

June 2011

Ancestral Newsletter #7

Hello again,

In the first ancestral newsletter, we began with the wedding day of Ferry and Anna Rieder in 1896. They are our point of reference and will continue to be, however, in this issue, we are moving to Stockarn, Germany to meet up with Anton and Barbara Weitzer. We don't have a photo or a date for their marriage but since their first child, George, was born in May of 1874, we will assume they were married in 1873 or before. Even though Anton and Barbara were married 20 something years prior, they are the ancestral equivalent of Ferry and Anna as they are all my great grandparents.

In 1983, Rosie Haas sent a photo of a drawing to Mom and Dad with this note:

*Hi June + Rob  
just a short note to say hi  
& to enclose the copies of the  
original Weitzer house which  
Onkel Franz had made.*

*Rosie*

I don't see much of a resemblance in the couple in the foreground, but I'm thrilled that "Onkel Franz" had this. It gives us a glimpse of rural farm life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Germany. I also like the image of walking down that dirt road, on my way to the old Weitzer farmhouse and meeting up with this unusual couple (my relatives?)

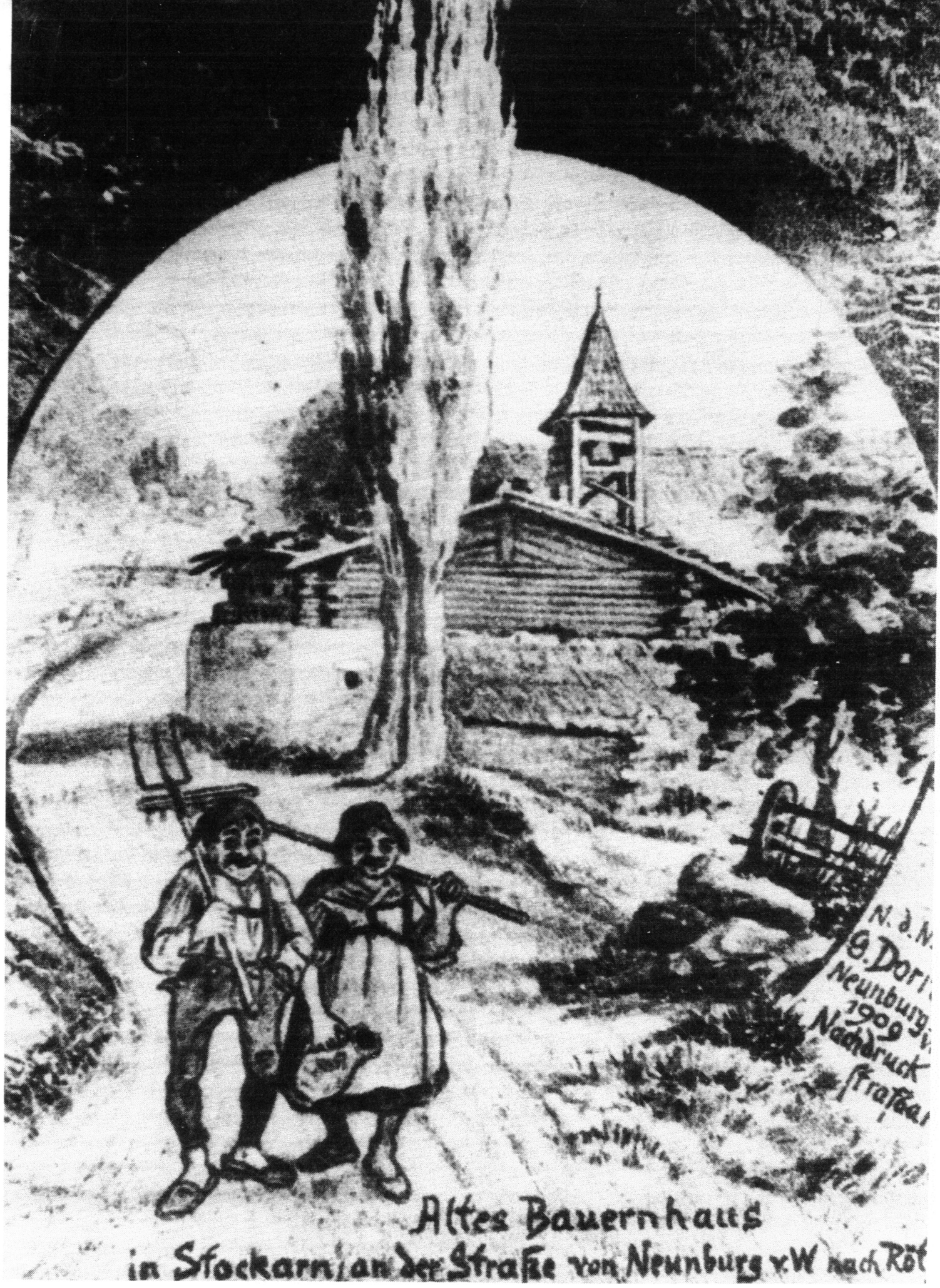
There is also a letter, written in 1968, which I have typed out and added photos. Unfortunately, I don't know who wrote it. It begins like this:

*"In the beginning →  
in the reign of Med King Ludwig of  
Bavaria, the man who spent the entire*

Okay. Hope you enjoy your day at the Weitzer farm!

Debby Klug  
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*Hi Jim,  
I tried to call you but I  
don't have your phone #. You mentioned  
Sam was moving out. Most of the furniture  
from my Grandma was given to her great-grand-  
children but I remembered I have an  
extra kitchen table from Mom +  
Dad's house. If Sam is  
interested, give me  
a call. Love,  
Dob*



Altes Bauernhaus  
in Stockarn, an der Straße von Neunburg v.W. nach Röt

"In the beginning..."

In the reign of mad King Ludwig of Bavaria, the man who spent the entire income of his kingdom on fairyland palaces for his favorites---and who also sold his troops as mercenaries for more money---there lived in Stockarn, Oberfautz A small farming community, which was different than ours---but exactly like most of the Swiss, Bavarian and Alpine villages.



King Ludwig II of Bavaria  
He reigned from 1864-1886

Neuschwanstein  
Castle →

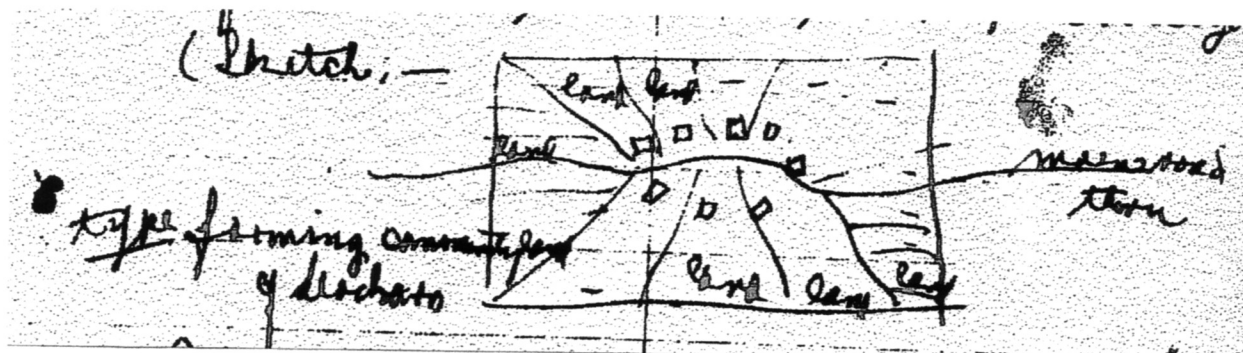


The houses grouped together usually built of stone or wood---many times with domestic cattle, pigs, chickens on the first floor (similar to a barn effect) and the family above. Loose shingles held down by huge rocks on the roof. The main pastures and growing land spread out from the houses. A family called Weitzer, Anton Weitzer (note: the German tz was written as a 3 in German handwriting so the name in German was Weizer and will be found in the church and other records as this spelling). The first one of interest to us now was married to Barbara Brandel---Anton was the only son of his father and, as was the custom in these countries, had to take and run the farm. But he was not a farmer of any note because a good farmer watches the weather, gets his grain in on time and works around the clock when necessary. Anton would rather read, study of future, then go out to get the hay in, and Barbara, his wife, would do the worrying and push him.

