

THE SCHMIDBRÄU (1845 – 1942)

On the Market Square, where Gasthaus Reimer stands today, Daniel Brückl built a private brewery in 1865. Before that it had been living quarters which had been newly built five years before, after which it was destroyed by a fire. Two stone tablets in the present hotel refer to both new constructions.

Daniel was the oldest son of the tavern and shopkeeper Georg and his wife, Katherina, from whose marriage thirteen children were born in the course of 25 years, which was nothing unusual at that time in our hometown.

From Daniel's younger brother Simon Cajetan Brückl, (1824 – 1851), the eighth child in this family, an informative diary existed about his academic years in Amberg and Munich, and also about the circumstances in the sincere upright village of Waldmünchen. By the way, Simon became a priest and died at the age of only 25 years in Amberg.

Around 1850 Daniel took over the family tavern business, along with the hotel and restaurant. He also supposedly took over the "Brückl Keller", which is located behind today's hospital, where at one time he not only stored his beer, but also sold it to customers at the pathway to Ulrichsgrün, where there was a much-visited Beer Garden.

This Brückl Keller is on a city picture from Dörrer in the year 1881 and is easy to recognize on it. During this time he further utilized the storage cellar, which was overgrown by huge linden trees. It was also used as a fish warehouse. At this time he gave up the business.

The house name "Brückl-Weber", today Feiner, remained the same. Daniel Brückl obviously had little success as a brewer and proprietor of the hotel/restaurant. He himself engaged in shady businesses (smuggling), had numerous debts and so came in conflict with the authorities.

In 1871 he sold all his belongings helter-skelter and immigrated to America in the Milwaukee area, in order to try his luck there. What has become of him, no one knows exactly. Nevertheless caring acquaintances and friends of him and his family still lament the fact that he left his old hometown. Correspondence has been received from other immigrants who complain about the difficulties of clearing the forests in order to settle down in the New World.

Direct descendants of Brückl, in the meantime, (Americans genuinely interested in history) themselves, for several years, inquired of the present landlord (innkeeper) Reimer to find out more about their ancestry.

The new owner was Johann Nepomuk Schmid (1842 – 1912), a brewer's son from Gleißenberg. He was a pleasant, capable brew master and from him stems the name "Schmid-Bräu". There, as in all of Bavaria, in those days the vast amount of fermenting beer was produced at 5 – 10° Celsius. Therefore, the cooling process was very important. Nepomuk Schmid and his son Max (1881 – 1945), for that reason, brewed mostly in the wintertime, for one thing, to take advantage of the natural cooling. In the summertime they could dedicate more time to their farming operation.

The cooling cellar in the Schmid-Bräu was built with a double brick wall. The space in between was filled with sawdust for insulation. The approximately five meter deep ice cellar, today still visible, guaranteed the correct temperature all summer long there. For six to eight weeks the fermentation of the new beer took place. The Schmid-Bräu had their own cellar on today's Sandgrubenweg in which the ice cold barrels were

stored at 0 - 5°. This Schmid-Bräu cellar, approximately 50 meters long, a part of which is constructed of wood, another part made of stone, was a nice place shaded by the linden trees. Many villagers were saved during the bombardment in 1945 in the shelter. Today the living quarters of Franz Reimer, Jr. stands on this former site.

Daniel Brückl, who was born in Haschaberg (near Geigant) took ownership of the house on Marktplatz (where the Schmid-Bräu stands today), which burned down in 1859 in a huge city fire. He rebuilt it and that house burned down to the foundation. In 1866 Brückl built a brewery in the courtyard behind the house. At this time Brückl was probably in deep financial trouble, had an auction and sold the house and all the adjoining buildings to Johann Nepomuk Schmid from Gleißenberg.

From the letter of Annemarie Renz, a great-niece of Josefa Brückl, a sister of Daniel:

There is a farm in Pemfling, which was settled in 1651 by a Wolfgang Brückl. The document from the Bavarian Farmer's Union proved to us that the Brückl family owned this farm since 1651. (very impressive)

Johann Georg Brückl was married in 1738 in Haschaberg. He was a brother of Stephan Brückl who took over the farm in Pemfling in 1748. Both were sons of Stephan Brückl, who had taken it over in 1711. Pemfling is 12 kilometers from Waldmünchen near Cham.

From Hansjörg Schneider:

Johann Nepomuk Nachreiner left Lixenried on March 26, 1869. "I have a close relative by the name of Johann Zangl, who is already in America. He himself has often written that I should visit him, so I have decided to take a trip to America."