



Weilminster



Alt Sandec

# The Ancestry of Eugenia Weinbrenner

## *The Weinbrenner and Fröhlich Families*

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The name “Weinbrenner” (in English, “Wine-burner”) derives from the occupation of cognac or brandy-making, as wine must be “burned,” so to speak, in order to produce those liquors. Probably the name originated independently in several locations (perhaps as many as seven) during the Middle Ages. Our line, the line which culminates in **Eugenia Weinbrenner** (wife of John Edgar Wilson), made its ancestral home for at least nine generations in the small German town of Weilmünster, located in the beautiful Weil River Valley about 25 miles northwest of Frankfurt in Hessen land. (The population in 1866 was 1,123.) Presumably there was originally a church or cathedral (“Münster”) there. The town name goes back at least to 1217, when it was spelled “Wilmunstre.”

The earliest generation of which there is any record in Weilmünster is that of Jost Weinbrenner (or Weinborner)(born ca. 1485), a farmer, and his wife, Elss Mehl. Also living in Weilmünster at that time were two other men presumed to have been Jost's younger brothers: Cless (a version of the name Claus or Nikolaus) Weinbrenner (born 1470-1480) and Hen ( or Henrich) Weinbrenner (born 1470-1480). Jost had a son, Jörg Weinbrenner (born ca. 1517), a farmer. Jörg had a son, Johann Nicolaus Weinbrenner (recorded as having been

recruited into the military in 1589, as owning part of an iron mine in 1609, and as deputy mayor of Weilmünster in 1615; died ca. 1629). His son, Niclass (born 1570) was married to Leise von Helfenstein (recorded as his widow in 1629).

Niclass Weinbrenner was the father of Jost Thomas Weinbrenner (who died before 1629, his widow still alive 32 years later in 1661!) Jost Thomas Weinbrenner was the father of Johann Jost Weinbrenner (born 1612-1615 and died in 1672), a deputy mayor of Weilmünster like his grandfather, and married to a woman named Ester (died 1705).

In the sixth generation, thankfully recorded in better detail than those before, came the son of Johann Jost Weinbrenner: Johann Carl Weinbrenner (1661-1750). On 22 February 1698 he married Anna Ursula Nickel (1679?-1757) in Weilmünster. Their son, Johann Peter Weinbrenner (1702?-1769) was married on 8 May 1731 to Anna Clara Moex (1705?-1747) in Weilmünster.

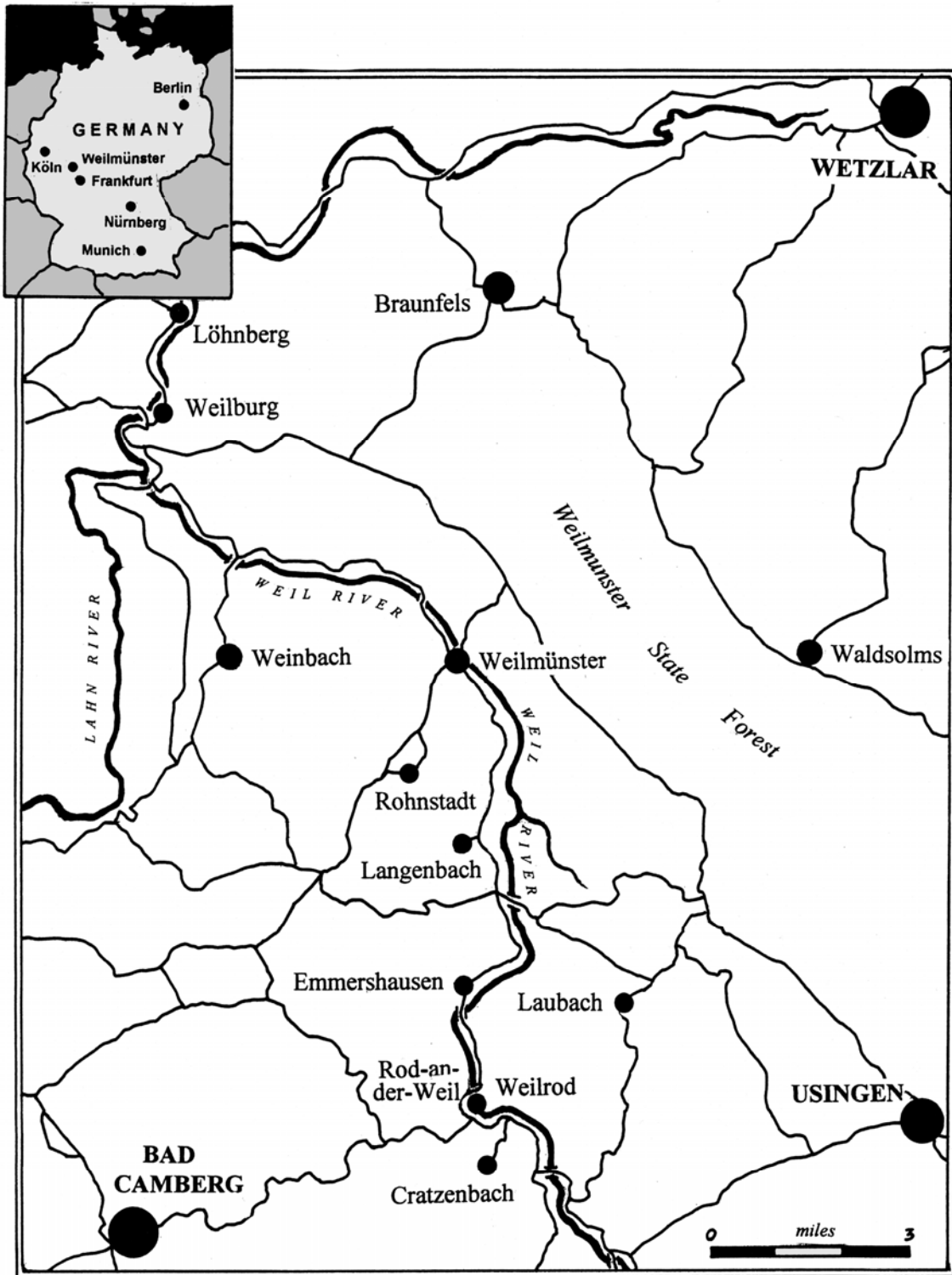
Johann Carl Weinbrenner's wife, Anna Ursula Nickel, was the daughter of Johann Georg Nickel (1644-1727) and Anna Margaretha Haybach (born 1651); both were originally from Weilmünster but they had moved to a small nearby hamlet named Rohnstadt. Johann Georg Nickel was the son of Lorentz Nickel (born 1615?); Anna Margaretha Haybach was the daughter of Christ Haybach (1615?-1674) of Weilmünster.

