

## CHAPTER TWELVE

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### Wilhelm STEFFEN

Wilhelm **Steffen** 1809 was the third child of Peter **Steffen** 1782 and his first wife, Margaretha **Weber**, 1778.

As stated in Chapters Five and Eight, Wilhelm, his wife Angela Dilschneider and their nine children came to America arriving in New York 29, October 1852. Their tenth child Margaretha was born here 9/16/1856.

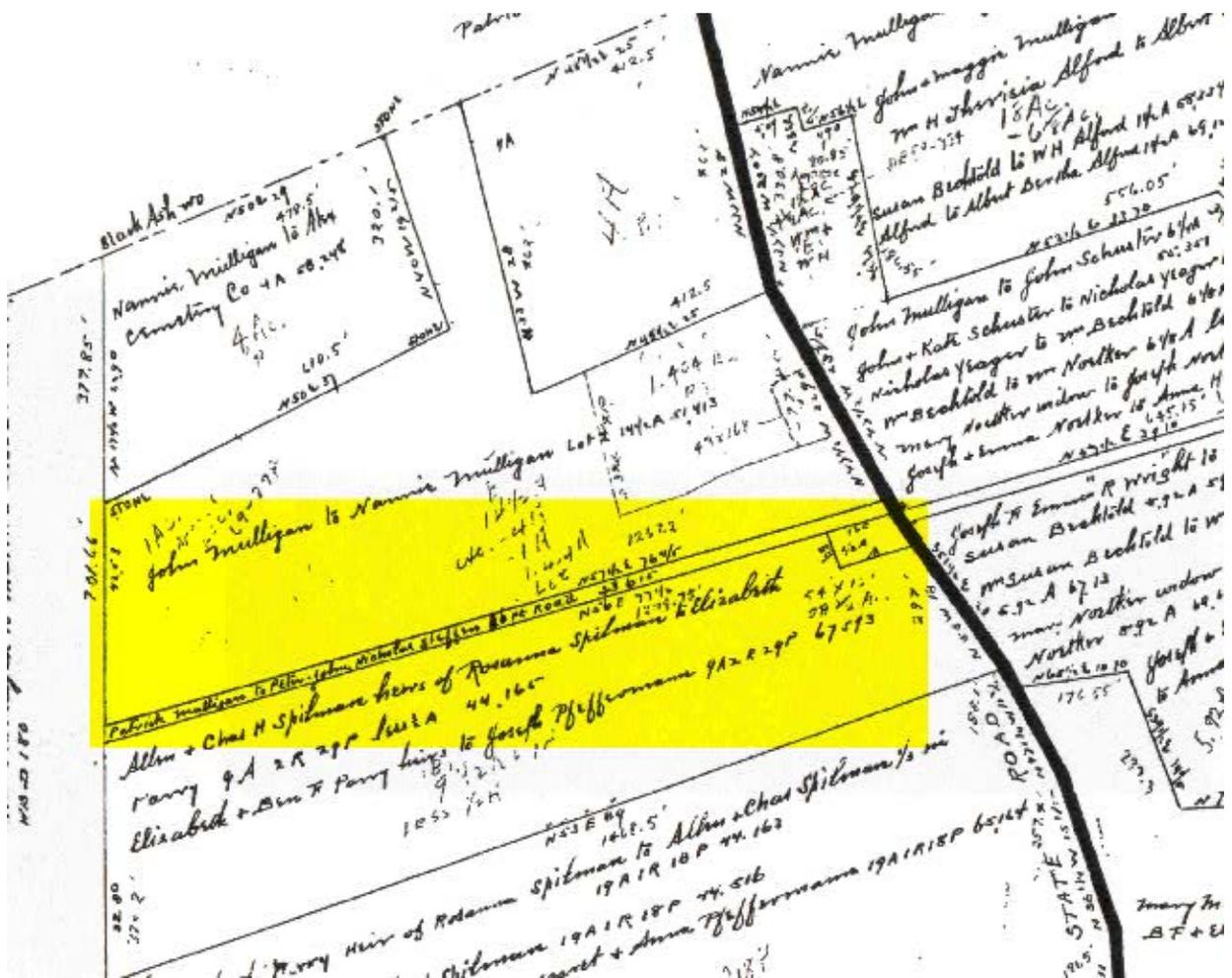
After Wilhelm became a citizen of the United States, Wilhelm and his family do not seem to show up in my research of Campbell County, Kentucky until the family bought a farm just outside Alexandria, KY. It was not until 15, April 1865, 13 years after arriving in America, that William purchased 94 acres from Thomas Mc Dermott for the sum of \$1880.00 as recorded in Deed Book 34-579. The property was part of the A. W. White Patent and adjacent to the Wm Kennedy Hart Leitch Patent of 13,800 Acres. The property records can be traced to Kentucky pioneer days.

