

CHAPTER THREE

January 2004

The Steffen family has arrived in 1841 to find their new home in Kentucky. It was to become a destination village for German immigrants to follow. Campbell County, Kentucky was to be the land of choice for farmers arriving in the Cincinnati area. The following will give you some idea of how Kentucky came to be.

Cantuckee Origin



Conflux of the Rivers of Ohio and Licking

By Margaret Strebek Hartman

The word Kah-ten-tah-teh, which means a day, is of the Wyandot tongue. It may also mean a period of time, and can be used for past or future time. When shortened to Ken-tah-teh, it means "tomorrow" or "the coming of the day" though it is not the word ordinarily used for those terms; but it came to be the word used to apply to the Iroquoian possessions on the Ohio and gradually to those on the south side of the Ohio. These holdings constituted "The Land of Tomorrow" or "The Land where we will go tomorrow" or "The Land where we will live in the future". A good translation of the word, as it came to apply to the country of Kentucky, is "The Land of Tomorrow". The Wyandot word, like other Indian proper names, was corrupted by whites. Ken-tah-teh easily became Contocky or Cantuckee or Kaintuckee, and finally through various changes, assumed its present form "Kentucky", "The Land of Tomorrow"

The Steffen family's new home was to be in undeveloped farm lands of Campbell County Kentucky, later known as Four Mile and then Camp Springs.

Campbell County was just starting to be populated having only been formed 47 years before on December 17, 1794. It was part of Harrison, Mason and Scott counties and named for Col. John Campbell, a revolutionary War Officer from Ireland. Campbell County was the nineteenth county in formation of Kentucky. It is bordered by the Ohio River on the north and east, Kenton County (which was a part of the original Campbell County) on the west and Pendleton County on the south. The county which covers 152 square miles has two county seats, Alexandria - the original, and Newport - because of the larger concentration of population.

The topography of the county is level to hilly. The rich river bottomlands produced large crops for the new German farmers. The hilly areas were ideal for developing vineyards for those immigrants who came from the Schwarzwald Hochland and Back Forest areas of Germany. They began to grow and cultivate the vineyards which became their leading crop. By 1850 Campbell County was the state's largest producer of wine, much of which was produced in the Four Mile area. The vineyards were destroyed by blight in the 1860s and 70s. Source – Cincinnati Preservation Association, Tour of Camp Springs, Kentucky - August 6, 2000.

In 1841 the County was made up of large land grants to family and descendents of the Revolutionary War veterans who had chosen to move westward. Much of the far-western United States was yet to be explored and settled. The Union Army had not yet begun the war with the Southern States and the western Indian conflicts were yet to be resolved.

The German immigrants to Kentucky were to buy farms here consisting of more than 50 acres. That seemed to be important to them, since 50 acres was a status to be desired in their homeland of Germany.

They had left their home and Catholic Church membership in Losheim , - Neiderlosheim, Germany. The two villages were contiguous along a single unidentified road from somewhere to nowhere. We can only speculate what the dirt road might have been 150 years ago.

The Catholic Church records were kept at St. Peter and Paul Church in Losheim. The huge copper and bronze doors at the new St. Peter and Paul Church tell a story of the history of the church in Losheim.



Doors to Saint Peter and Paul church in Losheim Germany

It is interesting to note the early settlers, including the Steffen families, had been members of this church as well as so many other immigrants who came to this area. They were to later establish a church in Twelve Mile with the same name as the church they left in Germany, Saints Peter and Paul.

Some of the family records are from St. Hubertus Church in Neiderlosheim. This church was established sometime in the Twentieth century.



Saint Hubertus Church, Neiderlosheim, Germany

The Steffen family can be traced back to Nicholas Steffen who was born in the Losheim area in 1720.

Peter Steffen, 1782, the grandson of Nicholas Steffen, 1720, brought his family to America in 1841 and began our family here in Kentucky, The Land of Tomorrow. He and his family indeed populated Campbell County Kentucky.