

CHAPTER FOUR

February 2004

In my research of the Steffen family establishing a residence on a farm in Four Mile, I became a bit puzzled.

Peter Steffen and part of his family arrived in New York July 9, 1841.

On May 15, 1841, Richard Southgate, a name well known in early Campbell County, sold 62 acres to a Peter Steffen for the sum of \$520.00. The deed was made at the request of John Walker.

Then on August 13, 1841 Peter and Mary Steffen sold that property to Peter Steffen and Anna Bone Steffen for the price of \$600.00. Peter and Anna Bone were the Steffen family who began our new life here in America. There was a Peter and Mary Steffen, a son, who arrived in America with Peter and Anna. Are they the same or was there another Peter and Mary Steffen who came before Peter and Anna? Further research will be required.

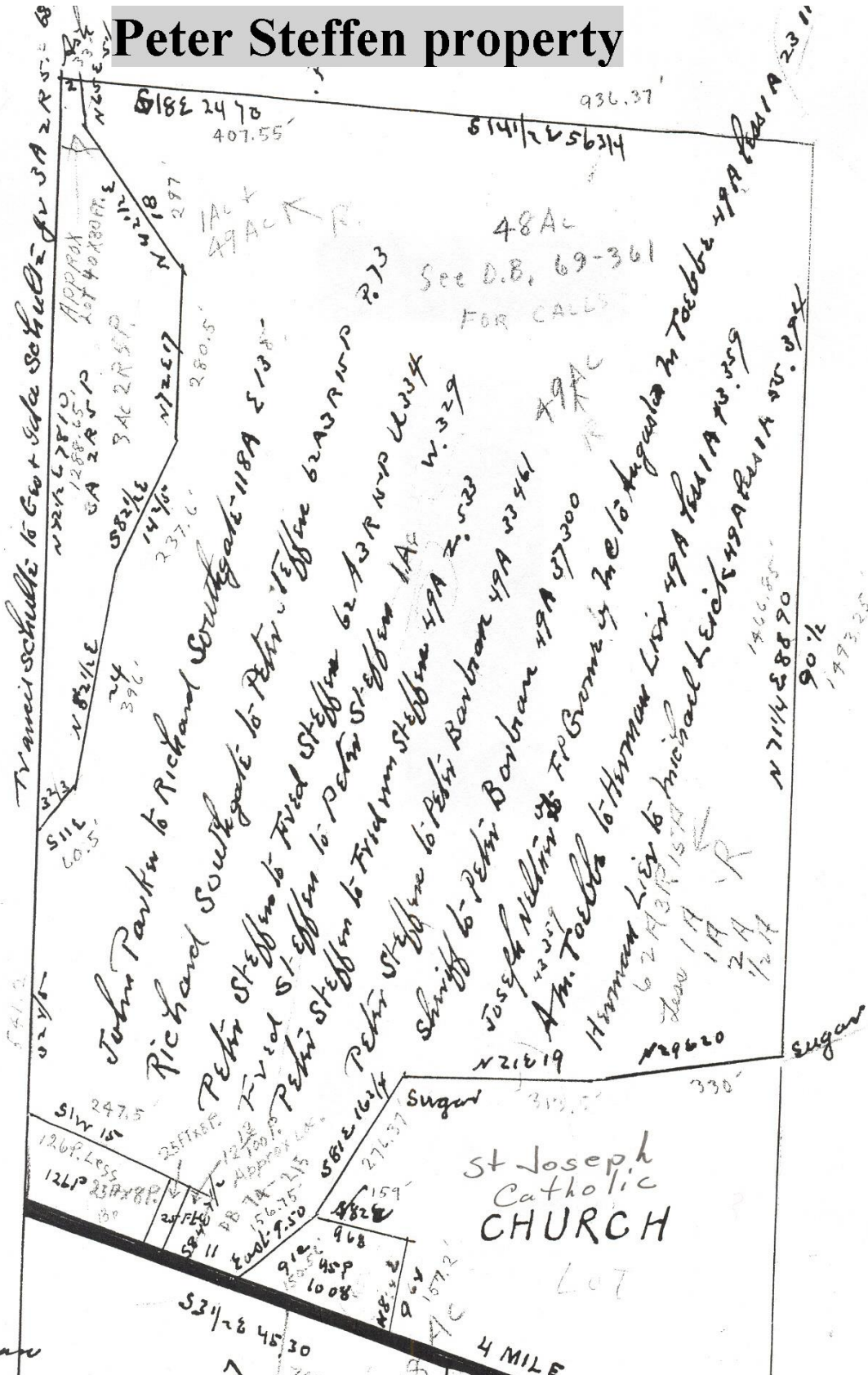
Was there a buying agent? Or was there another Peter and Mary Steffen?

As you will see in future writings the name of Peter was the name of choice for many, many German families. My Germany cousins tell me at one time there were 10 living Peter Enzweiler families in the village of Bachem Germany.