Johann Peter Weinbrenner's wife, Clara Moex, was the daughter of Johannes Moex (born 1669?) and Anna Gertraut [maiden name unknown] from the town of Weinbach, another small hamlet nearby but not on most maps. Clara moved to Weilmünster upon her marriage

The eighth generation is represented by Johann Peter Weinbrenner's son, Johann Philipp Weinbrenner (1732-1784), who, on 14 July 1763, married Anna Ursula Eichhorn (born 1743, died after 1777). Johann and Anna had a son, Johann Sebastian Weinbrenner, born in Weilmünster in 1777.

Johann Philipp Weinbrenner's wife, Anna Ursula Eichhorn, was the daughter of Johann Philipp Eichhorn (born 1710?) and Anna Elizabeth Schäfer (1715?-1786) both of Weilmünster. J. P. Eichhorn was the son of Johann Georg Eichhorn (1683?-1743) and Anna Elizabeth Zwingel (1681?-1738), both of Rohnstadt, but married in Weilmünster. J. G. Eichhorn's father, Johann Wilhelm Eichhorn (1640-1717), was originally from the nearby hamlet of Langenbach, as was his father, Wilhelm Eichhorn (born 1610?); it was in Langenbach that J. W. Eichhorn married Anna Elizabeth Krug (1644-1689) of Rohnstadt. She was the daughter of Johann Peter Krug (1615?-1676) of Rohnstadt.

J. G. Eichhorn's wife, Anna Elizabeth Zwingel, was the daughter of Johann Wilhelm Zwingel (1650-1708) of Rohnstadt, son of Johannes Zwingel (1610-1675) of Rohnstadt. J. W. Zwingel's wife, Anna Elizabeth Weil (1650?-1725) was the daughter of Johannes Weil (born 1615) of Weilmünster. Is this family name (Weil) a coincidence, or is it perhaps the oldest family in the Weiltal (Weil Valley), the name commemorated also in the towns of Weilmünster (Weil cathedral) and Weilbach (Weil River or Stream)? It is said the name was originally associated with a Celtic goddess in the Dark Ages.



Weilmünster area, Germany; home of the Weinbrenners and associated families from the 14th to the 18th centuries

