



PIECES OF THE PAST

three journeys in a family's history

Allison Brouwer





## Ireland



*The road in to Baile Dhá Thuile, the official Irish form since 1969 for Ballyhabill, the town of two floods, or at the ford between two floods. An older form is Baile Uí Sháithil, town of O'Sháithil. This family photograph was taken in 2018.<sup>1</sup>*

### **An Irish place to start**

Catherine Nolan, known to her family and descendants in Australia as Kate Nolan, was the daughter of Michael Nolan and Mary Nolan, nee Shanahan, of Ballyhabill, County Limerick, Ireland. According to her marriage certificate, Kate Nolan was 23 when she married Swiss migrant Hermann Winter, near Aramac in Central Queensland, in July 1884. Her death certificate states she was 54 when she died in Rockhampton on 18 December 1915.

Passenger shipping lists record three migrants named Catherine, or Kate, Nolan who were 22 when they arrived in Queensland in the 18 months prior to that 1884 wedding date. That would mean these women were born between 1860 and 1862. And that is the first mystery to solve in tracing the background of the family in Australia – because the Catholic parish register for baptisms in the Parish of Loughill and Ballyhabill, Diocese of Limerick, shows that Catherine,

their sons, Oskar, 5, and Siegfried, 1½ – who were also from Kaisten. Anton’s parents were Nicholas Winter and Veronica Binkert. He might have been a cousin of Hermann, but Winter was a fairly common family name in the Kaisten area, so they might not have been related.



*The barque Lammershagen under sail.<sup>2</sup>*

Hermann Winter was born on 20 April 1852. Both his Queensland marriage certificate in 1884 and death certificate in 1903 record his parents as “Thommieux” or “Thommiscus” Winter, a farmer, and Magdalen Wank. Both those documents give Hermann’s place of birth as “Ergoin”, Switzerland, but no such place exists. The Zivilstandsamt, or civil registry office, in the Swiss town of Laufenburg, which covers Kaisten and surrounding area within the canton of Aargau, were able to confirm the correct names and family details.

Hermann Winter’s parents were Dominikus Winter and Maria Magdalena Wenk. Hermann’s mother, known as Magdalena, came from the small town of Wallbach in Germany, just across the Rhine River, which forms the German-Swiss border. The couple had nine children: Josef, born on 19 August 1846; Katherine, born on 14 January 1848; Herman Dominikus, born on 6 August 1849; Maria Ursula, born on 15 October 1850; Hermann, born on 20 April, 1852; Johan Baptist, born on 17 July 1853; Magdalena, born on 1 December 1856; Karl Wilhelm, born on 10 July 1858; Thomas, born on 18 December 1859; and Rosina, born on 21 June 1861.



*Laufenburg, seen from Germany, across the Rhine River, the German-Swiss border.*

The place name of “Ergoin” on the Queensland records for Hermann’s place of birth is almost certainly a mistranscription by an immigration official of the canton name, Aargau, because of the ornate gothic script used for official documents at that time in Switzerland and Germany. The same explanation applies for the incorrect transcription of Hermann’s father’s Christian name and his mother’s surname. The father’s correct name is further confirmed by Hermann and Kate Nolan’s first son being christened Dominic, following the European tradition of naming a first son after the father’s father – in this case, Dominikus, anglicised to Dominic.



*“Ortsbürger-Register der Gemeinde Kaisten, Band I”, the Local Citizens Register of the Municipality of Kaisten, Volume 1, the oldest at the Laufenburg Civil Registry in the Canton of Aargau, photographed at the Registry by the author.*



Emperor Leopold I raised the then Count of the family dynasty to the status of an imperial prince.

In 1807 Schwarzburg-Sondershausen became a sovereign state, entering the Confederation of the Rhine. In 1816 it joined the German League and, in exchange for some of its territory, became a non-Prussian enclave – one of several within Prussia – although its troops were incorporated with the Prussian army. After the fall of the German monarchies in 1918 it became a republic, then joined with neighbouring small states in 1920 to form the state of Thuringia.

