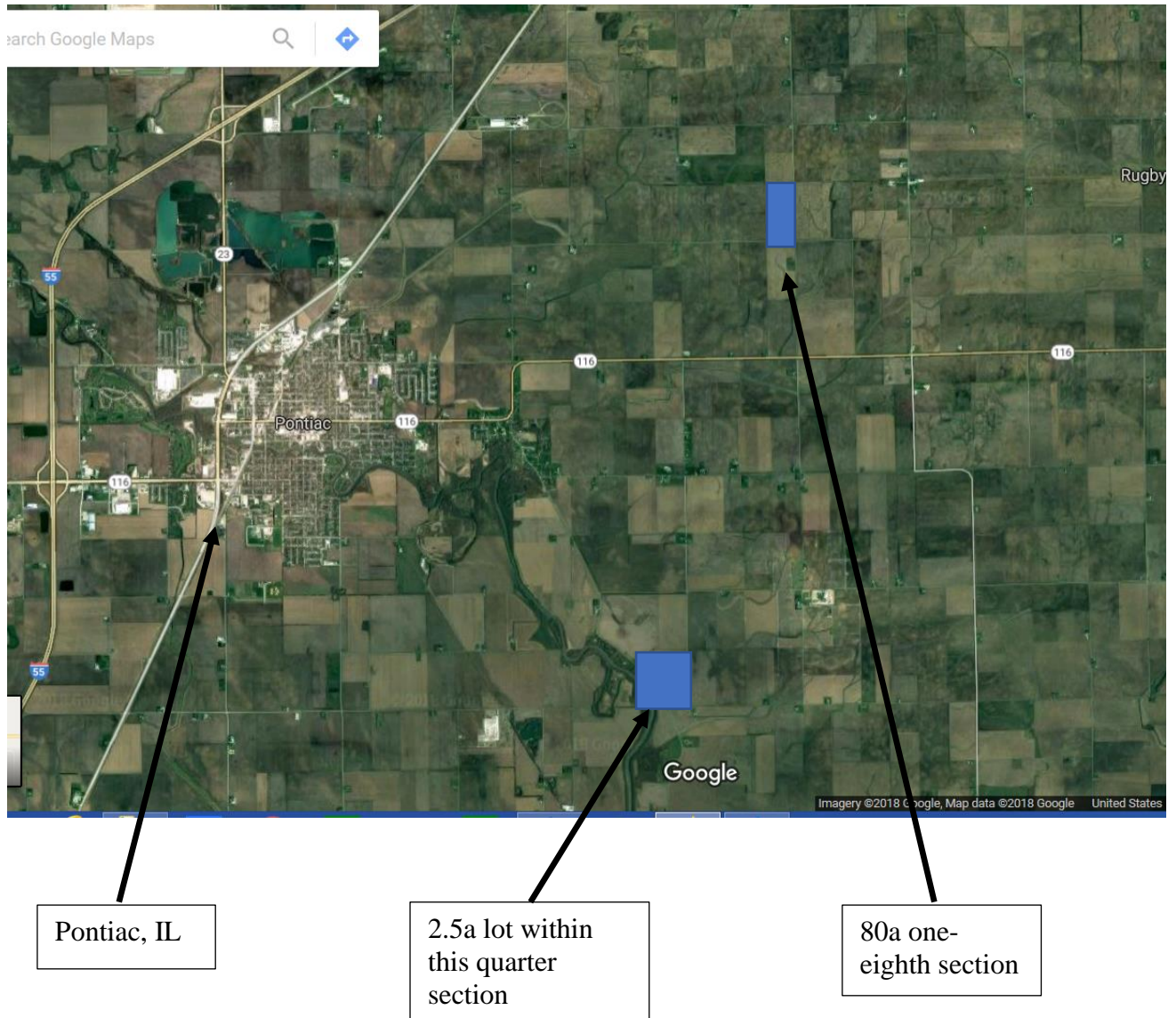


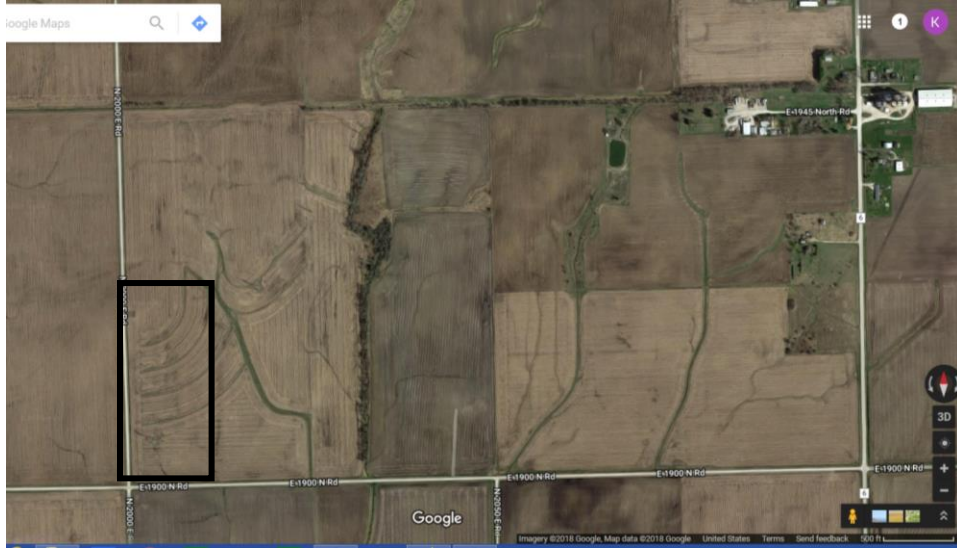
Google Maps Photo taken 2018:

Yellow = Section 14
White = Heinrich's land

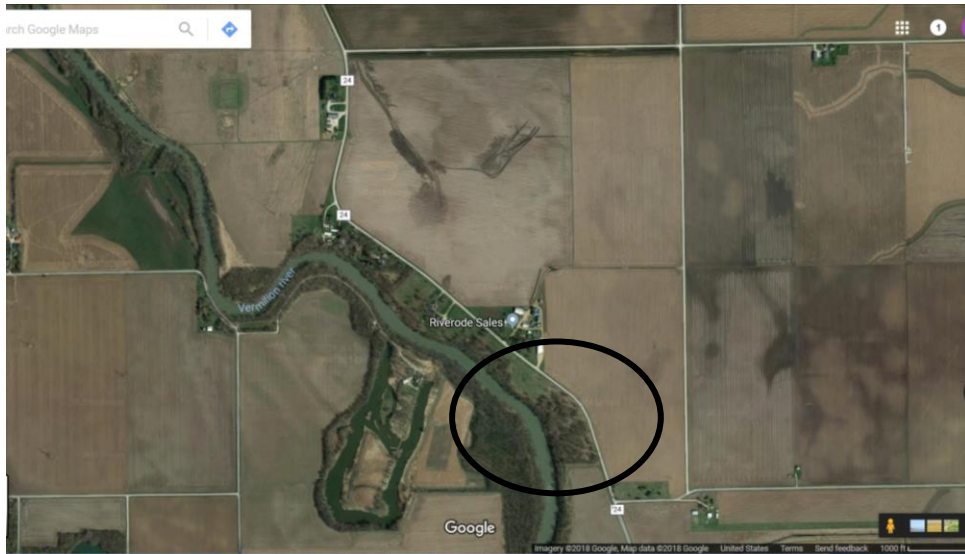


Heinrich's Property in Livingston County





80a - one-eighth of section 9 of Owego Township



2.5 acre lot somewhere within this circle

Heinrich's Farm in section 36 of Berlin Township

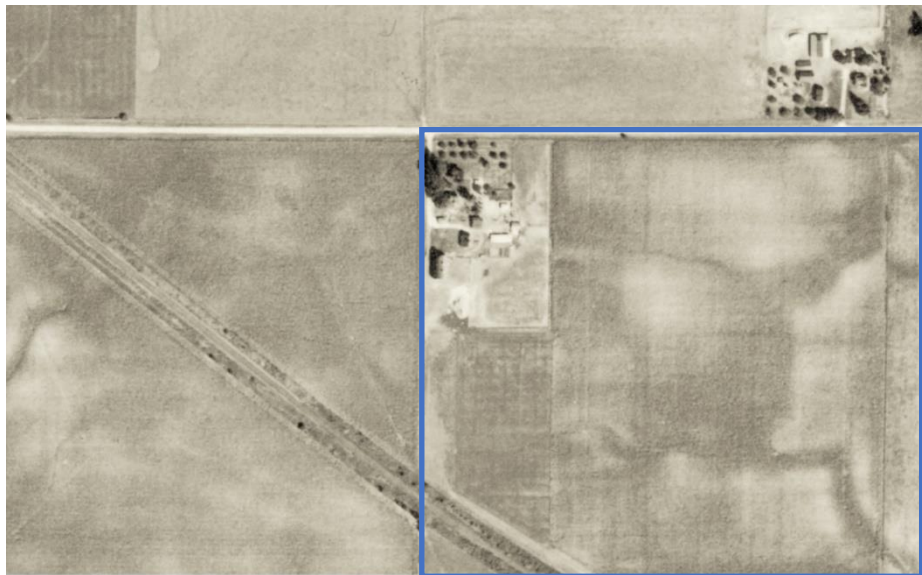


Note: This is the farm house on this property in 1965 and is shown here because it is feasible that the farm house is the original but renovated farmhouse from 1874.