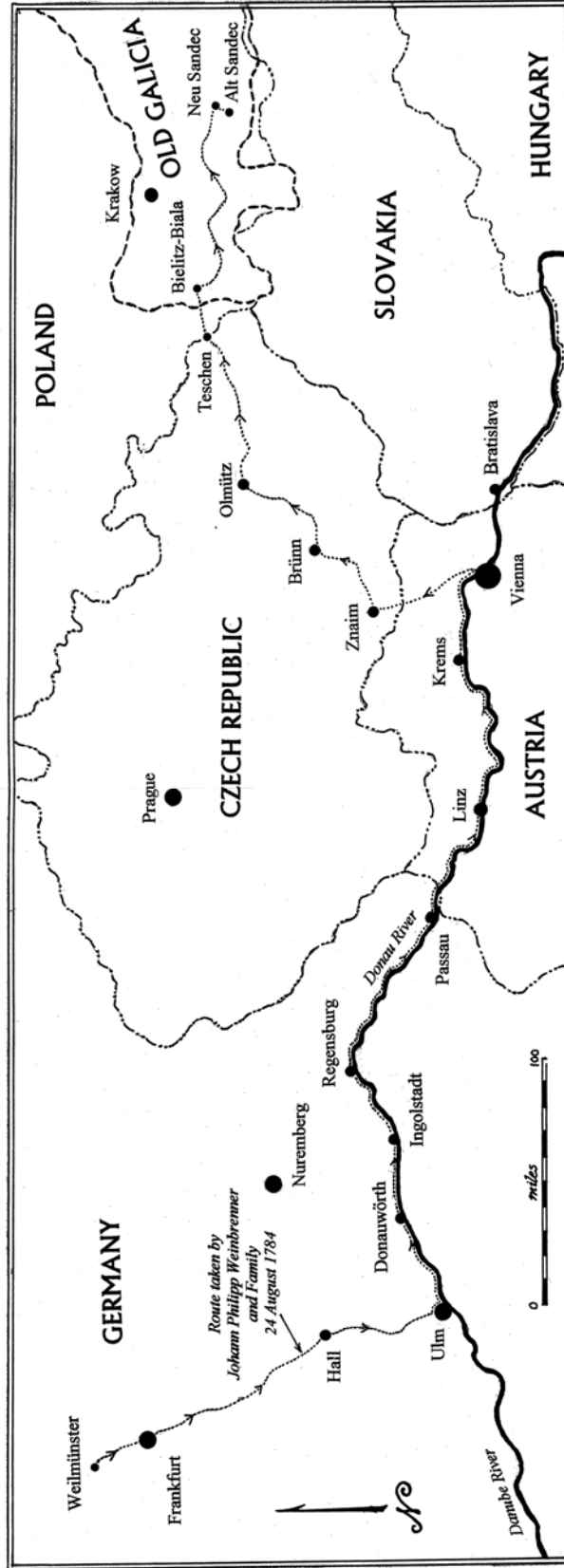
J. P. Eichhorn's wife, Anna Elizabeth Schäfer, was the daughter of Johann Philipp Schäfer (1686?-1756) and Elisabeth Catharina Detteler (1687?-1751), both of Weilmünster, as were their parents and grandparents. J. P. Schäfer was the son of another Johann Philipp Schäfer (1650-1725) and Anna Margaretha Weil (1662-1733), daughter of Johannes Weil mentioned above, and sister of Anna Elizabeth Weil, wife of J. W. Zwingel. J. P. Schäfer the elder was the son of Lorentz Schäfer (1620?-1688) and his wife Margaretha. The wife of J. P. Schäfer the younger, Elisabeth Detteler, was the daughter of Johann Heinrich Detteler (1645-1713) and Anna Catharina Lommel (1646-1699); Anna was the daughter of Matthias Lommel (1614?-1686) and his wife Susanna (1620?-1680), both of Weilmünster.

Changes in Europe then brought an opportunity for many German families. European political developments had culminated in 1772 with an agreement between Russia, Prussia and Austria for the first partitioning of Poland. The cession treaty between the last King of Poland and Empress Maria Theresa of the Austro-Hungarian Empire took effect on September 18, 1773. As a result of this treaty, Austria received the region known as Galicia. In September of the following year, the Empress issued the first settlement patent for Galicia, and a second patent was issued in 1781 by her son, Emperor Josef II, which allowed emigration of Germans into Galicia. This patent was supplemented by the Toleranzpatent of 1781 proclaiming religious toleration for Protestants. During the following years thousands of German Protestants emigrated into Galicia to start new lives and found new towns.

So it was that on August 24, 1784 Johann Philipp Weinbrenner, his wife Anna Ursula, and his three children (Johann Philipp, age 18; Maria Polyxena, age 10; and Johann Sebastian, age 7) left their home in Weilmünster and set out for a new life over 500 miles away in Galicia. They had sold their farm for a good price, and took 1203 gulden (134 ounces of gold, the equivalent of approximately \$100,000 in today's currency) with them. They went first to Frankfurt in order to obtain the required Reichskommisariats Pass (a sort of travel visa). They also had to pay an assessment of 10% of whatever cash they were carrying in order to receive an official authorization for resettlement.

From Frankfurt they passed through the heavily forested Odenwald, the men on foot and the women and children in a horse-drawn rented cart (18<sup>th</sup>-century U-haul!). Across the Hohenloher Plains they came to the free-trade city of Hall, then over the Swabian Alps to the ancient city of Ulm on the Donau (Danube) River. From Ulm they took a riverboat downriver to Donauwörth, Ingolstadt, Regensburg, Passau, Linz and Krems, finally arriving in Vienna, the capitol of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The riverboat was capable of transporting 200 passengers and their belongings from Ulm to Vienna in 7 to 14 days, at a ticket price per person of 1 gulden, 30 kreuzer (about \$650 in 1994 dollars). Some settlers took the cheaper but more arduous land route to Prague and then Vienna, but it is safe to assume that the Weinbrenners, with plenty of cash and with children in tow, took the riverboat.

At Vienna the colonists purchased supplies for the final leg of the trip, registered in order to be assigned their new land plots for settlement, received any necessary medical attention, and obtained a new travel pass.



