

Michael Bredl (1808-1893)
From Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia to Northern Wisconsin

A Biographical Sketch

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Michael Bredl and his wife Franziska Rohrbacher were both born in or near Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia (now Železná Ruda, Czech Republic). Markt Eisenstein was an historic village located in the Bohemian forest at the edge of what is now the Šumava National Park, on the border between Bavaria and Bohemia (now the German/Czech border). Michael, the son of Anton Bredl and Theresia Schmidt, was born on July 18, 1808. His wife Franziska was the daughter of Joseph Rohrbacher and Barbara Hilgart. Franziska was born on April 8, 1817, in the nearby village of Panzer, Bohemia (now Pancíř, Czech Republic). The couple were married in the Maria Hilf Church of Markt Eisenstein on Feb 10, 1836. Michael and Franziska were the parents of at least nine children: all born between 1837 and 1858: Katharina (Feb 9, 1837); Franz Xawer (Nov 21, 1838); Franziska (Sep 6, 1840); Cezilie (Nov 22, 1842); Michael (Nov 11, 1844); Maria (Aug 1846); Cacilia (July 21, 1849); Monika (April 1, 1855); and Anton (Nov 26, 1858). (Source: Maria Hilf Catholic Church records of Markt Eisenstein) Michael and Franziska raised their children in Markt Eisenstein or in the nearby villages.

On their marriage record and on the baptism records of their children, Michael is always listed as an *inwohner*, or resident of either Markt Eisenstein, Dorf Eisenstein, or Panzer. When a person is listed as an *inwohner*, it generally means that the individual did not own a home or any land. No specific occupation is listed on any of the records. Michael's father rented a farm; Franziska's father was identified on records as a *bauer* or farmer. It is likely that Michael did not own a home, land, or have a trade and that this family was very poor.

IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA

Michael Bredl, his wife Franziska (Rohrbacher), and at least four of their children immigrated to America in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Michael and Franziska arrived in America in the summer of 1877, along with their two youngest children: Monika and Anton. Monika came with her husband Georg Aschenbrenner and two children. The men -- Georg, Michael, and Anton -- were listed as laborers. These immigrants sailed from Bremen, Germany on the ship *Ohio* and arrived in Baltimore, MD on July 7, 1877. Michael and Franziska joined their daughter Maria Bredl in Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. Maria had emigrated five years earlier and married Nicolaus Bauer.

LIFE IN AMERICA

A little more than a year after his arrival in America, on October 29, 1878, Michael petitioned to become a citizen of the United States. On the Petition for Naturalization Record, he stated that he was born in Austria about 1807 and that he immigrated in July of 1877, arriving at the port of Baltimore, MD. (Petition for Naturalization, Outagamie County, WI, downloaded from FamilySearch.org in May 2025)

Michael Bredl has not been found in the US Census of 1880. However, his daughters Monika (Aschenbrenner) and Maria (listed as Bertha Bauer) are listed with their respective husbands and children as living in the little farm community of Hamburg, Marathon County, WI.

On February 3, 1885, Michael became a naturalized citizen. Nicolaus Bauer, Michael's son-in-law, is listed on the same page in the Naturalization Records. (Source: Naturalization Record Indexes beginning in 1878 for Taylor Co. WI, downloaded from FamilySearch.org June 2025)

In June of 1885, a Michael Bredl appears in the WI State Census for Halsey, Marathon Co. WI. In the household are 2 males and 1 female, all born in Germany. Presumably, this is Michael, his wife, Franciska, and son Anton. N. Bauer appears 2 lines above Michael's name on the same page of this census. N. Bauer is listed as having five males and four females in the household. Two are listed as born in Germany and seven as having been born in the U.S. This is undoubtedly Michael's son-in-law Nicolaus Bauer and his family. (Source: WI State Census of 1885, downloaded from FamilySearch.org in May 2025)

By 1895, Michael's daughter Maria was living in Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin with her husband Nicholaus Bauer and their children. Michael's daughter Monika (Georg Aschenbrenner) and her family were living in nearby Stetsonville, also in Taylor County.

Michael moved to Taylor County, no doubt to stay close to his children, sometime between 1885 and his death in 1893. He was buried at Holy Rosary Cemetery in Medford, Taylor County WI. His gravestone lists Michael "Bradl" as born in 1801 and died in 1893. (Source: Find A Grave, accessed in May 2025. No further records of Michael Bredl's wife Franciska have been found. Presumably she, too, lived and died close to her husband and/or daughters in northern Wisconsin.

In 1889, Michael's daughter, Franziska Bredl, widow of Jakob Wollner, immigrated to the United States, sailing from Antwerp, Belgium on the ship *Switzerland* and arriving in Philadelphia, PA. on May 29 of that year. (Source: Pennsylvania, Passengers and Crew Lists, 1800-1962, NARA, downloaded from Ancestry.com on December 30, 2017.) With her came daughters Anna, listed as age 11 and Rosa, age 9. George, her oldest child, immigrated with a wife (Theresa Weinfurter) and four children, arriving in New York City on May 23, 1892. Charles and Franziska, two other children of Jakob and Franziska, also immigrated to northern Wisconsin. Daughter Franziska arrived sometime before her marriage to Ignatz Hilgart in Fifield, Wisconsin on August 25, 1889. Charles arrived at the port of Baltimore on July 24, 1893.

