

## **George and Monika (Bredl) Aschenbrenner From Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia to Northern Wisconsin**

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### **Coming to America**



*Monika and George Aschenbrenner,  
Photo undated. Taken in Medford in the  
1890s*

In 1877, George and Monika Aschenbrenner, along with their infant children Louisa and Edward, left their native village of Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia to cross the Atlantic and begin a new life in America. George was twenty-seven years old and his wife was twenty-two. They would have had to catch the train in the Bavarian town of Plattling for the first leg of the trip; the rail line connecting the Bavarian and Bohemian railway networks and running through the Eisenstein valley was not completed until later that year. George and Monika reached America on July 7, 1877, sailing from Bremen, Germany and arriving at the port of Baltimore on the steamship *Ohio*.

The Aschenbrenners were among the five and a half million Germans who made the journey to America between 1820 and 1910. A large number of these immigrants, including George and Monika, settled in Wisconsin. Records show that by 1890 thirty-five percent of the population in that state was German-born.

George was a twenty-four-year-old lumberjack and a resident of Deffernik when he married Monika in the Roman Catholic Church of Maria Hilf in Markt Eisenstein on September 29, 1874. Markt Eisenstein was a small town of some 2,000 inhabitants set in a pretty valley at the edge of the Bohmerwald, or Bohemian Woods. Now named Železná Ruda, the town is located in the Czech Republic, about two miles from the border with Germany. At the time that George and Monika lived there, Markt Eisenstein was in Bohemia on the border with Bavaria. On a map, Železná Ruda is located near the point where a line drawn between Munich, Germany and Prague in the Czech Republic crosses the border between the two countries. Deffernik was a small village in the woods, just a short walk from Markt Eisenstein and the Bavarian/Bohemian border.

At the time of his marriage, George was also listed as being in the Reserves of the Austrian King's Army, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Fighter Battalion. According to a handwritten note by daughter-in-law, Marietta Gilman Aschenbrenner, George Sr. immigrated to America in an effort to avoid compulsory annual military service. No doubt the economic opportunities offered by America were another factor in the decision to emigrate.

Census records and other documents filled out in the United States list the country of origin for George, Monika and their two oldest children variously as Germany, Austria, Bavaria and Bohemia. The Aschenbreners were ethnic Germans. Their seventeenth and eighteenth-century ancestors who settled in Markt Eisenstein were originally from the independent German state of Bavaria. These settlers continued to speak German and maintain their culture. Over the centuries, the Bavarian/Bohemian borderland, including the Eisenstein valley, has been under the political control of various entities. Until the twentieth century, Markt Eisenstein was always a part of Bohemia; however, at times the area came under the rule of Bavaria. Bohemia was also a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire for almost four hundred years. For this reason, nineteenth-century emigrants from Markt Eisenstein might have identified themselves as German, Bavarian, Bohemian, or Austrian. And all of those responses would be correct!

### **Settling in the Wisconsin Northwoods**

According to later accounts by their sons Edward and Lawrence for the centennial publication, *100 years on the Flambeau: Park Falls, Lake and Eisenstein*, George and Monika first settled in Appleton, Wisconsin, a small city in the eastern part of the state, a few miles north of Lake Winnebago. In Appleton, they were greeted by an established community of German immigrants. A German language private school had begun operation in 1859. The second Catholic Church in the city was founded by German immigrants in 1868. A German language newspaper, the *Appleton Volksfreund*, was first published in March, 1871, and soon became the largest German language paper in the state.

The family didn't stay in Appleton long. George and Monika are listed in the U.S. census of 1880 as living in the township of Hamburg, in Marathon County, WI. By this time, they had added two more children to the family. Frederick, age 2, and Margaret, age 10 months, had both been born since the family arrived in Wisconsin. George's occupation in Hamburg was listed as "farmer."