Route taken by Johann Philipp Weinbrenner and family from Weilmünster, Germany to Alt Sandec, Galicia in August-September 1784

From Vienna they traveled north through the cities of Znaim and Brünn to Olmütz. There they turned eastward through the Moravian border crossing to Teschen, Bielitz and Biala, where for the first time they reached Galician soil and paid a final travel fee. Unfortunately, the Galician authorities were not well prepared for the onslaught of immigrants, and some delays may well have ensued. But in due time their final destination was reached. Colonists were typically assigned an average of 28 to 36 acres of arable farmland, as well as finished houses and barns, and some horses and cattle, plows, harrows, wells, etc. Unfortunately their high taxes (which began immediately and not after ten years as originally promised) were oppressive and caused hardship among the farmers until being repealed in 1790 by Leopold III.

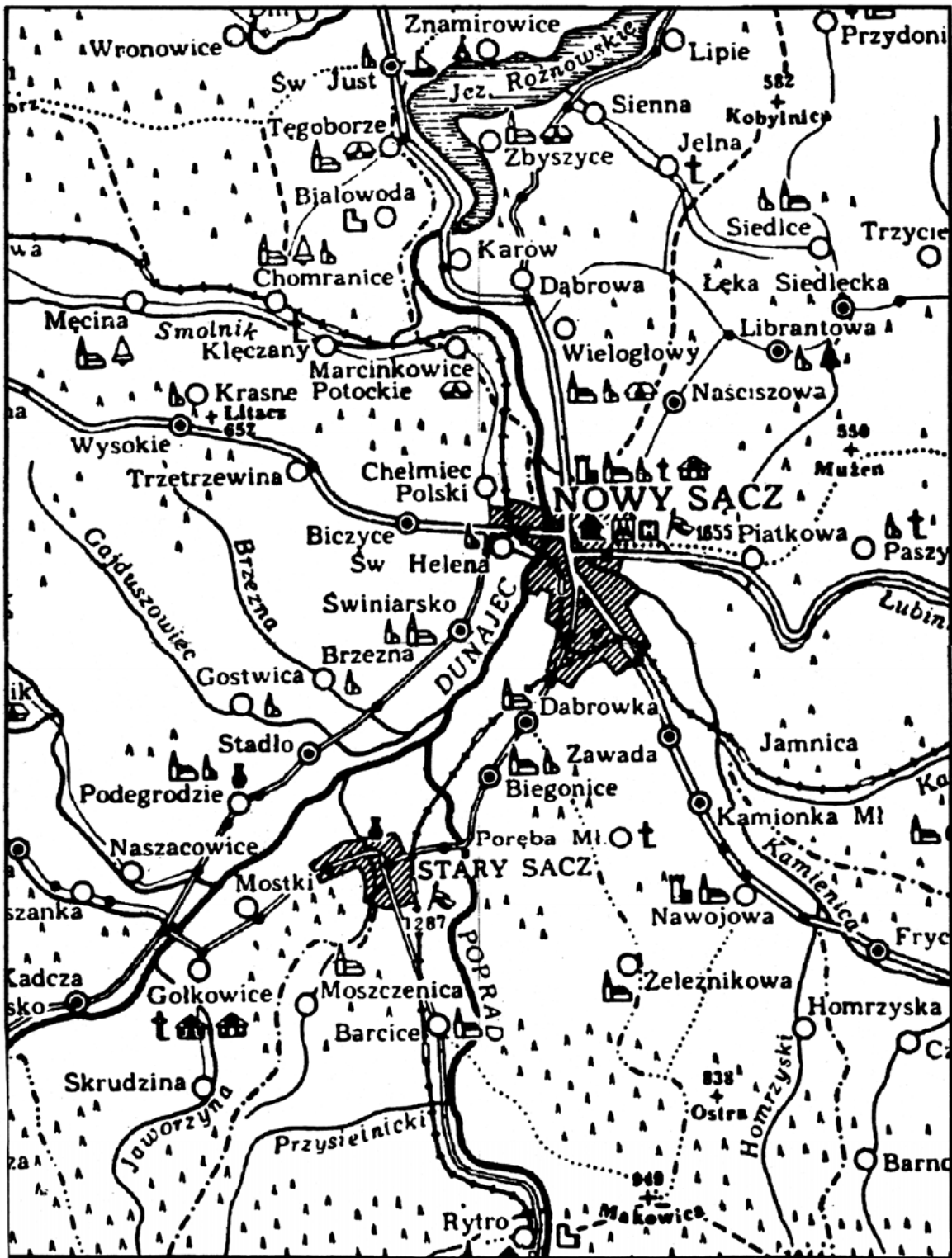
The family finally settled on farmland in the beautiful Carpathian foothills near the town of Alt Sandec,\* perhaps near the small hamlet of Stadlo. It was there, on 18 November 1794, that Johann Sebastian Weinbrenner married Elizabeth Butz (pronounced “Boots”), formerly of Emmershausen. In June of 1785, Elizabeth (age 9) had emigrated to Alt (“Old”) Sandec with her father, Johann Philipp Butz (born 1726), and mother, Elizabeth Catharina Brandenstein (born 1730?), daughter of Henrich Brandenstein of Cratzenbach.

