

Chapter 8

Early Farm Life in Bureau County, Illinois, and Conclusion

by Ken Pinter
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Chapter 8 is the last chapter of this history book. This chapter summarizes content from the previous chapters and tells a story of the Pinter family of Bureau County. However, there are three Appendices and numerous Addendums available.

The reader should be aware that the content of this chapter is based partially on family facts and partially on other written accounts of the era. The author has taken the liberty to embellish the known family facts with detail derived from other reference sources including but not limited to Web resources.

When embellishing the facts, the author was careful to include only material that is generally known about the life and times in the 1800's such that this chapter should be an integration of family details plus general detail that fit together in order to present a reasonably accurate view of life in that time.

HEINRICH AND ELIZABETH

Introduction

In all probability, Heinrich and Elizabeth traveled to the United States from Germany around 1848-1850. How they got here, what they looked like, what they did after arrival, and what their life was like is any one's guess.

All we have are the writings and recollections of others, family and non-family, who are long since gone but who in some way recorded various accounts of life in that time.

And, we are lucky to have a rather large collection of family photographs. One thing in our favor is that the Pinter family tended to take a lot of pictures after about 1878. Unfortunately, very early photos are not available.

So, this chapter is an attempt to put together a story of Farm Life in Bureau County, specifically the farm lives of the Heinrich and Elizabeth as well as Jacob and Henry Pinter

with accounts back to about 1848. The chances are good that much of what is written here is accurate enough that we can gain a little insight into the realities of life in that time.

Setting the Stage for Settlement in the United States

We will probably never know the exact circumstances surrounding Heinrich and Elizabeth's arrival in the US. We might never know why they left Germany except to say that there was a migration to the US from Germany and other European countries prompted by poverty, religious convictions, and the urge to go west to the US.

1820-1871 - Economic hardships, including those caused by unemployment, crop failure and starvation, was the primary cause of emigration during this period, in combination with wars and military service. Most of the emigrants came from Alsace-Lorraine, Baden, Hessen, Rheinland, and Württemberg.

Source: <http://www.rollintl.com/roll/gr1900us.htm>

The following article fragment was taken from an article titled Illinois, the Prairie State, by the Lee County Historical Society, which was found on the Web site <http://www.leecountyhistory.com/articles/931118.htm>.

Lee County shares a border with Bureau County.

Together, the railroad, the new plow and the reaper made it possible to settle and farm the Midwest. Now the people came to the prairies, not by wagon train or oxcart, but by barge, steamboat and train. They came not by the hundreds but by the thousands. In the half century between 1840 and 1890 the population of Illinois went from 476,000 to nearly 4 million. And it was the great European migrations of the nineteenth century that so increased the population so rapidly. On the heels of the English and Scots came the Irish. Then followed by Norwegians, Germans, Poles, Czechs, Russians, Italians, French, Dutch, and Belgians.

To many the state offered living space for homes, farms and crops such as they had never dreamed of. These immigrants came first as homesteaders or as they came to be called, "sodbusters." And it was their thought to make Illinois prairies one of the most productive farming regions in the country. As Chicago grew into a city, its labor force grew in its stockyards, railroad yards, mills and factories. Great numbers were migrating from the south into the state. In the 1850's Chicago and Illinois became the heart of a giant new industry. Iron ore was shipped down from the Great Lakes from northern Minnesota, while up from southern Illinois,

which had been found to have the richest bituminous coal deposits in the nation, soon came mile long freight trains of fuel for the blast furnaces and foundries. Illinois, the twenty first state having attained statehood on December 3, 1818 would soon become an industrial giant along with being one of the nation's major producers of agricultural products.

We know from the (Church on the Hill) COH death record of Elizabeth that she was born in the village Aitersteiner in Bavaria, east of Munich in 1813. This village still exists but it is now a part of Forstinning.

We also know that Heinrich was born in Stäfa, Switzerland, in 1810 and moved with his family to Germany in 1817 at about the age of 6 or 7.

We may never learn the port of entry and exact time when they arrived in America. We may never know if they came together, or separately, married or not. Supporting records are just not available.

Passage to Bureau County

No ship passenger lists have been found to tell us when and where Heinrich entered the US. This is unfortunate and forces us to simply show possibilities rather than facts.

Note: it is written in a 1928 newspaper article describing Jacob and Justina's 50th wedding anniversary that Heinrich arrived in the US in 1848.

Two documents exist that show Elizabeth's travel to the US. One is a listing of Bavarian emigrants from 1848 to 1852. This list, compiled by Blendinger, clearly lists her as having emigrated from Aitersteiner in Bavaria to New York City in 1848.

Another find is a document that shows her request, as published in a local newspaper, to emigrate from Bavaria created on March 31, 1848. Neither of these are as definitive as we would like.

There are a few entries in the various passenger lists web site that have possibilities but we cannot confirm these entries. Among them:

An H. Bender arrived in New Orleans on January 2, 1850 on the ship the Ohio from Bremen, Germany. The records show he was 40 years old (Birth year 1810 which matches Heinrich's documented birth year). Another is the arrival of a Henry Ponder in 1836.

There are no other records that provide a good match for the names Bender, Binder, Pinter, Painter, Punter, Puenter, etc. (Reminder to the reader: In the course of researching this family, all of the above listed names have presented themselves as being credible names for this family. For a review, see Chapter 1.)

So, we are left to speculate.

What if Heinrich and/or Elizabeth entered the US in New Orleans in 1848? This is a good assumption because it is known that other Bureau County residents came into the US this way. In addition, this was apparently the port of entry for the John Hassler family.

Crossing the Atlantic in 1848 was slow and dangerous. A typical journey took about a month. Because steerage (assuming that is how they traveled) was an unpleasant place to be, they probably spent a lot of time on deck, cold, wet, and maybe seasick.

Heinrich may have had Illinois as his planned destination before he left Germany. Many immigrants were in touch with friends who previously traveled to the US, or saw various advertisements for Illinois. Perhaps Elizabeth was already here. Perhaps they were traveling together. Perhaps they were not yet married. Perhaps they married soon after he arrived in Illinois since, per the 1850 census, Elisabeth and Henry Painter were living in Bureau County in 1850 when the census was taken.

Soon after arrival in New Orleans Heinrich and Elizabeth would have boarded a ship (stern wheeler) and then traveled north on the Mississippi River to Illinois, perhaps disembarking at Nauvoo or Galena. Trains did not exist between New Orleans and Illinois in 1850. Once in Illinois, they would have traveled to Bureau County by wagon or horse, again because trains in this area did not exist.

What if Heinrich and Elizabeth entered the US through the port of New York? In New York, they would have found that there was not a convenient way to get to Illinois. There were some train routes from New York to Chicago but the path was not continuous meaning part of the journey might have been by wagon, part by ship on Lake Erie, part by river or canal, and part by train. In 1850, Illinois had little if any train tracks so the last leg was by wagon or horseback.

This means that they would have utilized trains if/where possible but also wagons to carry themselves and their possessions to Chicago and then on to Bureau County. The journey from their port of entry to Bureau County may well have taken more time than the trans-Atlantic voyage.

It is not impossible to image them with a covered wagon and two horses purchased in New York or New Orleans to get them to Illinois in 1848.