Within the year, the family had moved to Stetsonville, where young George was born in June of 1881. Anna came next, in 1884, and Lawrence, in 1888. Stetsonville is in Taylor County, just a few miles down the road from Hamburg. The Aschenbreners came to Stetsonville shortly after the 1874 arrival of the Wisconsin Central Railroad. The railroad line had been expanded to northern Wisconsin, opening up new territory for homesteading. Many of the newcomers were drawn to this area by the Wisconsin Homestead Act which was passed to encourage settlement of virgin territory. Under the Act, settlers could receive 80 acres. It is likely that George and Monika took



*George, Monika, and youngest child  
Lawrence, taken c. 1895*

advantage of this program when they settled in Stetsonville. Edna, daughter of Edward and granddaughter of George and Monika, wrote in a letter dated June, 1997 that George and Monika "had a farm in Taylor Co., then a restaurant in Medford before moving to Park Falls, near our family." (It is likely that the restaurant to which she is referring was actually the "saloon and hotel" in Stetsonville noted later in this story.)

The publication, *100 Year Anniversary 1874-1974: Stetsonville, Little Black, Deer Creek*, provides a description of Stetsonville in the early years. The town, established in 1875, is named for Isaiah S. Stetson, the man who built the first sawmill there in that year. When the European immigrants first arrived in this area of Wisconsin, they found Chippewa Indian camps in the region, but by 1890 the indigenous peoples had become scarce. The French-Canadians settled a few miles south of Stetsonville. Then came the Germans who settled to the east and west of town, followed by Swiss and Norwegian immigrants. In 1878, government land was sold for \$2.50 an acre. By 1879, there were 150 logging camps on the railroad line between Stevens Point and Ashland, employing around three thousand men.

By 1880, when the Aschenbrener family arrived in Stetsonville, a general store and a mill store were in operation. A liquor license had been granted and a hotel and saloon were going up. By this point, there was a steady flow of immigrants to the area. Civil engineers of the railroad erected an Immigrants House in Stetsonville in 1882. A railroad agent would meet newcomers at the train, show them available parcels of land, and take them to the Immigrants House. Immigrants were able to stay at the Immigrants House until they had built shelter on their own land (*100 Year Anniversary*).

No details have survived regarding the Aschenbrener homestead. From the book, *Germans in Wisconsin*, comes the following description of the effort involved in establishing a home in the Wisconsin Northwoods. Although Germans were encouraged to find land that had been cleared, with a house already on the property, few had the financial resources to do so. A majority of the German immigrants to Wisconsin had to spend their first few months in Wisconsin constructing a dwelling. Johann Diederichs describes his home, built in 1847, with the help of neighbors and journeyman builders (in demand in new neighborhoods): "Our log house is 25 feet long and 16 feet wide, and at present consists of only one room, which I shall later transform into two . . . It is one and a half stories high . . . We get to our bedroom on the second floor with the help of a ladder, having yet no time to build stairs . . ." The basic home would take about a month to build. Business was conducted through bartering instead of cash. Logs were exchanged for sawn boards. Farm produce was also used to pay for services. Trees were felled and gardens were planted. Removal of tree stumps was backbreaking labor and was accomplished gradually, as time permitted. The women worked alongside the men on the farm, as had been the case in Europe. Women were also generally responsible for planting and tending the kitchen garden, feeding the chickens and gathering the eggs (Zeitlin 13-14).

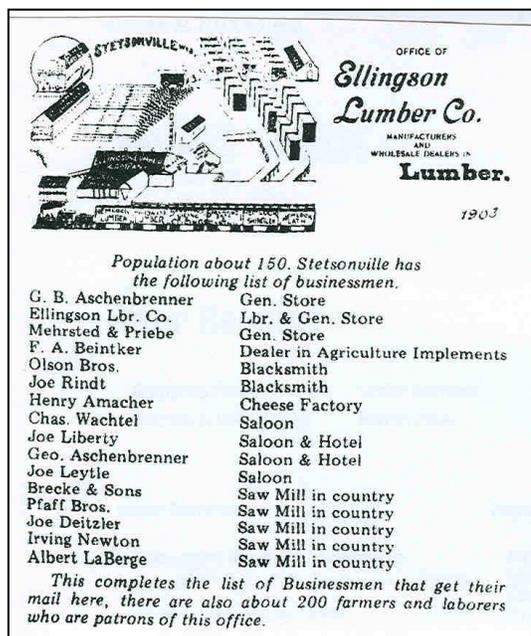
Northern Wisconsin's heavily-wooded landscape, somewhat reminiscent of the Bohemian forest of their homeland, must have appealed to the Bavarian/Bohemian newcomers. Life was not easy in the Eisenstein valley of Bohemia. Neither was it easy in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. From Park Falls comes the following story about Michael Wallner, who had married Anna Kundinger Aschenbrenner (relationship to George Aschenbrenner undetermined). "Mike worked in the woods and farmed. He mentioned that Anna would ask him to bring a 'little' sack of flour (only 50 pounds) from Fifield on his way home. After working 11 hours he shouldered the flour and walked the four or so miles home. . . . They lived frugally; the farm provided most of their food, and the cash money was saved. Any excess produce was canned, and they roasted barley for 'coffee'. Mike's oxen pulled the wagon full of grain to Butternut to be milled into flour. Mike walked ahead of the oxen all the way. One day a horse trader insisted on lending him a team of horses and a wagon. After that – finding how easy it was to ride instead of walk – Mike bought the team and wagon. The oxen were kept for the heavy farm work" (*100 Years on the Flambeau*, 361).