Anton Weitzer  
Born: August 8, 1851  
Died: Nov. 1, 1936



Barbara (Brantl) Weitzer  
Born: January 20, 1854  
Died: October 23, 1903



Sketch of the farming community of Stockarn, Germany by the author.

## Stories of Anton W.

He was a man of tremendous strength in his shoulders and arms. One time in a nearby larger town, Anton and Barb were walking about., when they were accosted by a group of glass blowers, (these blowers were a gypsy folk, very handy with knives and most of the farmers steered very clear). Anton saw that he was trapped at the corner, spied a steel lamp post, prox. 2" in diam. tubing, pulled out the post, bent pole in half to get a thicker club and started going after the glass blowers and they removed themselves rapidly.

At one time, a hay rack ( flat wagon with stakes used to haul in hay) broke down at both rear wheels. Anton, by himself, lifted this loaded rack enough so that two wheels could be put in place.

The story, among his children, was that almost anything was better than his slight tap on the backside.

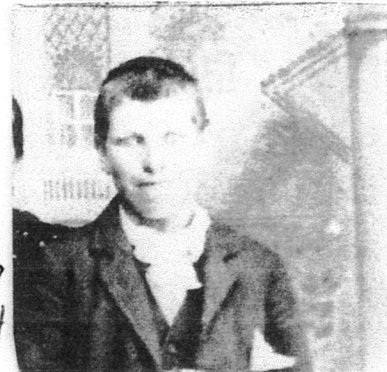
In Anton's reading habits, he evidently found scientific conjectures of the future and would tell his family, in the evening, of the day when flying above in the air would be common, and horseless carriages would be normal.

In this beautiful Bavarian farmland there were several things that were bad to Anton: 1<sup>st</sup> the rule of compulsory military education at age 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> the idea that the oldest boy got the farm and the others and girls were landless, etc.

Anton dreamed of moving the whole family to wonderful America, and finally as the oldest boys were nearing the military age, he felt the time was right. George, the eldest, he sent ahead to America, because Barbara was ill. Finally he got the transportation for the balance of the family on the quickest vessel then crossing the ocean, the Prince Von Bismarck, one of the new type steam vessels. The year of the crossing was 1890(?) because John Weitzer was eleven years old at that time, having been born July 17, 1879. The crossing was in five days from Germany to New York—(sailing vessels at the same time were taking 3 to 5 months).



George Weitzer  
Born: May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1874  
Died: April 22, 1912



John Weitzer  
Born: July 17, 1879  
Died: July 21, 1964

John Weitzer remembers of the crossing, that it was his duty to care for the mattress they carried along for their sick mother. It also happened that as he was watching the waves from the rail as normal for a boy his age, a wind blew his nice Sunday hat from his head, so his father used one of his old hats and tied it around his head. So when they got to land, disembarked, John remembers most, going off the ship, mattress rolled on back, large hat tied with rope on head, in the middle of this large family--- then finding street cars, and finally trains to their destination in Iowa where George was waiting for them with friends.

Here they decided to go on to Plain and Spring Green area where many friends had already settled.

As we said earlier, Anton was not a good farmer and when he got to Plain, Wis. (then known as Log Town), a not so honest friend sold them a farm in the hills south of Log Town, which was not the best (having many stones, and not much level ground).