The Early Years of Heinrich and Family

In either case, by 1850, Heinrich and Elizabeth had settled on a farm or in a home shared with John and Anna Landerer (spelled Landera in the census). The 1850 census listed them as Henry and Elizabeth Painter and the census entry suggested they were married. It is also implied that the Painters and the Landers lived in the same dwelling but it is not clear from the data who owned the dwelling, where it was located, or if they might have simply been boarders or renters.

Perhaps they were living on the property just to the north of the COH cemetery because it is here that Heinrich's two sons were born. See Appendix C for locations of these properties.

Note: the same article regarding Jacob and Justina's wedding anniversary states that Jacob was born (in 1855) in a "log cabin", the same cabin in which Justina was born a few years later. This log cabin was situated north of the COH and on land (farm) which was owned in 1929 by William Genzlinger near Hollowayville. Who owned or lived on this land in 1852 thru 1855 is currently unknown. Was this Heinrich's farm or that of someone else such as a midwife or neighbor?

Nevertheless, about two to four years after arrival, Henry was born, in 1852. Jacob came along three years later, in 1855.

Sometime between when they lived with the Landerers in 1850 and when Henry was born, they moved to the farm just north of the COH. Or, maybe they were already living there all along since their arrival. This cannot be determined. This was probably rented farmland or else they may have been resident farmhands. They would later purchase this 80-acre piece of land. For the next 15 years, until 1865, Heinrich and Elizabeth farmed in Bureau County, either on their own farm or that of someone else.

There is no evidence that Heinrich was able to take advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862 or the Illinois Land Grant programs of the time.

Around 1814, Illinois, being a large unsettled territory, began to offer public land for sale for the purposes of development. Between 1814 and 1850, little of this land was purchased. A depression (1838-1847) plus the Blackhawk war (1832) interfered to some extent. The real surge in purchases occurred between about 1851 and 1854 after construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal was completed. Finally, by 1854, land left over was granted to the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

Land was sold in this time frame for \$1.25 per acre. Over time, the minimum land purchase was reduced from 640 to 40 acres and the price reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.25 per acre...therefore, by 1832, the smallest farm could be purchased for \$50 (By that time, the average wage of a farmhand was \$5 to \$15 per month, so a farm was realizable for most farm hands of the time).

"The 1862 Homestead Act allowed any head of a family to stake a claim to a quarter section in the United States

territory, farm it for five years, build a house, and thereafter obtain legal title at no cost.”

William C. Davis

The Homestead Act of 1862 was, however, largely irrelevant to the state of Illinois and the Midwest since most of the available land had already been purchased. This Act mostly benefited the settlement of the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

(Note: There is clear evidence that William Croissant participated in the Illinois Public Land Grant program. He purchased a total of nearly 160 acres on 1 September 1847 and 27 April 1848 for \$1.25 per acre and this is documented in the Illinois Public Land Purchase records. This land was in Westfield Tsp, Bureau County. William Croissant was the father of Justina Croissant who married Jacob Pinter in 1878)

There is also a recording of a purchase of 40 acres by a Henry R. Painter in Fulton County on 3 October 1849. And, there is a Henry H. Painter in the Fulton County 1850 census (note: Henry H. was only 22 years old in 1850, so this Henry H is not ours). Are these the same person, or two different Painters? If different, is one of them our Heinrich? Remember that Henry and Elizabeth Painter are listed in the 1850 census in Bureau County. If the Fulton Co. land is theirs, then they apparently did not stay there very long before moving to Bureau County.

The following was extracted from <http://www.lhf.org/cgi-bin/gygsite.pl?2~0> in an article titled 1850 Pioneer Farm. It references Iowa, but the information most likely also applies to Illinois:

The split rail fence, wheat field, rooting pigs and log house represent a four-year-old farm, established when Iowa became a state in 1846. The farm site is in transition between subsistence agriculture (producing enough for the family to survive) and becoming a profit-making farm. Most farms in 1850 averaged 160 acres in size, with farmers cultivating anywhere from 25 to 40 acres. Corn, wheat and potatoes were the three major crops in 1850. Most farmers used their corn crop to feed the pigs that were then sold for profit. Wheat and hogs were cash crops for farmers, and potatoes were a staple with nearly every meal and lasted throughout the winter.

Until pioneer families earned enough money to purchase modern 1850 technology, they relied on older farming methods. For example, women prepared food over an open

fire even though wood-burning cookstoves were available. The majority of people who settled in Iowa in the 1840s and 1850s came from the Eastern United States, and were eager to build a multi-room dwelling like they had lived in before coming west. Log houses were temporary structures that the pioneers improved or replaced once the farm was established.

Pioneer families relied on poultry for three major purposes: meat, eggs, and money. Most pioneers who raised pigs built a smokehouse to help preserve the pork. In 1850, barns were of less significance to the farm than in later years. Pioneers used barns to store tools and some crops, rather than to house animals. The big barns that are associated with modern farms were not built in Iowa until the 1870s.

Note: The above article refers to the Des Moines area of Iowa.

The following was written by Richard Hofstadter and was found on the web site <http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us> and describes the changing role of the Illinois farmer in the 1800s:

Between 1815 and 1860 the character of American agriculture was transformed. The independent yeoman, outside of exceptional or isolated areas, almost disappeared before the relentless advance of commercial agriculture. The rise of native industry created a home market for agriculture, while at the same time demands arose abroad, at first for American cotton and then for American foodstuffs. A network of turnpikes, canals, and railroads linked the planter and the advancing Western farmer to these new markets, while the Eastern farmer, spurred by Western competition, began to cultivate more thoroughly the nearby urban outlets for his products. As the farmer moved out onto the flat, rich prairies, he found possibilities for the use of machinery that did not exist in the forest. Before long he was cultivating the prairies with horse-drawn mechanical reapers, steel plows, wheat and corn drills, and threshers. The cash crop converted the yeoman into a small entrepreneur, and the development of horse-drawn machinery made obsolete the simple old agrarian symbol of the plow. Farmers ceased to be free of what the early agrarian writers had called the "corruptions" of trade. They were, to be sure, still "independent," in the sense that they owned their land. They were a hardworking lot in the old tradition. But no longer did they grow or manufacture what they needed: they concentrated on the cash crop and began to buy more of their supplies from the

county store. To take full advantage of mechanization, they engrossed as much land as they could. To mechanize fully, they borrowed cash. Where they could not buy or borrow they might rent: by the 1850's Illinois farmers who could not afford machines and large barns were hiring itinerant jobbers with machines to do their threshing. The shift from self-sufficient to commercial farming varied in time throughout the West and cannot be dated with precision, but it was complete in Ohio by about 1830 and twenty years later in Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. All through the great Northwest, farmers whose ancestors might have lived in isolation and self-sufficiency were surrounded by jobbers, banks, stores, middlemen, horses, and machinery; and in so far as this process was unfinished in 1860, the demands of the Civil War brought it to completion. As the *Prairie Farmer* said in 1868: "The old rule that a farmer should produce all that he required, and that the surplus represented his gains, is part of the past. Agriculture like all other business, is better for its subdivisions, each one growing that which is best suited to his soil, skill, climate and market, and with its proceeds purchasing his other needs."

Heinrich and his family were farming right in the middle to end of this transformation. Therefore, we can assume that as his farm grew, he probably progressed to the point where he sold what he raised along with the other farmers in the area, and used the cash to purchase supplies, equipment, and additional land. While this is just an assumption for Heinrich, you can be sure that is how Jacob and Henry farmed between 1880 and 1920.