Immigrants to northern Wisconsin wanted a place to worship and churches were constructed as soon as there were enough people to sustain a church. Sacred Heart Catholic Church was built in Stetsonville in 1885. Prior to that time, Catholics worshipped at the house of Emery Fountain, another settler and a devout Catholic (*100 Year Anniversary... Stetsonville*).

In the 1895 State Census record for Taylor County, the Aschenbrenner family is listed as living in the town of Little Black, just down the road from Stetsonville. The household at that time included four males and three females. Frederick, their third child and the first one born in the United States, had died from scarlet fever on August 18, 1893. Louisa, the oldest daughter, was already married and in the household of her husband.

Taverns sprang up everywhere the Germans settled. They often served as the community center. These were establishments where the whole family was welcome. On "Continental Sundays" in German neighborhoods, families would come to eat, play cards, and socialize with their friends. Other immigrant populations had their beer halls and saloons, but these were less family-friendly.

Wisconsin, with its large German population, came to be known as a state with the tavern culture (Zeitlin, 21-22). At some point between 1880 and 1903, George Aschenbrenner left farming and began operating a saloon and hotel. It is among the establishments listed in an advertisement for Stetsonville that appeared in 1903 (*100 Year Anniversary...Stetsonville*).



OFFICE OF  
**Ellingson  
Lumber Co.**  
MANUFACTURERS  
AND  
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN  
**Lumber.**  
1903

Population about 150. Stetsonville has the following list of businessmen.

G. B. Aschenbrenner	Gen. Store
Ellingson Lbr. Co.	Lbr. & Gen. Store
Mehrsted & Priebe	Gen. Store
F. A. Beintker	Dealer in Agriculture Implements
Olson Bros.	Blacksmith
Joe Rindt	Blacksmith
Henry Amacher	Cheese Factory
Chas. Wachtel	Saloon
Joe Liberty	Saloon & Hotel
Geo. Aschenbrenner	Saloon & Hotel
Joe Leytle	Saloon
Brecke & Sons	Saw Mill in country
Pfaff Bros.	Saw Mill in country
Joe Deitzler	Saw Mill in country
Irving Newton	Saw Mill in country
Albert LaBerge	Saw Mill in country

This completes the list of Businessmen that get their mail here, there are also about 200 farmers and laborers who are patrons of this office.

Ad appearing in the publication celebrating the centennial of Stetsonville.

When George's son,

George B. married Marietta Gilman in June of 1903, the newspaper announcement noted that after the marriage, “a reception and wedding supper were given in Mr. Aschenbrener’s hall. Over a hundred guests were present.”

For the most part, German immigrants did not seek to maintain a separate cultural identity. They wanted to fit into mainstream American culture. German may have been spoken at home, but second generation Americans learned English quickly. Particularly after World War I, Germans felt pressure to assimilate rapidly and not appear to be too German. Anti-German sentiment was found in Wisconsin, as well as in the rest of the country (Zeitlin). Monika did conserve some of her cultural heritage. In 2003, Lawrence’s daughter, Mary Louise wrote that her father used to say that when they were growing up, Monika “could go in the woods and pick herbs that would help all their ailments.” She also knew how to make rye bread “loved by all.”