In the 19th century, prior to the dramatic changes precipitated by the First World War, the Principality of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen had become a limited hereditary monarchy. Under a constitution based on a law in 1857 it had a government made up of two-thirds elected representatives and one-third nominees of the ruling prince, and a ministry with five departments: the prince's household, domestic affairs, finance, churches and schools, and justice.<sup>2</sup>

Both Gunther Wilhelm Albert Lutze's father and his mother's father were employed in the government service; they were members of the ruling prince's palace and household staff in Sondershausen. Prince Gunther Friedrich Carl II was the ruler from August 1835 to July 1880. His successor, Prince Karl Gunther, ruled until March 1909.



*A view of Sondershausen Palace, looking up from the city square.<sup>3</sup>*

The huge palace complex at Sondershausen, considered one of the most important architecturally and historically in Thuringia, was to have undergone a major

upgrading in Prince Gunther's reign. Financial constraints ultimately limited the project, but new stables were built in 1847-49 adjoining the coachhouse, and this would have had great significance for Gunther Lutze's family.



*The main wing of Sondershausen Palace museum viewed from the rear gardens area.*

Gunther's descendants in England and Australia had some information in writing and some anecdotal stories about the family background in Germany. The bare facts that were known about Gunther Lutze's ancestry were those written in his family bible in England, on his marriage certificate and his British naturalisation papers. These were that he was the son of Friedrich and Henrietta Lutze, of Sondershausen, Germany, and that his father was a "Government official".

The following information, which has been obtained from the Standesamt, or Civil Registry Office, in Sondershausen and from the church "family books", Buch 9 and Buch 10, of St. Trinitatiskirche – the principal, Evangelische, or Lutheran, church in Sondershausen – gives a more detailed and interesting story.

### **First Coachman to Prince's valet**

The full name of Gunther's father was Johann Friedrich August Lutze, but he was known as Friedrich, following the Germanic tradition that a child's first name is their saint's name and their second name is their personal name. His mother, Henriette, was Johanna Henriette Guntherine Setzepfand. Both parents were born in Sondershausen – Friedrich in 1818 and Henriette in 1820 – and they were married there on 27 June 1843. There were 12 children in the family, although three died in infancy.

All births in Germany before 1876 were recorded by the local church, not the civil authority. The church books included the dates of birth, christening, parents'

# Index

## B

- Ballinger, James . . . . . 73  
 Bates, Michael . . . . . 5  
 Binkert, Veronica . . . . . 16  
 Borchling, Adelheid (see Lutze)  
 Bow, R. . . . . 73  
 Brearley, Emma (see Howard)  
 Brett, Eileen Delia Catherine . . . . . 22  
 Brett, Hermann (Billy) . . . . . 22  
 Brett, James . . . . . 22, 24, 82  
 Brett, James Alphonsus . . . . . 22  
 Brett, Joseph Patrick . . . . . 22  
 Brett, Kevin Aloysius . . . . . 22  
 Brett, Mary. . . . . 22, 24  
 Brett, Michael John James . . . . . 22  
 Brett, Monica May . . . . . 22, 24  
 Brown, Dr James. . . . . 122  
 Bunning, George Edward . . . . . 62  
 Bunning, Henry . . . . . 62  
 Burdass, Lizzie . . . . . 45

## C

- Campbell, Chas. . . . . 65  
 Cay, Herbert Hugh. . . . . 85  
 Clay, John . . . . . 45  
 Coleman, James Henry  
 . . . . . 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69  
 Collins, Mary Silver (Mollie) . . . . . 23  
 Comerford, Fr. James . . . . . 14  
 Costello, Johanna . . . . . 5  
 Costello, John . . . . . 5  
 Costello, Michael. . . . . 5  
 Cox, J.A.H. (Alan) . . . . . 72, 73

- Craggy, Alice Carmen (see Lacey)  
 Crowther, Isabel . . . . . 44  
 Cullen, T. . . . . 120

## D

- Dalzell, H. . . . . 73  
 Danaher, Stephen C.C. . . . . 5  
 Darch, Beatrice Mary . . . . . 22  
 Desgrand, J.V.S. . . . . 79, 80  
 Dibdin, E.J. Lt-Col. . . . . 115  
 Donnelly, James Prior . . . . . 68  
 Duncombe, Eric Robert. . . . . 88  
 Duggan, G.G. . . . . 52

## E

- Edkins, Edwina . . . . . 62  
 Elliott, A.B. . . . . 72  
 Enright, Bridget . . . . . 4  
 Enright, John. . . . . 4, 5  
 Enright, Michael . . . . . 6  
 Ewart, G.A. . . . . 52

