

⑥) attractive to
 but the children
 who, after all, would
 often find their parents
 to be weird, the cause
 of attraction, and the
 source of power.

ED SOURCES

Ahnentafel des Fuhrers (Leip-
 1 Familiengeschichte, 1937).

I Knew. Translated by E. V.

s. in 3) (Berlin, Gerhard Stal-

gendzeit. Jugenderinnerungen
 (Munich, Deutscher Volks-

lebensbericht seiner Geheim-
).

\$ of creative thinking among
 people whose gifts as leaders
 had withered into
 rudimentary, but then
 incest, given the manner
 and the swirl of peasant
 life (families w many
 children and few rooms
 or one) made incest in
 some quarters not only
 the ~~most~~ fact of choice but
 the ~~most~~ of choice. ^{of young}
 indeed the only carnal ^{of peasant}
 available. Besides if they
 were not good-looking,
 and the dragging of farm life
 usually took care of that
 who could one be attractive ⑥

1837 on
 Smith

I

HITLER'S FATHER, ALOIS SCHICKELGRUBER-HITLER

On June 17, 1837, a forty-two year-old peasant woman, Maria Anna Schickelgruber, gave birth to a boy in the tiny agricultural village of Strones, north-west of Vienna in the administrative district of Zwettl. The baby was registered in the baptismal record of the neighboring town of Dollersheim by the local priest under the name of Alois Schickelgruber, illegitimate son of Maria Anna Schickelgruber, father unknown.¹ This terse entry in the records of a country priest in lower Austria marks the informal beginning of the family line which culminated in the birth of Adolf Hitler in 1889. After many changes of fortune, and even a change of name, Maria Anna Schickelgruber's son Alois became the father of Adolf Hitler. In trying to probe deeper into the origins of the family, it is impossible to get behind the baptismal entry of 1837: Alois' father, i.e. Adolf's paternal grandfather, was and is unknown. The family history begins abruptly with a peasant mother and her illegitimate son.

Maria Anna Schickelgruber, or Schicklgruber, as the name was sometimes spelled, was born in Strones in April 1795. She was one of eleven children of the proprietor of peasant holding #1 in Strones, Johann Schickelgruber. Of her ten brothers and sisters, only six survived infancy. Their lives followed a pattern familiar to that of poor peasants throughout Europe. One of the boys, Josef, took over the farm, but ran into financial difficulties, and the land passed out of the hands of the family.² Another brother, Franz, ended as a hard-drinking, happy-go-lucky day laborer in the neighborhood of

¹ Jetzinger (G), pp. 17-18; Jetzinger (E), pp. 17-18.

² Die Ahnentafel, p. 39.

* What all uncommon in peasant
 family history. And the peculiarity
 concerning whom the ~~the~~ secret father
 might be ~~be~~ initiated a good deal \$

which I had the opportunity to visit soon after my arrival in America.

The names: Schickelgruber
Harassment-hole

Trummer & rubble
Trummelschlager is
to smash something
to pieces.

one of the largest and
least inspiring of the
castles in the world.
A century later architects
working in the Bronx
could build a fast-track
on the Grand Concourse
and were reminiscent of
black and white

suburban
a few
miles from
the city

smash into pieces
rubble-wrecker, wreckage-maker

after marriage 1842

Scheibbs. Aside from Maria Anna's illegitimate child, only two of Johann Schickelgruber's children produced a line of direct descendants. Josefa went to the village of Fuenfhaus near Vienna, married in 1826, and mothered a number of children who carried on as minor officials and tradesmen for several generations. Another brother, Leopold, also had several children. The family had already lost contact with this branch by the middle of the 1870's, although it was reasonably certain that some members were still alive.³

It is not surprising that little is known of Maria Anna between her birth in 1795 and the birth of her illegitimate son in 1837. Poor peasant girls left few marks in records of the early nineteenth century. It is possible that, like her sister Josefa, she went off to the city and took the customary position as maid in a bourgeois household in Vienna or one of the provincial cities. On the other hand, she may have stayed in Strones and found domestic employment on an irregular basis.⁴ After 1817, the family apparently fell on hard times. In that year, her father turned over the family land to the eldest son, Josef, only to see it lost shortly thereafter. Old Johann ended life as a poor cotter. Maria Anna may have shared in the general impoverishment, for when Alois was born she was not residing with her father, but in Strones, house #13, with the family of Johann Trummelschlager. Trummelschlager and his wife also served as the godparents of little Alois.⁵

Following the birth of Alois, Maria Anna and the baby moved into the house where her father was staying, Strones, house #22. They remained there without any discoverable change in their condition until Alois was nearly five. Then, surprisingly, at the age of forty-seven, Maria Anna married. The bridegroom was a fifty-year-old journeyman mill worker named Johann Georg Hiedler, Hitler, or in another variant spelling, Huettler. Johann Georg had been born to a peasant family in the village of Spital, northwest of Strones in the district of Weitra, near the present border of Austria and Czechoslovakia. He had lived the life of a wandering mill worker, with

³ Records of Bezirksamt Hernald, October 18, 1862 - Heirs of Mathias Schickelgruber; Letter Alois Hitler to Alois Veit, September 17, 1876. L of C and File 17A, HA.

⁴ Die Ahnentafel, p. 39; Jetzinger (G), p. 17.

⁵ Die Ahnentafel, pp. 39 and 44-45.

changing addresses and married a peasant girl died, for he later took listed at Duernthal, w but at the time of his Maria Anna and her f of the new bride; the year-old Johann Schic year-old Alois.⁶

The prospects for : environment were ble the Hiedler family. Or Johann Nepomuk Hie was removed from S This move presumab time of Maria Anna's and stepfather did ne to the village of Kle Maria Anna died in l died there. Only Ate wedding household happened to Johann remained in Klein M In another of the co pursuing his trade. T that he returned to 1857.⁷

In the meantime, of Johann Georg's b family consisted of Nepomuk Hiedler, Maria Hiedler, born

⁶ Die Ahnentafel, p.

⁷ Jetzinger asserts the marriage in 1842, bu It is possible that A time of his mother's

⁸ Die Ahnentafel,

itimate child, only two of
ed a line of direct descen-
haus near Vienna, married
ildren who carried on as
eral generations. Another
n. The family had already
le of the 1870's, although
ers were still alive.³

1 of Maria Anna between
itimate son in 1837. Poor
the early nineteenth cen-
sefa, she went off to the
aid in a bourgeois house-
es. On the other hand, she
mestic employment on an
arently fell on hard times.
ily land to the eldest son,
Old Johann ended life as
ared in the general im-
he was not residing with
ith the family of Johann
is wife also served as the

ina and the baby moved
Strones, house #22. They
change in their condition
gly, at the age of forty-
i was a fifty-year-old jour-
Hiedler, Hitler, or in an-
org had been born to a
thwest of Strones in the
of Austria and Czecho-
lering mill worker, with

³ 1862 - Heirs of Mathius
, September 17, 1876. L of

changing addresses and fortune but few responsibilities. In 1823 he married a peasant girl in the town of Hohensich, but she must have died, for he later took to the road again. In 1842, his residence was listed at Duerenthal, where he supposedly was a journeyman miller, but at the time of his second marriage he was actually living with Maria Anna and her father in Strones #22. The household consisted of the new bride; the bridegroom; the bride's father, seventy-eight-year-old Johann Schickelgruber; and the bride's illegitimate son, five-year-old Alois.⁶

The prospects for a lively, happy boyhood for little Alois in this environment were bleak, but he was rescued by the intervention of the Hiedler family. On the initiative of either Johann Georg's brother, Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, or his mother, Anna Maria Hiedler, Alois was removed from Strones to the Hiedler family home in Spital. This move presumably occurred in the early 1840's perhaps at the time of Maria Anna's marriage in 1842.⁷ Alois' mother, grandfather, and stepfather did not accompany the boy to Spital, moving instead to the village of Klein Motten near Strones. On January 7, 1847, Maria Anna died in Klein Motten, and in November, her father also died there. Only Alois and Johann Georg Hiedler remained of the wedding household of five years before, and it is not clear what happened to Johann Georg after the death of his wife. He may have remained in Klein Motten, gone back to Duerenthal or taken lodging in another of the countless villages he had wandered through while pursuing his trade. The only exact reference to him after 1847 shows that he returned to his home village of Spital prior to his death in 1857.⁸

In the meantime, little Alois had taken his place in the household of Johann Georg's brother in Spital, house #36. In 1845, Alois' new family consisted of the master of the house, forty-year-old Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, peasant owner and proprietor, his wife, Eva Maria Hiedler, born Decker, and his mother, seventy-seven-year-old

⁶ Die Ahnentafel, pp. 39 and 45.

⁷ Jetzinger asserts that Johann Nepomuk came and took Alois soon after the marriage in 1842, but he is vague, cites no documents and habitually guesses. It is possible that Alois went to Johann Nepomuk's household as late as the time of his mother's death in 1847. Jetzinger (G), p. 19; Jetzinger (E), p. 25.

⁸ Die Ahnentafel, p. 39.

a request from a mother of the church to reduce the number of children in the family

3

1817
the priest's reaction

wouldn't adopt his kid brother's child. Had a m.m.

Explain?

Since half, at least, were the offspring of in-house blood, family and many a legitimate birth was falsified as illegitimate. The same might be said for the safe to assume that a quarter of the children were bastard product of incest.

Done
1842-45

older

H

H

PRIEST early 1800s

Anna Maria Hiedler, whose husband had been dead for many years. She had many privileges in the household on the basis of the legal settlement by which the family property had gone to Johann Nepomuk, and she probably played a part close to that of *mater familias*. Alois thus passed from an environment dominated by older men to one dominated by older women. But Johann Nepomuk, and the members of his household were very unlike his drifting, shiftless brother. Johann Nepomuk was a hard-working, conscientious family man who, from all indications, provided Alois with a good home. For the first time, the boy received his share of love and attention and was encouraged to develop his abilities. Perhaps even more important, he found himself in the company of other children. Johann Nepomuk and Eva Maria had three daughters, Johanna, Walburga, and Josefa, who were, respectively, seven, five, and three years older than Alois. The relationship between the girls and the newcomer seems to have been friendly."

Alois spent the formative years of childhood in Johann Nepomuk's house, remaining with the family until the early 1850's. He was an orphan, and there was no legal connection between himself and the Hiedler family. He was the illegitimate son of the wife of Johann Nepomuk's brother, a tenuous thread on which to build a child's home. The bond was made a little closer by the fact that the mother of Johann Georg and Johann Nepomuk was still alive and in Nepomuk's household with Alois and the rest of the family. There is also the shadowy figure of Johann Georg himself, who may have been residing in Spital at this time. Even so, the Hiedlers' obligation to Alois was voluntarily assumed and remained moral, not legal. After his marriage to Alois' mother, Johann Georg had not adopted the boy, leaving him simply his wife's illegitimate son. Although illegitimacy was frowned upon by the authorities, especially in the Catholic Church, it was common in the Austrian countryside. In some districts, forty per cent of the births were illegitimate. The figure for Lower Austria as late as 1903 was still twenty-four per cent.¹⁰ An illegitimate child in a peasant household therefore, was not an unusual phenomenon and did not involve the family in any serious

⁸ Die Ahnentafel, p. 46; Jetzinger (G), p. 44; Jetzinger (E), pp. 33-34.

¹⁰ Arthur J. May, *The Hapsburg Monarchy, 1867-1914* (Cambridge, Mass., 1951), pp. 173-174; Geoffrey Drage, *Austria-Hungary* (London, 1909), p. 58.

Start of 7. ?

it was not considered that unusual although there was going

embarrassment. felt by the Hiedler suspicion that J lished. The boy resided in the household with no legal action relationship on

Despite his development normal, he had been reasonable family through a middling peasant make for the boy's own second or was a little school. This is exactly school, he was a shoemaker in the village

At approximately phase of his life which may have been 1854, Anna and Johann Georg and his long-d living in Spital. Alois had been contact with . is not known

¹¹ Report of stammung Hitler Goerlitz and "The village a noble ideal." Tl Alois was con

¹² Die Ahne

7
Done

n dead for many years. the basis of the legal f gone to Johann Nepomuk to that of *mater* ent dominated by older Johann Nepomuk, and ce his drifting, shiftless g, conscientious family with a good home. For ove and attention and aps even more impor- ther children. Johann s, Johanna, Walburga, , and three years older ls and the newcomer

in Johann Nepomuk's ly 1850's. He was an tween himself and the of the wife of Johann ich to build a child's e fact that the mother ill alive and in Nepo- : family. There is also who may have been hiedlers' obligation to noral, not legal. After had not adopted the e son. Although ille- es, especially in the trian countryside. In legitimate. The figure venty-four per cent.¹⁰ refore, was not an un- amily in any serious

ter (E), pp. 33-34.
914 (Cambridge, Mass.,
(London, 1909), p. 58.

