

**THE GENEALOGY OF THE  
STEINER FAMILY, ESPECIALLY  
OF THE DESCENDANTS OF  
JACOB STEINER**

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The genealogy of the Steiner family, especially of the descendants of Jacob Steiner by Lewis Henry Steiner & Bernard Christian Steiner

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**LEWIS HENRY STEINER & BERNARD CHRISTIAN STEINER**

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LEWIS H. STEINER, M. D.  
AND  
BERNARD C. STEINER, Ph. D.

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## PREFACE.

Among the papers of my father, the late Lewis H. Steiner, were several pages of notes towards a genealogy of our family. These have been taken up and much amplified, and the work is now issued, as it is not likely that further delay would elicit many more facts of importance. It has been a pleasant task to me to search out the various branches of the family tree.

Almost all to whom application was made have been helpful; but especial thanks are due for time spent and interest shown in the work, to Miss Alice V. Derr, Mrs. Marcus A. Woodward, Miss Ola Michaels, Gen. John A. Steiner, Mr. Thomas C. Stoner, Mrs. Wm. H. Lewis, Miss Rachel L. Eader, Mr. Edward T. Schultz, Mr. John G. Wilson, Mr. Charles A. S. Steiner and Mr. Paul Wisenall. We have not been famous; but, to quote my father's words, we have been a "family whose members have lived and died as plain, honest, law-abiding, citizens."

BERNARD C. STEINER.





## PART I.

### SKETCHES FROM THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE STEINER FAMILY IN GERMANY.

(Translated by Lewis H. Steiner.)

The family arms of the family of Steiner von Steindorf consist of a silver shield, in the middle of which is displayed a red bear in an erect posture. A closed helmet covers the shield, having, as a crest, a red bear's head looking to the left. The ornaments of the arms consist of foliage, half red and half gold, the same being placed on a red stelle with small white pearls. Below the shield there sweeps a white band (Wappenband) with a red back, bearing the name Maxmylian Steiner in red ecclesiastical letters. The whole constitutes a true representation of the arms which Ludwig of Bavaria presented to the ancestor of the Steiner family at the tournament of Goslar.

The diploma of nobility, as well as the letters, which were confirmed by Emperor Sigismund in 1397 and announced at Erfurt, July 26, 1397, are to be found in the original in the Imperial Chamber at Wetzlar. A copy is in the archives of family arms (Familien-Wappen-Archiv) at Vienna.

The imperial archives of the nobility of the empire at Wetzlar, and registry office of family ancestry and arms at Vienna, contain, with reference to the origin of the noble family of *Steiner*, the following material, the correctness of which is made clear and evident by reference to the books of heraldry and tournaments at Speyer and Frankfort-on-the-Main.

These show that the family of Steiner appears for the first time as a noble house in one of the archives of the Reichskammer of the Elector of Saxony, which is dated "Regensburg, 22d of the month of August in the year of our Saviour 1340." As the cause

of this record appear the decrees of the Criminal Court (Halsgerichtsordnung), from which it appears that Ludwig von Steindorf had been cited from his family seat at Steindorf in the Oberlausitz in consequence of a quarrel with Uffo von Bonkenburg, by the Superior Court at Regensburg, for a breach of the Landfriede, and that, through the management of Anselm, the Bishop of Würzburg, who was a brother of Uffo von Bonkenburg, he was placed under the imperial ban, and, in consequence of this, his family castle was confiscated and the possession of the same was adjudged to the complainant Uffo.

Ludwig von Steindorf went into a monastery at Goslar and died in the same, March 27, 1342, from grief and anguish at the rendition of so unjust a judgment. It appears that after some months, the Emperor, by a decree of December 31, 1341, three months *before the death* of the condemned, had annulled the imperial ban. But the edict was concealed and held back by the trickery of the revengeful Bishop of Würzburg, who bore the responsibility of the same readily on account of the great influence he possessed at court.

It appears from the records of this court that the father of Ludwig von Steindorf—the head of a family (Stammvater) so widely distributed—was named

#### I. MAXIMILIAN STEINER.<sup>1</sup>

He was made a knight (Ritter) on the 26th of November, 1311, by Ludwig of Bavaria. A singular occurrence was to be thanked for this good fortune. He was a squire (Knappe) of the Count of Mannsfeld, and saved the life of his royal highness, Ludwig of Bavaria, in a bear-hunt, having freed him from great peril of life by seizing a bear that rushed at him and strangling it with both hands. The king created him knight (Ritter) at Goslar, at the next tournament, and presented him with a silver armor (Rüstung) and a costly shield, the arms of which exhibited *a red bear* on a silver field. But as Maximilian was without property and possessed nothing besides his gigantic strength and bravery, his brave and fearless heart, his king and lord gave him a knight's castle which he had won from Günther, the Bishop of Würzburg, at (Brettspiele) draughts. This Maximilian made his

family castle (Stammschloss), and changed its name from Günthersburg, which it had been called before, to Steindorf.

He married shortly afterwards Margaretha von Bassenheim, the daughter of his neighbor, Gottfried von Bassenheim. But in the midst of the happy days of his marriage, the duty of gratitude and the voice of his fatherland called him to the battle-field for his king. He collected from his neighborhood a small company (Fahnleinschaft) of 60 brave lancemen, and, as their captain (Feldhauptmann), fought under His Majesty Ludwig, and fell in the battle given against Frederick of Austria at Mühldorf at the head of his faithful followers. His widow renounced the pleasures of the world and entered the nunnery of Wunsiedl, known as Maria Schutz, where, in a short time, she gave birth to a son, to whom she gave, at baptism, the name of the king in whose cause her faithful spouse had fallen. Grief for her lost husband did not permit her to live to see the coming year, and she died, December 29, 1312.

Her only son,

## II. LUDWIG,<sup>2</sup>

in accordance with the wish of his grandfather, was surrendered to the same, who managed also most faithfully his castle of Steindorf. But Ludwig had scarcely attained the age of youth when this grandfather, Gottfried von Bassenheim, died, and, as no other heirs had legal claims, the knight's estate of Bassenheim fell to him. Uffo von Bonkenburg set up unfounded and illegal claims to a part of the landed property belonging to Bassenheim, which Ludwig would not recognize. This state of affairs led to much quarrelling and contention. His antagonist at length knavishly played the part of peace-maker, and declared that all ill-will should be done away with and all claims be relinquished if Ludwig von Steindorf would marry Gertrude, the only daughter of Uffo. But Steindorf married a poor but virtuous maiden, the daughter of the sacristan (Küster) of the cathedral of Sancta Clara, and gave, as a bridal gift and as dower at the same time, the castle of Bassenheim with all its enclosures, grounds and cattle. From this time on the quarrel with his ancient and irreconcilable enemy broke out anew.