Travel in northern Wisconsin at the turn of the century was still by foot, rail, or horse-drawn carriage. In 1904, there were 971 wagons, carriages and sleighs in Stetsonville. In 1906, it was noted that the people of Stetsonville who had business in Medford could ride the local freights. They could go to Medford in the morning and return in the evening of the same day. It was not until 1909 that a Stetsonville resident owned a car (*100 Year Anniversary ...Stetsonville*).

George and Monika’s children grew up in Stetsonville. As mentioned earlier, Frederick died in 1893, at the age of fifteen. Over the years, the other six children married and moved away. George and Monika lived for many years in Stetsonville. Eventually, they moved north to Park Falls, Wisconsin, where Edward and Lawrence lived. Their son George lived in nearby Fifield. George Sr. spent the last years of his life in a wheelchair. He died on December 20, 1922. Monika then moved to southern California to live with her daughters. There, she spent the last six years of her life, dying on March 7, 1929. George was 72 years old at the time of his death; Monika was 73. George and Monika were of humble beginnings. Opportunities for advancement in the villages along the Bavarian/Bohemian border in Europe were limited. How proud they must have been to see the successes achieved by their children in America! From this family has come a large number of Aschenbrener descendants who have spread throughout the United States.

### **More on George and Monika’s children:**

#### **1. Louisa (1875-1970)**

Louisa was born on April 11, 1875 in Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia. She immigrated to the United States in 1877,



*The marriage of Louisa and Halvor in 1890*

along with her parents and brother Edward. Louisa was just fifteen when she and Halvor Amberson were married on September 7, 1890 in Taylor County, Wisconsin. The groom was a 32-year-old widower, a man twice her age. At the time of their marriage, Halvor operated a store in Stetsonville, Taylor County. A year after their marriage, their first child Raymond was born (October of 1891). After that a new baby arrived every two years, until there were nine children in the family. The first four children were born in Stetsonville.

Sometime between 1897 and 1899 the family moved to southern California and Halvor went into the citrus business. They soon had a home at 1163 North Gordon Street in Pomona in Los Angeles County, surrounded by orange groves. (In the US Census of 1900, Halvor is listed as a fruit grower living on North Gordon Street in Pomona.) Halvor died on December 2, 1907; he was 49 years old. The circumstances surrounding his death are unknown. However, at the age of thirty-two, Louisa was left a widow with a citrus business to manage and nine children to raise. Raymond, their oldest child, was just sixteen at the time. The youngest child was less than a year old. Louisa never remarried. With the help of her children, Ray in particular, she continued to operate the citrus farm as part of Sunkist Growers and evidently made a success of it. Louisa and her children appear in the US Census records of Pomona for 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940. Louisa died on August 1, 1970 at the age of ninety-five and is buried in the Pomona Cemetery and Mausoleum. She shares a tombstone with her husband Halvor and two children: Raymond and Esther. All of her children grew to adulthood; five of them married.

Children of Louisa and Halvor Amberson: Raymond Hermann (1891-1986); Ella Louisa (1893-1986); William Edward (1895-1985); Florence Monica (1897-1971); George Halvor (1899-1979); Esther Sylvia (1901-1963); Ruth Lillian (1903-1997); Violet Ann (1905-1996); Edna (1907-1997).

## 2. Edward

Edward was born on May 23, 1876 in Deffernik, near Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia. He was just an infant when he immigrated to the United States in 1877, along with his parents and older sister. Edward married Nellie Kenny on September 30, 1897. At the time of their marriage E.J., as he was known, worked at the bank in Medford and Nellie was employed in the Taylor County Register of Deeds office. The couple lived in Medford until 1902 and then moved to Park Falls.



*Monika with her son Edward, his wife Nellie, and children c. 1915*

Edward was one of the original founders of the Park Falls State Bank. From 1902 to 1951, his positions at the bank included: Assistant Cashier, Cashier, and Vice President. He also established the E.J. Aschenbrener Insurance Agency to provide insurance for the properties of

the lumber companies in the area.. He served for thirty years as a member of the Price County Board, including several terms as Chairman. A conservationist, Edward was involved in local efforts in reforestation and conservation. Edward and Nellie had six children, all born and raised in Park Falls. Edward died in Park Falls on April 11, 1951 and Nellie died in Milwaukee, WI on April 15, 1963.