Vienna for Alois

(1851)

21

embarrassment. Whether the family's moral obligation to Alois was felt by the Hiedlers to be a family affair because of knowledge or suspicion that Johann Georg had fathered the child cannot be established. The boy was raised by Johann Nepomuk while his old mother resided in the household and while Johann Georg was still living, yet no legal action was taken to put any real or suspected closer family relationship on a firmer basis.

Despite his precarious legal status, Alois had an opportunity to develop normally within this family circle. His associations must have been reasonably agreeable, for he retained close contacts with the family throughout his life. Nevertheless, Johann Nepomuk was only a middling peasant, and there were limitations to the plans he could make for the boy's future. Even if Alois had been Johann Nepomuk's own second or third son, the most he could have expected to receive was a little schooling and, if he were lucky, some training for a trade. This is exactly what Alois obtained. After a few terms in elementary school, he was apprenticed to a neighboring shoemaker, one Herr Ledermueller in Spital #19. Following a brief period of training, he left the village while still in his early teens to pursue the trade of shoemaker in Vienna.¹¹

At approximately the time that Alois was setting out on this new phase of his life, Nepomuk's household experienced a great change, which may have caused the boy to strike out on his own. In December 1854, Anna Maria Hiedler, the mother of Johann Nepomuk and Johann Georg died at 86. Three years later, on February 9th, 1857, Johann Georg himself died, cutting the last weak link between Alois and his long-dead mother. When he died, Johann Georg was listed as living in Spital #49, clearly not the Hiedler family house in which Alois had been raised.¹² Whether or not Alois had kept in continuous contact with Johann Georg in the ten years since his mother's death is not known, but, since Johann Georg died in the village of Spital,

¹¹ Report of Niederösterreichische Landesamtsdirektion concerning "Abstammung Hitler, Adolf," Vienna, March 11, 1932. HA, File 17, Reel 1; Goerlitz and Quint, p. 18. There is a cryptic remark in *Mein Kampf*, p. 6: "The village priest had once seemed to my father the highest and most desirable ideal." The basis for this statement is not clear. At least in his later years, Alois was consistently and vocally anti-clerical.

¹² *Die Ahnentafel*, pp. 39 and 44.

11
1851

We ascertained that that had been very little contact.

Marion of Walburg
 1/2 yr after
 Alois → Vienna

Done

* In 1850
 Alois slept
 Johann
 was discovered
 and left for Vienna.

Not done before
 Didn't must remark
 that he will
 explain later how
 he is in possession
 of so much knowledge.

Of this knowledge,
 I can only say that
 I will explain later
 For now, it is my request
 that you accept it.

1850 1853

1849 - 1938

HITLER'S FATHER, ALOIS SCHICKELGRUBER-HITLER

some ties must have existed between Alois, Johann Georg, and Johann Nepomuk.

In the late 40's and early 50's, Nepomuk's three daughters were provided for, and the parents themselves moved into a position of semi-retirement. In 1848 the eldest daughter, Johanna, married Johann Poelzl, a peasant in Spital, and settled down in the house next door. #37. In January 1853, the second daughter, Walburga, married Josef Romeder, the son of a peasant in the neighboring village of Ober Windhag. As part of the marriage agreement, Johann Nepomuk, then forty-six, turned over the family farm to his son-in-law. In conformity with the traditional practice of Austrian peasants, a notary was called in and a deed drawn up by which Romeder became master of the land and assumed a number of specific legal obligations to Johann Nepomuk and his wife. As was customary, Romeder granted the former master and mistress rent-free lodging as long as either of them lived. He also granted them the use of certain farm land and a section of the orchard, an area to graze stock, etc., with each obligation spelled out in precise detail.¹³ Finally, if the old customs were followed to the letter, when the day to change title came, the whole family decked themselves out in all their finery as if for a festival. The former master led his son-in-law around the boundaries of the land, and as he reached each boundary stone he called down curses upon him as a warning against transgressing on his neighbors' land. To reinforce the point, he gave him a box on the ear.¹⁴ When the circuit was complete, there was a feast and dancing to solemnize the occasion. Josef Romeder had become master of Spital peasant holding #36, and Johann Nepomuk Hiedler was merely a resident on the property, although he possessed a legal contract that guaranteed his rights and privileges.

A few years after this ceremony, Johann Nepomuk's last daughter, Josefa, married Leopold Sailer and moved to his peasant holding, Spital house #24.¹⁵ Although Josefa was to die soon afterward (May 13, 1858), Johann Nepomuk had, on the basis of the soundest pos-

¹³ Die Ahnentafel, p. 46.

¹⁴ An engaging description of this kind of ceremony appears in Francis H. E. Palmer, *Austro-Hungarian Life in Town and Country* (New York, 1903), pp. 31-33.

¹⁵ Die Ahnentafel, p. 46.

Juan's
 new
 sleep
 under
 Alois
 + then
 given up
 together
 Seven
 years
 later
 at the
 peasant
 Alois
 is 51
 + Johann
 is 18.
 Josefa,
 the
 youngest
 of 14,
 (Walburga
 is 16)
 Oct 13, Alois
 home celebration
 w/ Walburga
 + Josefa.

sible pla
 the midd
 and he
 sponsibi
 Mean
 in his p
 in the p
 in Vienn
 entered
 Finance
 (Finanz)
 of Wels
 training
 tion in
 zenten,
 service.
 Septeml
 Salzbur
 the pos
 to Linz
 lector
 within
 years
 border
 Braun
 as a fi

¹⁶ Jet.
 Schick
 (L of
 Wels i
 1862 a
 and H
 period
 the be
 a lette
 File 1
¹⁷ Je
 37. I
 1876.

Was the
 after Alois
 was captured
 Vienna

✓ (8)

1854

Klein (Germ) in 1860
concluded in 1867
when Alois was 12
+ Johanna was 20
Alois joined Austrian
Finance Ministry
in 1865 at age of 10.
In 1869 was paid
französisch
as a Finanzwach (auf)
sehen
Cecilian (Germ).
His relations, especially
Johanna are important

HH brings them all +
puts them to work to
contribute to the labor
- which is fit -
(as they find out only after
the war is over.)

UBER-HITLER

Johann Georg, and
three daughters were
ed into a position of
r, Johanna, married
own in the house next
r, Walburga, married
ighboring village of
ment, Johann Nepo-
to his son-in-law. In
Austrian peasants, a
ich Romeder became
specific legal obliga-
was customary, Ro-
rent-free lodging as
m the use of certain
to graze stock, etc.,
ail.¹⁵ Finally, if the
the day to change
ut in all their finery
n-in-law around the
boundary stone he
ist transgressing on
gave him a box on
e was a feast and
eder had become
Nepomuk Hiedler
e possessed a legal

ruk's last daughter,
s peasant holding,
on afterward (May
the soundest pos-

pears in Francis H.
(New York, 1903),

Conception of K. L. H.

1855-18

HITLER'S FATHER, ALOIS SCHICKELGRUBER-HITLER

23

tile planning, placed his family on a firm basis for the future by
the middle of the 1850's. All the girls were married and provided for,
and he was able to look forward to a life of limited toil and re-
sponsibility for himself and his spouse until they died.

Meanwhile, young Alois had also made important improvements
in his position during the 1850's and continued to progress rapidly
in the next decade and a half. After practicing the shoemaking trade
in Vienna for a short period following his arrival from Spital, he
entered the ranks of the frontier guards employed by the Austrian
Finance Ministry. He joined the service in 1855. By 1860, he had
already reached a position equivalent to noncommissioned officer
(Finanzwach Oberaufseher) and was assigned to duty in the town
of Wels, southwest of Linz.¹⁶ In 1860-61, he underwent special
training in Vienna to obtain promotion. After passing an examina-
tion in the fall of 1861, he rose to the rank of Finanzwach Respi-
zienten, the highest supervisory rank in the lower sections of the
service. Following his promotion, Alois was again reassigned. In
September 1862 he was serving in Saalfelden in the province of
Salzburg. In 1864 he received another, more important promotion to
the position of provisional assistant in the customs service, assigned
to Linz. Six years later, he was elevated to the status of customs col-
lector at the auxiliary customs post at Mariahilf near Schaearding
within the administrative district of Wels, where he had served nine
years earlier. Finally, in 1871 he was assigned to Braunau, the
border station midway between Passau and Salzburg. He went to
Braunau first as an assistant inspector of customs, and, after 1875,
as a full inspector of customs.¹⁷

¹⁶ Jetzinger (G), p. 45; Jetzinger (E), p. 36. The list of heirs of Mathius Schickelgruber made by the Bezirksamt Hernals and dated October 8, 1862 (L of C and HA, File 17A), gives Alois' address as "Finanzoberaufseher zu Wels in Oberösterreich." Alois gave his address in a letter of September 27, 1862 as "Finanzwach Respiziert zu Saalfelden im Kronland Salzburg." L of C and HA, File 17A, Reel 1. The former address therefore must apply to a period prior to September 1862, and probably was simply carried over from the beginning of Mathius' inheritance case, i.e., 1861. This year also is used in a letter of Alois to the Veits of September 13, 1876. L of C, but not in HA, File 17A, Reel 1.

¹⁷ Jetzinger (G), p. 46, and document opposite p. 32; Jetzinger (E), pp. 36-37. Letters, Alois Hitler to the Veits, September 27, 1862 and September 6, 1876. L of C; the former also in HA, File 17A, Reel 1.

→ To HH a person is even more
important than locally which he
has to tell his people just what
But his desire to introduce a

at 18

10 yrs

new clay and
theory was his partner

Don't

* But on being he
run down up - his
carnal
stayed appetite

A little later

His type, if they
were efficient and
effective were
considered invaluable
in ^{in question of} ~~in question of~~
since they were no
longer would never
able to reach
position, yet they made
enough, and had
frustrate uniform.
After a process their
was no place they could
ever go to for a better
job. They were that,
efficiently, reliably, and thus result
redundant.

dergungini *

Alois' career

24

HITLER'S FATHER, ALOIS SCHICKELGRUBER-HITLER

1864 Aug
- 1876

He never became a full-fledged member of "the bureaucracy." His background was too humble, and he lacked the passport to privileged status, an academic education. On the fringe, within the walls, yet always dependent, he was, as a customs official, in an especially susceptible position to have the values of the bureaucracy stamped upon him. He succumbed to these pressures; his personality and attitudes were, above all, the product of his environment. Even his physical appearance bore the mark of his occupation and his outlook. A fairly short, heavy-set man, with deep-set eyes under heavy brows, his round face wore a flowing mustache in his youth. As he rose in years and position, he followed the example of many of his colleagues and the mustache gave way to a set of Franz Josef whiskers. Although he remained in the lower ranks of officialdom throughout his career, he was very proud of his status and his uniform. On public occasions, he could be counted on to be present in all his splendor, and always insisted that he be addressed by his correct title.¹⁸ He had worked hard and risen far and was not always careful how he brought this to people's attention. A good example of this attitude is provided by a letter written in 1876 to a distant cousin with whom he had not corresponded for many years. Summarizing his personal life he said enthusiastically, "Since you saw me sixteen years ago when I was a *Finanzwach Oberaufseher*, I have advanced very far and have already served twelve years as an official in the customs branch." At the end of the note, below his signature, he wrote, "Official at the First Class Imperial Customs Post in the Railroad Terminal, Simbach Bavaria. Residence, Braunau, Linzergasse." Then as if recognizing that this was a bit ostentatious for a long-lost cousin, he added rather sheepishly, "This is also my address."¹⁹

This pride in his achievement did not adversely affect his official reputation on the job, where he was known as an efficient and devoted official who filled all requirements to the letter. One of his colleagues in the service described him as "rigid, precise, even pedantic" in the performance of his duties, adding that, characteristically, he was especially careful to be on duty every minute that the regulations

¹⁸ Statement by Zollobesekretär Hebenstreit, June 21, 1940, HA, File 17, Reel 1; Jetzinger (G), p. 71; Jetzinger (E), p. 51.

¹⁹ Letter Alois Hitler to Frau Veit, September 13, 1876. L of C; not in HA, File 17A, Reel 1.