Heinrich and Elizabeth's Farm Home

It is hard to image Heinrich's home in this time. Was it a crude log cabin or was it a frame structure with furniture, wood floors, etc? Homebuilding technology in the 1850's was such that farm and city dwellings were of these types. Just look at the Lincoln home in Springfield. But, Heinrich and family were struggling to establish themselves in the prairie lands of Illinois and so it is difficult to imagine the appearance of their homestead in the 1850-60 time frame. Remember that there were only four in the family, and the sons were young.

Did they build their farm structures from scratch, or did they acquire land with preexisting structures?

Log cabin homes of the mid 1850s were not necessarily crude structures. Pictures obtained from the Web show them to be comfortable, possibly two stories (perhaps a loft) with glass windows and framed doors. Logs formed the walls, with various materials such as mud stuffed in the creases to seal out the cold.

New settlers in north central Illinois in the 1800s often arrived there after a journey involving a month-long ocean crossing and then a trip of unknown length by train, boat, wagon, or a combination from New York or New Orleans to Chicago, and then a short trip to Bureau County.

On arrival in Bureau, they may have moved into some dwelling with a friend who was already established, or maybe lived in a wagon for a short time as they sought a place to live. We know that for some period of time, before and after the year 1850, Heinrich and Elizabeth lived with John and Anna Landera. Who were they...friends from Germany, or maybe their sponsor who helped them get established in their new world? Some immigrants employed such a person(s).

New settlers often had to build a small cabin as an interim living place if they had no other place to go. This was in the form of a sod house or a log cabin depending on the location and availability of building materials. Then they had to get on with establishing some minimal crops to eat and firewood for warmth and cooking.

Whatever the scenarios, Henry, Elizabeth and the boys built up this farm through a lot of hard work. That was the German way. They acquired a few horses and other livestock and basic farm implements such as horse - drawn plows, wagons, and other implements. Many of their possessions were purchased or acquired by trade with the other farmers in the area since bartering was a way of life then.

They managed to make a living raising various crops of the area including possibly corn, wheat, potatoes, and soy beans. In this time frame, Illinois was a major producer of wheat, so it might be that this farm was a wheat - producing farm.

Many immigrants went through a start-up scenario such as this as the Illinois population grew after the 1840s.

If Heinrich ultimately built a log cabin or otherwise acquired one by renting, etc. it may have looked something like one of these:



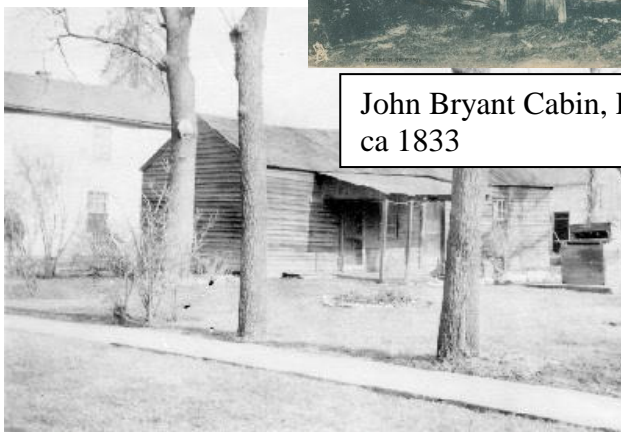
Built 1854 in Fairview Heights, IL



No information on this home and others shown below, except where noted



John Bryant Cabin, Princeton, IL
ca 1833

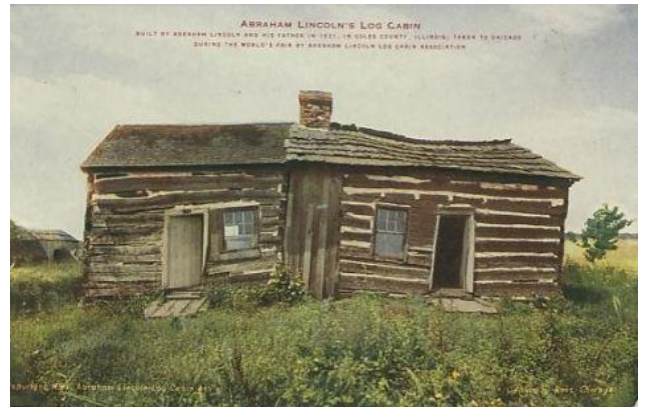


A 1940s photo from the Museum on Main's collection shows one of the earliest cabins in Tiskilwa. This small but sturdy structure, demolished circa 1948, stood for more than 100 years as a testament to the hardy nature of the early European pioneers.





Bowen Log Cabin ca 1846



Lincoln's cabin, Kentucky, 1809

With the log cabin came a fireplace for cooking and for warmth in winter. One such fireplace common in the time was this:

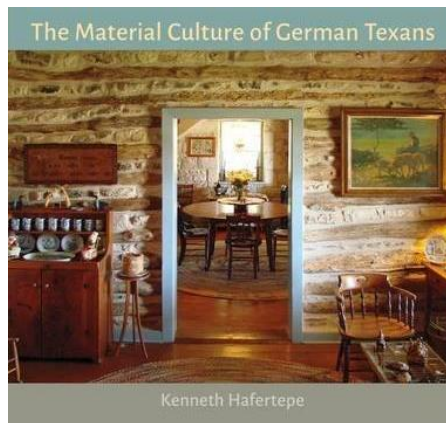


During the 1850s, as Heinrich and Elizabeth became established, they may have embarked on the task of building a better home using the framing constructions methods preferred by the Germans. That could have resulted in a structure such as this, with wood siding, 2x4-type wall framing, and wood floors with perhaps a loft or upstairs. The original cabin would have then become a building for housing tools or chickens or other farm items.



All this would have been accomplished in 15 years because Elizabeth died in 1865 and one year later, Heinrich sold his entire holding of land, home, and household possessions.

The following photo, provided by Ken Hafertepe, shows a German home in Texas in 1862. While not Illinois, this may also give some insight into Heinrich's early 1860s dwelling. In his case, the back room is made of Texas limestone and was added 10 years later, so focus on only the front room.



What did Heinrich and Elizabeth look like?

Photography existed in 1850 but on a limited basis, at least in Bureau County, Illinois. During the Civil War, photographers existed across the country as evidenced by the numerous pictures taken of the war and of the President and his wife. In Bureau county, one significant figure in photography was Henry W. Immke. But, he established himself in the early 1870s. This presents a problem for the Pinter family because while Heinrich lived until 1900, Elizabeth died during the Civil War, in 1865. In 1865 and before, photography

services were not prevalent in Bureau County. Consequently, only one family photo is known to exist and that is of Heinrich in an unknown year.

Numerous pictures exist of Henry and Jacob and their families, however, beginning about 1878.

This leaves us only to speculate on what Heinrich and Elizabeth looked like between 1850 and 1865. We cannot assume their physical features or their size (tall, short, fat, thin, etc) but we may be able to formulate a look based on their attire.

Prairie farmers in Illinois in the 1850s and 1860s probably had two sets of clothes: One for day to day use as they went about working their farms, and one for church. How many sets of these clothes they owned is unknown. We might assume at least 2 such that one was worn while the other was washed, most likely by the woman of the house. After all, they were not well off, at least in the beginning. Looking at our collection of available family photos in the time of 1880 to 1920 suggests that the men wore somewhat-worn work clothes but nicer suits for wedding and church, while the women wore nicer looking long dresses every day and more formal attire for church and weddings. On the other hand, we wonder if some of the more formal clothes found in pictures were borrowed.