MICHAEL'S ANCESTRY

Michael's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all lived and worked in Markt Eisenstein or in the nearby villages. Michael's parents, Anton Bredl and Theresia Schmidt, were married in the village church in Markt Eisenstein on February 04, 1806. Katharina, their oldest child, was born on November 24 of that year. A son Michael was born on July 19, 1808, followed by Franziska Bredl, born on January 8, 1811. Baptism records for these three children have been found, but it is likely that there were more children born to this couple. Anton is listed as a *pachter am hofgebau*

(farmstead renter) on his son Michael's marriage record. (Source: Maria Hilf Catholic Church records of Markt Eisenstein)

Michael's grandfather was Georg (Johann George) Predl. On February 8, 1773, he married Barbara Schreiner, daughter of Michael (Johann Michael) Schreiner and Katharina (maiden name unknown). Johann George is listed as a *bauer* (farmer) on the marriage record of his son Anton and on the baptism record of his grandson, Michael. Both records are found in the Register, Catholic Church of Markt Eisenstein. Johann George and Barbara had at least nine children: Anton (1774), Anna Katharina (1775), Franziska (1777), Wolfgang (1780), Theresia (1785), Franziska (1787), Maria Anna (1790), Joseph (1791) and George (1793). (Source: Maria Hilf Catholic Church records of Markt Eisenstein)

Michael's great-grandfather was Andreas Bredl (sometimes spelled Predl), a *bauer* or farmer and one of the earliest Germans to settle in Markt Eisenstein in the Bavarian-Bohemian borderlands. Andreas was from Brandten, Regen, Bavaria and Anna Maria Gerl was a widowed farmer (*verwitwete bauerin*) from "Stifthutte." Children of Andreas and Anna Maria included Joseph (1751) and Johann Georg (1753). (Source: Maria Hilf Catholic Church records of Markt Eisenstein)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

It is only recently (January 2025) that I discovered that Michael and Franziska Bredl spent the last years of their lives in Northern Wisconsin, joining several of their children in immigrating to America in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

SOURCE NOTES

Baptism and marriage records of individuals from Markt Eisenstein: Häupler, Hans-Joachim. *Die Personenstandsmatrikel des Katholischen Pfarramtes Markt Eisenstein, 1694-1810* (Transcripts of parish records for the Roman Catholic Church of Markt Eisenstein) Sauerlach, 1987. Available in 2015 as a book and on microfiche through FamilySearch.org. Accessed through LDS Family History Center.

Maria Hilf Catholic Church records of Markt Eisenstein (now Železná, Ruda, Czech Republic). The marriage, baptism, and burial records are now located in the state archives of Pilsen, Czech Republic and are available online at the Porta Fontium website, July 2025.

WI State Censuses of 1885 and 1895, accessed on FamilySearch.org June 2025

Baltimore, MD Passenger Lists, 1820-1964 and Pennsylvania, Passengers and Crew Lists, 1800-1962, NARA, both downloaded from Ancestry.com

Naturalization Record Indexes beginning in 1878 for Taylor Co. WI, downloaded from FamilySearch.org June 2025

Find a Grave online cemetery records, accessed in July and August 2025

3	Yolanna	"	11	"	
4	George Aschenbrenner		27	male	labourer
5	Maria	"	22	fev.	
6	Louise	"	11	"	
7	Eduard	"	2	male	
8	Michael Kredel		70	"	"
9	Francisca	"	60	fev.	
10	Anton	"	18	male	

Excerpt from the passenger list for the *Ohio* which arrived in Baltimore, MD on July 7, 1877. Passengers included George Aschenbrenner and family, Michael, Francesca, and Anton Bredl. (Bredl looks like it is spelled Kredel, so it does not appear as Bredl when searching the index.)

Enumeration of the Inhabitants in the Town of Waluj
in the County of Marathon, State of Wisconsin, on the 20th day
of June, A. D. 1885. F. A. Muepp
Town Clerk

	AGGREGATE POPULATION.				NATIVITY.									
	White.		Colored.		United States	Germany	Great Britain	Ireland	France	Dutch American	Scandinavian	Polish	Other	
Male	Female	Male	Female											
George Kraus	4	1			5									
A. Bauer	5	4			7	2								
Anton Schlais	2	1			3									
Mich. Bredl	2	1			3									
Thos Schlais	2	3			5									
John Kiefer	3	3			5	1								
G. Busch	5	5			10									
Chas Jofelke	2	2			1	3								
John Duff	1	3			1	3								
Mathias Rauch	1	1			1	1								
John C. Seaming	4	2			6									
John Dornier	4	2			1									
Chas. Quessler	3	4			1									
L. Romang	5	2			1									
Christ. Ulbi	4	1			1									
Jacob Sulliger	2	3												
Christ. F. Elber	2	1												
Alex. Hildbrand	2	3												
A. Keiner	3	1			4									
	56	42			34	31								

Wisconsin State Census of 1885