Anna Maria Hitler †1854

Johann Schickelgruber
Maria Anna
Josefa Schickelgruber
Franz Schickelgruber
†1847

Johann Nepomuk
Hitler †1888
Eva
Decker

previous
ler, if not
", because
was oc-
n Johann
d point is
1876 that
aining his
1 Septem-
ecause al-
later mar-
ther," this
ration, the
was tucked
er letter a
sentence.³⁵
en Rome-
more than
y do indi-

er of 1876
llegitimacy
rom trying
e and after
ve been a
rements of
Nepomuk
ud of him.
ried, and,
made the
le. Johann
dubts. His

76. *L of C*

76. *L of C*;
ticle in the
u Antonie
e article is

1888-9 X

wife had died three years before, and he had fathered no sons. One of his three daughters had already died without issue; another had only three daughters, one a hunchback. It is not known if the third family, the Romeders, had any children. Going back one generation, of Johann Nepomuk's ten siblings, six were girls and could not continue the family name. Of the four boys, two left no trace in local records and presumably died in infancy. The third brother, Lorenz, fathered only a girl who also died in infancy. The fourth brother was Johann Georg, who may or may not have produced Alois. It is probable that, though other branches of the Hitler-Hiedler family may have generated male heirs in the area of Spital, Johann Nepomuk's own branch had not, unless one could count Alois Schickelgruber.³⁷

According to local rumor, Johann Nepomuk inserted a clause in his will by which he left some money to Alois if he would change his name to Hiedler-Hitler.³⁸ Johann Nepomuk died on September 17, 1888. Six months later, on March 16, 1889, at a time when his wife was eight months pregnant, Alois paid down 4-5,000 florins to realize his lifelong dream of purchasing a small farm.³⁹ Although the connection between the will, the name change, the death, and Alois' possession of a large sum of cash cannot be documented, the evidence strongly indicates that Alois did inherit from Johann Nepomuk and that the popular story that Alois changed his name to gain an inheritance is correct.⁴⁰

The changing of his name was merely an isolated episode in

³⁷ *Die Ahnentafel*, pp. 39-42 and 46. Jetzinger rightly states that the dates in the *Ahnentafel* concerning Joseph are garbled. *Jetzinger* (G), p. 44.

³⁸ *Kubizek*, p. 40. Kubizek couples this assertion with a date of June 4, 1876, for the name change. The source of the date is not known, but the most recent direct evidence indicates that it must be fairly close to correct. A garbled version of this relationship appears in *Greiner*, p. 31.

³⁹ *Ahnentafel*, p. 46; Statement by Herr Leo Weber, October 12, 1938, plus additional *Hauptarchiv* report, *HA*, File 17, Reel 1. A report of the Lower Austrian Government dates this transaction in 1888, but does not provide a month or day. This report contains many incorrect dates and appears to have been a carelessly typed copy. If the date was late 1888, it would not alter the connection made in the text, but of course a date prior to September 1888 certainly would. Report of *Niederösterreichische Landesamtsdirektion*, *HA*, File 17, Reel 1.

⁴⁰ For a criticism of a very different explanation of the name change, see Appendix 1.

(3)

First marriage ends

Klara is conceived in November 1877 when Alois is 27, + Johanna is 29

+ the incredibly intense pressure of Klara. the ages, the prodigious growth, the desperation

The Engel's newly absent divorce.

See. Klara; you don't know what you are doing to me. We will both be punished yet

1880

She is suffering not because of being by alone but the sense of Klara's pregnancy is too much.

bbb

Klara is 10.

*

bbbbb

1890

1880

Alois' life and not one that seems to have troubled him greatly. The incident assumes unusual importance for us because it is the origin of one of recent history's most famous names. If the change had not been made, would Alois' son, under the name of Adolf Schickelgruber, still have achieved power in Germany in later years? Alois himself seemed to have been much more concerned with other matters in the later 1870's. He was busy adjusting to the demands of his new assignment in Braunau and to other minor complications of life, ranging from a small Schickelgruber family inheritance to the effort of his nephew to solicit his aid in entering government service. During this period he struck up a close friendship with another official, Karl Wesseley, who was proud of his Czech descent. The friendship with Wesseley remained Alois' most important relationship with a colleague during his duty years and lasted until his death in 1903.⁴²

By far the most important event in Alois' life following his acquisition of a new name was the failure of his marriage. His wife Anna endured his infidelities until 1880, when she finally initiated legal steps to secure a separation. The decree could be granted only by mutual consent and only on the condition of aversion or incompatibility. Remarriage as long as both parties were alive was impossible for Roman Catholics under Austrian law. On November 7, 1880, all conditions being fulfilled, Anna's request for a decree of separation was granted.⁴³

Following the legal separation, Franziska Matzeberger, the servant girl, emerged as Alois' consort. Franziska was a peasant girl from Weng, a little town midway between Linz and Graz, who had worked as a maid in the Gasthaus Streif where the Hitler family had been living. In 1880 Franziska was only nineteen, but she possessed enough awareness to demand that the other member of the household, Johann Nepomuk's granddaughter Klara Poelzl, leave and take up residence elsewhere. She had her way and achieved a position approximating that of a common-law wife. In January 1882 she gave birth to a

⁴¹ Letters Alois Hitler to the Veits, September 1876, October 1877. L of C; partly reproduced in HA, File 17A, Reel 1.
⁴² Jetzinger (G), pp. 50-51; Jetzinger (E), pp. 38-39.
⁴³ Jetzinger (G), p. 51; Jetzinger (E), p. 39. The legal situation is explained in Coldstream, p. 66.

boy who
April 6.
Braunau
Franziska
with Karl
Ludwig
as before
made by
Hitler.
Like
and she
gala, with
followed
Anna
troubled
riska, I
condition
residence
Braunau
necessar
ran an
Franziska
enough
ing. S
girl
efforts
on A
At
Alois'
Inn. S
child
pregn
probl

" D.
Franz
Jetzinger
" D
HA, I

ly. The origin had not chickel-? Alois er mat- s of his ions of to the rvice.⁴¹ er offi- nt. The elation- is death

acqui-
e Anna
d legal
Only by
compati-
possible
, 1880,
separa-

servant
rl from
worked
id been
enough
Johann
sidence
imating
h to a

 L of C ;

plained

boy who was baptized Alois Matzelberger. Fifteen months later, on April 6, 1883, sixty-year-old Anna Hitler died of consumption in Braunau, and the way was cleared for the marriage of Alois and Franziska. The ceremony took place in Braunau on May 22, 1883, with Karl Wesseley and another customs official from Simbach, Ludwig Hoezl, as witnesses. After the wedding, life went on much as before, but Alois did not repeat the mistake that may have been made in his own case. He legitimized his son, who became Alois Hitler, Jr. instead of Alois Matzelberger."

Like her predecessor's, Franziska's marriage was both unhappy and short. A month after the wedding she had a second child, Angela, who was born, for some unexplained reason, in Vienna. In the following year, 1884, Franziska fell victim to a lung ailment just as Anna had before her. It was an era when tuberculosis and lung trouble were the most serious illnesses among Austrian adults. Franziska, following standard practice in such cases, tried to improve her condition with country air and a favorable climate. She took up residence in the village of Ranshofen on the edge of the forest near Braunau. Since her two small children were without care, it was necessary for someone to come into the home to look after the children and Alois. The obvious choice was Klara Poelzl, the girl whom Franziska had forced out of the house four years earlier. Strangely enough, Klara's return does not seem to have aroused any hard feeling. She frequently visited Franziska in Ranshofen and joined the ill girl's widowed mother in trying to nurse her back to health. All efforts were in vain; Franziska died of tuberculosis in Ranshofen on August 10, 1884, at the age of twenty-three.³

At the time of Franziska's death, Klara Poelzl was residing in Alois' quarters on the top floor of Braunau house #219, the Pommer Inn. She was his niece, his mistress, his maid, and the nurse for his children. Almost precisely at the time Franziska died, Klara became pregnant. The pregnancy provided one more reason to solve the problem of Alois' motherless children, as well as his own loss.

“ Death certificate of Anna Hitler; marriage certificate of Alois Hitler and Franziska Matzberger. HA, File 17, Reel 1. *Jetzinger* (G), pp. 51-52; *Jetzinger* (E), p. 39.

⁴³ Death certificate of Franziska Hitler; statement of Frau Rosalia Hoerl.
HA, File 17, Reel 1.

~~* Blister can be explained~~
~~* now a detail about California~~
~~* in dinner~~ Note: Calif. weather, Angela
Angel was almost ~~off~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~California~~
Angel was almost ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~California~~

44 This Weaver H. Mason's great fault - the excitement she felt when she might have been killed died. ~~the~~ ~~44~~ She had no capacity to understand the cross purposes of Dr. Mason's.

1929

* Celi could have many thoughts about her grandmother and than her mother's death.

6737

8

1884

8

liness, by the logical step of marriage between twenty-four-year-old Klara and forty-seven-year-old Alois.⁴⁶

In spite of his extramarital adventures, Alois was still performing his duties as a customs official without suffering any professional difficulties from his irregular private life. Customs Official Alois Hitler, who should have been slowing down by this time, required an adjustment in his domestic life which would neither adversely affect his career nor infringe too much upon his personal independence. Marriage with Klara, a simple peasant girl from Spital, fitted his needs exactly.

⁴⁶ Birth certificate of Gustav Hitler. HA, File 17, Reel 1.

184

If Alois
waited
Klara
between
himself
immedi
and he
parent
longer
stepmo
Money
and se
ironic
becom
Kla
hanna
been l
Nepoi
52.
muk's
legiti
Nepoi
1884
Churc

Ka
Di

ar-old

arming
sional
Alois
quired
ersely
lepen-
fitted

Done

11

1884

THE HITLER FAMILY

If Alois Hitler had been free to do as he wished, he would not have waited a moment between Franziska's death and his marriage to Klara Poelzl. Local custom required a decent period of delay between the death and the remarriage, but Alois had never concerned himself much about what other people thought. He had remarried immediately after the death of his first wife without adverse effect, and he was ready to do so again. Klara was willing and able. Her parents favored the union, and since she was twenty-four, she no longer needed their consent. Alois' children adored their prospective stepmother, who had been in and out of their home since their birth.¹ Money presented no problem because of Alois' substantial income and secure position. Everything was easily arranged, except for one ironic detail: because of Alois' success in changing his name and becoming legitimized in 1876, the marriage had become illegal.

Klara Poelzl was the daughter of Johann Poelzl and his wife Johanna, the eldest daughter of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler. Klara had been born and raised in Spital house #37 next to the holding of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, but by 1885 her parents had moved to house #52.* Alois' prospective wife was therefore not only Johann Nepomuk's neighbor; she was also his granddaughter. As a result of the legitimation and name change in 1876, Alois had become Johann Nepomuk's nephew, and the prospective bride and bridegroom of 1884 were second cousins, within the degree prohibited by the Church. The Austrian state would not permit such marriages be-

referred to

could be sharper.

* D.T. Engels once had written; about the time the Catholic Church realized that adultery was impossible to prevent, they made divorce impossible to obtain. It could have added, "and about the time the Church recognized that incest was impossible to prevent, they did their best to prevent attempts at legalization."

¹ Kubizek, pp. 29 and 33.

* Die Ahnentafel, pp. 39-40.

1984

Klara's Marriage

Priest

1884

the
back
and
forth
in
Alois' mind

tween Catholics unless the marriage had been authorized by dispensation. It remains a question whether or not the couple actually had common blood; even Alois may have wondered about it. The only way he could have convinced the authorities that there was no risk to the offspring of the marriage would have been to disclose the whole story of the change of name and thus enmesh himself in even more legal difficulties. This he prudently decided to avoid.

Alois and Klara asked the religious authorities in Braunau to grant a dispensation to marry but were informed that, because of the closeness of their relationship, a papal dispensation was required. The couple then drew up an application for dispensation in which they advanced a number of arguments to persuade the authorities to favor them. The request stated that Alois was a widower with two small children who needed care and attention. The father's position in the customs service required that he be absent during the day and often at night as well. Klara had been taking care of the children regularly for a number of months, the application continued, and they were very fond of her, a good portent both for the happiness of the children and the success of the marriage. The only argument used to show that the marriage would be beneficial to Klara was the statement that the "bride is without means, and it is therefore unlikely that she will ever have another opportunity for a good marriage."

This was probably an exaggeration. Even though the Pöchl family had seen better days, they were not destitute. In an age in which dowries constituted the major attraction for a husband, however, Klara was at a disadvantage if the marriage with Alois did not materialize. A more important reason for her desire to marry Alois was that, at the time of the application, she was pregnant, but that fact, of course, did not appear in the dispensation request.³

On October 27, 1884, the application was completed and sent to the Bishop for translation into Latin and forwarding to Rome. The Hitlers then had to endure the delay as best they could. This undoubtedly was a problem of a sort, since Klara's condition was becoming more obvious every day. To ease some of the physical strain on Klara, a young cook and maid, Rosalia Schichtl, was

³ Kubizek, p. 33.

Advice from
the priest
howsaefert Alois.
"It is known but
do not put it in
the documents."

"that's a good
advice," said Alois "It is well-
and put his hand on
the back of his buttocks
he gave him a crack across the face. "Don't you get pluffed
lot?" he asked. "yes, but I got a lot of girls."

who are not so much blaggard you.

with
myself. She was sure that the children of her first
wedlock as the place where he had suffered and lived.

br
of
riv
lo
ru
in
fr
we
Lu
an
Sc
pe
wi
Sc
Fr
bu
da
Sh

Po
pr
of
Br
So
pri
Sa
ba
alc
wa
Th
ma

Re
Ro
Al
G
le
(

1885

D.T.