One only has to look at photos of Mary Todd Lincoln to get a sense of women's formal or going-to-church clothing in the era. Images of Mary and others show dresses that are dark in color, covering up to the neck and with a tight waist line, and then puffy arms and skirt that extends from the waist to the ground, with or without a hoop. The dresses seem quite bulky with lots of material comprising them. Typically, the dress had a lace overlay around the neck, such as a collar. Also, typically, the women wore their hair parted in the middle. But there were surely many variations of this look as the various pictures suggest.

The following pictures show some examples of women's (and some men's) clothing in the era. Since these identities are unknown, we must be aware that some of the images may be of city-dwellers while others may be of rural women. These images were chosen because they were identified as being from the 1850s and 60s.



It is not too much of a stretch to suggest that Heinrich and Elizabeth may have resembled the two couples shown in the photos immediately below.



Clothing Style in 1860's

But of course, these are clothes for picture taking and maybe church, so work clothes may have looked more like this:



What did they do on the farm?

Farming the land was tough for Heinrich and his family. Each day was occupied by clearing land, plowing and planting crops and then harvesting them, all using horse-drawn equipment. Evenings were spent working on the cabin or house, barns, and other local tasks. But, they usually retired early since there was much more work to be done the next day. In the fall and winter, much time was spent around the fireplace or sitting in a kerosene lantern-lit room, and caring for livestock.

Heinrich and Elizabeth spoke only German and so Henry and Jacob learned German as children. It is presumed that they attended school early in their lives and eventually learned to speak English. Perhaps this was done at the church or at small grade schools in the area.

Elizabeth's role on the farm was mostly to prepare meals and to tend to the household. She also cared for any livestock they might have owned and she tended to a small garden where vegetables were grown for their personal consumption.

William C. Davis once wrote: "Men and women performed reasonably well-defined roles on the frontier, though definitions were often blurred by the simple necessity to get things done regardless of if it was "man's or woman's work".

Family transportation was accomplished via horse drawn wagons or buggies. Trips to church or to Ladd or Princeton and other surrounding villages were done by wagon, buggy, or by horseback.

In 1864, the Courthouse records show that Heinrich was finally able to purchase the 80 acre farm (north of the COH) from Nathaniel and Henrietta Chauncey. This occurred on 13 September 1864. Chauncey had previously acquired this land from Elihu Chauncey who it is believed acquired this land in one of the land grant programs of earlier times. Heinrich paid \$800 for this land in 1864.

Things were looking up for the family. They had acquired land of their own and were making a go of farming. Their family was small with just two sons, but they had managed to build or otherwise acquire a house (possibly a log cabin as noted above), and a barn, and had acquired livestock and horse drawn implements to farm the land.

In 1866, at the auction of Heinrich's estate, the advertisement notice indicated that they owned the following large items plus a farm house full of homestead items (quantities in parenthesis):

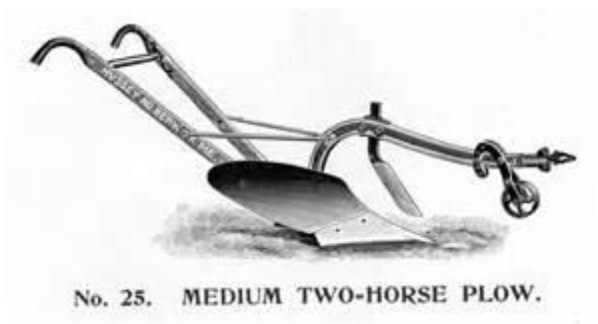
2-horse wagon (1) and Double harness (2 sets)



Bob sled (1)



Two-horse plows (2)



Iron-tooth harrows (2)

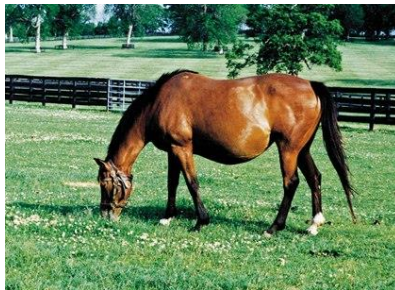


Plus, they owned:

Work horses (5)



Mares (3) and Geldings (2)



Cows (8) and a Heifer (1)



And.....

2 beds and bedsteads

1 table

1 cupboard

Various chairs

Other items “too numerous to mention”.

Tragedy Strikes

In 1865, the family was hit with its first tragedy when Elizabeth died. She was only about 52 years old and her children were 10 (Jacob) and 14 (Henry) years old. In the 1860s, the chances of dying of child birth, farming accident, or disease was common and much higher than today since medicines (and doctors) were not very advanced. Elizabeth’s cause of death is written in German in the COH church records and the handwriting is poor but her disease is recorded as “nervenfieber”. This translates to nervefever but today the disease is called Typhus.

Elizabeth was buried in what is now the older part of the COH cemetery close to the church building. Heinrich and the boys then tried to continue with their lives. However, they were feeling the pain of the loss of Elizabeth. For unknown reasons, they decided to leave Bureau County. They sold both pieces of land to George Halte for \$3000 on 14 August 1865, three months after Elizabeth died. Then in early 1866, Heinrich auctioned off all his farming equipment and livestock as described above.

In 1866, Heinrich also applied for and received a passport, presumably with the intent that he and the boys would leave the US. But, there is no proof that they did this except for the curious fact that they cannot be found in the 1870 census.

Return to Bureau County

The eight years between 1866 and 1874 are somewhat of a mystery still for Heinrich and the boys.

First, it is not clear where they were between 1866 to 1868. This is after Heinrich sold all (or we assume all) of his worldly possessions.

But then, as we discussed in an earlier chapter, in 1868, about 33 months after Elizabeth died, Heinrich went to Livingston County and purchased 82.5a of property. In 1870, however, there is no record of Heinrich or his boys in Bureau or Livingston County. Because we know they had passports, it is feasible they purchased the property and then left the country in this time frame.

Or quite simply, maybe they were farming in Livingston all this time and the census of 1870 missed them or recorded their name incorrectly.

After the Livingston purchase, six years went by where we have no knowledge of where Heinrich and the boys were living. Then, on a very cold day in January of 1874, Henry married Julianna Wunder presumably in at the home of his bride Juliana Wunder in Bureau County. Henry was 21 years old. Juliana was 19 ½ years old. Jacob was about 19 years old while Heinrich was about 64 years old. After the wedding, Henry and Julianna moved to Livingston County and lived/farmed there for a while before returning to Bureau. If the family was out of the country, they would have had to return before about 1873 or earlier. When Henry and Julianna were living in Livingston, perhaps Heinrich and Jacob were there too.

Nine months after Henry's wedding, Heinrich sold his Livingston property, in October 1874, and everyone moved back to Bureau where Heinrich purchased 80a from Lawrence Schriener and his wife for \$4400 in Berlin Tsp, Section 36.

(Considering the sequence of events above, one has to wonder how and when Henry courted Juliana. In the 1850 census, no Wunder family can be found. In the 1860 census, the Adam Wunder family (spelled Wonder) is listed as living in Westfield Tsp. Juliana was almost 6 years old. In 1870 (per the census) Juliana was almost 15 years old and living at home with her parents Adam and Elizabeth Wunder and 10 brothers and sisters in Bureau County, Westfield Township. There were no Wunders in Livingston County in 1870. Where was Henry in 1870? Did he move back to Bureau County before 1874? Did they have a long distance romance?)