### 1883 MAP OF CAMPBELL COUNTY KENTUCKY



Wilhelm's farm was located near the Alexandria Cemetery with access off of what is now Spillman Dr.

John Mulligan sold a 16 ft wide section of his property to Peter, John and Nicholas Steffen to provide access to the Wilhelm Steffen Farm. That tract of land was shown on the 1883 map on the previous page as a dash line and shown below, highlighted on the property plat.



This access road deed was dated 25, March 1864 and was bought by Wilhelm's sons. That seems to indicate to me that Wilhelm must have bought his farm on some kind of land contract which was not finalized until a year after the purchase of the access road by his sons. This road may have been the start of the sub-division of what is now known as Terrace Dr.

Wilhelm's wife, Angela Dillschneider Steffen died 8/4/1883 at the age of 73. Wilhelm survived her by 10 years and died 11/11/1893 at the age of 84. The last will of Wilhelm Steffen gives us some idea of his faith, his last years and his surviving family.

Wilhelm's will (in part) dated 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1892:

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The following is a reasonable transcript of Wilhelm's will (including spelling, punctuation and capitalization of words) as it is recorded in the Campbell County will book.

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*1<sup>st</sup>, I devise that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid.*

*2<sup>nd</sup>, The Rector of St. Marys Church at Alexandria Ky shall receive Forty Dollars for Masses to be said for the Repose of my Soul – also the amount due to my heirs by the St. Martins Releaf Society of Alexandria shall be paid to the same Rector for Masses for my soul and that of my deceased wife.*

*3<sup>rd</sup>, It is my will that my daughter Margaret Kramer shall receive from my estate four (4) dollars per week for the trouble and expense she undergoes in attending and nursing me during my sickness. She will be entitle to this compensation from may 1<sup>st</sup> 1891 as long as she stays with me as my attendant.*

*4<sup>th</sup>, the residue of my estate I bequeathe to my eight children, Peter Steffen Anna L chaack Catherine Neltner John Steffen Mary Steffen Nicholas Steffen Margaret Kramer and Angela Woeste to be equally divided between them or their heirs or assigns. However the share of my deceased daughter Angela Shall fall to my sonin law Bernard Woeste to have and to hold to him his heirs or assigns forever.*

*5<sup>th</sup>, If a majority of my heirs Shall within reasonable time agree upon a Settlement by a division of the Real Estate and other property the Executor herein after named Shall not institute a Sale therefore but in that case the heirs Shall chose by a Simple*

*Majority three men to appraise the property if they deem it necessary and the Executor Shall then give to each heir his portion in real Estate or money as agreed upon.*

*If however Such an understanding cannot be Effected the Executor Shall Sell the Estate and devide the proceeds among the heirs.*

*6<sup>th</sup>, I herewith appoint my Son in law Joseph Neltner Sole Executor of this my will without Bonds.*

*In Witness Whereof I have herewith set my hand this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 1892*

*Wilhelm ( x his mark) Steffen*

*Codicile to above Will*

*Whereas I Wilhelm Steffen have under date of aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1892 made my last will as written on this sheet of paper and have therein bequeathed to my daughter Catherine one eighth part of my property as her Share of inheritance, and whereas my said daughter has since departed this life it is now my will, that my Son in law Joseph Neltner Shall inherit the bequest made to his deceased wife to have and to hold to his heirs and assignes forever – and it is my desire that this present codicile be annexed to my last will and made part thereof*

*In Witness Whereof I have herewith Set my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1893*

*Wilhelm (x) Steffen*

The record goes on to say that in the Dec. term of 1893, Joseph Neltner declined to qualify as Executor. At the next term, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1894 John Staffen was appointed executor and Joseph Neltner posted the bond which was approved by the court.

While this research seems just another County Record, it tells me about the real people of my ancestry. Wilhelm and Angela were my maternal great-great grandparents. Their son John the executor of Wilhelm's estate was my grandmother's father.