~~Wedding~~

It convinces
Klara that Alois is
having an affair with
Rosalia's breasts are
full and heaving w/
all sorts of tides and
cross-baling, and
she blushes and her
eyes give off light
whenever she is teased.

She ignores this on the occasion
and for years afterwards, but
and a hint to a child
and dead Klara can not
relate with them for years

--- a hint so pervaded

Desc of Braunau

after the time to Braunau

from Braunau 1892/1885-89 (40)
to Passau - HITLER FAMILY 37

brought into the household, where she remained during the last part of 1884 and the first part of 1885.⁴

Finally, at the turn of the year 1884/1885, the dispensation arrived. In January 7, 1885, the wedding party assembled in Alois' lodgings on the top floor of house #219. The residence was an inn run by Josef Pommer, and lay just outside the old gate of Braunau in a district usually referred to as the Salzburger Vorstadt. Aside from the bride and bridegroom and Alois' two small children, there were two customs men from Simbach present to act as witnesses, Ludwig Hoezl and Edgar Dimhofer. Klara's younger sister, the hunchback Johanna, was also present as a witness. All the practical arrangements for the ceremony were made by the cook, Fraeulein Schichtl, who inadvertently heated the parlor to a far higher temperature than was comfortable. The wedding ceremony passed off without incident, except for Alois' periodic teasing of Fraeulein Schichtl about the high temperature of the room. After the wedding, Fraeulein Schichtl prepared the meal for the couple and their guests, but it was no feast and there was no honeymoon. Before the wedding day had passed, Alois was back on duty at the customs station at Simbach.⁵

For the next four years, the Hitlers continued to reside in the Pommer Inn. Braunau was then a little border community of approximately 3,500 people. The town was seventy-eight miles south-east of Munich, on a secondary route to Vienna. By train the trip from Braunau to the Bavarian capital took between four and five hours. Some trade and a few tourists passed through the town, but it was primarily a center for the agricultural districts between Passau and Salzburg. The buildings of Braunau were constructed along the banks of the river Inn and gave the impression of being strung out along the bed of the stream. The dull line of medium-sized buildings was broken only by the Stephanskirche, with its large baroque cupola. The town changed little, was ingrown, and was too small to permit many secrets, especially those carrying any hint of scandal.⁶

She has no interest in the town

- ⁴ Statement by Frau Rosalia Hoerl (maiden name Schichtl). HA, File 17, Reel 1.
- ⁵ Wedding certificate for Alois Hitler and Klara Poelzl and statement by Rosalia Hoerl. HA, File 17, Reel 1.
- ⁶ Goerlitz and Quint, p. 21; Baedekers Oesterreich (Leipzig, 1907), p. 129; Albert Reich, *Aus Adolf Hitlers Heimat* (Munich, 1933), pp. 14-21.

* D.T. (unpublished)
was an aspect from our point of
view. Ex parte. The great fear
of the... (unpublished)

increases
was good call
usually the first
retreat
the possibility
of the
fraying family
the father
the mother
the work
the family
the work
the family

1885 diary

At the time of his marriage to Klara, Alois had been living in the town for fourteen years. He had lived there with his first wife until their separation, keeping Franziska as his mistress. She had produced one illegitimate child there before their marriage. Shortly after this event, she had left the town for a rest cure and never returned. Before Franziska died, Alois lived openly with his cousin Klara. Because she had been a member of the household in earlier years, her face was familiar to local gossips. During the four months she had to wait for a dispensation to marry her cousin and lover, every day's delay made it more obvious that she was pregnant. No small town could have been expected to ignore all these possibilities for gossip.

The whispers and scandal-mongering could not have affected Alois overmuch. He was a thick-skinned old man who had been shocking the local inhabitants for a decade and a half without becoming noticeably sensitive to their criticisms. His position was thoroughly protected since he did not draw his living from the town but from the Imperial Government. His friends were mainly fellow officials, who, like himself, remained outside the net of the town's social system by residing in inns and other isolated living quarters. As a member of the Imperial Service, his social position had not been formed by Braunau and could not be destroyed by it; he did what he wanted to do and let people think what they liked.

Klara's position was different. A woman had few ways to protect herself from the social pressures of an Austrian small town. Klara's life outside the immediate family circle was spent in direct contact with the townspeople. She was a simple peasant girl without education and lacked sophisticated defenses against the various forms of small-town nastiness. While shopping, attending church, or exchanging polite greetings, she had to bear the burden of the family's reputation.

Yet, even as her pregnancy made her position difficult, it also had its advantages during the first months after the wedding. At least she had something to carry forward her hopes and aspirations through the standardized routine of the household. She had to look after Angela and young Alois, the children of Franziska, who were two and three years old respectively in 1885. She was aided in her house-keeping tasks by Fraulein Schichtl, who at twenty-three was just two

* a dialogue with a peasant woman.
Klara - "I know that already."

C.K. this note against the copy

a copy!

The carriage for A.H. was the ability to live outside of public opinion to a far greater degree than most.

D.T. an genes being like crystals. The imagination of the client (as well as our occasional inspiration) are beamed through the gun-talk and other form. (Expand the premise, repeat & last in words.)

years y.
family
no in-l
Schicke
in touc
host fo
a four-
grubers
Hitlers
adjust

The
muk H
and dis
Poelzl,
muk's
home
too, ha
had be
at Alois
sisters,
childre
with he
the pla
daught
tact wi
workin
it on to
tunate
pects, a
her a d
fier par
represe
able po

7 Alois
record
after 18
8 Die
oesterre

* D
tran
Gans

(D.T. essay)

THE HITLER FAMILY

1885 essay

1885

10

The carrying of
A.H. was the ability
to live outside of
public opinion to
a far greater degree
than most.

D.T. an genes being
like crystals. The
imagination of the client
as well as our
occasional inspiration
are beamed through the
gun to take another
form. (Expand the
premise.
revised last
in words.)

a csp!
see
Berlin
note
about
misd
idsp
in
subway

At the time of his marriage to Klara, Alois had been living in the town for fourteen years. He had lived there with his first wife until their separation, keeping Franziska as his mistress. She had produced one illegitimate child there before their marriage. Shortly after this event, she had left the town for a rest cure and never returned. Before Franziska died, Alois lived openly with his cousin Klara. Because she had been a member of the household in earlier years, her face was familiar to local gossips. During the four months she had to wait for a dispensation to marry her cousin and lover, every day's delay made it more obvious that she was pregnant. No small town could have been expected to ignore all these possibilities for gossip.

The whispers and scandalmongering could not have affected Alois overmuch. He was a thick-skinned old man who had been shocking the local inhabitants for a decade and a half without becoming noticeably sensitive to their criticisms. His position was thoroughly protected since he did not draw his living from the town but from the Imperial Government. His friends were mainly fellow officials, who, like himself, remained outside the net of the town's social system by residing in inns and other isolated living quarters. As a member of the Imperial Service, his social position had not been formed by Braunau and could not be destroyed by it; he did what he wanted to do and let people think what they liked.

Klara's position was different. A woman had few ways to protect herself from the social pressures of an Austrian small town. Klara's life outside the immediate family circle was spent in direct contact with the townspeople. She was a simple peasant girl without education and lacked sophisticated defenses against the various forms of small-town nastiness. While shopping, attending church, or exchanging polite greetings, she had to bear the burden of the family's reputation.

Yet, even as her pregnancy made her position difficult, it also had its advantages during the first months after the wedding. At least she had something to carry forward her hopes and aspirations through the standardized routine of the household. She had to look after Angela and young Alois, the children of Franziska, who were two and three years old respectively in 1885. She was aided in her house-keeping tasks by Fraulein Schickel, who at twenty-three was just two

D.T. essay

years y
family
no in-l
Schicke
in touc
host for
a four-y
grubers
Hitlers
adjust

The
muk H
and dis
Poelzl,
muk's c
home
too, ha
had be
at Alois
sisters,
children
with he
the pla
daught
tact wi
workin
it on t
tunate
pects, a
her a d
fier par
represe
able pe

7 Alois
record
after 18
8 Die
oesterre

* D
trans
fame

iving in the
e until their
duced one
after this
turned. Be-
Klara. Be-
r years, her
s she had to
over, every
gnant. No
possibilities

ected Alois
en shocking
t becoming
thoroughly
n but from
w officials,
wn's social
rters. As a
d not been
e did what

to protect
wn. Klara's
ect contact
thout edu-
is forms of
h, or ex-
he family's

it also had
g. At least
ns through
look after
were two
her house-
as just two

RPT

THE HITLER FAMILY

1865 at 100

years younger than Klara and served as a friendly companion. Klara's family also served to relieve some of the pressures on her. She had no in-law problems; Alois had probably lost all contact with the Schickelgrubers by this time, although ten years before he had been in touch with a number of family branches and had even served as host for an unidentified Betti Schickelgruber and her family during a four-week vacation in 1876.⁷ The lack of contact with the Schickelgrubers meant that Alois and Klara shared a common family – the Hitlers – and the young wife was spared the necessity of having to adjust to a new family system.

The head of the Hitler-Hiedler family was still old Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, who lived in Spital surrounded by a number of near and distant relations. Klara's mother and father, Johanna and Johann Poelzl, were also living in Spital. Klara's mother was Johann Nepomuk's oldest daughter and had been raised with Alois. The old family home was still being run by Walburga and Josef Romeder. They, too, had close ties to Alois and Klara. Walburga, Klara's aunt, also had been raised with Alois; her husband had been the chief witness at Alois' name changing in 1876. In addition Klara had two younger sisters, Johanna and Theresia, the only other survivors of eleven children. Theresia had married by the mid-1880's and was living with her husband Anton Schmidt in peasant holding #24 in Spital, the place which had originally belonged to Johann Nepomuk's third daughter, Josefa Sailer. The Schmidts seem to have had little contact with the Alois Hitlers in these years, but Schmidt was a hard-working, clever man, who managed to hold on to his land and pass it on to his son.⁸ Klara's youngest sister, Johanna, was not as fortunate as Theresia. Because she was a hunchback, she had no prospects, and she was, moreover, possessed of a foul temper which made her a difficult living companion. She moved back and forth between her parents' residence, the Schmidt's and Klara's. She was the family representative at Klara's wedding and continued to spend considerable periods of time with the family in future years. At every family

⁷ Alois Hitler to the Veits, September 6, 1876. L. of C. material. There is no record of contact between Alois and the Veit branch of the Schickelgrubers after 1877.

⁸ Die Ahnentafel, p. 40; Report on Adolf Hitler prepared by the Niederösterreichische Landesamtsdirektion. HA, File 17, Reel 1.

* D. T. It is relatively easy to transfer such qualities within families. I will not go into detail on

what I did but I am sure it that by the time I was done I had a much better understanding of the family and its members. I am sure I will be able to do this in the future.

✓ D.T.

Allois sees the value
of having the power to
decide on his future
during more directly
than food

God can only kill.

Let the towers

after
death
of Alois

decides that Adolf will
enter the service

* The priest could
start w/ Klara's
mother.

Later, Alois will
not be near
church for the
fear of confessing.
Instead, he could
win eye of both
brothers, and

achieve nothing of
importance than
to say yes another
day long empire.

indeed, it is more
important than food,
which is crucial for
Adolf to enter the service.

iving in the
e until their
duced one
after this
turned. Be-
Klara. Be-
years, her
she had to
over, every
ngnant. No
possibilities

ected Alois
en shocking
t becoming
t thoroughly
n but from
w officials,
wn's social
rters. As a
d not been
e did what

; to protect
wn. Klara's
ect contact
thout edu-
is forms of
th, or ex-
he family's

it also had
s. At least
s through
look after
were two
her house-
as just two

1903 THE HITLER FAMILY 1885
years younger than Klara and served as a friendly companion. Klara's family also served to relieve some of the pressures on her. She had no in-law problems; Alois had probably lost all contact with the Schickelgrubers by this time, although ten years before he had been in touch with a number of family branches and had even served as host for an unidentified Betti Schickelgruber and her family during a four-week vacation in 1876.⁷ The lack of contact with the Schickelgrubers meant that Alois and Klara shared a common family – the Hitlers – and the young wife was spared the necessity of having to adjust to a new family system.

