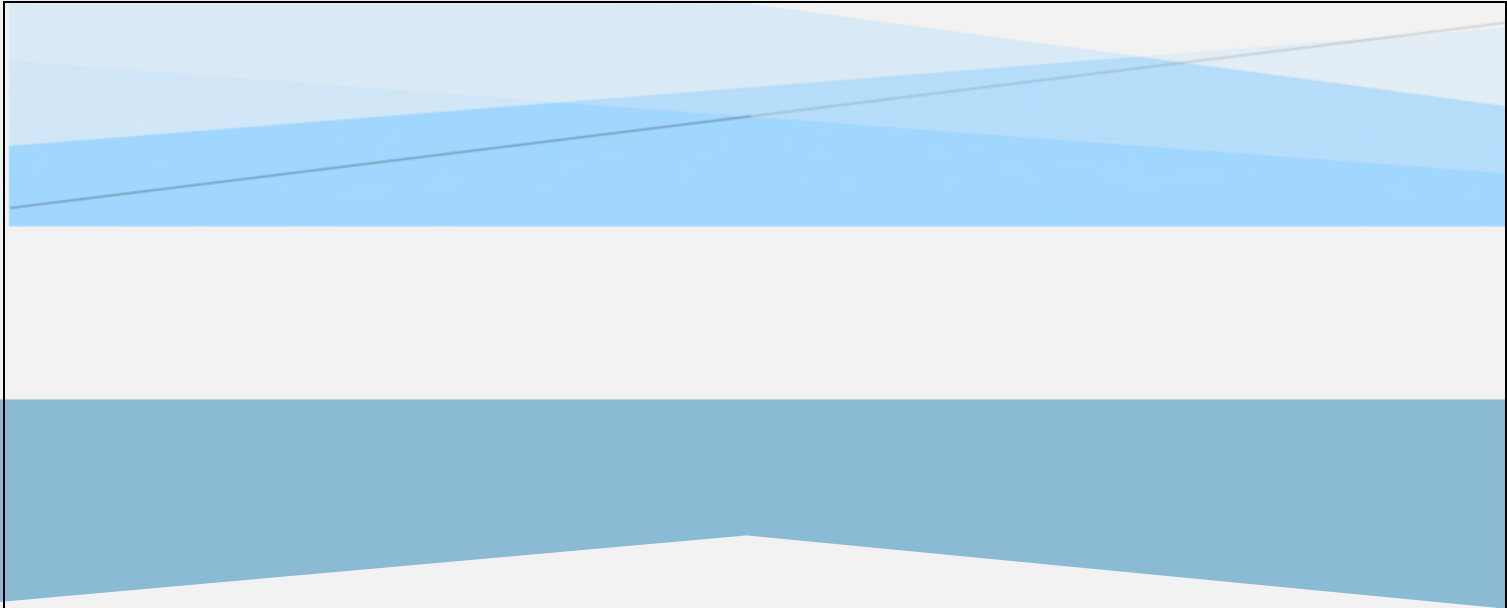




PATER FAMILY HISTORY

A REVIEW

Summary

The Paters gather in Cincinnati to mark the 31st year since Michael Pater's passing, and to visit historical locations of interest in Hamilton, Ohio, his birthplace. Seven generations of the family history are highlighted.

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THE PATERS OF HAMILTON

A recount of Pater Family History

On the Occasion of the 30 Year Remembrance of

Michael H. Pater 1950-1981

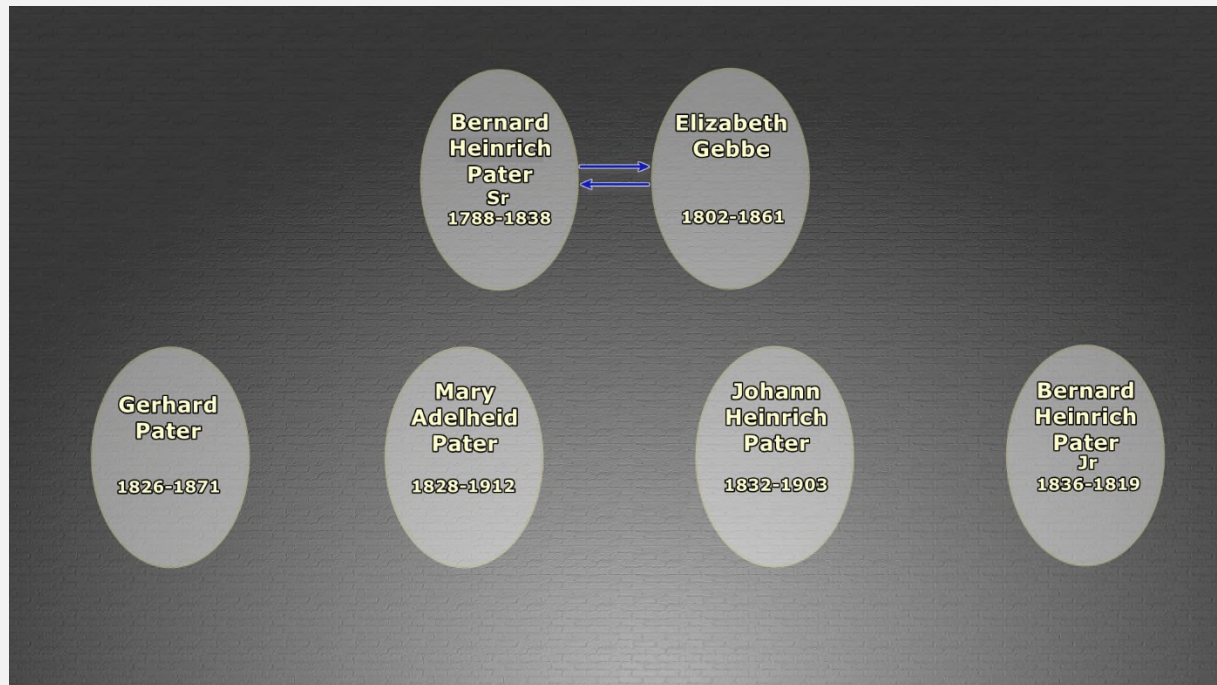
Introduction

On this 30th anniversary of the passing of Michael H. Pater, it seems timely to look back at the early Bernard Pater Family of Lower Saxony, Germany in the 1700's and follow five generations of Michael's ancestors to the present day. Pater in German means Father, usually referring to a Catholic Priest. Mike was definitely a father, and this recounting of the Paters is dedicated to his children, his wife Marcia, and to his Pater brothers. What I found extraordinary in researching the available information are the remarkable contributions of the many Paters to the economic, political, social, religious and cultural life of Hamilton over the 170 years they have been in Hamilton.

European Heritage

In the spring of 1849, Johann Heinrich Pater, age 16, waits in Bremerhaven, Germany for several weeks before his wooden sailing ship departs on its nine-week passage to New Orleans. What brought him here to Bremerhaven, presumably alone at age 16?