Aerial Photo in 2017

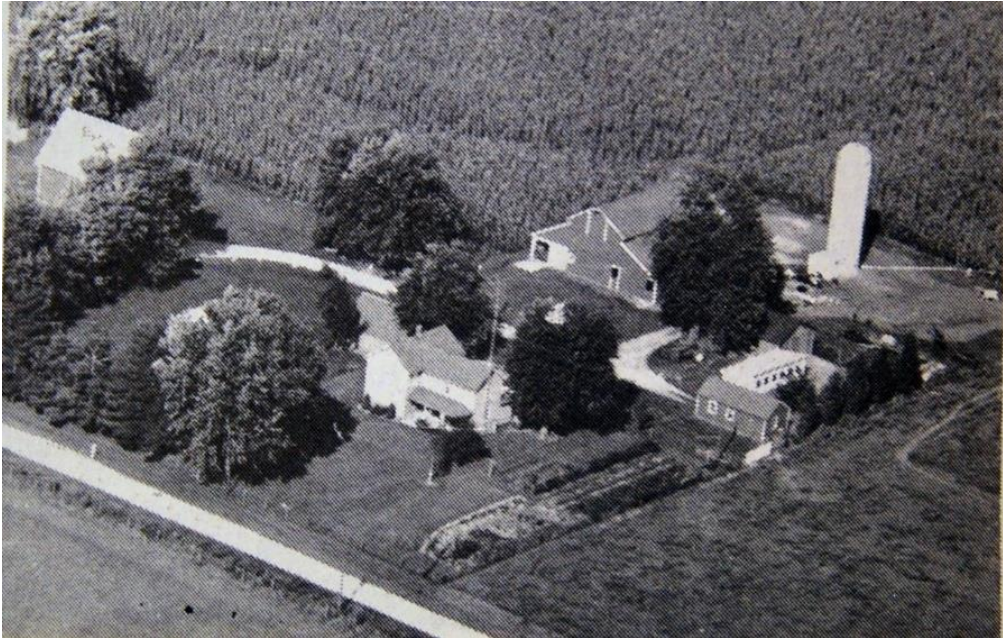


Aerial Photo 1941

Jacobs Farm and Residence – Section 30 of Westfield Township



Jacob and family in front of their house ca 1901, barn and windmill in the background



Jacob's farm aerial photo taken after 1965

Henry's Farm and Residence – Section 31 of Westfield Township



Henry's farm:
Picture taken
about 1965



Dates of top and
bottom pictures
are unknown