The head of the Hitler-Hiedler family was still old Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, who lived in Spital surrounded by a number of near and distant relations. Klara's mother and father, Johanna and Johann Poelzl, were also living in Spital. Klara's mother was Johann Nepomuk's oldest daughter and had been raised with Alois. The old family home was still being run by Walburga and Josef Romeder. They, too, had close ties to Alois and Klara. Walburga, Klara's aunt, also had been raised with Alois; her husband had been the chief witness at Alois' name changing in 1876. In addition Klara had two younger sisters, Johanna and Theresia, the only other survivors of eleven children. Theresia had married by the mid-1880's and was living with her husband Anton Schmidt in peasant holding #24 in Spital, the place which had originally belonged to Johann Nepomuk's third daughter, Josefa Sailer. The Schmidts seem to have had little contact with the Alois Hitlers in these years, but Schmidt was a hard-working, clever man, who managed to hold on to his land and pass it on to his son.⁸ Klara's youngest sister, Johanna, was not as fortunate as Theresia. Because she was a hunchback, she had no prospects, and she was, moreover, possessed of a foul temper which made her a difficult living companion. She moved back and forth between her parents' residence, the Schmidt's and Klara's. She was the family representative at Klara's wedding and continued to spend considerable periods of time with the family in future years. At every family

⁷ Alois Hitler to the Veits, September 6, 1876. L of C material. There is no record of contact between Alois and the Veit branch of the Schickelgrubers after 1877.

⁸ Die Ahnentafel, p. 40; Report on Adolf Hitler prepared by the Niederösterreichische Landesamtsdirektion. HA, File 17, Reel 1.

* D.T. It is relatively easy to pa-
transfer such qualities withing
family. Did not get into detail on

what was the time during
done at 41 - was all the necessary to produce
in time to get the necessary to produce
done at 41 - was all the necessary to produce

Is there a discussion of her
at this point by Dietrich in the
of the funeral but conclusion.

Klara sees this
as payment for
her pain, particularly
in relation to
Francis's crime
she had felt some
concealment for toward
als. slapping her for having
broken Hitler's heart

Great payment for a man
D.C. It's a fact that she
never knew the children
because she was too busy
caring for them to die young

Klara's love for the boy Adolf
is, a rule of thumb,
excessive mother love
was almost as productive
a seed-ground for the
boy as the absence of
mother love, a quiet
distraction of it. From
the outset, we were
taught to look for signs
of every kind, good or
bad, for distortion
itself was the basic
ingredient in our character's
of behavior. Rarely the growth that
is not free of traces of the classic

at her
iedler-
father,
ver the
s until
Anton
in the
ort the
freed
of the
poor
ed as a

even the
phanna
Vienna,
ment of
f Alois'
of them
illness.
other at
ot have
as con-
Maria
been so
sponsor
born on
is infant
quivocal

38-39, 71
er (E), p.
se to her

1891

1887-1889
THE HITLER FAMILY

1887-1889

176

position within her own family, Klara must have been able to take comfort from the comradeship of Maria Matzelberger.

On balance, however, Klara's life in the late 1880's had few pleasant features. She had all the strains of young motherhood while trying to cope with her two infants, the older children, and the household. Soon after Ida's birth, she produced a third child, who was given the name of Otto, but he died within a few days.¹⁴ Even worse, in late 1887, both Gustav and Ida contracted diphtheria. Klara's sister Johanna took the older children to Spital while Klara tried to nurse the stricken infants back to health, but it was all in vain. Gustav died on December 8, 1887, and Ida a month later, on January 2, 1888. Both were interred in Braunau.¹⁵ After three years of marriage, Klara had lost all her own children and was reduced to those functions that had justified her marriage in the first place — as stepmother for Franziska's children, housekeeper, and cook.

Despite the shadows that blur her personality, this woman who was to bring Adolf Hitler into the world emerges as the most compelling and sympathetic figure in the annals of the family. She lived her life under inauspicious circumstances and saw her hopes and dreams steadily come to naught over a span of twenty years. Yet in spite of all the blows she had to bear, she quietly returned again and again to fulfill her obligations humanely and conscientiously. She was a fairly large girl, almost as tall as her husband, with dark brown hair and even features. Her life was centered on the tasks of maintaining her home and caring for her husband and the children of the family. She was a model housekeeper, who maintained a spotless home and performed her duties with precision. Nothing could distract her from her round of household toil, not even the prospect of a little gossip.¹⁶ Her home and the furthering of the family interest were all-important; by careful management she was able to increase the family possessions, much to her joy. Even more important to her than the house were the children. Everyone who knew her agreed that it was in her love and devotion for the children that Klara's

Neighborhood
through family
was lost

¹⁴ Jetzinger (G), p. 57; Jetzinger (E), p. 43.
¹⁵ Death certificates of Ida and Gustav Hitler; statement of Frau Rosalia Hoerl. HA, File 17, Reel 1.
¹⁶ Bloch, p. 35; Jetzinger (G), p. 71; Jetzinger (E), p. 51.

Carlin
Hans
Gustav
A. Harberg

Frieda
O.G.'s
point
of
view,
this is
known
as
wedding
the
garden
Adolf
would
never
not
small
attention
when he
came
along
I wish
we did
not
control
the
mobility
of our
clients
or of
anyone
else —

this could be
Klara's death was most useful to
of the other children interested in the past all normal

(23)

The beginning of construction

gave him a position in the kitchen

and a sense of propriety

The three K's. not the K's Klara knew but Kinder, Kirche, Küche children, church, and cooking

Kinder, Kirche, Küche
↓
kitchen

He was not going to be caught in church except for State occasions. He did not see the Confessional box for mercy (p. 22). His skin prickled at the thought. A serious official of the Crown bearing his soul to and more worship was troubling priest

but for women - forgotten matter, it would not be for the word to be spreading in Prussia that women who did not go to church - PASSAU

1897 1897-1898

life centered.¹⁷ The only serious charge ever raised against her is that because of this love and devotion she was over-indulgent and thus encouraged a sense of uniqueness in her son - a somewhat strange charge to be brought against a mother.¹⁸ The children did not share this view. Her stepchildren and her own offspring who survived infancy loved and respected their mother.¹⁹

Klara was conscious of her obligations and possessed the ability to adjust herself to the necessities of her situation, but she could not help but be affected by the harsh demands of her environment. Outside her home she had few close connections with other people and the few she had were mainly with family members. In her day-to-day affairs, only the Church gave her an approved activity extending beyond the narrow confines of her home. Alois insisted she attend regularly as an expression of his belief that the woman's place was in the kitchen and in church. There was no religious conviction in Alois' idea, nor did social pressures play a part; only duty and a sense of status motivated this requirement which he imposed on his wife. Happily Klara really enjoyed attending services and was completely devoted to the faith and teachings of Catholicism, so her husband's requirements worked to her advantage.²⁰ Alois dominated his wife even more completely than was customary in the "authoritarian family structure" so beloved by sociologists. She owed everything to him, and, in her dependence, had nothing to counter his power. She had even been deprived of the period of give-and-take during the early years of marriage which provides maneuvering room for a wife in the most autocratic families. Alois had brought her into the household to fill a gap in the machine, and she never overcame this humble beginning. The peculiar background she shared with Alois also worked against her over the years. Even among her own close relatives, Alois was a more important figure than she. He was the most successful member of her circle, the pride and joy of her grandfather. If he was not the Prince Charming of a girl's dreams, he was an impressive catch. Marriage to him meant a step up the social

Klara's ambivalence

¹⁷ Jetzinger (G), pp. 71-72; Jetzinger (E), pp. 51-52; Zoller, p. 46 and 115-16; Mein Kampf, p. 4.
¹⁸ Stephen H. Roberts, *The House that Hitler Built* (London, 1939), pp. 3-4.
¹⁹ Mein Kampf, p. 4; Kubizek, p. 29.
²⁰ Statement by Frau Rosalia Hoerl. H.A. File 17, Reel 1.

15a

ladder, the cor Yet That h indicat maria; marrie relation left the ambiva found of Alo herself maria. The scars. and th again. the cir girlhoc disapp they d obviou was sl duty a: In c much develo had di social carefu who h remain in the a sym

15a

21 Sta
22 Jet.
23 Ku

* P

1934

1885-1903

enough.²⁴ He enjoyed the comradely evenings in the local tavern where he could enjoy a glass of beer or wine, smoke a steady stream of black cigars and expound his views. Although subsequent accounts have exaggerated this activity into drunkenness as a simple explanation for all the problems of Alois and his offspring, it is reasonably clear that during those years Alois was a moderate drinker. He loved the robust good fellowship of the tavern, but a participant at these get-togethers has stated emphatically, "I never saw him tight, and he always started back home in good time for supper."²⁵

His comradely outings were all innocent and exactly what a man of Alois' age and station would have been expected to enjoy. Yet they also constituted nearly the whole of his social life. He sharply divided his official duties, his social activities, and his family contacts. Increasingly, a shadowy line appeared between Alois and his social inferiors. Despite the scandals that resulted from his romantic activities in Braunau, he was and would remain an Imperial Customs Official, and no one was allowed to forget it. The peasants, both at this time and after his retirement, looked up to him, his rough, gruff manner notwithstanding, and extended their courtesy as his due.²⁶

At home he was something more than a formidable character. He was master, and he impressed this fact upon every member of the household. He alone had raised the whole lot of them and he demanded the obedience and respect that he felt they owed him. Despite his monopoly of family power he was not a tyrant, nor did he poke and pry into every feature of family life. The household was there to serve his needs while he provided the income for a better than average living and set the family tone. The bulk of his time was spent in long and irregularly timed hours of duty at the customs station; when he came home he wanted to eat and sleep without interference. When he wanted recreation he went to the tavern, but that was his own affair and did not concern the family. If, when he came home, things were out of line, his voice would generally set things right. If more was needed, then a box on an obstinate child's ear soon

set matter that "his bluster v dominant to his w in a rac a partic if to inv

The c was in p kept pet beekeep the beek "To be occurre fifty sti ing the l smoke : cigar!" :

Alois ing to r is no co early 18 border, them. J his frier he had up resid which a thusiasr his pers Alois peasant

²⁴ Statement by Zollobersekreter Hebenstreit. HA, File 17, Reel 1; Jetzinger (G), pp. 60-61; Jetzinger (E), pp. 43-45.

²⁵ Jetzinger (E), p. 44.

²⁶ Jetzinger (E), p. 44; statement by Frau Rosalia Hoel. HA, File 17, Reel 1.

A. H. to
Speed
"Agreed"

more
to
1934
Chief
meeting
of Speed
and
Helen

²⁷ Jetzi
²⁸ Kub
²⁹ Hittl.
³⁰ Jetzi
³¹ Stat

~~1889~~

1900-01

(12a)
G

III

ADOLF HITLER'S EARLY CHILDHOOD

W
IA

On April 20, 1889, Klara gave birth to a boy in the family's quarters in the Pommer Inn. The child was given the name of Adolf. Like Klara's previous children, he had the Prinz couple as godparents, while Klara's sister Johanna replaced Maria Matzelberger as an additional godparent.¹ The child was sickly, and Klara lived in constant fear that he, too, would die in infancy. The baby never acquired a rugged constitution, but his mother's fears gradually abated in the succeeding months as he appeared to develop normally. Living conditions were not ideal in the small flat for a family with a baby and two active older children. Soon after Adolf's birth, the family moved to a new residence on the Linzerstrasse, where they remained until they left Braunau in the late summer of 1892.²

The location of Adolf Hitler's birthplace on the river Inn bordering Austria and Germany provided a basis for unlimited propaganda in later years. Hitler himself worked hard to wring every ounce of political advantage from the accident of his birthplace.³ However, the town's influence on the "drummer from Braunau on the Inn" could not have been extensive. In later years, while still exploiting his Braunau origin, Hitler himself casually admitted that he remembered little or nothing about this period.⁴

As with other infants, it was the home itself and his relations with the members of the family that were important for little Adolf in

¹ Birth certificate of Adolf Hitler. HA, File 17, Reel 1.

² Kytizek, p. 41; Reich, p. 14-15.

³ Mein Kampf, p. 3. Sentence number one of Mein Kampf is the classic example.

⁴ Mein Kampf, p. 4.

Need more room
Less good than
the Pommer Inn
but Alois liked
to move. One reason
was that there were no
waitresses or the cook
up in the attic, but
he could run out of
the kitchen and look out
the window. Sometimes

he had to pay them
little, but the rent
at Linzerstrasse was less
than at the inn

189 (Tavern)

(12a)

Bra
con
fort
the
year
escr
K
him
hav
he
he
mot
An
in
tion
boy
exte
scar
in
en
ach
D
gen
to
obs
affe
he
jud
dev
high
pre
Hit
the
wre
evic
psy
s
Tal
7
90
of
zin

(17)

D.T.

1898

Moved to

1899
1945

the final
operatic height

1945

The sorrow and
self-pity he felt
in himself for what
would now not
come to pass, could have
passed was beautiful
enough for a saint's
heart. Self-pity can reach

the influence of the
father could be seen in
the temperament and the
questioning habits. The
explosive temper, the dream in
his position. See p. 59

scene

nication between father and son increasingly difficult. Alois took out some of his difficulties on his son, and the youngster, unable to express his anger at his father, probably repressed his problems, turning to childhood games as a means of acting out some of this aggression. Nothing in the record indicates a crisis in family relations at this stage, and a change was in the offing.