We begin our journey in the Northern German State of Lower Saxony, the ancestral home of the Pater's. The earliest recorded Pater is Bernard Pater Sr. born 1788 and his wife Elizabeth Gebbe born 1802. They had four children - Gerhard, Mary Adelheid, Johann Heinrich, and Bernard, Jr. (B.H.)



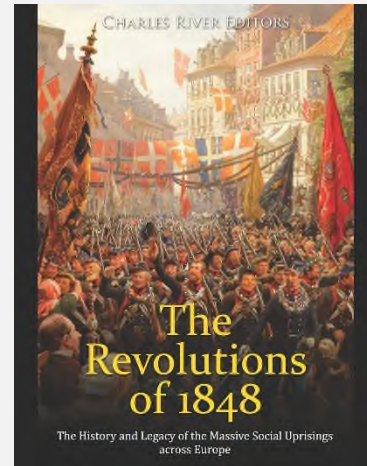
The family's home village is recorded as Merzen, present population 4600, located in the center of a farming region 70 miles southwest of Bremen, Lower Saxony. It is halfway between Amsterdam and Hanover. Wolfsburg is the home of Volkswagen. Merzen has been inhabited for over 1300 years, with a Catholic diocese in a nearby town since 799.

The main state church over the years had been Lutheran but there was a Catholic presence, and the Paters were Catholic. We see here the St. Lambertus Catholic Church constructed in 1874, replacing the older church present when the Pater's lived here. In the decades preceding their emigration, the area was



called the Kingdom of Hanover, overseen by George III of Great Britain, as King of Hanover.

Bernard Pater, Sr. died at 53 in 1838, just two years after his last son, Bernard, Jr., (B.H.) was born. He was most likely a tanner and shoemaker in the village, as some published family trees state. As the 1840s wore on, there was economic hardship and continuing political turmoil across Europe from the revolutions of 1848, prompting the entire remaining family to leave. As a Catholic minority, they joined thousands of other Catholics fleeing Germany over the next few decades.



So began a decade or more of family emigration from Germany. What is interesting is that each family member spent some time in the Over the Rhine District in Cincinnati, where the street names are Hanover and Bremen and large numbers of immigrants are Catholic from Lower Saxony. And then, within some time, all four families arrived in the German Catholic section of Hamilton Ohio, where the street names are Hanover and Bremen. Not a coincidence. We shall see that three families remained close by each other on the Pater urban farmland, where they assisted each other, just a few blocks from their beloved St. Joseph's Church.

Did any two family members emigrate together? – it's unknown. Mary Adelheid, born 1828 emigrated by 1848, as her marriage to Bernard Kettmann was recorded on September 24, 1848 in Cincinnati. Johann Heinrich's arrival at age 16 was recorded on a ship's log (New Orleans) in 1849, and he was married by 1853. Gerhard arrived in 1850 and was married in Cincinnati by 1857. B.H. arrived by 1858-1860, and married in 1861 in Hamilton.

Beginnings

In the spring of 1849 Johann Heinrich gathered his possessions and trekked the 70 miles overland to Bremen, a seaport on the Weser River. In 1827, a new port, Bremerhaven, was built 40 miles downriver to accommodate the now larger sailing ships. Johann had heard the admonitions from shipowner agents: `Don't go via Rotterdam. Don't go via Liverpool,' or even, `Don't go



via Hamburg. Go via Bremen.

They'll take care of you.'

Johann took a small sailing vessel downstream to Bremerhaven. Just years

earlier long waits, chaotic

conditions, and exorbitant

prices for sleeping quarters led

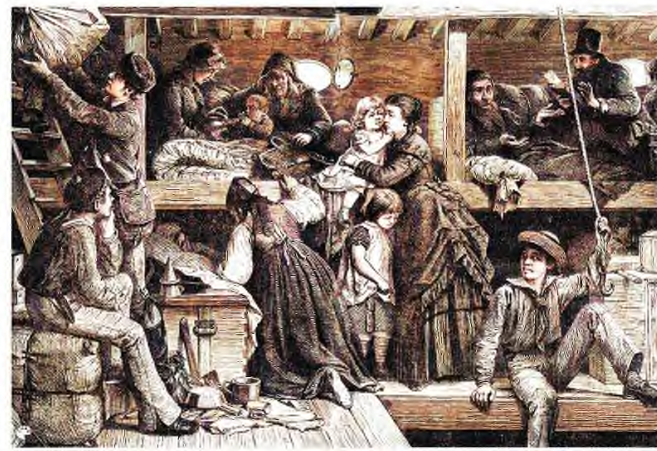
to the opening of The

Emigration Center in order to improve the accommodation of the emigrants and encourage them to Bremerhaven. It was considered an exemplary social institution, housing and feeding up to 2000 waiting a ship to America, most likely serving Johann Heinrich as well.

Bremerhaven had become a center for emigration much as Le Havre in France, the Stuckeys route to New Orleans in 1830. Ships loaded with cotton and tobacco from the American South traveled from New Orleans. To lessen shipping costs, boats were packed with immigrants on their way across the Atlantic. Over the years more than seven million emigrated from Bremerhaven harbor, one of Europe's busiest.

Across the Atlantic

A trip across the Atlantic took about 8 to 10 weeks. Shipboard conditions



have been described elsewhere but needless to say were sparse and basic, though most reached New Orleans without incident. Johann traveled from Bremen to New Orleans on the ship Goethe, presumably alone, at 16, arriving May 1, 1849. Only one other passenger was from Merzen, a 20-

year-old woman.

New Orleans to Cincinnati

At New Orleans, Johann arranged steamboat passage up river to Cincinnati, a trip of about two weeks.

Steamboats were a bit risky, nevertheless, most travelers reached their destination and we see here the arrival scene at Cincinnati. This famous 1848 photograph shows in great detail the condition of the riverfront, the facilities and the buildings that awaited travelers upon their



arrival. Cincinnati was teeming with German immigrants and a large community had developed in an area called Over the Rhine, so called because from their living quarters a trip across the Miami-Erie Canal to the working factories symbolized crossing over the Rhine River in Germany.

Stopover in Fairfield Township

Johann's older sister Mary Adelheid had already arrived in Cincinnati by age 20, marrying Bernard Kettmann of Hanover, on September 24, 1848. Johann appears to have joined her, as a questionable but suggestive 1850 Cincinnati census document lists 17-year-old Henry Pater (Americanized name) living with the Gatemans (name misspelled), consistent with information from his obituary. By 1853 he had married Elizabeth Buecker (Bocker) and had their first two children, Henry in 1854, and George in 1857. Meanwhile, eldest brother Gerhard arrived in Cincinnati in June of 1850, according to a profile of son Joseph J. Pater. He married Mary Stricker of Oldenburg Germany in

21		Francis "	9/12	m				"
22	381	389	Henry Pater	27	m		1500	Germany
23			Mary "	33	f			"
24			Henry "	6	m	1860 Census Fairfield Township (just outside Hamilton)		Ohio
25			George "	3	m			"
26			Barney "	2	m			"
27			Army Pater	30	f			Germany
28	382	390	George Pater	33	m		1200	"
29			Mary "	31	f			"
30			Joseph "	1	m			Ohio
31			Mary "	4/12	f			"
32			Eli Stricker	64	f			Germany
33	383	391	George Cunningham	31	m			"
34			"	"	"			"

1857. We jump ahead to the census of 1860, where we see brothers Henry and George (Gerhard) and their families joining each other, most likely on rental farms, somewhere in Fairfield Township of Butler County. Living with

Henry is probably mother Elizabeth Gebbe (Amy-a nickname perhaps?) Gebbe would pass away just one year later at age 59. (There is no primary information available for her on any database) Note Barney, age 2, who died in childhood. Living with Gerhard and wife Mary Stricker is her mother, Elizabeth Stricker 64.

