

Mother Caroline's Family of Origins, Part 1.

Mary Catherine Josephine (Josepha) August 21, 1824 – July 22, 1892

Grandmother & Grandfather Friess

Mother Caroline's paternal grandfather was a tanner who died in 1828. He and his wife lived in Lauingen, Bavaria. After his death Grandmother Friess moved to Donau, Bavaria, where one of her sons was the parish priest, Fr. Michael Friess. Grandmother Friess became his housekeeper. A second son, John George, was a translator of French living in Paris. He translated for Captain Chapoulard.

Grandmother and Grandfather Chapoulard

Her maternal grandfather was an officer in Napoleon's army. He and his wife lived in Choisy-le-Roi, a suburb of Paris. They had one child, Catherine, whom they loved dearly.

Mother Caroline's Parents and Siblings

John George Friess married Catherine and they had five children. Three were born in France: George, Josepha (Mother Caroline) who was baptized at Notre Dame Cathedral on August 24, 1824, and Adolphine. Two other children were born in Bavaria. Frederic who became Fr. Frederic Friess, Mother Theresa's biographer and the Spiritual Director at the Munich Motherhouse at the time of Mother Caroline's death. Walburga became S. Alipia, SSND. Adolphine was Fr. Frederic Friess' housekeeper.

Move from Paris to Bavaria

In 1828, when Grandfather Friess died, he left his tanning business to his son, John. John and Catherine then moved with their three children to Lauingen, Bavaria to carry on the family tanning business. Grandparents Chapoulard could not bear to part from their only child, Catherine, and their grandchildren, so they moved to Bavaria with the family.

Grandmother pressures John to leave Josepha with her and Fr. Michael Friess

En route they stopped to visit the grieving Grandmother Friess, living in Donau with her son, Fr. Michael Friess. It was apparent to Mrs. Friess that her French daughter-in-law, though beautiful and well educated, was not a religious woman. This upset her and Fr. Michael. They recognized that the precocious 4 year-old, Josepha, had no religious training. In the context of the grief of Grandmother Friess and the need to give young Josepha a religious education, Fr. Michael suggested to his brother that Josepha would get a better religious education if she stayed in Donau with them. She could go home during summer vacations. With reluctance, Josepha's

family left her with Fr. Michael and her grandmother. (Source: M. Caroline Friess, by P.M. Abbelen, 1893, pp. 21-27.