Four more years would pass after Henry was married before Jacob married Justina Croisant on 28 October 1878. Justina was three months shy of her 17th birthday. Jacob was 24 years old.

Courthouse records show that later, in 1882, Jacob acquired a farm from his father-in-law and presumably moved his wife and son to that new farm. Then on 12 August 1882, Heinrich (listed as a widower on the deed) apparently sold or gave an interest in this land in Section 36 to his son Henry. They also deeded ROW rights to the railroad in 1887 for \$520. In 1888, they also sold coal rights to Whitebreast Fuel Company on 21 July 1888 for \$1200. This parcel of land was finally sold out of the family to R.L Hassler in 1941 for \$19500.

The actions of 1882 set the stage for the growth of the two separate Pinter families and thus the accounting of the family becomes a little more clear.

JACOB AND HENRY PINTER

Jacob and Henry Start Families, Build Wealth

As we have noted, the period of 1868 to 1874 is a mystery for the Pinter family of Bureau County. We have nothing to demonstrate where they were: Bureau County, Livingston County, another county or state, or Germany or Switzerland.

But, 1874 marks the beginning of the new phase of the Pinter family:

- 1) Henry married Juliana in January, 1874, in Bureau County and they went to live in Livingston County with his dad and brother. Maybe they all lived there before that date. They probably made the 50-mile journey with horse-drawn wagons in order to transport their wedding gifts and other possessions to their new home.
- 2) In October 1874, Heinrich sold the farm in Livingston Co.
- 3) Twelve days later, in October 1874, he purchased the farm property in Berlin Tsp, Section 36 with the sale proceeds plus a loan from a friend, Fred Walter.
- 4) They then began the arduous task of relocating themselves back to Bureau County, Berlin Tsp. Visualize multiple trips back and forth with horses and wagons to transport their household possessions and farming equipment.
- 5) In 1877, a Voter and Taxpayer listing lists Heinrich Bender in Berlin Section 36 and his sons living with him. It was an 80a farm valued at \$4000.
- 6) Jacob married Justina in October 1878 and again it is thought that they then moved onto the farm in Section 36.

So, the period 1874 to about 1880 saw the emergence of two Pinter families but also saw them living closely together in one or maybe 2 house on one farm. This apparently happened in Livingston Co and later in Berlin Tsp. While this closeness provided for plenty of workers to make a go of the farm, it also was a good interim solution, economically.

By 1880, Henry and Jacob had families of their own (Henry with 2 children and Jacob with one. The widowed Heinrich was no longer farming on his own. He had retired and was listed in the census as living with Henry and his family. As previously mentioned, it is thought that they were all living on the property in Section 36 of Berlin Township. The 1880 census shows the two families listed in two consecutive dwellings on the same property.

In August, 1882, Heinrich sold the Section 36 farm to Henry. In the German culture, it was common for the father to give or sell half or all of his property to the eldest son for just a few dollars. In this case, Henry received the entire property. It was apparently not split.

Also, in 1882, Jacob received or purchased farm property from his father-in-law, William Croisant, in Westfield, Section 30.

Over the next 20-30 years, Henry and Jacob worked their respective farms and added to their holdings, Jacob in Westfield section 30 and Henry in Westfield Section 31. They lived less than 2 miles apart. Appendix A has a more detailed timeline of their farm expansion. During this time, Heinrich made his home alternately with his two sons.

They became prosperous enough that they also invested in farmland in South Dakota.

As you read this account of the family, you begin to see that the brothers Henry and Jacob seemed to follow the same path in life, both in occupations and in residences.

The Rest of this Chapter

The remaining parts of this chapter discuss various aspects of Illinois farm life from 1880 to about 1920) as it might have related to Jacob Pinter and Henry Pinter.

The first farmland that Henry actually owned was actually purchased from his father, Heinrich. This was the 80a in Berlin Tsp, Section 36. Heinrich sold this to Henry on 12 August 1882 and they entered into a memo of agreement that Heinrich was selling this land to only his son Henry. German customs that apparently followed them here was that fathers usually gave most if not all of their property to their oldest son.

In the meantime, Jacob acquired farmland from His father-in-law William Croisant a few months earlier. This occurred on 20 April 1882.

It is probable that Jacob and Justina and Gus then moved to the new farm they had just acquired while Henry and Julianna stayed in Section 36 for some time with Heinrich.

During the next 20 to 40 years, until their retirement, Henry and Jacob developed their farms and purchased addition farm land. It is though that Henry ended up with about 340 acres in Illinois while Jacob had nearly 400 acres.

In addition, Both Henry and Jacob expanded by adding property in Miner County, South Dakota in response to advertisements from the state to come west and invest in the state. Each purchased about 240 acres. It is likely they rented this land to others but and maintained ownership.

A postcard exists written by Gus Pinter to his wife telling her they were enroute to South Dakota and almost at the job site. This suggests that family members went there to help plant and harvest crops and earn money in the process. It is not known if Gus was working on his dads land or someone elses.

Family Growth

Over the next 20 to 30 years, Jacobs family grew. It was not uncommon for farm families in Illinois to have around 9-12 children. However, Heinrich and Elisabeth had only two boys (as far as we know). This is unusual, considering that families were typically large in this time. There is no evidence that they had more children. Elizabeth lived 10 more years after Jacob was born. Perhaps she could no longer have children, perhaps she was ill during this time frame. Or perhaps, it was by choice.

Jacob and Justina's first born was Gus, born in 1879. Their last born was an infant daughter who died in childbirth in 1903. This means that Justina bore 12 children (5 boys, 7 girls)

in a period of 24 years. In addition to the loss of their infant daughter, two other children died young: Louis at age 17 years and Carrie at age 19 years.

Henry and Juliana's first child was born and subsequently died in 1875. Their last child was born in 1896. This means that Juliana bore 9 children in about 21 years (4 boys, 5 girls). No other children died young.

Joseph and Anna Leyes had 7 children (one boy, 6 girls). Only 4 children survived to live to an old age. One was Katie who married Gus Pinter.

Wilhelm and Anna Croissant had 8 children (4 boys, 4 girls). All survived to older age. One daughter, Justina, married Jacob.

Adam and Elizabeth Wunder had at least 11 children, 7 boys and 4 girls. One daughter, Juliana, married Henry.

Retirement

Note that the exact year of Henry and Jacob's retirement cannot be determined. The below dates are estimates.

Jacob remained on his farm in Section 30 until about 1920. At that time, he and Justina retired to Ladd, IL, to a property they had purchased in 1919 for retirement. He was about 65 years old and Justina was about 58 years old. He built or purchased a home. He and Justina retained ownership of their farm for some years afterwards and slowly sold portions to their children.



Jacob lived in his retirement home until he died at age 73 in April of 1929. Justina was 86 when she passed away in April 1948.

Henry remained on his farm in Section 31 until about 1920. At that time, he and Juliana retired to Ladd, IL, to a property they had purchased in 1919 for retirement. He was about 68 years old and Juliana was about 65 years old. He built or purchased a home. He and Juliana retained ownership of their farm for some years afterwards and slowly sold portions to their children.



Henry lived in his retirement home until he died at age 86 in March 1939. Juliana was 80 when she passed away in February 1936.