Children of Edward and Nellie: Raymond (1898-1900); Willard George (1899-1996); Edmund Lawrence (1900-1966); Mary Edna (1902-1998); Kenneth Edward (1904-1995) and Leonard Kenny (1909-1954) .

### **3. Frederick**

Frederick was born in Wisconsin about 1878. He died at the age of fifteen, on August 18, 1893, of scarlet fever.

### **4. Margaret**

Margaret was born in Wisconsin in August of 1879. In 1900, according to the US Census of that year, she was living in Pomona, Los Angeles County, California, in the household of her oldest sister Louisa Amberson. Margaret's sister-in-law, Marietta Estelle Gilman Aschenbrenner, in a note written sometime after 1937, listed the parents, siblings, nieces and nephews of her husband George. George's sister Margaret is listed as married to "John Bauman, head of Bauman Construction Co, now deceased." No children are listed for the couple. Margaret would have been about 58 years old in 1937. Presumably Margaret and John did not have any children. (Note in the possession of Susan McNelley, Marietta's granddaughter). In a letter received by Susan in 2003 from Mary Louise O'Connor, daughter of Margaret's brother Lawrence, Mary Louise wrote that, after George's death in 1922, Monica moved to California "to stay with Louise, her oldest daughter. Margaret and Ana were in California too." (Louise, Margaret and Ana were Mary Louise's aunts.) Nothing else is known about Margaret. It isn't known where or when she died.

### **5. George B.**

George was born in Stetsonville on June 19, 1881 and married Marietta Gilman there on June 17, 1903. Over their lifetime, they operated meat markets and general stores in Stetsonville, Eau Claire, Park Falls, Fifield, and Lac du Flambeau, in Wisconsin, as well as several other businesses. Along the way, they had eleven children. George and Marietta retired to Tucson, Arizona, where George died on January 25, 1953. After his death, Marietta moved to Los Angeles County with her youngest son Richard. She and Richard returned to Park Falls, Wisconsin about 1972. Marietta died there on March 17, 1981, at the age of 100.



*George B. at his desk in Fifield*

Children of George and Marietta: Harris George (1904-1980), Bernice Lucille (1905-1989); Aloysius Joseph (1907-1998); Eldred Lawrence (Al) (1908- 1996); Harold Edward(Mike) (1910-1996); Frederick Willard (1913-1977); George Bernard Jr. (1915-1995); Edmund Earl (1916-1936); Harriet Louise (1919-2012); Robert Wayne (1920-2009); and Richard Francis (1923-2002).

## 6. Anna

Anna was born on June 13, 1884 in Stetsonville. In 1900, she, too, was living in Pomona, California, in the household of her oldest sister Louisa Amberson (US Census of 1900 for Pomona). She evidently returned to Wisconsin and, by 1917, had married Edward Herman Semerau. According to Edward's WWI Draft Registration, completed in June of that year, the couple was living in Fifield, WI (near Anna's brothers) and Edward was working as an assistant cashier at the State Bank of Fifield. By 1920, Ed and Anna had moved to Deer Creek in Taylor Co. WI and Ed was managing a general store. The family moved to California sometime between



*Anna with daughter Margaret Rose in Pomona, 1925*

1920 and 1922. They were there when Anna's mother moved to California after her father's death. The Semeraus are listed in the US Census records of 1930 for Pomona, and 1940 for Monrovia, both in Los Angeles County. Edward died in Los Angeles County on March 13, 1954 and Anna died there on January 4, 1970.

Children of Anna and Edward: William (B. and D. July 18, 1917); Margaret Rose (1925- 2010).

## 7. Lawrence

Lawrence, the youngest child of George and Monika, was born in Stetsonville on August 29, 1888. In 1905, he moved to Park Falls and was employed as an assistant to his brother at the Park Falls State Bank. Lawrence married Hazel Kidder on September 5, 1916 in Stanton, WI.