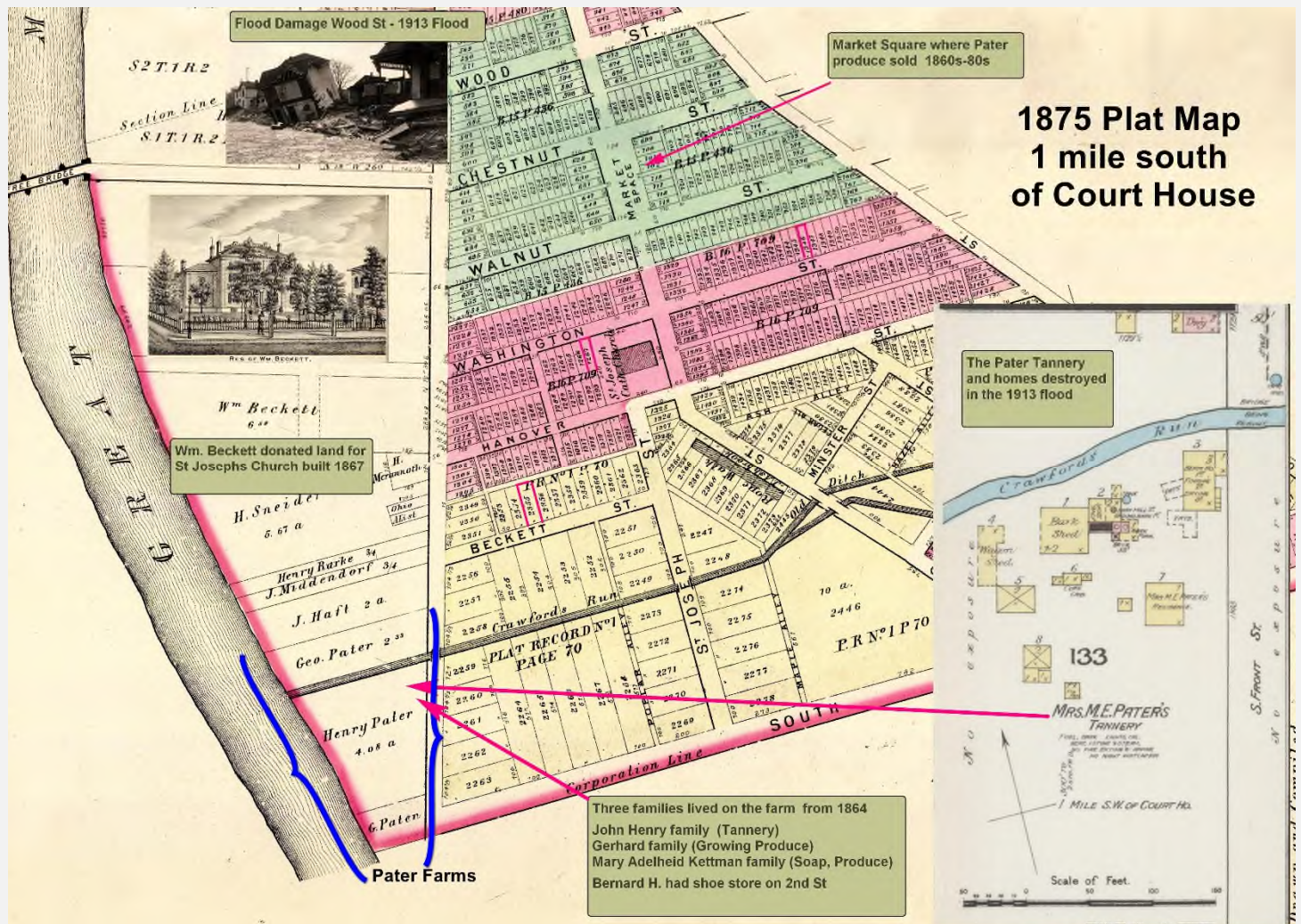
Also arriving in Cincinnati by the late 1850's is youngest brother B.H., apprenticing several years with a local shoemaker. By 1861 he was in Hamilton, where he married Catherine Holbrock on May 28.

Thus, three Pater children had passed through Cincinnati and were established in Butler County, and Mary Adelheid would soon come from Cincinnati with husband Bernard Kettmann.

In June of 1863, Henry, a farmer, and Gerhard, saw maker, became Civil War registrants subject to military duty, though neither probably served due to their ages of 36 and 44.

Farmland Along the Great Miami River

In 1863 or 1864, both Henry and Gerhard had the extraordinary opportunity of purchasing adjacent parcels of land along the river on South Front Street, near to the heart of the developing Catholic community. This 1875 map shows the land and proximity to St. Josephs. Henry's four acres and Gerhard's two acres were split by a small stream – Crawford's Run. Henry was a tanner by trade and this land was ideal for a tannery. A later map of 1887 shows details of the tannery buildings just south of Crawford's Run. Note the finishing and drying rooms, the soaking vats, the bark grinder, the bark shed, and wagon shed. I can't explain why the tannery is listed in Henry's wife name, Mrs. M.E. Pater. The tanning process requires sheds for



processing hides, stripped of hair and fat by hand, and soaking vats, where tannin, processed from tree bark, is absorbed into the hides over six to nine months. This nearly year-long process is continuous. Bark chopping and grinding, bark soaking, and additional storage for bark and the finished leather necessitate other buildings. The foul-smelling tannin-stained runoff water has to be discharged, and in Henry's case, Crawford's Run served that purpose. Gerhard took to vegetable gardening on the fertile acreage. There are additional buildings on Gerhard's property, though not labeled. Recurrent flooding was the main risk for the Pater's low-lying land along the flood prone river.

Founding of St Joseph's Church

In 1860, all Catholics worshipped at St. Stephens (now renamed St Julie Billiart) on Dayton Street, but it had become too small for the large influx of German Catholics further south. William Beckett, attorney and founder of Beckett Paper Company, donated land at 2nd and Washington Streets for a new parish church, to be called St. Joseph's. Henry, Gerhard, the Kettmann's, and brother Bernard, now living on Second Street, were all in full support. Excitement was building and in July 1865, 3000 Catholics from Cincinnati arrived to participate in laying the cornerstone. In September 1867, forty railroad passenger coaches arrived from Cincinnati to witness the dedication with proud Hamiltonians, including the Paters. Prior to the dedication, great great grandfather Joseph H. Pater, infant son of Henry, was the first baptism recorded in the newly established St Joseph's parish, on May 26, 1867.