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\* The original German spelling is Sandec, which, to a German-speaking ear, could also be spelled Sandeg or Sandeck. However, in Polish, Sandec would be pronounced “Sandetz,” leading to the alternate spelling Sandez.

The Sandec area, south of the Vistula River, was a focus for the colonization efforts of King Josef II of Germany in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A year after his death in 1279, his widow, Kunegundy, endowed a new monastery in Alt Sandec (then known simply as Sandec). In 1292 King Wenzel issued a proclamation for the founding of a new city a few miles downriver, to be called Neu (“New”) Sandec. Neu Sandec remained a German city until the end of the Middle Ages, but in 1512 a Polish Mayor was installed for the first time. Thus in the 16th century Neu Sandec fell under Polish influence and, with it, the entire Sandec region. The district suffered economic hardships under the Polish aristocracy, and, especially, as a result of the war with Sweden (1655-1660). In 1768 the city of Neu Sandec was entirely destroyed by fire. But times were better following the 1773 transfer to the Austrian Empire under the leadership of the much beloved Empress Maria Theresa, and her son Josef II who established equal rights in Galicia for Protestants.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the changing fortunes of war and politics in Europe, Galicia became part of Poland, and the two towns of Alt Sandec and Neu Sandec were given Polish names: Nowy Sacz and Stary Sacz respectively, “Nowy” and “Stary” meaning “New” and “Old” in Polish. By 1945 only a few Galicians of German descent remained, most having married into Polish families or emigrated to Germany, the U.S. and Canada to escape repression.



Stary Sacz, Galicia (now Poland), birthplace of Eugenia Weinbrenner, 1895



**Alt Sandec (Stary Sacz), hometown of the Weinbrenners in Galicia, Austria (now Poland)**

Johann Sebastian Weinbrenner died on 12 October 1840, at the age of 63, in Dombrovka, the father of at least eight children and many grandchildren who established farms all around the Alt Sandec-Neu Sandec area. His eldest son, Philipp (born ca. 1798), lived in Skrudzina and married Apollonia Simon (1800-1845) of Swiniarsko. Apollonia was the daughter of Adam Simon (1770-1820) and Sophia Stand of Neu Sandec. Adam Simon's wife, Sophia, was the daughter of Georg Stand (born 1740) and his wife Anna Maria, both having emigrated with their daughter to Neu Sandec from Holbornerhof, Germany.

The Butz family had lived for generations in Emmershausen. Johann Philipp Butz (father of Elizabeth) was the son of Johann Peter Butz (1680-1729) and Anna Eulalia Pauli (1679-1753), both of Emmershausen, although Anna Eulalia's father, Johannes Pauli (born 1645?) was from Laubach. "Eulalia," incidentally, means "beautiful speech or voice...she of the beautiful voice." Johann Peter Butz was the son of Peter Butz (1651-1703) and Anna Elizabeth Kempf (or Van Kempe)(1653-1712). Peter was the son of Johann Andreas Butz (1605?-1666), son of Peter Butz (born 1570?), all of Emmershausen. Anna Kempf was the daughter of Johann Kempf (1615?-1676) and his wife Engen (1620?-1693), also of Emmershausen.

Representing the 11<sup>th</sup> generation of known Weinbrenners was Philipp's son, Eugenia's grandfather, Georg Weinbrenner (1828-1888) and his wife Dorothea Hoffmann (1824-1892), both of Alt Sandec (married in Stadlo, on 3 March 1854). Dorothea was the daughter of Johann Hoffmann (born ca. 1795) and Elizabeth Schreiner (born ca. 1800). Although Dorothea died three or four years before Eugenia was born, she must have been spoken of later because Eugenia remembered having had a grandmother named "Dorothy." Georg and Dorothea had at least four children in Alt Sandec: Adam (born 1859), Marianne (born 1862),



Paul Johann (born 1864), and Gustav Adolf (born 1867). Gustav Adolf, Eugenia's father, married Amalie Fröhlich (born 1867) and shortly thereafter had a son, but the boy died in infancy. Then, in 1895, Amalie gave birth to Eugenia, who grew up essentially as an only child. Unfortunately, Amalie had a chronic illness of some sort that must have been very painful. Gustav brought her some medicine one day to rub on the sores on her legs but, when he wasn't looking, she drank it instead, ending her life around 1896.