*George with his sons (L to R) George B., Edward, and Lawrence. Photo is undated.*

Hazel was a teacher in the Park Falls School System. Between 1905 and his retirement in 1964, Lawrence served as Assistant Cashier, Cashier, Director and eventually President of the State Bank. Lawrence and Hazel moved to Florida upon their retirement. Lawrence died in Pensacola on October 28, 1982; Hazel died in Coral Gables, Florida on April 9, 1979.

Children of Lawrence and Hazel: Mary Louise (B. June 1, 1921); Lawrence Jr. (1925-1988); and Donald (1926-1937).

## **Ancestry of George and Monika (Bredl) Aschenbrener**

### **George's Family**

George, born on July 8, 1850, was the youngest of ten children of Andreas Aschenbrenner and Katharina Artmann. Andreas was born in Panzer, near Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia on June 11, 1802. Katharina Artmann was born about 1808 in Dorf Eisenstein, another small village in the valley. The couple married in Markt Eisenstein on January 11, 1831.

The other children of Andreas and Katharina (Artmann) Aschenbrenner were: Ignatz (B. November 9, 1831), Georg (B. May 23, 1833) (Apparently this child died young, as the name was given to a later child.), Franz Xavier (B. July 24, 1835), Katharina (B. March 24, 1837), Andreas (B. May 26, 1839), Joseph (B. May 20, 1841), Maria Anna (B. May 16, 1843), Johann Nep (B. May 18, 1845), and Thekla (B. September 24, 1847). (Source: Baptism records for Markt Eisenstein, now Zelezná Ruda, located in the State Archives in Pilsen, Czech Republic.) George was the only one of the children known to have immigrated to America.

George is a direct descendant of Aschenbrenners who settled in Markt Eisenstein three hundred years ago. The Aschenbrenner name is noted in the records of the church in the village as far back as 1697. At least four different Aschenbrenner families were living in the little village by 1711: Wolfgang and Maria Aschnbrener, Johann and Katharina Aschenbrener, Simon and Rosina Aschenbrener, and Mathias and Maria Aschenbrener. George Aschenbrenner is a direct descendant of the first two of these families. They were farmers who had moved to the region from Eisenhammer, near Regensburg in Bavaria. These Germans settled in Markt Eisenstein at the invitation of the German Counts of Nothaft, who established the first glassworks in the Eisenstein valley in 1691. In the Bavarian-Bohemian borderlands, local glassworks employed aschenbrenners to fell and burn the trees in the forest to make potash for glassmaking. In the process they created fertile farmland to sustain their growing families. (Haupler)



*George Aschenbrenner, in his later years*

There are numerous Aschenbrenner baptisms, engagements, marriages and deaths noted in the parish records from 1694-1810 for the Maria Hilf Church in Markt Eisenstein. There, the surname had a number of variations in spelling: Aschenbrenner, Aschenbrener, Aschenprener, Aschnprener, Aschprener. For most, the occupation given is other than “ash-burner”. There were also people with other surnames who were aschenbrenners or ash-burners by profession (Haupler).

George and Monika spelled their surname as Aschenbrenner until sometime after the turn of the twentieth century. It is spelled as such on the baptism and marriage records for George and Monika and their children, as well as on census records and

in published information about the family's activities in Stetsonville, Wisconsin. However, at some time after moving north to establish themselves in business in Park Falls and Fifield, the sons Edward, Lawrence and George B. all dropped one "n" to shorten their surname to Aschenbrener. The senior George and Monika must have shortened their name as well in their later years of life. Their death certificates also spell the name as Aschenbrener.

### **Monika's Family**

Monika was born on April 1, 1855 in Panzer, near Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia. She was the seventh of eight children of Michael Bredl and Franziska Rohrbacher. Michael was born on July 19, 1808 in Markt Eisenstein and Franziska was born on April 8, 1817 in nearby Panzer. The couple married in Markt Eisenstein on February 10, 1836.

Monika's siblings were Katharina (B. February 9, 1837); Franz Xawer (B. November 21, 1838); Franziska (B. September 6, 1840); Cezilie (B. November 22, 1842); Michael (B. November 11, 1844); Cacilia (B. July 21, 1849) and Anton (B. November 26, 1858).