Wilhelm provided for Masses for his soul and the soul of his wife. The proceeds of some kind of relief insurance were to be used for the same purpose. (That sum we find to be \$15.00 from the statement of estate assets) Wilhelm must have had a long illness since his daughter Margaret Kramer was paid for his care from May 1891 until his death in November 1893. \$4.00 per week was a modest sum when you compare the cost of today's assisted living care.

At the time of Wilhelm's death two other children, Susan 1849 and Barbara 1852 must have predeceased him although I have not found a record of their burial. Both were born in Germany and traveled with the family to America. As my research continues, I find that some of my previous dates may have been in error. New found information from each record makes genealogy research a continuing study.

Of his eight adult children Angela Woeste and Catherine Neltner also died before Wilhelm. He must have recognized that his son-in-law, Joseph Neltner was a successful and intelligent man. (See Chapter Nine) He appointed him to represent his estate. Joseph, who was still grieving the loss of his wife, Catherine, was named in the codicil to the will less than two weeks before Wilhelm's death. He declined to administer the estate but posted the bond for John Steffen. Since Joseph Neltner was now a beneficiary of the estate he seems to have had the wisdom to decline as executor so the property could be agreeably divided among the Steffen children.

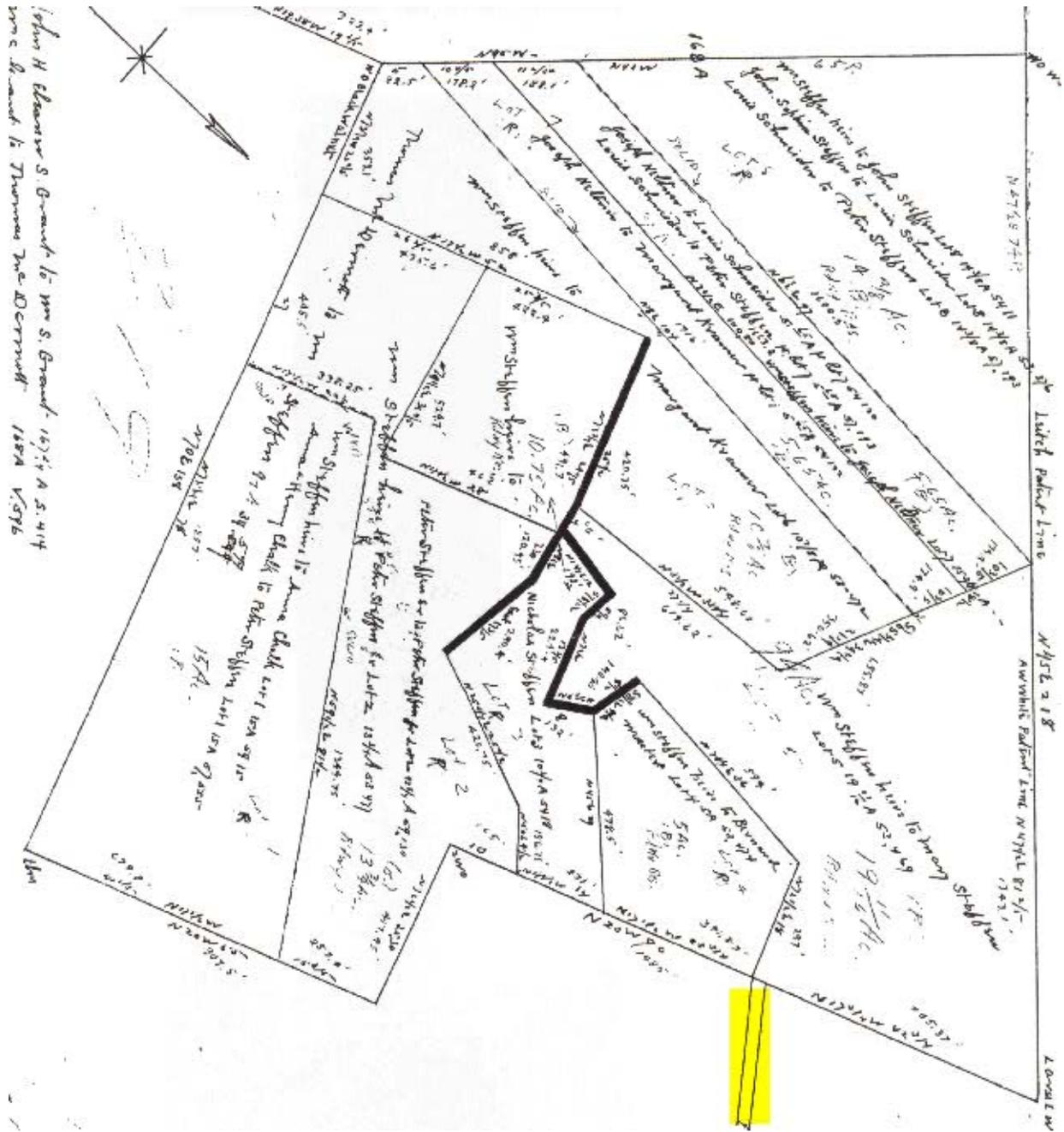
By the fifth day of February 1894, John Steffen had already submitted the final settlement of personal property of Wilhelm Steffen's estate. John also stated that the property had been divided in accordance with the will of Wilhelm Steffen.