Street scene in Stary Sacz



Street scene in Stary Sacz

**Eugenia Weinbrenner (1895-1980)**

Eugenia was born on December 2, 1895 (as indicated on her confirmation certificate), which is probably the correct year, even though she gave her birth year as 1896 on her Social Security application many years later in 1942. In her later years she remembered her father's name as Gustav, but on her social Security application she gave his name as Adolf. (He actually possessed both names.) In a letter to Eugenia dated April 1, 1957, her mother's sister Josephine wrote: "I was born August 30, 1884, and was 11 years old when you were born just before Christmas." (This statement supports an 1895 birth year for Eugenia.) "Here is where you were born," Josephine goes on, "Alt Sandetz, Galicia Austria. That's in German, and in Polish it is Stary Sacz." Eugenia remembered that her father was a shoemaker [apparently the town was famous for its shoemakers], and that her Uncle Paul Weinbrenner was a train conductor on the line that passed through Alt Sandec and Neu Sandec.

Amalie (Emily, as Eugenia remembered her), though born in Galicia like her sisters Josephine and Dorothea Fröhlich, was raised in the later part of her childhood in Poland. Josephine's daughter, Sophia Barcicki Martin, writes that, "Mother [Josephine] must have moved to Poland as a child and very young, for she never talked about Austria or the town of Alt Sandec, but always Krakow and Warsaw." However, Josephine's Russian husband, John Barcicki, gives her birthplace as "Starej Sandz, Austria," on his U.S. naturalization petition. Eugenia's uncle, Wilhelm J. Muth, who accompanied her to America to live with her Aunt Josephine in 1907, gave his hometown as Alt Sandec as well, where he had left his ailing wife, Dorotea Fröhlich.

Josephine married John Barcicki in Walsenberg around 1904. According to Josephine's daughter, Sophia, "[Mom and Dad] were Polish-speaking people, and mother also spoke and wrote German. Mother also had a cousin, Paul Fröhlich [son of a Paul or Pawel Fröhlich, according to his California death certificate], who lived in Walsenberg [Colorado], where I grew up. He was the owner of a large store there on Main Street, and my Dad [John Barcicki] worked for him. He was also the head man at the Guarantee State Bank at that time. He finally sold out and moved to California, where he died in 1947." Josephine and John had three children: Helen (b. 1905), Josephine (b. 1907), and Sophia (b. 1909). When Sophia was 17 (i.e. in 1926) John Barcicki died, and "a few years later" Josephine married Frank Bundy. Sophia married Floyd T. Martin and had five daughters. Josephine Fröhlich Barcicki Bundy died June 27, 1963; her last known residence was Canon City, Colorado. She had been sick for years, and underwent at least eight operations which cost the family all their money. A death certificate (which might list her parents' names) has not yet been located.

Amalie, Josephine and Dorotea Fröhlich had one brother in addition to Paul (name unknown) who died at the age of 17.

A book published in Polish in 1979, *The History of Stary Sacz From the oldest times up to 1939*, (A Joint Publication edited by Henryk Barycz, published by Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków) offers some interesting tidbits of historical information about the Fröhlich

family in Stary Sącz, especially a prominent blacksmith by the name of Paweł [Paul] Fröhlich who was probably Eugenia's mother's uncle. The following excerpts were kindly translated by Jan Cesarczyk, whose father is also from Stary Sącz. Members of the Fröhlich family mentioned in the book include Bolesław, Jakub, Karol, Marcin and Paweł.

From the Stary Sącz memoirs of Jan Sitowski, an officer of the district court in Stary Sącz from November 1877 to September 1886:

One of the huntsmen, **Paweł Fröhlich** gained fame as the manufacturer of the best and cheapest ploughs, for which he received medals at various agricultural exhibitions and letters of praise.

I went hunting hares, foxes, pheasants, wild ducks and curlews with **Fröhlich**, Baranowski, Walenty Cycon (Celewicz) and Tomasz Pasiut (called "Dychawica"), the forester. The first hunt every year was organised by Gödel from Moszczenica; he would invite all the huntsmen from Stary Sącz and some from the surrounding area. The following (among others) normally took part in the hunts: Bajer, a forester, Wawrzyniec Cycoń (Celewicz) the younger, Walenty Cycoń (Celewicz), his son, **Fröhlich**, Miąsik, Tomasz Pasiut, Wojciech Pawlikowski, Poh, Robaczewski, another forester, the author of these words, Schmidt, Zoellner and Ziegler, a retired captain living in Stary Sącz.

The following excerpts are from memoirs of Stary Sącz in the "period of (Galician) autonomy" (1860-1918) by Julian Dybiec:

At present we know of about 70 surnames of those that applied for travel permits, to travel to develop their professional skills or to seek work. Some of them started traveling very young. In 1886 Marianna Dzieciolowska applied for a travel permit for her underage son Antoni, a saddler's apprentice, who later in 1903 applied for a passport to America. The **Fröhlichs** were habitual travelers as blacksmiths; they submitted applications for permits to travel throughout the empire: in 1873 by the apprentice **Karol Edward Fröhlich**, in 1882 by **Marcin Fröhlich**, in 1890 by **Karol Fröhlich**, etc.

The increase in the income of the town administration during the period of Galician Autonomy resulted in an increase in expenditures for the town's upkeep. This was most noticeable in the street lighting which was introduced beginning in 1860. In 1864 lights were introduced in the four corners of the market square. "Kamfina" oil was purchased from the oil wells at nearby Klęczany. From then onward, street lighting spread to other parts of the town. In 1874 the town council decided to install a street lamp outside **Paweł Fröhlich's** forge because of the danger of the particularly winding street in this area.