The Four Pater Siblings Live Close in Hamilton

We move ahead three years to the census of 1870, which interestingly shows three of the siblings and their families now living on the Pater land along Front Street. Look closely to see Gerhard, gardener, with his wife and three children. He was now occupied with growing and selling vegetables and other produce to locals. There was market space just five blocks from the Pater farms and one block from St Joseph's along Second Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets (see map). John Henry, the tanner, has engaged his two sons Henry, 16, and George 13, in the business. Newly baptized Joseph Pater is 3. Further down the page is sister Mary Adelheid Pater Kettman and family, with Mr. Kettman listed as soap maker. So already the family, now 20 years in America, still speaking German,

15		Schwartz Michael	21	M	W	From Poland
16		Gail Thomas	22	M	W	From Poland
17	163	Pater Joseph	48	M	W	Laundry
18		— Mary	45	F	W	Keeping house
19		— Judith	12	M	W	Went to school
20		— Wilamund	10	M	W	Went to school
21		— Catherine	8	F	W	Went to school
22	189	Commins William	25	M	W	Blacksmith
23		— Mary	32	F	W	Keeping house
24		— John	9	M	W	Went to school
25		— Charles	7	M	W	Went to school
26		— Henry	5	M	W	
27		— Bernard	4	M	W	
28		Wauke Wilamund	17	F	W	Domestic Servant
29	164	Pater John	38	M	W	Tanner
30		— Elizabeth	34	F	W	Keeping house
31		— John	16	M	W	Went to school
32		— George	13	M	W	Went to school
33		— Elizabeth	9	F	W	Went to school
34		— Joseph	3	M	W	
35		Grav Bernard	24	M	W	Tanner
36	165	Kettmann Bernard	46	M	W	Loaf Making
37		— Mary	40	F	W	Keeping house
38		— Wilamund	17	F	W	Keeping house
39		— John	12	M	W	Went to school
40		— Frank	10	M	W	Went to school

remained close and interdependent. The 1870 agriculture census showed that between them, Gerhard and John Henry owned three horses, two milk cows, three pigs, and produced 100 bushels of corn and twenty-five of oats. Where is B.H. Pater? – just eight blocks away at 421 South Second St., where he has established a prosperous shoe business.

Ten years later, John Henry's sons now 26 and 23 were still engaged with their father in the tannery. Gerhard had died, and Mary Adelheid's husband,

B.H. Kettmann, has taken over raising produce on the properties, and his eldest John J. Kettman, 22, is a shoemaker with his Uncle Bernard on 2nd Street.

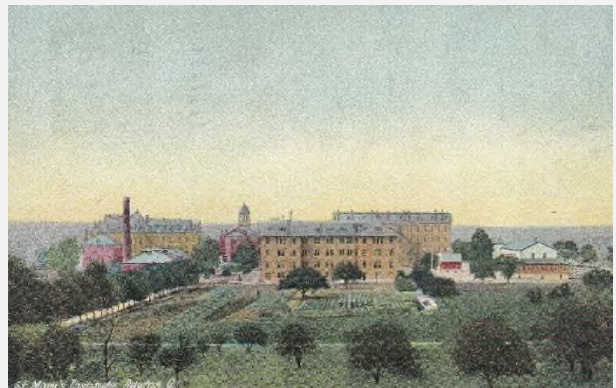
We see that all four families are located in the heavily German Catholic St. Joseph neighborhood, and amazingly, many family descendants remained there for several generations. Let's take a snapshot look at the original four families. Each had a large number of children, thus the hundreds of Pater descendants in Hamilton.

Gerhard Pater

Gerhard, the eldest, and the vegetable gardener, unfortunately died of pneumonia in 1871 at age 45, but his widow Mary Stricker, continued to live in the home along Front Street. He was known for his strong will and force of character.

Joseph J. Pater

Gerhard's son Joseph J. Pater, born 1858, was a major figure in Hamilton at the turn of the century. He was schooled at St. Mary's Institute (forerunner of The University of Dayton) in Dayton and later studied the classics for two years at St. Mary's



Seminary. He then studied medicine, but abandoned that to teach school at St Joseph's Parochial School for five years, becoming principal in 1883. In 1882 he went into business with his brother-in-law Joseph Schumaker marketing a rheumatism product called Auguline, sold all over the US. Long interested in bringing a hospital to Hamilton, he was able to persuade the Sisters of Mercy from Cincinnati to operate a hospital in Hamilton, beginning in 1892. Over the next few years, he worked tirelessly as chairman of the



building and fund-raising committees, and in 1904 the new Mercy Hospital was dedicated. He remained a director of the hospital and some refer to him as the father of Mercy Hospital. He was the first state president of The Catholic Knights of Ohio,

an insurance organization. By 1898 he had served on Board of Water Works, and was then named by Judge John Neilan to the new five-member Board of Control, predecessor to the City Council. He served the Board as Director of Public Works in charge of water, sewer, electric, and gas. In 1901 he was elected president of the Central States Water Works Association and in 1902 was named to the Ohio State Board of Public Works. In 1909 he was a Supervisor of Butler County Elections. Also in 1909, he



JOSEPH J. PATER.

was named Chairman of the Parks Commission, engaging prominent landscape architect George Kessler to design a large grand public park (see map next page), to be located just south of the St. Joseph's community. The park was formal, on a grand scale, and would rival that in any major city. It would provide Hamiltonians a respite they did not have in a polluted factory city, and demonstrated the vision Joseph J. Pater had for his city. Fortunately it was never implemented, as it would have been destroyed in the 1913 flood.

Joseph J. Pater was widely respected locally and regionally as a man of integrity and known for his many public contributions, especially those related to Mercy Hospital.

Mary Adelheid Pater Kettmann, Bernard Kettmann

Sister Mary Adelheid Pater and Bernard Kettmann raised 10 children and at the time of his death there were 22 grandchildren. He was described as a kind and loving husband and father and faithful friend, as well as devout Catholic and strong supporter of St. Joseph's. In 1860 he was a soap maker, and by 1871, had become responsible for raising and selling the family produce. By 1875, Bernard and his son had a furniture/chair making business several blocks away. Eventually, the family moved to 133 Wilson Street. After his death in 1903, his widow Mary continued to live with her daughter near Columbia Bridge, and the ten Kettmann's provided a strong presence in the Hamilton area. Mary Adelheid Pater Kettmann died in 1912.



B.H. Pater, Jr.