Once again, Alois gave up in the face of an unpleasant situation. In November 1898 he purchased a one-story country house on a half-acre adjacent to the cemetery wall in the village of Leonding on the outskirts of the small provincial city of Linz. On February 23, 1899, the family moved into the new house. Four days later Adolf was enrolled in his third elementary school.³³

The acquisition of the Leonding property, Alois' third effort to discover a stable life in retirement, proved successful at last. He settled down as owner of the property and continued to reside there until his death in 1903, while the rest of the family, less dominated by wanderlust than the head of the household, made the Linz area their home. This was especially true of Adolf, who grew up in Leonding-Linz and never overcame the influence of the town. One of his secretaries, speaking after the war, said: "Even in March of 1945, I have seen Hitler stand for endless periods in front of a wood model representing the rebuilding and extension of the city of Linz. In such moments Hitler forgot the war; he lost the marks of tiredness, and for hours he told us of the detailed changes that he planned to make in his home city."³⁴

To a lesser extent, Alois also put down roots in Leonding-Linz. The half-acre of land permitted him to resume his dabbling with bees, but without the heavy costs that had turned Hafeld into a liability. He eased into a routine of putting in the garden, punctuated by a morning visit to the Gasthaus Stiefler and an evening get-together there or in one of the other inns in the area.³⁵ He attained a degree of genuine contentment, but his nature was too explosive for him to be able to settle down to a completely passive existence. He continued to be unhappy about the events of the day

³³ Jetzinger (G), pp. 69 and 90; Jetzinger (E), pp. 50-51. "Aus Adolf Hitlers Jugendland." HA, File 17, Reel 1A.

³⁴ Zoller, p. 57.

³⁵ Jetzinger (G), pp. 69 and 73; Jetzinger (E), pp. 51-52.

D.T. - let us not pass over
this too quickly, he slept thru the

way of that opinion of the Leonding and Leonding-Linz

D.T.

1884

ar-old

rmg
sional
Alois
quired
ersely
lepen-
fitted

11

THE HITLER FAMILY

If Alois Hitler had been free to do as he wished, he would not have waited a moment between Franziska's death and his marriage to Klara Poelzl. Local custom required a decent period of delay between the death and the remarriage, but Alois had never concerned himself much about what other people thought. He had remarried immediately after the death of his first wife without adverse effect, and he was ready to do so again. Klara was willing and able. Her parents favored the union, and since she was twenty-four, she no longer needed their consent. Alois' children adored their prospective stepmother, who had been in and out of their home since their birth.¹ Money presented no problem because of Alois' substantial income and secure position. Everything was easily arranged, except for one ironic detail: because of Alois' success in changing his name and becoming legitimized in 1876, the marriage had become illegal.

Klara Poelzl was the daughter of Johann Poelzl and his wife Johanna, the eldest daughter of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler. Klara had been born and raised in Spital house #37 next to the holding of Johann Nepomuk Hiedler, but by 1885 her parents had moved to house #52.² Alois' prospective wife was therefore not only Johann Nepomuk's neighbor; she was also his granddaughter. As a result of the legitimation and name change in 1876, Alois had become Johann Nepomuk's nephew, and the prospective bride and bridegroom of 1884 were second cousins, within the degree prohibited by the Church. The Austrian state would not permit such marriages be-

¹ Kubizek, pp. 29 and 33.

² Die Abnentafl, pp. 39-40.

Duplicate

* D.T. Engels once had written, about the time the Catholic Church realized that adultery was impossible to prevent, they made divorce impossible to obtain. If could have added, "and about the time the Church recognized that incest was impossible to prevent, they did their best to prohibit attempts at legalization."

D.T.

1984

tween Catholics unless the marriage had been authorized by dispensation. It remains a question whether or not the couple actually had common blood; even Alois may have wondered about it. The only way he could have convinced the authorities that there was no risk to the offspring of the marriage would have been to disclose the whole story of the change of name and thus enmesh himself in even more legal difficulties. This he prudently decided to avoid.

Alois and Klara asked the religious authorities in Braunau to grant a dispensation to marry but were informed that, because of the closeness of their relationship, a papal dispensation was required. The couple then drew up an application for dispensation in which they advanced a number of arguments to persuade the authorities to favor them. The request stated that Alois was a widower with two small children who needed care and attention. The father's position in the customs service required that he be absent during the day and often at night as well. Klara had been taking care of the children regularly for a number of months, the application continued, and they were very fond of her, a good portent both for the happiness of the children and the success of the marriage. The only argument used to show that the marriage would be beneficial to Klara was the statement that the "bride is without means, and it is therefore unlikely that she will ever have another opportunity for a good marriage."

This was probably an exaggeration. Even though the Pöchl family had seen better days, they were not destitute. In an age in which dowries constituted the major attraction for a husband, however, Klara was at a disadvantage if the marriage with Alois did not materialize. A more important reason for her desire to marry Alois was that, at the time of the application, she was pregnant, but that fact, of course, did not appear in the dispensation request.³

On October 27, 1884, the application was completed and sent to the Bishop for translation into Latin and forwarding to Rome. The Hitlers then had to endure the delay as best they could. This undoubtedly was a problem of a sort, since Klara's condition was becoming more obvious every day. To ease some of the physical strain on Klara, a young cook and maid, Rosalia Schichtl, was

³ Kubizek, p. 33.

duplicate

copy of manuscript

Some notes for vol II

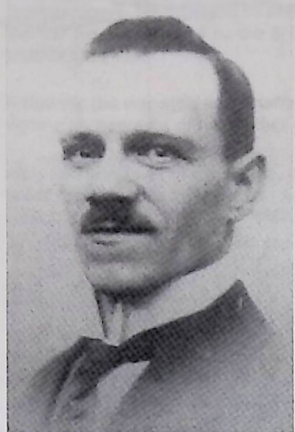
~~For Diwayne~~
~~70 for Search~~

Alan Hitter in 1934
runs a drinking-hole
~~for stormtroopers~~

3 / 14 / 06 Tuesday

More Subjects added.

Alois Hitler, Jr.



Alois Hitler, Jr.

*1874 - drinking hole
for stormtroopers*

Alois Hitler, Jr., born Alois Matzelberger (January 13, 1882-May 20, 1956), was the son of Alois Hitler and Franziska Matzelsberger and the half-brother of Adolf Hitler.

He was born while his father was still married to his first wife. After she died he and his mother married, Alois was legitimised and his name was changed to Alois Hitler, Jr. He was soon joined by a sister, Angela Hitler. When he was two years old his mother died and his father married Klara Pölzl, a niece with whom he had a long-standing affair while also cheating on his first wife with Franziska.

Alois left home at the age of fourteen due to increasingly violent arguments with his father and apparently strained relations with his step-mother Klara. After working as an apprentice waiter he was arrested for theft and served a five-month sentence in 1900, followed by an eight-month sentence in 1902. He moved to Dublin where he got a job as a waiter at the Shelbourne Hotel. In 1909 he met Bridget Dowling at the Dublin Horse Show and led her to believe he was a wealthy hotelier on a European tour. They eloped to London and married on June 3, 1910. William Dowling, Bridget's father, threatened to have Alois arrested for kidnapping but Bridget dissuaded him.

The couple settled in Liverpool where their son William Patrick Hitler was born in 1911.

Bridget Dowling's memoirs claim Adolf Hitler lived with them in Liverpool from 1912 to 1913 while he was on the run for dodging the draft in his native Austria but most historians dismiss this story as a fiction invented to make Bridget's book more appealing to publishers.

Alois attempted to make money by running a small restaurant in Dale Street, a boarding house on Parliament Street and a hotel on Mount Pleasant, all of which failed.

Finally, he left his family behind in May 1914 and he returned alone to Germany to establish himself in the safety-razor business. World War I broke out soon after, stranding Alois in Germany and making it impossible for his wife and son to join him. He married another woman in 1916 and after the war had a third party inform Bridget he was dead.

His ruse was discovered by the German authorities and Alois was prosecuted for bigamy in 1924 but acquitted due to Bridget's intervention on his behalf.

William Patrick stayed with Alois and his new family during his early trips to Germany in the late 1920s and early 1930s. In 1934 Alois established a restaurant in Berlin which became a popular drinking hole for Stormtroopers. He managed to keep the restaurant open through the duration of World War II. At the end of the war he was arrested by the British but released when it became clear he had played no role in his brother's regime.

Following the war Alois was briefly involved with a right-wing political party. In the 1950s he made money signing photographs of his brother and selling them to tourists.

Alois and Adolf were never close, apparently due to Alois' resentment of Adolf stemming from childhood. He is not mentioned in Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and they rarely (if ever) met after Adolf's rise to power.

To be Paged —

Done

Note.--The assassination of the Empress of Austria at Geneva, September 10, 1898, occurred during Mark Twain's Austrian residence. The news came to him at Kaltenleutgeben, a summer resort a little way out of Vienna. To his friend, the Rev. Jos. H. Twichell, he wrote:

Double-space.

De this
 "That good and unoffending lady, the Empress, is killed by a madman, and I am living in the midst of world-history again. The Queen's Jubilee last year, the invasion of the Reichsrath by the police, and now this murder, which will still be talked of and described and painted a thousand and a thousand years from now. To have a personal friend of the wearer of two crowns burst in at the gate in the deep dusk of the evening and say, in a voice broken with tears, 'My God! the Empress is murdered,' and fly toward her home before we can utter a question--why, it brings the giant event home to you, makes you a part of it--and personally interested; it is as if your neighbor, Antony, should come flying and say, 'Caesar is butchered--the head of the world is fallen!'

De this
 "Of course there is no talk but of this. The mourning is universal and genuine, the consternation is stupefying. The Austrian Empire is being draped with black. Vienna will be a spectacle to see by next Saturday, when the funeral cortege marches." *End of this note*

He was strongly moved by the tragedy, impelled to write concerning it. He prepared the article which follows, but did not offer it for publication, perhaps feeling that his own close association with the court circles at the moment prohibited this personal utterance. There appears no such reason for withholding its publication now.

A. B. P.

Robbison

McN — Type when

indicated on pps

 1 of 6, 1 of 8,
 2 of 8,
 3 of 8,
 5 of 9

Double-space
A new page starts here.

A new page starts here.

The more one thinks of the assassination, the more imposing and tremendous the event becomes. The destruction of a city is a large event, but it is one which repeats itself several times in a thousand years; the destruction of a third part of a nation by plague and famine is a large event, but it has happened several times in history; the murder of a king is a large event, but it has been frequent.

Just do this

The murder of an empress is the largest of all events. One must go back about two thousand years to find an instance to put with this one. The oldest family of unchallenged descent in Christendom lives in Rome and traces its line back seventeen hundred years, but no member of it has been present in the earth when an empress was murdered, until now. Many a time during these seventeen centuries members of that family have been startled with the news of extraordinary events--the destruction of cities, the fall of thrones, the murder of kings, the wreck of dynasties, the extinction of religions, the birth of new systems of government; and their descendants have been by to hear of it and talk about it when all these things were repeated once, twice, or a dozen times--but to even that family has come news at last which is not stated by use, has no duplicates in the long reach of its memory.

It is an event which confers a curious distinction upon every individual now living in the world: he has stood alive and breathing in the presence of an event such as has not fallen within the experience of any traceable or untraceable ancestor of his for twenty centuries, and it is not likely to fall within the experience of any descendant of his for twenty more.

~~It is pleasant to think of the Roman days. Just another truly splendid day.~~

Time has made some great changes since the Roman days. The murder of an empress then--even the assassination of Caesar himself--could not electrify the world as this murder has electrified it. For one reason, there was then not much of a world to electrify; it was a small world, as to known bulk, and it had rather a thin population, besides; and for another reason, the news traveled so slowly that its tremendous initial thrill wasted away, week by week and month by month, on the journey, and by the time it reached the remoter regions there was but little of it left. It was no longer a fresh event, it was a thing of the far past; it was not properly news, it was history. But the world is enormous now, and prodigiously populated--that is one change; and another is the lightning swiftness of the flight of tidings, good and bad. "The Empress is murdered!" When those amazing words struck upon my ear in this Austrian village last Saturday, three hours after the disaster, I knew that it was already

Do this

old news in London, Paris, Berlin, New York, San Francisco, Japan, China, Melbourne, Cape Town, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and that the entire globe with a single voice, was cursing the perpetrator of it. Since the telegraph first began to stretch itself wider and wider about the earth, larger and increasingly larger areas of the world have, as time went on, received simultaneously the shock of a great calamity; but this is the first time in history that the entire surface of the globe has been swept in a single instant with the thrill of so gigantic an event.