Dwellings and Barns

Henry and Jacob built up their farms with a lot of sweat-equity, although it is well known that farmers helped each other when it came to building barns and other buildings on the property. By retirement, they had acquired over a half section of land each (over 320a) and had built a home plus a main barn and a collection of other structures.

They also saw a significant evolution of farm equipment, transportation, and home technology during this time. Some of these topics are discussed later.

Here are photos of Jacob and Henry's farm homes:



Jacob Pinter family at the homestead,
ca 1901-03



Henry and Juliana with the family car at
the homestead, unknown date

Here are additional photos of their farms:



Quote by Eric Sloane

“Many of the old barns were ventilated by pigeon holes, which were scattered decoratively about the upper reaches of the sidewalls. Although we now think of pigeons as being city birds, many of the early farmers preferred to keep pigeons rather than chickens. When he wanted a heavier bird for eating, he’d choose a duck or a wild turkey; but the children were given pigeon as a regular diet and pigeon pie was for the whole family”.

Quote by Eric Sloane

“The early farmer kept weather records in his diary. He regarded his weather almanac highly and watched the skies frequently because his every move was either helped or hindered by weather. The weathervane on the barn was a more important instrument than a clock is on the farm today”.

Quote by Eric Sloane

“Most Midwest barns are faced with their sides facing the cardinal points (N, S, E, W) while many New England and Southern barns had their corners, instead, pointing to east, west, north and south”.

Quote by Eric Sloane

“After the house and the big barn, there was always a smaller barn, a springhouse, icehouse, milk house, wood shed and blacksmith shop. These, with the carriage shed and privy and chicken houses, all made up a composition of geometric shapes that delighted the eye with its ability to blend with the contours of rolling land”.

Quote by Isaac Weld, 1798

”Farmers are so certain of their future that they spend a lifetime building barns for future generations”.

Steam Engines, Threshing Machines, and other Farm Equipment

Many years have passed since Jacob and his brother Henry and their friends and neighbors and families farmed their fields in central Illinois. And think about Jacob and Henry as teens farming a small piece of land in Bureau County. What did they grow and how did they harvest? How did they earn income? What equipment did they own or use? These questions may not be definitively answered. We may be only able to speculate by integrating what little we know about them with the history of the times.

Assuming that Heinrich and Elizabeth and Jacob and Henry farmed in the time frame of 1848 and later, it must be assumed that if the farm had any size at all, they must have used horse drawn implements such as plows. The devices of the time required about two horses or oxen to pull them, and the farmer walked behind the plow assuring it went in the right direction and actually cut into the ground. The same can be said about other equipment used to harvest the grains they perhaps grew.



Or, did they truck farm and simply grow eatable items that they perhaps sold to villagers such as those living in Ladd and Princeton and other surrounding towns.

In any case, life was difficult. The entire day was spent doing physical labor in the fields. During these early years, there was no steam powered equipment. Most work was done manually or with the assistance of horses.

In the early 1800s, developments occurred in making steam power. By 1849, steam engines were being built that could power certain kinds of farm implements such as threshers which heretofore had to be powered by horses. But these engines were not tractors.... they were simply engines that had to be pulled to the work site by horses. And, they were big and expensive. At the time, a 4 horsepower engine cost \$635 and weighed about two tons and produced a small steam pressure of about 50 psi. Thus, it hampered the amount of work that the engine could perform.

By 1855 steam engine manufactures had converted the basic engine to a self-propelled model, but the machine had to be steered by horses pulling the engine to the right or left or straight ahead as it moved under its own power.

By 1858, these self-propelled rigs had been adapted to plowing as well as to threshing.

Steam engine development stalled during the civil war, and then accelerated after the war. By 1880, the steam traction engine was available with a clutch, a steering mechanism, and generated over 150 psi of steam pressure.

This steam traction engine is the kind of machine we now associate with central Illinois farming. It was a smoky noisy behemoth that consumed large quantities of water and fuel (wood or coal) which had to be transported to the field or work site by horse.



Based on a picture in the Pinter collection, we may assume that Henry or Jacob either owned a steam engine and threshing machine, or they participated in a Threshing Ring. A

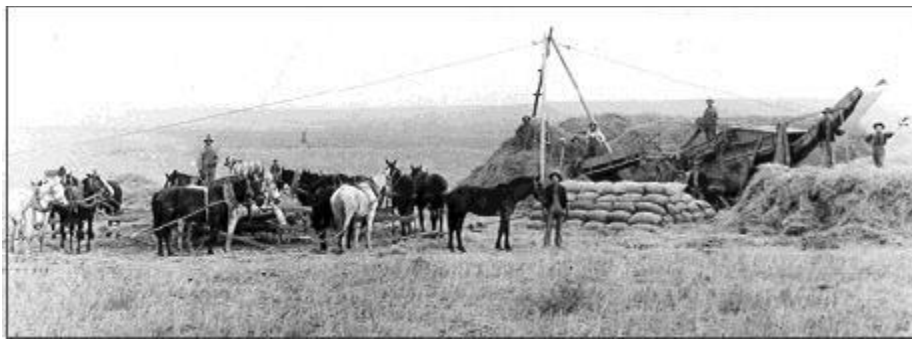
Ring was a group of farmers who shared a steam engine and threshing machine. They would transport this machine from farm to farm. A Threshing team of people was usually comprised of about 19 people, so it is clear that threshing was a job that was shared by many farmers.

Picture this in your minds eye.....

It is threshing day on the Jacob Pinter farm. It is 6 AM and the farm is stirring with activity. Justina and Julianna and the girls are baking pies and preparing hearty meals for the threshing crew. Jacob and Henry and the boys are up and tending to the horses which will be used during the day to bring food to the field, transport water and fuel for the engine, and bring wagonloads of grain from the field to the threshing site to be threshed.

(Threshing is the process of separating grain such as wheat or oats from the straw. The hay and straw is later fed to the farm animals while the grain is sold for income.)

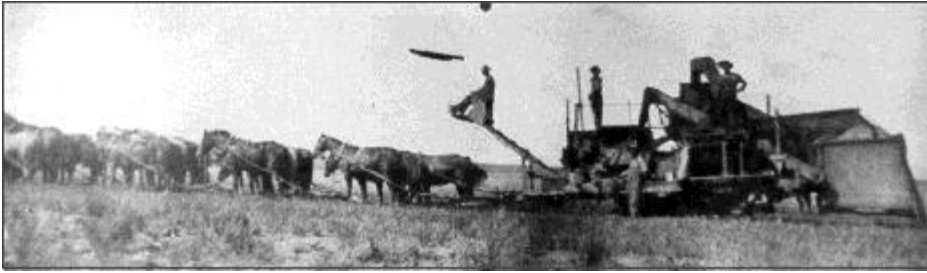
About 7 AM (or maybe the day before, who knows...), the steam traction engine and threshing machine and crew of neighboring farmers come lumbering onto the farm grounds and are moved directly to the threshing site. The engine and thresher are lined up and a long 8 inch belt is put in place in a figure 8 pattern between the engine's fly wheel and the thresher. Meanwhile, some of the crew is out in the field loading bails of grain onto the wagon which will then be towed back to the thresher by a horse team. At this point, all hell breaks loose as the steam engine is revved up. Black, sooty smoke belches from the engine's tall smoke stack. The thresher is put in gear and the dusty and dirty process of grain threshing begins. A big cloud of dust looms over the area as the threshing process continues as crew members throw pitch forks full of grain into the thresher's input hopper. Grain drops out of the bottom of the thresher while the remaining hay or straw is blown out of a tall stack into what will become a mountain of straw or hay next to the thresher.