The arrival of B.H. Pater in Cincinnati is a little muddled as there is conflicting information. Suffice it to say that the 1910 census document lists his arrival in 1859 at the age of 23, and a document describing a Bernard Pater arriving from Antwerp to New York in 1859, but this contradicts his obituary in 1919, where it states he came with his parents at age 14 or in 1853. Confusing. Nevertheless, he apprenticed as a shoemaker in Cincinnati before moving to Hamilton by 1861, where he is listed in the city directory as boarding with brother John Henry. On May 28, 1861 he married Catherine Holbrock, daughter of John Holbrock, a local merchant, and they resided

along South Second Street where the Holbrocks operated a business. In 1871 he is listed at 412 South Second Street, in partnership with Clemens Holbrock, son of John. Shortly after in 1874-75, he and Clemens Holbrock moved across the street and operated their own newly built shoe and boot store at 421 South Second. He advertised widely and became a popular and well-liked merchant. Note the variety of advertisements placed in local papers.

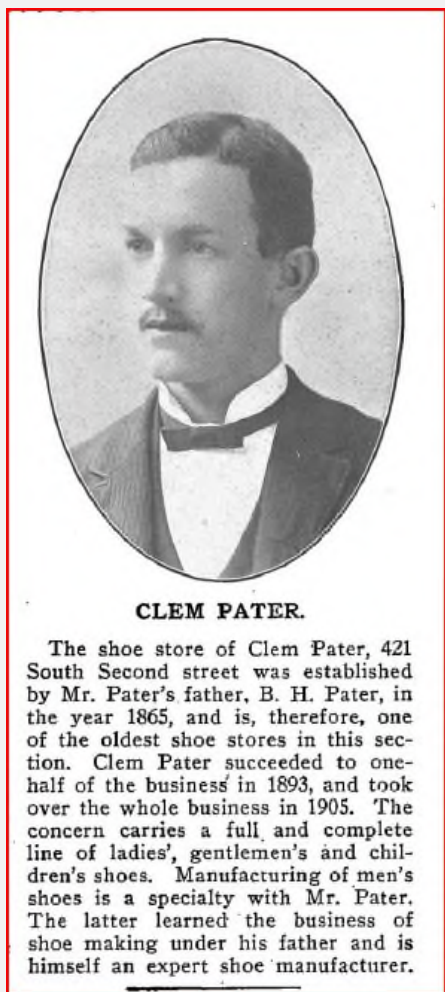
B. H. PATER,
INTRODUCER OF
Union Shoes!

Are you after a good Shoe? A Shoe well made, a Shoe that will wear, and at the same time a Shoe without a fancy profit? Look at the stock of

B. H. PATER.
421 South Second Street.

No Special Bargains. **ALL** our Shoes are marked down.
Ladies' Shoes a specialty. Ladies' Bright Dongola Button, patent tips, only \$1.45. Come and see them.

B. H. PATER.
421 South Second Street.
P. S.—All our Shoes are Union Made.



An 1875 map notes a strange coincidence. My grandmother's birth mother, Anna Steinman, rented a small wood dwelling behind the Holbrock butchery at 417 South Second Street in 1875 with her two small children, before giving birth to grandmother Emma in 1877 at this location.

Eventually B.H.'s son, Clem Pater, probably named for his previous business partner Clemens Holbrock, took over the shoe business in the early 1900s. Bernard was a faithful Catholic and was one of the founders and strong supporters of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. In his later years he moved the family to 161 Washington Street, next to St. Joseph's rectory. In 1901 the Daily Democrat newspaper ran an article on his half-century of business success. His grandson, Clem

Pater II, became a prominent local attorney, and his son, Clem III, is primary partner in The Pater Law Firm, now serving Hamilton residents for 120 years.

John Henry (Johann Heinrich) Pater

Early immigrant John Henry, the tanner, established a tannery business along the 1400 block of South Front St. by 1863 along with his two sons Henry and George. The six acres were sufficient for the buildings required. John was held in high esteem in the community, and he was a devout Catholic, being one of the founders of St. Joseph's in 1867. He remained in the tannery and in the home on Front Street almost until his death in 1903. He and wife Mary Buecker raised five children: Henry I., George, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Josephine.

Henry I. Pater

Henry worked in the tannery as a boy, but in 1876 at 22, he became well known as a dealer in hides and leather. He maintained a business at the Front Street location even after his father died in 1903. Henry had moved his residence to 323 Wood Street (now Pershing Avenue) by 1900. The flood of March 25, 1913 completed destroyed his business along the low-lying riverfront, including what was left of the tannery and all the homes. The farmland





was no doubt severely compromised. This particular area was hard hit by the flood, which killed over three hundred Hamiltonians.

Undaunted, he immediately relocated to a property at East Avenue and Grand Boulevard, where he added coal,

cement, and seeds to his hide and leather business. Operating as the Pater Coal Company, in 1914 he sent his son Ralph to contract new business in Cincinnati. Henry became very successful and was widely respected. He was an active member of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and the Hamilton Retail Merchants Association. He was a charter member of the Knights of



Columbus and the Catholic Knights of Ohio, was a devout Catholic and strong supporter of St. Josephs. He had six sons, with Ralph and Mark joining him in the coal and cement business. Later, they added three full-service gas stations, one at the East Avenue location, one at South and Central Avenues, and one at T

bird and Buckeye Streets. All were known as the Pater Service Stations.

George Pater

Son George Pater also worked in the tannery until changing course in the late 1880s, when he was a salesman for a brick manufacturer. In 1888 he received a contract for 100,000 bricks to construct the Niles Tool Company Smokestack. Niles supplied machine tools throughout the world and this was a major job. Photos show the smokestack at the factory in an 1893 comparison,

George Pater has the contract for furnishing the brick for the erection of the Niles Tool Works smoke stack. One hundred thousand brick will be required, of which 20,000 are made by special pattern having a round face.

before and after the smokestack. Over the years, he furnished brick for the First National Bank, St. Stephens School, and the Hamilton Train Station. On September 12, 1898 he announced his candidacy for County Commissioner.

A New Candidate.

George Pater has announced himself as a candidate for county commissioner subject to the August democratic primaries. Mr. Pater polled more votes on his party ticket in this city than all his competitors together.

He served as Street Commissioner in 1901 for the Board of Control, (at the time when his cousin Joseph J. Pater was on the 5-member Board of Control) followed by appointment as Superintendent of the City of

Hamilton Crematory in 1902. He was then named sewer inspector in 1902, and the same year appointed a City Police Patrolman. In 1903, he was again appointed Street Commissioner of Hamilton. One report in the news concerned the bad state of the Black Street Bridge. George Pater repaired it. In addition, he was asked to "take care of the bridges." His marriage on February 16, 1904, was rocky and he sued his wife, afflicted with alcoholism, for divorce in December 1904.

George Pater was employed to look after the bridges in Hamilton at a salary of \$75 per year.)