And who is the miracle-worker who has furnished to the world this spectacle? All the ironies are compacted in the answer. He is at the bottom of the human ladder, as the accepted estimates of degree and value go: a soiled and patched young loafer, without gifts, without talents, without education, without morals, without character, without any born charm or any acquired one that wins or beguiles or attracts; without a single grace of mind or heart or hand that any tramp or prostitute could envy him; an unfaithful private in the ranks, an incompetent stone-cutter, an inefficient lackey; in a word, a mangy, offensive, empty, unwashed, vulgar, gross, mephitic, timid, sneaking, human polecat. And it was within the privileges and powers of this sarcasm upon the human race to reach up--up--up--and strike from its far summit in the social skies the world's accepted ideal of Glory and Might and Splendor and Sacredness! It realizes to us what sorry shows and shadows we are. Without our clothes and our pedestals we are poor things and much of a size; our dignities are not real, our pomps are shams. At our best and stateliest we are not suns, as we pretended, and teach, and believe, but only candles; and any bumper can blow us out.

And now we get realized to us once more another thing which we often forget--or try to: that no man has a wholly undiseased mind; that in one way or another all men are mad. Many are mad for money. When this madness is in a mild form it is harmless and the man passes for sane; but when it develops powerfully and takes possession of the man, it can make him cheat, rob, and kill; and when he has got his fortune and lost it again it can land him in the asylum or the suicide's coffin. Love is a madness; if thwarted it develops fast; it can grow to a frenzy of despair and make an otherwise sane and highly gifted prince, like Rudolph, throw away the crown of an empire and snuff out his own life. All the whole list of desires, predilections, aversions, ambitions, passions, cares, griefs, regrets, remorse, are incipient madness, and ready to

grow, spread, and consume, when the occasion comes. There are no healthy minds, and nothing saves any man but accident--the accident of not having his malady put to the supreme test.

One of the commonest forms of madness is the desire to be noticed, the pleasure derived from being noticed. Perhaps it is not merely common, but universal. In its mildest form it doubtless is universal. Every child is pleased at being noticed; many intolerable children put in their whole time in distressing and idiotic effort to attract the attention of visitors; boys are always "showing off"; apparently all men and women are glad and grateful when they find that they have done a thing which has lifted them for a moment out of obscurity and caused wondering talk. This common madness can develop, by nurture, into a hunger for notoriety in one, for fame in another. It is this madness for being noticed and talked about which has invented kingship and the thousand other dignities, and tricked them out with pretty and showy fineries; it has made kings pick one another's pockets, scramble for one another's crowns and estates, slaughter one another's subjects; it has raised up prize-fighters, and poets, and villages mayors, and little and big politicians, and big and little charity-founders, and bicycle champions, and banditti chiefs, and frontier desperadoes, and Napoleons. Anything to get notoriety; anything to set the village, or the township, or the city, or the State, or the nation, or the planet shouting, "Look--there he goes--that is the man!" And in five minutes' time, at no cost of brain, or labor, or genius this mangy Italian tramp has beaten them all, transcended them all, outstripped them all, for in time their names will perish; but by the friendly help of the insane newspapers and courts and kings and historians, his is safe and live and thunder in the world all down the ages as long as human speech shall endure! Oh, if it were not so tragic how ludicrous it would be!

She was so blameless, the Empress; and so beautiful, in mind and heart, in person and spirit; and whether with a crown upon her head or without it and nameless, a grace to the human race, and almost a justification of its creation; WOULD be, indeed, but that the animal that struck her down re-establishes the doubt.

In her character was every quality that in woman invites and engages respect, esteem, affection, and homage. Her tastes, her instincts, and her aspirations were all high and fine and all her life her heart and brain were busy with activities of a noble sort. She had had bitter griefs, but they did not sour her

CAPTAIN: "He was in my company. A troublesome scoundrel. I remember him well."

THE SERGEANT: "Did I know him? As well as I know you. Why, every morning I used to--" etc., etc.; a glad, long story, told to devouring ears.

THE LANDLADY: "Many's the time he boarded with me. I can show you his very room, and the very bed he slept in. And the charcoal mark there on the wall--he made that. My little Johnny saw him do it with his own eyes. Didn't you, Johnny?"

It is easy to see, by the papers, that the magistrate and the constables and the jailer treasure up the assassin's daily remarks and doings as precious things, and as wallowing this week in seas of blissful distinction. The interviewer, too; he tried to let on that he is not vain of his privilege of contact with this man whom few others are allowed to gaze upon, but he is human, like the rest, and can no more keep his vanity corked in than could you or I.

Some think that this murder is a frenzied revolt against the criminal militarism which is impoverishing Europe and driving the starving poor mad. That has many crimes to answer for, but not this one, I think. One may not attribute to this man a generous indignation against the wrongs done the poor; one may not dignify him with a generous impulse of any kind. When he saw his photograph and said, "I shall be celebrated," he laid bare the impulse that prompted him. It was a mere hunger for notoriety. There is another confessed case of the kind which is as old as history--the burning of the temple of Ephesus.

Among the inadequate attempts to account for the assassination we must concede high rank to the many which have described it as a "peculiarly brutal crime" and then added that it was "ordained from above." I think this verdict will not be popular "above." If the deed was ordained from above, there is no rational way of making this prisoner even partially responsible for it, and the Genevan court cannot condemn him without manifestly committing a crime. Logic is logic, and by disregarding its laws even the most pious and showy theologian may be beguiled into preferring charges which should not be ventured upon except in the shelter of plenty of lightning-rods.

and
~~I witnessed the funeral procession, in company with friends, from the~~

THE MEMORABLE ASSASSINATION

Note.--The assassination of the Empress of Austria at Geneva, September 10, 1898, occurred during Mark Twain's Austrian residence. The news came to him at Kaltenleutgeben, a summer resort a little way out of Vienna. To his friend, the Rev. Jos. H. Twichell, he wrote:

"That good and unoffending lady, the Empress, is killed by a madman, and I am living in the midst of world-history again. The Queen's Jubilee last year, the invasion of the Reichsrath by the police, and now this murder, which will still be talked of and described and painted a thousand a thousand years from now. To have a personal friend of the wearer of two crowns burst in at the gate in the deep dusk of the evening and say, in a voice broken with tears, 'My God! the Empress is murdered,' and fly toward her home before we can utter a question--why, it brings the giant event home to you, makes you a part of it and personally interested; it is as if your neighbor, Antony, should come flying and say, 'Caesar is butchered--the head of the world is fallen!'

"Of course there is no talk but of this. The mourning is universal and genuine, the consternation is stupefying. The Austrian Empire is being draped with black. Vienna will be a spectacle to see by next Saturday, when the funeral cortège marches."

He was strongly moved by the tragedy, impelled to write concerning it. He prepared the article which follows, but did not offer it for publication, perhaps feeling that his own close association with the court circles at the moment prohibited this personal utterance. There appears no such reason for withholding its publication now.

A. B. P.

The more one thinks of the assassination, the more imposing and tremendous

the event becomes. The destruction of a city is a large event, but it is one which repeats itself several times in a thousand years; the destruction of a third part of a nation by plague and famine is a large event, but it has happened several times in history; the murder of a king is a large event, but it has been frequent.

The murder of an empress is the largest of all events. One must go back about two thousand years to find an instance to put with this one. The oldest family of unchallenged descent in Christendom lives in Rome and traces its line back seventeen hundred years, but no member of it has been present in the earth when an empress was murdered, until now. Many a time during these seventeen centuries members of that family have been startled with the news of extraordinary events--the destruction of cities, the fall of thrones, the murder of kings, the wreck of dynasties, the extinction of religions, the birth of new systems of government; and their descendants have been by to hear of it and talk about it when all these things were repeated once, twice, or a dozen times--but to even that family has come news at last which is not staled by use, has no duplicates in the long reach of its memory.

It is an event which confers a curious distinction upon every individual now living in the world: he has stood alive and breathing in the presence of an event such as has not fallen within the experience of any traceable or untraceable ancestor of his for twenty centuries, and it is not likely to fall within the experience of any descendant of his for twenty more.

Time has made some great changes since the Roman days. The murder of an empress then--even the assassination of Caesar himself--could not electrify the world as this murder has electrified it. For one reason, there was then not much of a world to electrify; it was a small world, as to known bulk, and it had rather a thin population, besides; and for another reason, the news traveled so slowly that its tremendous initial thrill wasted away, week by week and month by month, on the journey, and by the time it reached the remoter regions there was but little of it left. It was no longer a fresh event, it was a thing of the far past; it was not properly news, it was history. But the world is enormous now, and prodigiously populated--that is one change; and another is the lightning swiftness of the flight of tidings, good and bad. "The Empress is murdered!" When those amazing words struck upon my ear in this Austrian village last Saturday, three hours after the disaster, I knew that it was already old news in London, Paris, Berlin, New York, San Francisco, Japan, China,

Melbourne, Cape Town, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and that the entire globe with a single voice, was cursing the perpetrator of it. Since the telegraph first began to stretch itself wider and wider about the earth, larger and increasingly larger areas of the world have, as time went on, received simultaneously the shock of a great calamity; but this is the first time in history that the entire surface of the globe has been swept in a single instant with the thrill of so gigantic an event.

And who is the miracle-worker who has furnished to the world this spectacle? All the ironies are compacted in the answer. He is at the bottom of the human ladder, as the accepted estimates of degree and value go: a soiled and patched young loafer, without gifts, without talents, without education, without morals, without character, without any born charm or any acquired one that wins or beguiles or attracts; without a single grace of mind or heart or hand that any tramp or prostitute could envy him; an unfaithful private in the ranks, an incompetent stone-cutter, an inefficient lackey; in a word, a mangy, offensive, empty, unwashed, vulgar, gross, mephitic, timid, sneaking, human polecat. And it was within the privileges and powers of this sarcasm upon the human race to reach up--up--up--and strike from its far summit in the social skies the world's accepted ideal of Glory and Might and Splendor and Sacredness! It realizes to us what sorry shows and shadows we are. Without our clothes and our pedestals we are poor things and much of a size; our dignities are not real, our pomps are shams. At our best and stateliest we are not suns, as we pretended, and teach, and believe, but only candles; and any bumper can blow us out.

And now we get realized to us once more another thing which we often forget--or try to: that no man has a wholly undiseased mind; that in one way or another all men are mad. Many are mad for money. When this madness is in a mild form it is harmless and the man passes for sane; but when it develops powerfully and takes possession of the man, it can make him cheat, rob, and kill; and when he has got his fortune and lost it again it can land him in the asylum or the suicide's coffin. Love is a madness; if thwarted it develops fast; it can grow to a frenzy of despair and make an otherwise sane and highly gifted prince, like Rudolph, throw away the crown of an empire and snuff out his own life. All the whole list of desires, predilections, aversions, ambitions, passions, cares, griefs, regrets, remorse, are incipient madness, and ready to grow, spread, and consume, when the occasion comes. There are no healthy

minds, and nothing saves any man but accident--the accident of not having his malady put to the supreme test.

One of the commonest forms of madness is the desire to be noticed, the pleasure derived from being noticed. Perhaps it is not merely common, but universal. In its mildest form it doubtless is universal. Every child is pleased at being noticed; many intolerable children put in their whole time in distressing and idiotic effort to attract the attention of visitors; boys are always "showing off"; apparently all men and women are glad and grateful when they find that they have done a thing which has lifted them for a moment out of obscurity and caused wondering talk. This common madness can develop, by nurture, into a hunger for notoriety in one, for fame in another. It is this madness for being noticed and talked about which has invented kingship and the thousand other dignities, and tricked them out with pretty and showy fineries; it has made kings pick one another's pockets, scramble for one another's crowns and estates, slaughter one another's subjects; it has raised up prize-fighters, and poets, and villages mayors, and little and big politicians, and big and little charity-founders, and bicycle champions, and banditti chiefs, and frontier desperadoes, and Napoleons. Anything to get notoriety; anything to set the village, or the township, or the city, or the State, or the nation, or the planet shouting, "Look--there he goes--that is the man!" And in five minutes' time, at no cost of brain, or labor, or genius this mangy Italian tramp has beaten them all, transcended them all, outstripped them all, for in time their names will perish; but by the friendly help of the insane newspapers and courts and kings and historians, his is safe and live and thunder in the world all down the ages as long as human speech shall endure! Oh, if it were not so tragic how ludicrous it would be!

She was so blameless, the Empress; and so beautiful, in mind and heart, in person and spirit; and whether with a crown upon her head or without it and nameless, a grace to the human race, and almost a justification of its creation; WOULD be, indeed, but that the animal that struck her down re-establishes the doubt.

In her character was every quality that in woman invites and engages respect, esteem, affection, and homage. Her tastes, her instincts, and her aspirations were all high and fine and all her life her heart and brain were busy with activities of a noble sort. She had had bitter griefs, but they did not sour her spirit, and she had had the highest honors in the world's gift, but she went her

simple way unspoiled. She knew all ranks, and won them all, and made them her friends. An English fisherman's wife said, "When a body was in trouble she didn't send her help, she brought it herself." Crowns have adorned others, but she adorned her crowns.