Fame and publicity within Galicia was brought to Stary Sącz not only by its furriers and shoemakers, but also by its blacksmiths. Blacksmithing was the craft of Tomasz Kwiatkowski, Ludwik Niemiec, Marcin Kurzeja, Teofil Comber and

Laskoś; ironmongery was the trade of Gustaw Korona and Paszkiewicz. But the best reputation was gained by the **Fröhlichs** and Antoni Waligóra, known for the production of high-quality ploughs. The demand for their products rose with the establishment of agricultural cooperatives. The annual report of the agricultural cooperatives for 1885 noted that "some cooperatives particularly recommend the use of tools produced in Stary Sącz by **Paweł Fröhlich** and Antoni Waligóra." In June 1888 at the meeting of the Society of Agricultural Cooperatives in Przemyśl, there was organized an exhibition and competition of ploughs and other agricultural tools. From among 41 competitors, **Paweł Fröhlich's** products gained one of the highest awards: the silver medal given by the Ministry of Agriculture. He received the prize for two ploughs. **Fröhlich**, wanting to expand his agricultural implements workshop, applied to the Parliament of Galicia for a subsidy for this purpose. Further research is required to determine if he was successful.

Among the most enthusiastic hunters were **Paweł Fröhlich**, the owner of *The Cycoń's Hotel*, and Tomasz Pasiut. They hunted pheasants, wild ducks, foxes and hares but, as they recalled, more wine was drunk than game killed.

The following excerpt is from the chapter on Stary Sącz in the interwar period (1918-1939) by Tadeusz Duda.

In 1930 the following members of the professions worked in Stary Sącz: solicitors: Dr. Władysław Cichocki, Dr Władysław Dyszkiwicz, Dr. Leon Maschler, **Dr. Jakub Fröhlich**; notary: Ludwik Mleczeko; pharmacist: Markus Frister; medical doctors: Dr Jerzy Dormus, Dr. Helena Dormus, Dr. H. Prinz, Dr. Dziadykowa and Dr. Kannenhieser.

When Eugenia's mother died by her own hand, Gustav turned to drink and was no longer able to give Eugenia a good home. Consequently he sent his five-year-old daughter to live with the larger and more prosperous family of his brother, Adam Weinbrenner. Adam Weinbrenner had married "Eva" Kunegundy Salabura some time before 1891 and had at least three children: Karolina Matylda (born 31 March 1891), Jan Pawel (born 1893), and Adam Jerzy (born 17 December 1898). Eugenia spent two or three years with Adam's family and was apparently quite happy. Adam and Eva were part of the local upper class, and Eugenia remembered elaborate formal dinners, hand-kissing with important guests in the old European tradition, and having her own small dinner table separate from the main banquet table (because she was not an adult member of the immediate family). Sadly, Eva died on June 23, 1903. With no mother in the family once more, Eugenia was forced to change households once again, this time moving in with her mother's childless sister, Dorotea Fröhlich, and her husband, Wilhelm J. Muth (pronounced "Moot").



**Eugenia Weinbrenner (1895-1980)**

Four years later, “Uncle Muth” decided to take Eugenia to America to live with her aunt Josephine Fröhlich Barcicki in Walsenberg, Colorado. He probably did this because his wife, Dorotea Fröhlich, was ill and had to be placed in the care of others. Eugenia and her uncle traveled by train (including the train on which her Uncle Paul Weinbrenner was a conductor) to the port city of Rotterdam, where they boarded the steamship *Statendam* bound for New York. The *Statendam* was a ship of the Holland-America line built in Ireland in 1898; she measured 534 feet long, carried 1,375 passengers, and steamed across the Atlantic at a blazing service speed of 15 knots. They arrived at Ellis Island, New York, on September 17, 1907. According to the ship's passenger manifest, her name was “Genia” Weinbrenner, apparently her German nickname. In America she soon became known as “Jenny.” Uncle Muth is listed as being 5' 4½” tall with blonde hair and gray eyes; Jenny was 4' 11” with

brown hair and gray eyes. She clearly remembered the trauma of becoming accidentally separated from her uncle in the huge Ellis Island port terminal building, unable to speak a word of English and only 11 years old. But, happily, they found each other again and, after a tearful reunion, proceeded by train across country to Walsenber, acquiring a case of body lice along the way.

After a thorough de-lousing at Aunt Josephine's, Jenny settled in and went to school. She was eager to adopt her new country and learn English, and was regarded as a bright student. She remembered her teacher once admonishing the other children in her class to study harder, because Jenny, despite only a partial command of English, was nevertheless getting the best grades.



Josephine Froehlich Barcicki Bundy (b.30 August 1884, d.27 June 1963), maternal aunt of Eugenia Weinbrenner



Eugenia Weinbrenner (extreme right, back row) with her class from Miss L. DeMoure's school in Walsenberg, Colorado, September 20, 1911.