In 1906 he was placed in charge of Lindenwald Brick Company, recognizing his many years of brick making and listing all the buildings he supplied brick for. An amusing news report describes a war of words with his cousin Joseph J. Pater on a local street corner, perhaps over Joseph, in charge of city utilities, refusing to allow macadam street paving for George, as Street

A War of Words.
About noon today J. J. Pater and George H. Pater met near Lowenstein's saloon at Third and Ludlow streets and a wordy war resulted. There are said to have been charges and countercharges of broken promises and bad political faith and some very strong language.

Commissioner. George died in 1924, and is buried at St. Stephens Cemetery.

Commissioner. George died in 1924, and is buried at St. Stephens Cemetery.

Below: Hamilton Parade 1906-the city and streets George cared for



Joseph H. Pater- First Generation American



Joseph H. Pater, third son of son of John Henry, was born in 1867, the year of dedication of St. Joseph's, whose founding involved his father Henry and his uncles. Fittingly, in May 1867, he was the first infant baptized in the new St Joseph's parish. Joseph was a machinist, working first at Mosler Safe as a

safe fitter, then at Hooven-Owens Rentschler, and for many years, a machinist at Niles Tool Company (General Machinery). Niles was known around the world for its heavy machine tools for production of rail cars, ships and military weapons. During World War II, the machinists of Hamilton provided crucial support for the military. Navy guns, Liberty Ship engines, the list goes on. Joseph and his wife Kathrine Kramer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1942 with a Solemn Mass at St. Joseph's and a dinner and reception at the Anthony Wayne Hotel. Joseph was by all accounts a devout and faithful Catholic widely respected by all. Joseph and Kathrine lived at 264 Washington Street, where they raised four sons, Clarence, the machinist, after his father, and three sons who became Hamilton physicians.

Clarence Pater - Machinist

We look now at Joseph and Katherine Kramer Pater's four sons. The eldest, Clarence, was a machinist at Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton, successor to Niles Tool and General Machinery, for 22 years before retiring in 1958. Hamilton's machinists played a vital role in the growth of the City of Hamilton. During



his last decade of work, they made locomotives, seen here. His World War I registration card describes him as tall, stout, with blue eyes and brown hair. His first marriage to Edna Sheley on October 26,

1915 ended tragically as she died of the Spanish flu in 1919, just four years into their marriage. He then married Rose Buchheit April 18, 1923 and they enjoyed 43 years of marriage. Clarence was a lifelong member of St.

Joseph's, enjoyed flowers, gardening, and sports and was a devoted husband and father. Together they raised five sons and two daughters, some pictured here, except William, b 1917. Rose's father George immigrated



Front: Rose, Clarence Back: Lawrence, Donald, Rosemary, Ralph, Joanne, Louis

through New York from Rotterdam on the ship W.A. Scholten in 1882. The Buchheit's had nine children, Rose being the oldest.

A Family of Sons

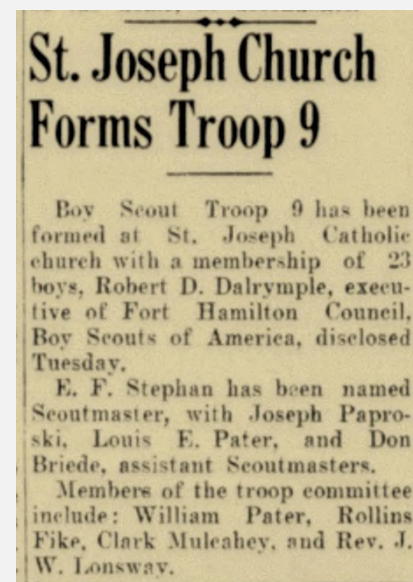
Clarence had three younger brothers, all of whom became Hamilton physicians. There is a 1924 article describing Joseph L. Pater as the valedictorian of the Hamilton Catholic High Class of 1924, and his cousin Clem, grandson of B.H. Pater, the shoemaker, as salutatorian. Their

speeches are detailed in the news and the role of a Catholic High School education is extolled in these articles and I recommend them for your reading. Joseph went on to Miami University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. Walter applied for a passport to study in Europe after his medical education, arriving in Cherbourg France April 3, 1924. All three Pater physicians practiced in Hamilton their entire lives. Sadly, both Joseph L. and Stanley died in their mid-fifties after chronic illnesses. Joseph L. lived across the street from the Howard Stuckeys in the early 1950s.

Louis Pater – Boy Scouts, Football, and Army Veteran

Louis Pater, father of Michael, born in 1924, was the eldest of seven children born to Clarence and Rosa Buchheit Pater. Louis was involved in St. Joseph's from the beginning, attending the local St. Joseph's school and the Fort Hamilton Boy Scout Camp in Somerville as Junior Camp Director in 1940. Later in 1946 he helped form Scout Troop Nine at St Joseph's, serving as assistant scoutmaster. Enrolled in Hamilton Catholic High School, he played football on the reserves in 1939 and received an award at the

spring 1940 banquet. The following season he was starting center on the football team. There was no doubt great excitement on the night of September 24, 1940 as powerhouse St. Xavier came to Hamilton for the first time in five years for a clash with the Rams with Louis Pater starting at center. On November 2, they put their four-game winning streak on the line against Elder with Louis Pater at center. The final game of the senior's season was against Cincinnati Automotive Trades School. During his senior



Rugged Conquerors Invade Local Field Tonight At 8

**Coach Brandel Will Depend On Same Lineup That
Bowed To McGuffey; First Showing Of Cincinnati-
nations Here Since 1935**

By BILL MOELLER

IT WILL be Hamilton Catholic's passes against St. Xavier's power when the teams collide tonight at 8 o'clock at the athletic field in the second game of the infant football season.

Catholic, lacking weight and experience, discovered last week that its only hope of victory against a bigger foe is in the air. The rugged St. Xavier eleven will depend mainly on power plays to batter down the fighting Ram line.

Satisfied With Showing In Opener

Coach Fred Brandel will probably use the same lineup as last week with Ed Baldwin and Frank Italiano at ends, Cliff Fening and Art Tobergte at tackles, Don Lehman and Richard Lee at guards, Louis Pater at center, Don Geyer at quarterback, Norb Pfeister and Bill Toero at halves and Paul

year he was a cast member in the play, Officer 666, on April 29, 1941. He was awarded his high school diploma on June 3, with his distant cousin, attorney Clem Pater, grandson of B.H. Pater the shoemaker, as

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)			
SERIAL NUMBER N 497	1. NAME (Print) Louis Edmond Pater		ORDER NUMBER 12555
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 128 Beckett St. Hamilton Butler Ohio			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 18	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Hamilton Ohio	
DATE OF BIRTH 27th Feb. 4 1924			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Clarence Pater - 128 Beckett - Hamilton - Ohio			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Niles Diesel - General Machinery			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS N. 3rd St. Hamilton - Butler - Ohio			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 9-1-42)		610-21620-3 Louis E. Pater	

commencement speaker. In 1942 following high school at age 18 he received his draft card. He worked locally in a machine shop until enlisting in the Army February 23, 1943 as a private. He rose to Sergeant in the Tank Corps while serving in the Pacific

