

Lina Schwank

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It appears that Eugenie (Lina) was born as an illegitimate child, four years before her parents were married. They married in 1934 and divorced only one year later.



Eugenie Lina Schwank (date unknown)

Family lore says that Eugenie (Lina) Schwank (WB 558408) was an upstairs maid for a German baron or diplomat, who had a crippled wife who was bed-ridden. He is suspected to be the father of at least two of her three illegitimate sons, Peter & Joachim. Norbert's father is unknown. Peter and Joachim were given up for adoption, possibly because this was not "approved of" by German society at this time. It is believed that the father of these children compensated Lina to keep his name out of the birth records. Specific information was given to the authorities that nothing was to be disclosed to anyone who inquired about the parents of these boys. Norbert died as an infant, so his history is unknown.

Peter was never adopted. He grew up working in the system and being moved around from foster home to foster home. Peter married Gerlinde and had two daughters, Daniela and Anja. Peter died of a massive heart attack on December 13, 2005. He was only 57 years of age.

Norbert Guido died as an infant and was buried somewhere in Stuttgart, Germany.

Stuttgart, Germany



Lina Schwank's grave. She died in 1987.

There are over 250 Cemeteries in Stuttgart

Photo: Feb, 1993

Joachim Harald was adopted as a young child by Robert and Mary Higgs and taken to the USA. He was given a new name (Michael Higgs) and naturalized as a US citizen in 1954.

Lina Schwank died of a massive heart attack at age 56 and was buried in Stuttgart. German census & records are a disaster for this post World War II period. Finding additional information is nearly impossible. And, we are told that in Stuttgart, it is even more difficult.

Researcher's Notes:

Joachim was told that his mother, Lina, was so upset that her son was to be adopted by a family that was NOT Catholic, that she tried (unsuccessfully) to commit suicide. As we look into this family history, we easily notice that Lina, herself, was not a Catholic. She was Lutheran. So, we quickly dismissed this as only rumor.

In the years prior to and immediately following World War II, German males were not allowed to marry until they did a hitch in the military. Then, afterward, they would be allowed to wed. The only exception to this rule was for ranking officers and enlisted NCO's. The reason for this was so that the German Government would not have to pay benefits to spouses and children of soldiers or their widows. Therefore, couples were wanting to marry but were not allowed to. This explains the extraordinary increase in illegitimate children of this era.