This is where the Anton Weitzer family then settled. The oldest boys were sent out to work for others to bring in money---also John, at twelve, was sent to Spring Green to help a Welsh farmer on the prairie. (Jones?)

George, the eldest, married and had two children, Marie (married to Frank Heis of Madison) and George Andrew, the next oldest boy, remains a bachelor.

Anton Weitzer  
Family

Back Row: Andrew, Anna, George, Catherine (Sr. Donalda) John  
Middle: Marie (Sr. Damien) Anton, Barbara  
Front: Barbara, Alois (baby), Theresa (Sr. Juwilla)



**HUSBAND** Anton Weitzer  
 Born August 8, 1851 Place Bernried, Bavaria, Germany  
 Chr. Place  
 Died November 1, 1936 Place West Allis, Wis. CONSERV  
 Buried Nov. 4, 1936 Place Calvary Cemetery 160th + Bluemound Range 8 Grave 33 Block 24 Sect. 2  
 HUSBAND'S MOTHER ANNA MARIE ERHARD 3-13-1817  
 OTHER WIVES

**WIFE** Barbara Brantl  
 Born January 20, 1854 Place Staggarten, Oberpfalz, Germany  
 Chr. Place  
 Died October 23, 1903 Place EAST BRISTOL, WI (near Madison)  
 Buried October 26, 1903 Place WIFE'S MOTHER Barbara Deinfelder  
 OTHER HUSBANDS ANDREAS BRANTL

SEX	CHILDREN (List each child (Whichever living or dead) in order of birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED))	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			STATE OR COUNTRY	DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE TO WHOM	WHEN DIED			
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	DAY			MONTH	YEAR		
M	Weitzer GEORGE	25	May	1874	Stockarn	Bavaria	Germany	April 28, 1909	Christina Elizabeth BAUER	22	APRIL	1912	
M	" ANDREW	27	Nov.	1876	Stockarn	Bavaria	Germany			27	Oct.	1950	
F	" Cathrine (Sr. Donda)	23	Feb.	1878	Stockarn	"	Germany	Oct. 12, 1910	Cecilia BRECHT	21	July	1964	
M	" John	17	July	1879	Stockarn	"	Germany	May 2, 1905	Philip HAAS	15	JUNE	1971	
F	" ANNA	11	Feb.	1882	Stockarn	"	Germany			3	March	1957	
F	" Marie (Sr. Damian)	13	June	1887	Stockarn	"	Germany			10	June	1915	
F	" Theresa (Sr. Junilla)	4	Feb.	1890	Stockarn	"	Germany			9	October	1986	
F	" Barbara	6	Jan	1893	Stockarn	"	Germany			July 6, 1926	2	March	1978
M	" Alois Frank	24	Feb.	1896	Plain		WI		Laura Catherine Rieder				
M	" Anton Jr.	8	May	1899	Plain		WI		July 3, 1923	4	Jan.	1955	
									Clara C. Rieder				

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**  
 Barbara Weitzer (#8 on list) told Mom (June Klug) that there were several other children born to Anton + Barbara (her parents). They were named: Barbara, Barbara, Anton, Carl, Barbara, Mathias, Michael. There are no dates on any of them. They all died as infants.

**HUSBAND** Georg Weitzer  
 Born March 4, 1817 Place Bavaria, Germany  
 Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marr. May 20, 1850? Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
**HUSBAND'S FATHER** Michael? Weitzer (name may have been Paul)  
**HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES** Barbara Baier?

**WIFE** ANNA Marie ERHARD (or Erhardt)  
 Born March 13, 1817 Place Germany  
 Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
**WIFE'S FATHER** Michael Erhard  
**WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS** Katharina Retzer

SEX	CHILDREN List each child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE			WHEN DIED			
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	TO WHOM	DAY	MONTH	YEAR			
M	Anton Weitzer	8	Aug.	1851	Bernried	Bavaria	Germany	Barbara Brandt (Brandt)				1	Nov.	1936

OTHER MARRIAGES

SOURCES OF INFORMATION