Theater. While stationed in Hawaii he had a reunion with a Hamilton nurse and had his picture taken with General Richardson. He was hospitalized briefly with a foot infection. He was discharged February 19, 1946 after three years' service. Just six months later on August 1, 1946, Louis Pater,

Licensed To Wed	man, 1123 Grove street, and Kathleen Banks, age 24, clerk, 513 Curtis street, both of Middletown.
French Vermillion, age 39, paper mill employe, 606 Main street, and Lillie Richardson, age 21, 337 North Fourth street.	Franklin J. Stupha, age 22, student, and Peggy L. Casey, age 21, student, both of Oxford.
Eugene E. Bowman, age 18, 1219 Pascal avenue, and Dora Gambrel, age 17, 1368 Jersey avenue.	Louis E. Pater, age 22, fitter, 128 Beckett street, and Josephine F. Geier, age 18, clerk, 119 Hanover street.
William Nelson Castleberry, age 19, paper mill employe, 198 Gordon avenue, and Wanda J. Browning, age 17, 809 Ridgelawn avenue.	Robert L. Apple, age 21, factory employe, Monroe, and Katherine E. Robinson, age 18, 1710 Philadelphia street, Middletown.
Harold L. Fitzwater, age 24, ice-	Try Journal-News Classified Ads.

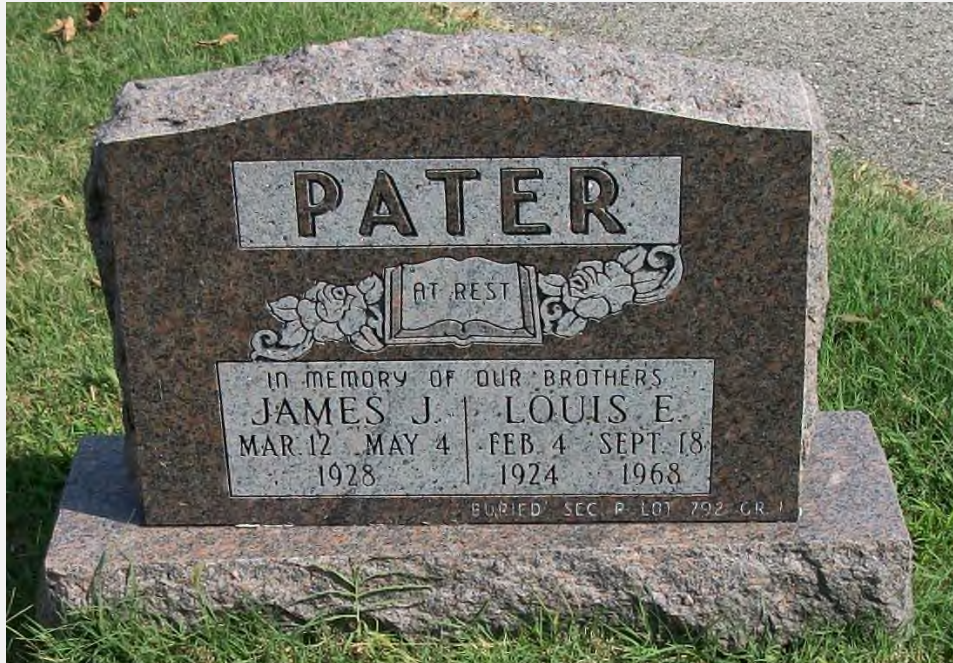
22, and Josephine Geier, 18, applied for a marriage license. The short time span is not surprising given the fact that the back yards of both Louis at 128 Beckett Street and Josephine at 119 Hanover Street were exactly opposite each other across the back alley. One can only imagine the convenient access and many opportunities they shared during their romance. They were married on August 17, 1946 at St. Stephens Church. A breakfast for the wedding party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pater, followed by the ceremony at nearby St. Joseph's. At 1 p.m. a dinner was served at Queen of Peace, Millville, for the wedding party, where a reception was held in the evening for 200 guests. A honeymoon to Michigan and Canada was planned. Interestingly their first residence as a



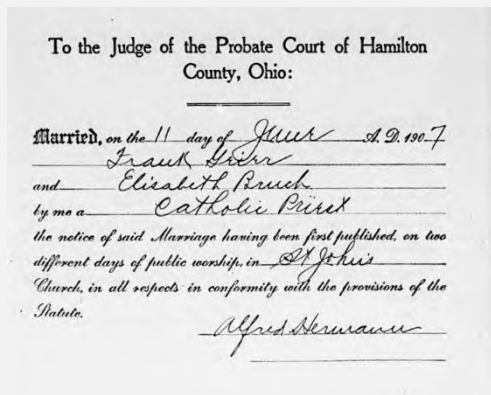


Agnes Geier, Margaret Geier, and Joanne Pater were bridesmaids. Niece Joretta Urmston served as Maid of Honor

married couple was just blocks away at 264 Washington Street, the home of Louis' grandfather Joseph H. Pater, who had died just two years previously. His first job was at General Machinery 1946-47 (Niles), where both his father and grandfather had worked. Straight away in 1948 they began a family, producing five sons. Louis was a tool and die maker and was employed at Fisher Body division of General Motors from 1947 until his death in 1968. He was a member of the United Auto Workers Union at Fisher Body. They were divorced in April 1968 just two months prior to his sudden death from a heart attack. Sometime following his death, his own brothers created a memorial (next page) at St. Stephen's Cemetery for Louis and brother James, who died in infancy.



Josephine Geier – Youngest of Ten



Frank Geier was born April 9, 1882 in Bavaria, probably the Rhineland area. His father's name was Jacob Geier and his mother, Margaret Rutter Geier. Frank Geier and his future wife, Elizabeth Bruch, also German, both immigrated separately in 1906, arriving in the *Over the Rhine* section

of Cincinnati. The Miami Erie canal separated the German immigrant section from the rest of Cincinnati. Frank was a baker and he immediately met Elizabeth. They were married in the local Catholic Church, St. John at the corner of Green and Bremen Street. The local priest submitted this card to the probate judge of Cincinnati. The census of 1910 shows their residence on Elm



Street, which is a now renovated small apartment building with a storefront. At the next census, 1920, they reside at 155 Washington St., Hamilton, already with seven children. The 1923 City Directory lists Geier's Bakery at 802 Heaton Street, and they have moved to Pleasant Avenue. By 1930 they have moved to 705 High St., now the home of a fast-food restaurant. Josephine is now 2 ½. Frank Geier died in 1935, and that same year Josephine completed her first communion class at St. Stephen's. The 1940 census lists widow Elizabeth with five children including 13-year-old Josephine at 925 Vine St. By 1946 Josephine was a clerk at Ohio Casualty, age 18, living at 119 Hanover Street, where she met Louis. A wedding photo of her older sister Anna and Joe Huber in 1936 is shown below - could this flower girl be 8-year-old Josephine standing next to her sister?