Idaho, 1909, from <http://www.remmick.org/Remmick.Family.Tree/Page45.html#Opal>



Idaho, 1909



Idaho, 1909



Great plains, 1880-1920, from:
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ndfahtml/ngp_farm_threshing.html

Nine AM arrives...so do Justina and Juliana and the women. They have a magnificent spread of breakfast foods and coffee. They spread this feast out on a canvas on the ground. It's time for breakfast.

This process goes on all day long. At noon, another feast is prepared. And, it happens again at 3 PM.

By 6 PM the job is over for the day. But, the process will be repeated again for additional days as required until the job is complete. Harvest is a difficult time for the farmers of Bureau County.



From Pinter photo collection, year and location unknown

Of course, threshing is not the only implements used on the farm. Jacob and Henry no doubt own a couple of teams of horses, various wagons, plows and disk harrow units for land preparation and planting, and grain binders to actually cut the grain before threshing. The Pinter picture collection has a picture of Louie riding a horse drawn implement (plow?) around 1910.



Louie Pinter on a plow circa 1910

Crops and Animals

Quote by William C. Davis

“Farmer, plow, and ox teams worked from just before dawn until last twilight to break the sod, tear up the tangle of roots, and expose the untapped earth beneath. Almost to a man, they brought the seed for the crops they had known in the past, chiefly corn and wheat, with a scattering of several other grains depending on the soil and the farmer’s needs”.

Quote by William C. Davis

“Beside the sod-busting plow, the invention of barbed wire was the other major factor that greatly hastened the closing of the open range. By 1873, wheat and alfalfa crops began to evidence greater profitability than ranching and these ranchers were astute enough to see that growing fruit and vegetables for the east, now that railroads made these markets more accessible, was even more lucrative”.

Transportation

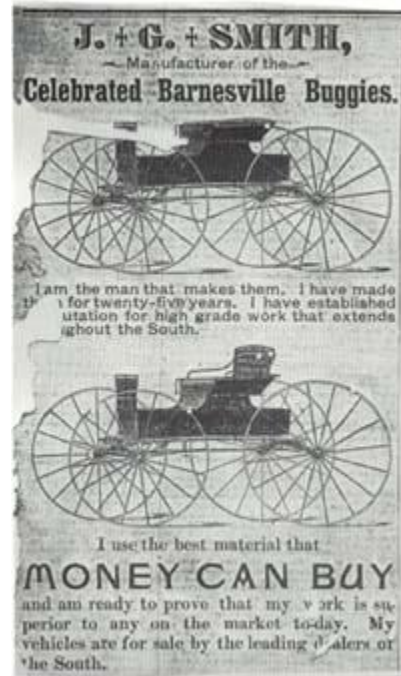
Consider this: In the time frame that Heinrich and Elizabeth were farming in Bureau County, there was no such thing as a steam powered vehicle. Steam power was never utilized to any great extent for personal transportation, and was adopted for use as farm equipment but not to any great extent until after the Civil War. And, gasoline powered vehicles came along much later. So, how did they get around back then. It is certain that transportation was accomplished by horseback and by horse and buggy or wagon.

So, try to visualize Heinrich and Elizabeth and boys traveling to church in a buggy or wagon pulled by one or two horses. Try to visualize this wagon sitting in the yard, the horses in the barn or barn yard. Try to visualize Heinrich in his suit and Elizabeth in a long dress of the era riding down dirt and some times muddy and sometimes snow covered roads on their way to church or to visit friends or to visit town to get supplies.

Note: the buggy advertisement to the right is dated 1891.

One only has to close their eyes and visualize this happening on a hot, dry day, or a rainy summer day, or a cold snowy winter day to realize the hardships of life on the prairie in this era.

It is probable that, as Jacob and Henry came of age and began farming on their own around 1880, they had to utilize the same kind of transportation. As you look at the various wedding pictures and other family portraits taken in the time frame of 1880 to 1910, one has to wonder how they could get dressed up in suits and wedding or other dresses and travel to a church or to the photographer’s studio in horse drawn buggy or wagon. Consider doing this on a cold day. Many weddings in this family occurred in the winter.



July 2, 1891 News-Gazette advertisement

Here is a picture of a 1910 buggy. Buggies in earlier times probably looked similar to this as evidenced by Lincoln's buggy shown below.

Photo from:



<http://www.randolphlibrary.org/image.asp?id='2867'>.

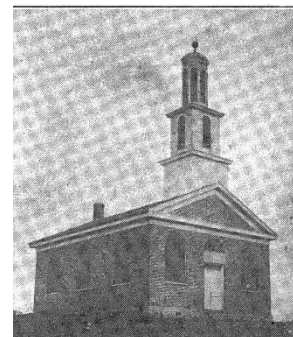


Photo of Lincoln's buggy, 1858, from:
<http://home.grics.net/~tbould/Museum.html>

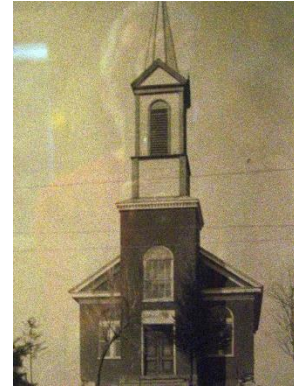
Church

The Pinter family was Lutheran. This religion is prominent in Germany and so it is natural that they practiced this religion in the US. The St. John's Lutheran Church on Route 6 just outside of Hollowayville on the way to Princeton was their church. This church remains the Pinter church to this day. It has been referred to for some time as the Church on the Hill (COH).

The church photos shown at the right are the original COH before and after the replacement of the steeple. The second photo is ca early 1900s.



Jacob and Henry were baptized, confirmed, and married by ministers at this church. The church was formed in 1849. There are no records in the church that Heinrich and Elizabeth were married here, however.



In the late 1850s, a group of church members, dissatisfied with certain practices of the church, broke away and formed a new church. Key members of this movement were William Croissant, Ludwig Merkel, Jacob Genzlinger, Lorentz Heintz, and Herman Hassler. This church would be called the Deutsch Protestant Evangelical Church and was built in Hollowayville. On 17 April 1858, Hassler donated the land on which this church now lies to (apparently) a trust for the use by the church and its cemetery.

Interestingly, the Pinter families of Heinrich, Jacob, and Henry remained at the Lutheran church throughout this movement.

When Jacob married Justina in 1878, Jacob was a member of the COH while Justina was a member of the Protestant Church of Hollowayville.



Language and Education

Heinrich was born in Switzerland. Elizabeth was born in Germany. Their native language was Swiss-German and German. If they both arrived in the US in 1848, then they were about 34-38 years old at the time.

When they finally arrived in Bureau County, they befriended fellow Germans in the area and then struggled for years trying to make a living farming their land. Heinrich lived 52 more years in the US. Elizabeth lived only 17 years in the US years before her death. It is most likely that they never learned the English language except for a basic vocabulary.

We do not know how much formal education Henry and Jacob had but it is likely that they attended some number of years of elementary school where they likely learned the language.

Winter

It is difficult to image life in north central Illinois in the Winter in the 1800's and early 1900's. Those who have lived there know that snow fall can be substantial and that temperatures can fall to below zero levels during a typical winter.