It was a swift celebrity the assassin achieved. And it is marked by some curious contrasts. At noon last, Saturday there was no one in the world who would have considered acquaintanceship with him a thing worth claiming or mentioning; no one would have been vain of such an acquaintanceship; the humblest honest boot-black would not have valued the fact that he had met him or seen him at some time or other; he was sunk in abysmal obscurity, he was away beneath the notice of the bottom grades of officialdom. Three hours later he was the one subject of conversation in the world, the gilded generals and admirals and governors were discussing him, all the kings and queens and emperors had put aside their other interests to talk about him. And wherever there was a man, at the summit of the world or the bottom of it, who by chance had at some time or other come across that creature, he remembered it with a secret satisfaction, and MENTIONED it--for it was a distinction, now! It brings human dignity pretty low, and for a moment the thing is not quite realizable--but it is perfectly true. If there is a king who can remember, now, that he once saw that creature in a time past, he has let that fact out, in a more or less studiously casual and indifferent way, some dozens of times during the past week. For a king is merely human; the inside of him is exactly like the inside of any other person; and it is human to find satisfaction in being in a kind of personal way connected with amazing events. We are all privately vain of such a thing; we are all alike; a king is a king by accident; the reason the rest of us are not kings is merely due to another accident; we are all made out of the same clay, and it is a sufficient poor quality.

Below the kings, these remarks are in the air these days; I know it well as if I were hearing them:

THE COMMANDER: "He was in my army."

THE GENERAL: "He was in my corps."

THE COLONEL: "He was in my regiment. A brute. I remember him well."

THE CAPTAIN: "He was in my company. A troublesome scoundrel. I

remember him well."

THE SERGEANT: "Did I know him? As well as I know you. Why, every morning I used to--" etc., etc.; a glad, long story, told to devouring ears.

THE LANDLADY: "Many's the time he boarded with me. I can show you his very room, and the very bed he slept in. And the charcoal mark there on the wall--he made that. My little Johnny saw him do it with his own eyes. Didn't you, Johnny?"

It is easy to see, by the papers, that the magistrate and the constables and the jailer treasure up the assassin's daily remarks and doings as precious things, and as wallowing this week in seas of blissful distinction. The interviewer, too; he tried to let on that he is not vain of his privilege of contact with this man whom few others are allowed to gaze upon, but he is human, like the rest, and can no more keep his vanity corked in than could you or I.

Some think that this murder is a frenzied revolt against the criminal militarism which is impoverishing Europe and driving the starving poor mad. That has many crimes to answer for, but not this one, I think. One may not attribute to this man a generous indignation against the wrongs done the poor; one may not dignify him with a generous impulse of any kind. When he saw his photograph and said, "I shall be celebrated," he laid bare the impulse that prompted him. It was a mere hunger for notoriety. There is another confessed case of the kind which is as old as history--the burning of the temple of Ephesus.

Among the inadequate attempts to account for the assassination we must concede high rank to the many which have described it as a "peculiarly brutal crime" and then added that it was "ordained from above." I think this verdict will not be popular "above." If the deed was ordained from above, there is no rational way of making this prisoner even partially responsible for it, and the Genevan court cannot condemn him without manifestly committing a crime. Logic is logic, and by disregarding its laws even the most pious and showy theologian may be beguiled into preferring charges which should not be ventured upon except in the shelter of plenty of lightning-rods.

I witnessed the funeral procession, in company with friends, from the windows of the Krantz, Vienna's sumptuous new hotel. We came into town in

the middle of the forenoon, and I went on foot from the station. Black flags hung down from all the houses; the aspects were Sunday-like; the crowds on the sidewalks were quiet and moved slowly; very few people were smoking; many ladies wore deep mourning, gentlemen were in black as a rule; carriages were speeding in all directions, with footmen and coachmen in black clothes and wearing black cocked hats; the shops were closed; in many windows were pictures of the Empress: as a beautiful young bride of seventeen; as a serene and majestic lady with added years; and finally in deep black and without ornaments--the costume she always wore after the tragic death of her son nine years ago, for her heart broke then, and life lost almost all its value for her. The people stood grouped before these pictures, and now and then one saw women and girls turn away wiping the tears from their eyes.

In front of the Krantz is an open square; over the way was the church where the funeral services would be held. It is small and old and severely plain, plastered outside and whitewashed or painted, and with no ornament but a statue of a monk in a niche over the door, and above that a small black flag. But in its crypt lie several of the great dead of the House of Habsburg, among them Maria Theresa and Napoleon's son, the Duke of Reichstadt. Hereabouts was a Roman camp, once, and in it the Emperor Marcus Aurelius died a thousand years before the first Habsburg ruled in Vienna, which was six hundred years ago and more.

The little church is packed in among great modern stores and houses, and the windows of them were full of people. Behind the vast plate-glass windows of the upper floors of the house on the corner one glimpsed terraced masses of fine-clothed men and women, dim and shimmery, like people under water. Under us the square was noiseless, but it was full of citizens; officials in fine uniforms were flitting about on errands, and in a doorstep sat a figure in the uttermost raggedness of poverty, the feet bare, the head bent humbly down; a youth of eighteen or twenty, he was, and through the field-glass one could see that he was tearing apart and munching ruffraff that he had gathered somewhere. Blazing uniforms flashed by him, making a sparkling contrast with his drooping ruin of moldy rags, but he took not notice; he was not there to grieve for a nation's disaster; he had his own cares, and deeper. From two directions two long files of infantry came plowing through the pack and press in silence; there was a low, crisp order and the crowd vanished, the square save the sidewalks was empty, the private mourner was gone. Another order,

the soldiers fell apart and enclosed the square in a double-ranked human fence. It was all so swift, noiseless, exact--like a beautifully ordered machine.

It was noon, now. Two hours of stillness and waiting followed. Then carriages began to flow past and deliver the two and three hundred court personages and high nobilities privileged to enter the church. Then the square filled up; not with civilians, but with army and navy officers in showy and beautiful uniforms. They filled it compactly, leaving only a narrow carriage path in front of the church, but there was no civilian among them. And it was better so; dull clothes would have marred the radiant spectacle. In the jam in front of the church, on its steps, and on the sidewalk was a bunch of uniforms which made a blazing splotch of color--intense red, gold, and white--which dimmed the brilliancies around them; and opposite them on the other side of the path was a bunch of cascaded bright-green plumes above pale-blue shoulders which made another splotch of splendor emphatic and conspicuous in its glowing surroundings. It was a sea of flashing color all about, but these two groups were the high notes. The green plumes were worn by forty or fifty Austrian generals, the group opposite them were chiefly Knights of Malta and knights of a German order. The mass of heads in the square were covered by gilt helmets and by military caps roofed with a mirror-like gaze, and the movements of the wearers caused these things to catch the sun-rays, and the effect was fine to see--the square was like a garden of richly colored flowers with a multitude of blinding and flashing little suns distributed over it.

Think of it--it was by command of that Italian loafer yonder on his imperial throne in the Geneva prison that this splendid multitude was assembled there; and the kings and emperors that were entering the church from a side street were there by his will. It is so strange, so unrealizable.

At three o'clock the carriages were still streaming by in single file. At three-five a cardinal arrives with his attendants; later some bishops; then a number of archdeacons--all in striking colors that add to the show. At three-ten a procession of priests passed along, with crucifix. Another one, presently; after an interval, two more; at three-fifty another one--very long, with many crosses, gold-embroidered robes, and much white lace; also great pictured banners, at intervals, receding into the distance.

A hum of tolling bells makes itself heard, but not sharply. At three-fifty-eight a waiting interval. Presently a long procession of gentlemen in evening dress

comes in sight and approaches until it is near to the square, then falls back against the wall of soldiers at the sidewalk, and the white shirt-fronts show like snowflakes and are very conspicuous where so much warm color is all about.

A waiting pause. At four-twelve the head of the funeral procession comes into view at last. First, a body of cavalry, four abreast, to widen the path. Next, a great body of lancers, in blue, with gilt helmets. Next, three six-horse mourning-coaches; outriders and coachmen in black, with cocked hats and white wigs. Next, troops in splendid uniforms, red, gold, and white, exceedingly showy.

Now the multitude uncover. The soldiers present arms; there is a low rumble of drums; the sumptuous great hearse approaches, drawn at a walk by eight black horses plumed with black bunches of nodding ostrich feathers; the coffin is borne into the church, the doors are closed.

The multitude cover their heads, and the rest of the procession moves by; first the Hungarian Guard in their indescribably brilliant and picturesque and beautiful uniform, inherited from the ages of barbaric splendor, and after them other mounted forces, a long and showy array.

Then the shining crown in the square crumbled apart, a wrecked rainbow, and melted away in radiant streams, and in the turn of a wrist the three dirtiest and raggedest and cheerfulest little slum-girls in Austria were capering about in the spacious vacancy. It was a day of contrasts.

Twice the Empress entered Vienna in state. The first time was in 1854, when she was a bride of seventeen, and then she rode in measureless pomp and with blare of music through a fluttering world of gay flags and decorations, down streets walled on both hands with a press of shouting and welcoming subjects; and the second time was last Wednesday, when she entered the city in her coffin and moved down the same streets in the dead of the night under swaying black flags, between packed human walls again; but everywhere was a deep stillness, now--a stillness emphasized, rather than broken, by the muffled hoofbeats of the long cavalcade over pavements cushioned with sand, and the low sobbing of gray-headed women who had witnessed the first entry forty-four years before, when she and they were young--and unaware!

A character in Baron von Berger's recent fairy drama "Habsburg" tells about the first coming of the girlish Empress- Queen, and in his history draws a fine picture: I cannot make a close translation of it, but will try to convey the spirit of the verses:

*I saw the stately pageant pass:
In her high place I saw the Empress-Queen:
I could not take my eyes away
From that fair vision, spirit-like and pure,
That rose serene, sublime, and figured to my sense
A noble Alp far lighted in the blue,
That in the flood of morning rends its veil of cloud
And stands a dream of glory to the gaze
Of them that in the Valley toil and plod.*

Table of Contents

This is Google's cache of <http://recollectionbooks.com/bleed/Encyclopedia/LucheniLuigi.htm> as retrieved on Feb 9, 2006 17:28:49 GMT.

Google's cache is the snapshot that we took of the page as we crawled the web.

The page may have changed since that time. [Click here](#) for the current page without highlighting.

This cached page may reference images which are no longer available. [Click here](#) for the cached text only.

To link to or bookmark this page, use the following url: <http://www.google.com/search?q=cache:cMHjbVdMktWJ:recollectionbooks.com/bleed/Encyclopedia/LucheniLuigi.htm+?22Luigi+Lucheni&22shl=en&gl=us&ct=clink&cd=1>

<http://www.google.com/search?q=cache:cMHjbVdMktWJ:recollectionbooks.com/bleed/Encyclopedia/LucheniLuigi.htm+?22Luigi+Lucheni&22shl=en&gl=us&ct=clink&cd=1>

These search terms have been highlighted: **luigi lucheni**



RECOLLECTION USED BOOKS



Luigi Lucheni



Given up at birth by a poor Italian immigrant, he experienced the misery of the orphanage, in Paris, before being returned to Italy. Worked odd jobs before joining the army for 3 1/2 years. Emigrated to Switzerland where he became familiar with anarchist ideas.



During his trial 12 November 1898 he declared himself an anarchist, & revealed that he wanted first to kill the Duke of Orleans, then chose the Empress Elisabeth, to strike a blow against the persecutors of working people.

In prison **Luigi Lucheni** undertook to improve his education & draft his memoirs. When these were taken by guards, Luigi rebelled, & was subjected to beatings before being found hung in his cell.



14. Elia Lucheni
Luigi
Lucheni's
mustache

- In Italian, see [Luigi Lucheni](#)
- **LUIGI LUCHENI** (Assassin of Sissi)
- In French, see [Luigi Lucheni](#)
- **Luigi Lucheni**, assassin de Sissi
- See, in German, [Karl-Wilhelm Buchheit, Sissi-Mörder Luigi Lucheni](#)
- Elisabeth Ein Musical von Michael Krüze und Sylvester Levy

- In Spanish, Asesinato de la emperatriz Sissi.

- Propaganda by the Deed, see

- **Luigi Lucheni:** "Ich bereue nichts!" Die Aufzeichnungen des Selbstmörders, prop. von Santo Cappon. Zschuy-Verlag, Wien 1993

Maria Theresia/Answald Krüger: Das Mittenw. Der Tod der Kaiserin Elisabeth und die Tat des Anarchisten Lucheni.
Kopie über GWR-Std, 556 S.



Use your back button to return to your previous page

Or visit:

The Anarchist Encyclopedia Home

Propaganda by the Deed

Propaganda by the Word

anti-CopyRite! 1987-2000, more or less

Questions, suggestions, additions, corrections to David Brown at
david.brown@anarchist-encyclopedia.com