

CHAPTER NINE

In my collection of files over the last forty years, I found a story that needs to be shared with the citizens of Campbell County. This story brings an account of a real family. I am not sure who sent this to me nor even if I knew at the time just how the family fit into the history of the Steffen family. I just knew if there was a Steffen in the story that person was a relative.

In Chapter Eight I wrote about the Joseph **Nöltner** family. In Germany the name was **Nöltner** translated here as **Noeltner** and eventually **Neltner**. Just as the **Steffen** families populated Campbell County, the **Neltner** families did also. I have not done an extensive research of the **Neltner** families but I think you will find the story of Joseph **Neltner** interesting.

In the Ulm village of Baden, 08.07.1845 - Joseph **Neltner** *30.03.1823 +8/8/1899 married his first wife Rosina **Ruschman** *19.04.1823 +5/13/1861. Joseph was the son of Joseph Anton **Nöltner** *1776 - +?? and Helina **Sprauer** *1784 +1863.

Rosina was the daughter of Franziscus **Ruschman** (Ruschmann) and Katherina **Reisman** or more likely **Freidman**.

In 1845, shortly after their marriage, Joseph and Rosina Neltner arrived in America at the port of New York. Along with them, family members included Rosina's mother Katherina **Ruschman**, Rosina's brother, Ignatius **Ruschman** and his wife Mary Ursula **Speier**, Mary's sister, Rosalia **Speier** and husband Karl Antone **Kubel**. Three of Mary's nieces came to America with them – Justina, Walburga and Monica **Speier**. The Neltner family came to Northern Kentucky to join other German immigrants who bought farms and built homes in America.

Rosina Neltner's mother became ill during the trip. Katherina Ruschman died soon after arriving in Kentucky. She is buried in the old cemetery on John's Hill Road, a sad beginning for their hopes of finding a better life.

In the 1840 and 1850s many families who arrived in Cincinnati heard of new opportunities for land in Indiana and Tennessee. Rosalia Speier and her husband Karl Antone Kubel traveled to Indiana soon after arriving in Kentucky. They made their life long home there where Rosalia died at the age of 93.

Ignatius Ruschman and his family settled on Three Mile Road in what is now called Wilder Ky. His sister's family, Joseph and Rosina Neltner lived in a log house also in Wilder. Joseph and Rosina soon moved to Ross Kentucky in the census district known as Indian Springs which included the Camp Springs area as well.

The Neltner – Ruschman children were listed in various records as:

William Neltner 5/25/1851 – 11/25/1924
oo 2/8/1876 at St Joseph, Cold Spring
Katherina (Katie) **Messmer** 12/18/1854 – 1915
Witness: Carl Ruschmann, George Messmer

Frank Neltner 9/0/1852 - 1909
oo 2/8/1876 at St Joseph Church, Cold Spring
Helena (Lena) **Messmer** 1853 – 1928
Witness: Joseph Ruschmann, Margaret Steffen

This was a double wedding of two brothers to two sisters.

Helen Neltner 6/3/1854 – 7/8/1908
oo Frank **Huck** 1846 – 1917

Joseph Neltner 12/0/1859 – 1933
oo Katherina **Schuehter** 1866 – 1940

Infant Neltner 5/13/1861 – 1861

The family bought a large farm. It must have been the ultimate desire for a German Immigrant. The Ross Kentucky farm was mostly wooded and had a log home. With the new home came a new child. Just 16 years after arriving in America, tragedy struck this family again. Rosina Ruschman Neltner died May 1861 of complications as a result of their fifth child's birth.

Rosina Ruschman Neltner was buried at St Joseph Cemetery in Camp Springs. After his wife's death, Joseph was unable to care for his small children. His son, Joseph and the infant were taken to Rosina's relative, Rosalia Kubel at Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Unfortunately the infant died at two months of age and was buried in Indiana. Neither the child's name nor gender is reported in this story.

After Rosina died Joseph **Neltner**, at the age of 39 married Katherina (Katie - Catherine) **Steffen**, age 24. Katherina was the daughter of Wilhelm Steffen and Angela Dillschneider. Katie was born in Losheim Germany 29.11.1838 and lived in the nearby Camp Springs area with her parents. Katie was 15 years younger than Joseph Neltner but was a likely mother for his children. After their marriage, little Joseph was brought home from Indiana to be reunited with his family and his new mother.

Joseph Neltner built a large barn and a six room brick home on his farm in Ross Ky., a home they would soon fill with their new family. Of the marriage of Joseph **Neltner** and Katherina **Steffen** nine additional Neltner children were born.

Charles Neltner	1863-	oo Theresa Bishop (Bischoff)
Peter Neltner	1867-1903	oo Rosa Bishop (Bischoff)
Jacob Neltner	1869-1947	oo Theresa Trauth 1875-1954
Edward Neltner	1870-1947	oo Marie Doll
John Neltner	1872-1944	oo Elisabeth Trauth
Catherine Neltner	1875-1952	oo Nicholas Reinert 1872-1934
George Neltner	1877-1948	oo Eva Rice 1880-1961
Rosa Neltner	1879-1917	never married
Louise Neltner	1884-1965	oo Henry Reinert 1873-1970

As you can see brothers or sisters of one family married brothers or sisters in another family.

The Neltner children attended school in the log cabin school at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Four Mile.

These Neltner children were first cousins to my grandmother, Mary Margaret Steffen Enzweiler.

Of the Joseph Nöltner (Neltner) children ten are buried in St Joseph Cemetery at Camp Springs.

William was buried at St. Joseph Cemetery, Cold Spring KY.

Charles was buried at St Mary's Covington KY.

Edward was buried at St. Stephen Cemetery, Ft. Thomas KY.

From these Neltner families many additional descendants were born and they give testimony to the heritage of Joseph Neltner, Rosina Ruschman and Katherina Steffen. They are indeed one of the families who began to populate Campbell County Kentucky.

This is a story of a family who suffered great hardships but they were successful in establishing a home for their family here in Kentucky.

Before Joseph Neltner died in 1899, he owned seven farms in Campbell County. Some of these farms were worked by his son's families until they too became property owners.

The Neltner family is truly a part of Campbell County history and part of the Ruschman and Steffen families as well.

*Thanks to the Neltner descendent who sent information to assist in the writing of this story. Thanks also to the research of cemeteries by Kathleen Carmichael Adams. Discrepancies of dates and other information written from Chapter to Chapter indicate the revelation of new information or new sources of information. It can also be just a correction of typo mistakes in recording. Genealogical records can never be complete or absolutely accurate.