Harold, son of Gus, son of Jacob frequently described winter nights where every one (kids, that is) slept in the same room to keep warm and that all they had to keep warm was a single stove in the room where they slept. And, this was in the time frame of 1920-1940. Imagine the years before that.

Snow plows did not exist. Horse or mule-drawn buggies were the mode of transportation back then, and so it is perceived that movement around the area, for example to church, after a snowstorm either involved no movement at all or else a rather difficult trek using horses/mules and buggies or wagons through potentially deep snow at perhaps very low temperatures.

Clothing

Quote by William C. Davis

Farm or country women often wore coarse homemade garments or whatever was available: hardly glamorous.

But, on the other hand, examine the apparel worn at weddings. The women's dresses were fancy, and apparently any flowers held by the brides were made of paper, especially in winter. The grooms suit's typically looked pressed and neat, with shiny shoes/boots, but in other pictures, the men's shoes looked clearly worn.

Plumbing (and the Privy)

Quote by Eric Sloane

"Wallpapered and curtained, discreetly embowered at a considerable distance from the back of the house, was the privy. It was not regarded with the petty humor that surrounds it today, but was taken as seriously as the design of a bathroom is today. The familiar crescent shape cut into these doors originally designated the building as being one reserved for ladies, for the moon was always regarded as being female. The sun being regarded as male, it was once used as the design on the doors for gentlemen".

Note: "chair" shown at the right was found in Jacob's barn.



Wells and Windmills

Quote by William C. Davis

“The steady breezes of the prairies made windmills ideal, and as the decades went on, more and more refinements were made in commercially manufactured machines so that tens of thousands of them could be sent west, sold through mail order catalogs, for sums as little as \$25. With nothing more important than water, it was money well spent”.



Unknown home



Jacob Pinter and Family circa 1902 –
see windmill behind the trees

Jacob, as did most farmers, had a water well powered by a windmill. The 1901 picture of the Jacob Pinter homestead (above right) shows a windmill in the background behind the tree. This windmill was a Woodmanse unit made in Rockford, Illinois.

The photo on the left shows a similar Woodmanse mill for the era. The note under that picture is as follows:

Woodmanse Manufacturing Company, Freeport, Illinois. Woodmanse Steel open back-geared steel pumping windmill on steel tower behind a two-story wooden boarding house possibly in Clear Lake or Hampton, Iowa, ca. 1910; a handwritten inscription notes, "this is Mama and Opal."

Electricity

Much of what we know about electricity today was formulated in the period after 1747. It started with Benjamin Franklin's experimentations in 1747. During the 1800's many strides were made in the areas of DC electricity and magnetism. The world saw the first DC motors as early as 1837. It wasn't until about 1887, however, that the country began to see electricity commercialized, by Thomas Edison. In 1878, Edison founded the Edison Electric Light Company, and in 1879, he designed the first incandescent light bulb. From that point forward, advances in electricity happened at lightening speed for the urban areas of the US, but not in the rural areas.

As the 1880's and 90's progressed, the US saw the development of localized power distribution systems. The technology of the day only allowed electrical power to be distributed in short distances, so rural areas were left out of the plan for power distribution.

Thus, farmers in the time frame up until the 1930's lived without the electrical energy sources available to their contemporaries in urban settings.

It is estimated that in the 1920's, only 1% of the farmers in Illinois had electricity available to them. What makes this worse is that in many areas, electricity was available in the area but utility companies wanted to charge farmers nearly \$3000 to connect them to this service. Many farmers in this time frame simply could not afford this expense so they did without.

During the 1920's, little progress was made. There was a mere 10% improvement in electrical distribution in rural Illinois.

From web site <http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ic000110.html>.

It was this era of rural life in the United States that many older folks fondly remember. It was a time of family, of honesty, of God fearing folk, when times were slower and more down-to-earth than today. But when asked, these same people will recall the trials of life without electricity.

Wayne Laning of Mt. Sterling, former director of Adams Electric Cooperative recalled, "The hot nights stand out most in my mind. We'd put a mattress in the hayrack and go out into the field where it was cool, but the bugs would come after us." Remember, there was no air conditioning or electric fans. People simply endured the hot and, conversely, cold weather.

Lack of heating and cooling weren't the only problems electricity would remedy. Another problem was dim lighting in the evenings and early morning from kerosene lamps, resulting in poor reading conditions and fire hazards.

As the 1920s slipped away and the world was recovering from the Great Depression of the 1930s, movement increased rapidly towards rural electrification. Support grew for programs through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal to provide electricity to rural Americans. Through the efforts of Morris Cooke, chairman of the Mississippi Valley Committee of the Public Works Administration, \$100 million was allocated towards rural electrification in 1935, giving birth to the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The state of Illinois followed in 1936 with the formation of the State Rural Electrification Committee. Although the committee didn't play an essential role in rural electrification, it did lend state support and organization to the projects.

What this means to the Pinter family is simply this: The chances are pretty slim that Jacob and Henry had electricity on their farm, ever. They both retired sometime in the mid to late 1920's and moved to Ladd where electricity was presumably available.

Henry and Jacob's children lived on farms in this period and it is probable that they had no electricity until the mid 1930's.

So how did these families operate in the days before rural electrification? Probably this way:

- Water was pumped from the well via a windmill.
- Cloths were ironed, if at all, with irons placed on a hot wood stove for a period of time.
- Heat in the home in the winter time was derived from stoves of some sort, possibly in each room but probably only downstairs in the kitchen or sitting room.
- Late nights were spent in the dim light of kerosene lamps.
- Fans did not exist, so they looked for relief from heat where ever possible, perhaps in the barn, perhaps in the creek, or in the fields.
- Threshing machines, saws, and other farm machinery were all powered by the steam engine or by horses.
- Meals were prepared on a wood-burning stove in the kitchen. Water for dishwashing and bathing was boiled on this same stove.

U.S. agriculture statistic:

In 1940, 25 percent of Americans lived on farms; average annual farm income was \$1,000.00. Three out of every four farms were lit by kerosene lamps.

Conclusion

Readers of this book and anyone who possesses the name Pinter and who is descended from Heinrich and Elizabeth Pinter or who are related in some way to individuals descended from this family are reminded not to forget their roots.

Modern day Pinters are descended from a long line of hard working farmers who saw an opportunity to be successful in America and who took advantage of the situation. Obstacles did not stop them. They approached problems with a can-do attitude and they simply found solutions. Their dreams prevailed.

Their lives were not easy, but they were productive and successful.

When the going gets tough, we would be well to remember Heinrich and Elizabeth and their two children, Jacob and Henry, their wives Justina and Juliana, their 17 children, and the 900+ offspring of these 17 hard-working people and their spouses, and Heinrich and Elizabeth's countless Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren and Great-great-grandchildren, and all those to come.

We should not forget those children of Jacob and Henry who unfortunately died before their time and never got the chance to participate in the success of the family over the years.

Jacob and Justina

Infant daughter

Ludwig Adolph Pinter

Carolina Justina Pinter Rett

Henry and Juliana

Infant child

Finally, we should not forget the woman who gave birth to Henry Pinter and Jacob Pinter and who also died before her time:

Elizabeth Hohenbrunner,

and, the man who sits at the top of the family tree:

Heinrich Pinter

Wouldn't it have been grand to know them all personally?!

Ken Pinter

Author