Wedding of Joe Huber and Anna Geier 1936

Michael H. Pater



264 Washington Street

to Stephen T. Badin when opened in 1966, graduating in 1968. For a short time, he was a manager at the Capri Motel before moving on to City Loan and Finance Company on High Street, where he met Marcia. Mike only made the papers twice before leaving Hamilton with Marcia for Lordstown. The first was when sixteen-year-old Mike's auto was struck by another and he reported it to the police, and the second, Mike and Marcia's engagement announcement on July 3, 1970. They were married in a private ceremony on

Louis and Josephine continued a family tradition with five sons. Michael, the second born, arrived March 15, 1950 while the Louis Paters still lived in grandfather Joseph H. Pater's long-time former home at 264 Washington Street. They moved in 1951 to the west side out of town, north on Eaton Road, until moving back to East Hamilton near to Fisher Body in 1955. Mike remained at 938 Hayes Avenue until he and Marcia married in 1969. After attending St Joseph's Elementary, Mike entered Hamilton Catholic High School, moving

Stuckey-Pater

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Marcia A. Stuckey, daughter of Howard L. Stuckey, 1102 James Road, and the late Mrs. Ann Louise Weiland Stuckey, to Michael H. Pater, son of Mrs. Josephine G. Pater, 938 Hayes Ave., and the late Louis H. Pater.

Miss Stuckey was graduated from Taft High School and attended Ball State University. She is employed by the City Loan and Savings Co.

Mr. Pater, a graduate of Badin High School, attends Xavier University. He also is an employe of the City Loan and Savings Co.

An early fall wedding is planned.

November 17, 1970. They lived on briefly on Fifth Street before relocating to 215 Eaton Avenue, when Marcia was pregnant with Frank, then 2752 Hilda Avenue, where they remained until leaving Hamilton for Mike's job at the General Motors Lordstown Auto Plant in 1972.



Hamilton's Pater Family - 170 years

This look back at the Paters of Hamilton describes an immigrant family establishing roots around the St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Church, keeping close to the neighborhood while growing their families, and taking part in Hamilton's evolution as a formidable industrial and manufacturing city through the 1940's.

A long-time resident reminisced in a 2018 news article recalling the early 1900's: some 80 years ago, "every other house around here was a St. Joseph house," she said.

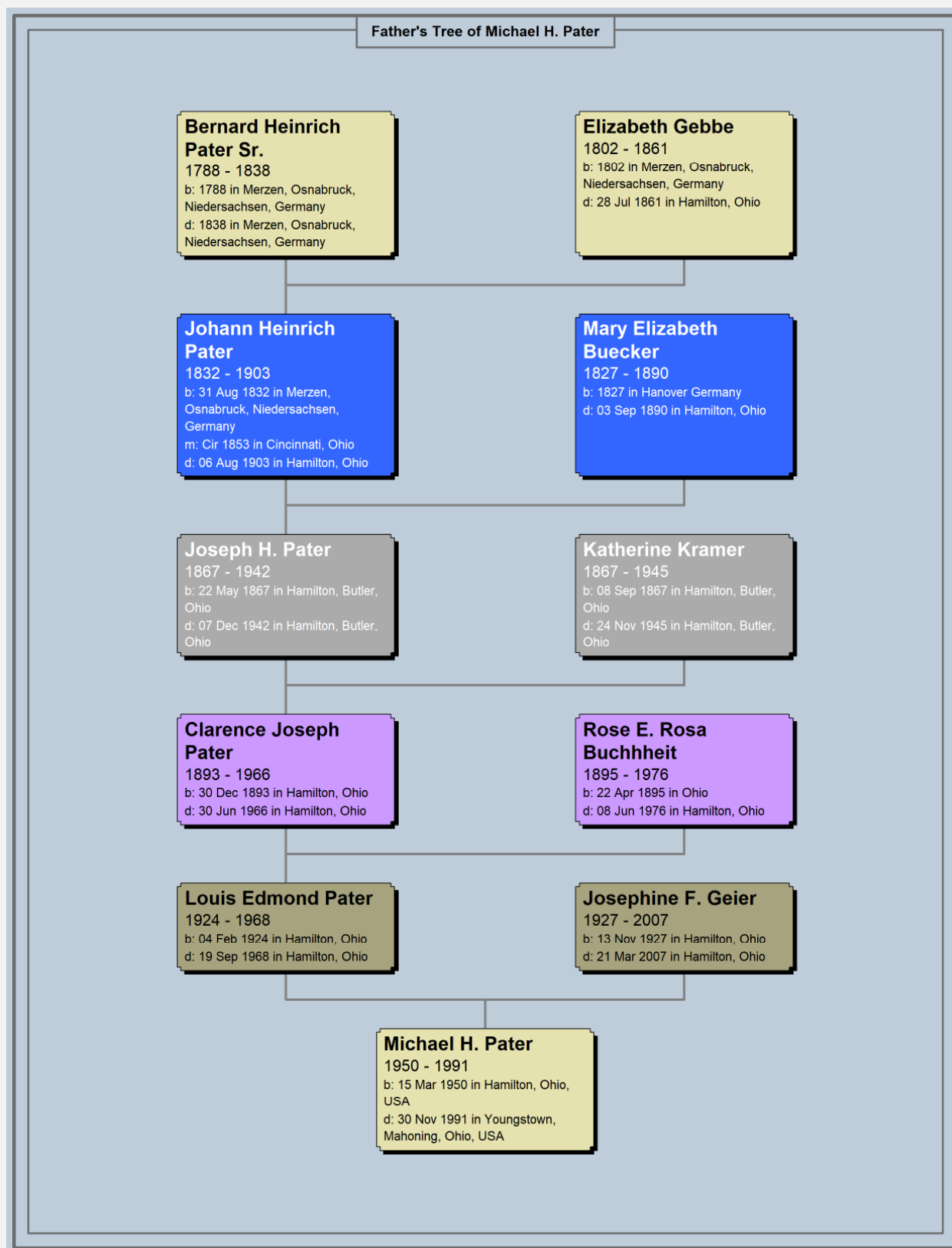
"We were a very large parish then. I remember all the Masses being packed. We had four Masses on Sunday, and the last one — the 11:30 Mass — we had to pay 'pew rent' to get a seat. There were people of every age, from teenagers to old people. A lot of the people I grew up with are still there.

"We were very much a family-oriented parish community. We had our corner stores and pharmacies and farms, of course. My dad had a service station. I lived two blocks away, and I walked to school every day and back home for lunch, and back to school and home again. "

St. Joseph has become a small community in the heart of the city now. "It is an older congregation..." "There are people like me whose families have been there for generations. My mother and grandfather were here before me, and my wife's family goes back to the very beginning. A lot of us can trace our roots to this parish."

This community description could seemingly be written about the extended Pater family in the late 1800s and early 1900s, whose members contributed so much to the early life of Hamilton. Hopefully you will continue to explore the many facets of the Paters of Hamilton going forward.

Appendix-Family Trees



Pater Family Seven Generation Chart