The following statement was approved by the court.

Final Settlement of John Steffen Admstr with will Annexed of Wm Steffen Decd.

<p>The following Final Settlement was made this 5th day of February 1894, by the Judge of the Campbell County Court with John Steffen as Administrator with the will annexed of William Steffen Decd.</p> <p>Said Admstr</p>			
<p>To Said Estate</p>			Dr
<p>To Money on hand at time of death of Decedent Decd</p>		\$ 197 67	
<p>To Money collected from Joseph Wagner for pasturing stock &amp; for Rent</p>		2 25	
<p>" Money collected from Philip Satter for Hay Decd</p>		15 20	
<p>" Amt of Money Decd of decen of the Decisen of Decedent contracted to pay an amount directed by Decedent to be paid Margaret Schrammer for services rendered by her to Decedent</p>		465 00	
<p>" Amt 1/8 of the \$520. &amp; directed to be paid for said services to said Margaret Schrammer admitted as paid by him</p>		66 00	
<p>" Money Recd from St Martin Relief Society</p>		15 00	
		\$ 730 37	
<p>Said Admstr is entitled to the following Credits</p>			
1	By money of William Hartman	\$ 56 00	
2	" " " " " " " " " "	23 00	
3	" " " " " " " " " "	5 00	
4	" " " " " " " " " "	55 00	
5	" " " " " " " " " "	3 00	
6	" " " " " " " " " "	1 60	
7	" " " " " " " " " "	1 00	
8	" " " " " " " " " "	2 00	
9	" " " " " " " " " "	15 00	
10	" " " " " " " " " "	20 50	
11	" " " " " " " " " "	\$ 520 00	
12	" " " " " " " " " "	2 50	
	" " " " " " " " " "	16 97	
13	" " " " " " " " " "	5 00	
	" " " " " " " " " "	3 00	
	" " " " " " " " " "	2 00	
<p>Sum of Credit</p>		\$ 730 37	\$ 730 37
<p>The above statement of my acoch as Admstr with the will annexed of my Father Wm Steffen Decd I believe to be correct</p> <p>The Land belonging to the Estate has been divided Decd of Partition made as directed in will of Wm Steffen Decd</p> <p>John Steffen</p>			

The property was divided as shown on the property plat 256 B Book 4 page 61 as recorded in Alexandria Ky.



The highlighted portion of this plat is the road access to the farm as noted on page 75.

A son of Peter Steffen 1782 and Margaretha Weber 1778, Wilhelm Steffen was born 23.06.1809 in Niederlosheim Germany and died in Alexandria KY. 11/11/1893. His Wife, Angela Dilschneider, born 27.07.1810 died 8/14/1883 in Alexandria KY.

They were married in May 1832 in Losheim Germany, 51 years before Angela's death.

Over 100 years ago, Wilhelm and Angela were laid to rest at St Mary Cemetery, Alexandria Kentucky. They will be remembered as parents of so many families who live today. We are proud of our Steffen heritage.

God Bless our ancestors, Wilhelm and Angela Steffen.



Angela Dillschneider Steffen's birth date is shown as 10, Aug 1810 on the headstone. The Losheim Family books record two birth dates for Angela, July 21 and July 29, 1810. Such discrepancies are quite common. Additional research is not necessary to confirm the actual date. It does not change the person who came to be our loving ancestor.