Family of Josephine Frohlich (center kneeling), aunt of Jenny Weinbrenner Wilson. Left: second husband Frank Bundy

After only three years in Colorado, Jenny (now aged 13) was forced to move once again. Aunt Josephine decided that Jenny should receive good Lutheran instruction and, because there was no Lutheran Church in Walsenberg, she sent Jenny in 1908 to live with friends (the Gerhardts, who may have been related in some way...there were Gerhardts in alt Sandec) in Steger, Illinois. Steger, a small German community south of Chicago, had a Lutheran church and German school where Jenny studied until her confirmation at age 15, in 1910. She then hired herself out as a housemaid while still living with the Gerhardt's.

Meanwhile, Jenny's cousin, Karolina (or Karoline, as she signed herself by then), daughter of Jenny's uncle Adam Weinbrenner, had reached the age of 17 in 1909, and was sent by her father to live with her aunt and uncle, Hermina and Bronislav Bagacki, in Philadelphia. Hermina was either a Fröhlich or a Salabura, probably the latter since she is not mentioned by others as a Fröhlich daughter. Karolina traveled aboard the steamship *Amerika* with Hermina (then 35 years old), Hermina's three sons (Rudolf, 8; Alfred, 6; Edmund, 3), and a local 17-year-old boy named Jan Nargang. According to the passenger manifest, Hermina was 5'7" tall, and she and her three sons all had blonde hair and blue eyes. Karoline was 5'8" and had brown hair and eyes. She listed her occupation as "maid." She appears on the 1910 Federal Census in Philadelphia, as a non-family member (listed as a "servant," having immigrated from Austria-Poland in 1909) in the household of Theodore Altenader. She was not living with that family in 1920 (and the only son of that family was still unmarried in 1920), and in fact is not anywhere on the Philadelphia census under her maiden name. Therefore she either married or left the city. Finding a woman who married and changed her name (when marriage records are unavailable) is always difficult, but not impossible. A check of all women named Caroline from Austria or Poland in the Philadelphia area on the 1930 census reveals only a few who were born within five years of 1891, and of those few only one is listed as having immigrated to the United States in 1909: Caroline Grosholz, divorced German-speaking mother of Joseph (born 1916) and Anna (born 1920). Backtracking to the 1920 census we find that Caroline (listed there as Carrie) had married Fred Grosholz in 1911-1915. According to the Social Security Death Index, their son Joseph Grosholz was born 31 May 1916 in Pennsylvania, and died in September 1979 in Ft. Myers, Florida. According to the Florida Death Index, his full name was Joseph Francis Grosholz, and he died on 24 September 1979.

Karoline's father Adam ultimately remarried, to Louise Herald, with whom he had a son, Karl, in 1916.

In 1912 the coincidence occurred which brought Jenny together with her future husband. Her Uncle Muth, a cabinetmaker by trade (he gave his occupation as "joiner" on the ship's passenger manifest in 1907), had moved with her to the German community of Steger, Illinois. He apparently had found work in a piano factory, and lived by himself. He had offered several times to take Jenny in, but his wife was back in Europe, and Jenny preferred the family environment at the Gerhardt's. At the piano factor Muth got to know another employee there named Albert Wilson. Albert's father, John Ulmer Wilson, had married Melissa Jackson, while working as a miner in Missouri some years before. Melissa paid a visit to Albert in Steger, and while there she complained of her rheumatism and wished she



had some help around the house. Apparently Albert's friend Muth recommended Jenny; Jenny and Melissa were introduced to each other, and Jenny accepted her offer to leave the Gerhardts and move in with the Wilsons. There she met Melissa's youngest son, John Edgar Wilson, who was four years her senior.

Jenny was then 17, and remembered the next five years as a pleasant time of growing up, working, socializing, and taking piano lessons amidst the strong family ties of the clannish Wilsons and Jacksons whom she had joined. John, among others, courted her, and on December 14, 1916, they were married in Pontiac, Illinois, by county Judge B. R. Thompson. Witnesses were Jessie Giseburt and George Cassidy. Uncle Muth returned to Stary Sacz to be with his ailing wife, who died a short time later. He came back to Steger some time afterward with a new wife, but finally left for Europe once again, childless, and Jenny heard no more of him.

*[For Eugenia's further history see under John Edgar Wilson.]*

Eugenia's Uncle Paul Weinbrenner, the train conductor, had a son, Johann Weinbrenner, in 1894, who lived until 1983. Like his cousin Eugenia, Johann was born in Galicia. However, that branch of the family ultimately returned to Germany. Johann Weinbrenner's son, Rudolphus Weinbrenner (born 1930), and daughter, Danuta Weinbrenner Richter, are now living in Düsseldorf. Rudolphus also has a son, Michael Weinbrenner (born 1966). Another member of the family, Stephanie Weinbrenner Schubert (born 4 Sept 1928, died 12 July 2010), lived in Wittenberg, and has a son named Konrad (born 1959), who is a judge.



Stefanie Weinbrenner Schubert  
(b.4 Sept 1928)