Monika's Bredl line goes back to Andreas (Predl) Bredl who married Anna Maria Gerl on May 11, 1750 in Markt Eisenstein. According to their marriage record, Andreas was from Brandten, Regen, Bavaria and Anna Maria was from Stifthutte. (It is not known whether the latter was a village or a homestead.)

Monika Bredl is a direct descendant of other pioneer families who settled in Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia before 1700. Her ancestor Bartholomaeus Hilgard and his wife Katharina moved from Eisenhammer, near Regensburg, Bavaria to Markt Eisenstein, where Bartholomaeus Hilgard worked as a day laborer. Monika is a descendant of their first child George, who was born in Markt Eisenstein in 1697. (Häupler)

Two of Monika's siblings also immigrated to northern Wisconsin: Franziska and Anton. Franziska, married a man by the name of Jacob Wallner in Markt Eisenstein. Apparently, Franziska Wallner's husband Jacob had died by 1891; it is not known whether Jacob died in Bohemia or in America. At some point, Franziska came to America with at least a couple of children. On November 23, 1891, Franziska Bredl Wallner (listed as the daughter of Michael Bredl and Franziska Rohrbacher on her marriage record) married Anthony Aschbeck in Auburndale, Wood Co, Wisconsin. (Marriage records, Wisconsin Historical Society).

On January 13, 1890, in Fifield, Price County, WI, Anna Walner, daughter of Jacob Walner and Franciska Brodl (Bredl), married Michael Hilgart, listed as a farmer near Fifield. Franziska and Jacob Wallner also had a son George (Wallner) who immigrated to Sherry, Wood Co, WI. He is listed in the 1905 Wisconsin Census for that town. A descendant of George Wallner, states that George was the son of Jacob and Franciska Wallner and grandson of Michael Bredl and Franziska Rohrbacher. According to a notation in the church records found in the archives in Pilzen, Czech Republic, Franziska died in America in 1936.

Monika's youngest brother Anton Bredl married Matilda Rollhagen on January 13, 1890 in Fifield, WI (on the same day and place as the marriage of Franziska's daughter Anna). Anton's occupation is listed as a farmer near Fifield on his marriage record. Anton Bredl died on November 29, 1935 in Seattle, Washington.

The Bredl name was common in Markt Eisenstein and in neighboring villages. There are other Bredl (Bradle) families who emigrated from this area of Bohemia to northern Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century, including the brothers Joseph and Frank Bredl. Joseph settled in Eisenstein, WI (just outside of Park Falls) and Frank settled in Laona, WI. Their father was Johann Bredl, who died at Frank's home in 1901. Although no link has been found, it is probable that they and Monika were at least distant cousins.

**Sources:**

Baltimore, MD Passenger Lists Index, 1820-1897; NARA M327, Roll 1, No. A000-A336. Image 3234. Downloaded from FamilySearch.org in April, 2015.

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Hefti, Paul, Genealogical Research Investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate. Margaret was the daughter of Anna (Aschenbrener) Semerau and a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Genealogical information received in September, 2011.

Maria Hilf Catholic Church of Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia (now Železná Ruda, Czech Republic). The Church's baptism, marriage, and death records are found in the archives in Pilzen, Czech Republic and are now online at the Porta Fontium website.

U.S. Census Records of 1880, 1900, 1920, 1930, and 1940 for Wisconsin and Los Angeles County, California

Wisconsin State Census of 1895 for Little Black, Stetsonville, WI.

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Zeitlin, Richard H. *Germans in Wisconsin*. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2000.

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*100 Years on the Flambeau: Park Falls, Lake and Eisenstein*. Park Falls Centennial Committee. Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1989. (Includes short biographical sketches for Lawrence and Edward Aschenbrener)

**A note on sources:** It is a common assumption that official records are accurate. However, one learns quickly in genealogy that lots of mistakes happen in recording events. Names are spelled in different ways. Given names might not be what has been recorded in other documents. There are errors in date and place of birth on death records. Names of parents and spouse are sometimes omitted or are incorrect. Records are made by humans. Errors may be made by the person providing the information or on the part of those who were recording the event. I found all of the above errors in the various Aschenbrener family records. It added to the challenge of completing this family tree!