## F

- Fairbairn, George . . . . . 62  
 Finlason, R. . . . . 73  
 Fisher, Thos. R. . . . . 65  
 Fiskin, Albert . . . . . 62  
 Fitzgerald, Michael. . . . . 5  
 Flanagan, John . . . . . 5  
 Freeman, C.B. . . . . 125, 126

## G

- Griffiths, T., Brig.-Gen. . . . . 115  
 Godfrey, Dr Clarence . . . . . 123, 124

## H

- Hampson, Sarah (see Howard)  
 Hart, H.P. . . . . 52  
 Hebblewhite, John . . . . . 45  
 Hogan, Rev. Jacob . . . . . 5  
 Hood, E.L. . . . . 72, 73  
 Hope Michod, F.A. . . . . 123, 126  
 Howard, Dr James . . . . . 39, 60, 88  
 Howard, Emily. . . . . 39  
 Howard, Emma (nee Brearley) . . . . . 39, 60  
 Howard, Hamish. . . . . 39, 88  
 Howard, John . . . . . 39  
 Howard, Mary Hannah . . . . . 39  
 Howard, Matilda (see Lutze)  
 Howard, Sarah (nee Hampson) . . . . . 39  
 Hurst, Mary . . . . . 44  
 Hynes, John . . . . . 6

## K

- Kelly, O. . . . . 120, 121  
 Knackmus, Fritz . . . . . 40  
 Knackmus, Gerhard . . . . . 40  
 Knackmus, Martha. . . . . 40  
 Knackmus, Ursula . . . . . 40

## L

- Lacey, Alice Carmen (nee Craggy). 45, 53  
 Lacey, Charles Gunther Hermann  
 . . . . . 49, 52, 53  
 Lacey, Gunter William Albert  
 . . . . . 37, 38, 41, 45, 48, 50, 84, 87, 88, 118  
 Lacey, Ian . . . . . 53  
 Lacey, James Albert (Bertie) 49, 52, 53, 54  
 Lacey, Joan . . . . . 45, 46, 47  
 Lacey, Louise. . . . . 45, 46, 47, 49  
 Large, H.F. . . . . 128

- Leahy, James . . . . . 22  
 Lloyd, W. . . . . 120  
 Lowry, Thomas Coleman . . . . . 68, 69  
 Lowry, Thomas Henry. . . . . 69  
 Ludwig, Wilhelm. . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Adelheid (nee Borchling). . . . . 40  
 Lutze, Amalia Auguste Caroline. . . . . 33  
 Lutze, August Eduard Hermann . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Carl Eduard Selmar. . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Carl Emil Ferdinand . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Carl Wilhelm . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Charles Gunther Hermann  
 . . . . . 39, 40, 43, 44, 45  
 Lutze, Christian August Benignus . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Eileen Winifred (Ginge)  
 . . . . . 22, 24, 85, 88, 119, 128, 134  
 Lutze, Elizabeth Matilda (Tilly)  
 (nee Winter) . . . . . 20-24, 74, 82-83, 86,  
 88, 98, 104, 106, 118, 128, 131-132, 134  
 Lutze, Emilie (Mimi) (see Rosenbaum)  
 Lutze, Evelyn (Lyn) Matilda  
 . . . . . 22, 23, 83, 98, 103, 104, 133  
 Lutze, Friedenke . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Friedrich . . . . . 31, 32, 33  
 Lutze, Friedrich Wilhelm . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, Gunther Carl . . . . . 32, 33, 41  
 Lutze, Gunther Wilhelm Albert  
 . . . . . 29-31, 33-39, 40-41, 43-45  
 Lutze, Guntherine Caroline Emilie . . . . . 33  
 Lutze, James Albert (Bertie) 39, 43, 44, 45  
 Lutze, Johann Friedrich . . . . . 39, 84  
 Lutze, Johanna Henriette Guntherine. 31  
 Lutze, John (Jack) Frederick Howard  
 . . . . . 20-23, 39, 43-45, 48-53, 59, 61, 63,  
 72-75, 77, 79, 81-82, 84, 86, 88, 92-94,  
 97-98, 102, 104, 108, 110, 113-116,