The Campbell County Property records indeed tell a story of the history of our County. Peter Steffen and his wife Anna Bone are part of that history. They came before there was an established Catholic community in Four Mile, Kentucky. They helped to begin a new life for all of us.

Peter Steffen property

Herman Liev to John H Geisman SA 2R 5P 4
 John Henry Geisman to HENRY D Geisman SA 2R 5
 Henry D. Geisman to Joseph G Lotter SA 2R 5



awell
 burger
 h Wittman

The property transfer from Richard Southgate to Peter Steffen.

Pg 77

May 15, 1841

John N. Saliaferro Clk.

This Indenture made this 15th day of May 1841. between Richard Southgate of the County of Campbell and State of Kentucky of the one part and Peter Steffen of the same County and State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said Richard Southgate for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred and twenty dollars of lawful money of the United States to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted bargained and sold and by these doth grant bargain and sell unto the said Peter Steffen his heirs and assigns forever all that certain tract or parcel of land situate in the County of Campbell aforesaid on the West side of Selma Creek containing by estimation sixty two acres 3 roods and 15 perch and bounded thus Beginning at a point in Christian Tangumays line on the west side of the road thence with John Walkers line S. 4 1/4 E. 12,32 chains to a stone on the same side of the road thence with Walkers line S. 4 1/4 E. 7,91 chains to Josiah Herbert line thence with his line N. 7 1/4 E. 32,87 chains a stone thence with Herberts line N. 14 1/2 W. 21 chains to a locust thence with Herberts line N. 18 W. 6,18 chains to an ash corner to said Tangumay Josiah Herbert & Silas Libbys thence with Tangumays line S. 70 W. 30 chains to the beginning being part of a tract of 118 acres conveyed to said Richard by John Parker by deed dated the 15 March 1839 (and the said Richard is not to be held responsible for any part or portion of said land hereby conveyed should any part thereof be out side of the boundaries contained in the deed from said Parker to said Richard) be the same more or less together with the appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract of land as above bounded and described unto the said Peter Steffen his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Richard Southgate for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth hereby covenant with the said Peter Steffen his heirs and assigns that he will forever warrant and defend the land and premises herein conveyed unto the said Peter Steffen his heirs and assigns from and against all claims whatever. In witness whereof the said Richard Southgate hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first within written this deed is made at the request of John Walker whose signature is affixed hereto as an order thereof

1st Dec 1827 part
 1. Southgate tract
 2. Selma Creek
 3. Steffen

Witness

Richard Southgate
 his seal

The Property transfer dated August 13, 1841, only about a month after they arrived in America, Peter Steffen bought property for his family in Four Mile, Camp Springs, Campbell, County, Kentucky.

Dg 74 - August 13, 1841

This Indenture made this thirteenth day of August in the year of ~~our~~
 1841 Lora eighteen hundred and forty one between Peter Steffen of Campbell
 County state of Kentucky of the one part, and Peter Steffen and
 Anna Bona Steffan of the County and state aforesaid of the other part
 Witnesseth that the said Peter Steffen for and in consideration of the
 sum of six hundred dollars lawful money of the united states to him
 by the said Peter Steffan & Anna Bona Steffan in hand paid (the
 receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged) has granted bargained
 and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and all & convey
 unto the said Peter Steffan & Anna Bona Steffan their heirs and
 assigns a certain tract or parcel of land situate in the County
 of Campbell and state aforesaid on Selma Creek containing by
 estimation sixty two acres 3 roods and 15 poles and bounded thus
 Beginning at a point in Christian Fanguways line on the west side
 of the road thence with John Walkers line S. 4 1/4 E. 12.32 chains to a stone
 on the same side of the road thence with Walkers line S. 4 E. 7.91 chains to
 Josiah Herberts line thence with his line N. 7 1/4 E. 22.87 chains to a stone
 thence with Herberts line N. 14 1/2 W. 14.21 chains to a post thence with
 Herberts line N. 18 W. 6.18 chains to an ash corner to said Fanguways
 Herbert and Silas Libby thence with Fanguways line S. 70 W. 30 chain
 to the beginning being the same tract of land conveyed by
 Richard Southgate on the 15th day of May 1841 to said
 Peter Steffan to have and to hold the said tract of land with
 the appurtenances thereto belonging to them the said Peter
 Steffan & Anna Bona Steffan their heirs and assigns to the only
 proper use and behoof of them the said Peter & Anna Bona Steffan
 their heirs and assigns forever And the said Peter Steffan
 for himself his heirs executors & administrators doth hereby
 covenant and agree to and with the said Peter & Anna Bona
 Steffan their heirs and assigns against the said Peter Steffan
 and his heirs the said tract of land with its appurtenances
 unto the said Peter and Anna Bona Steffan their heirs and assigns
 against him the said Peter Steffan & his heirs and against all and
 every person or persons whomsoever, shall and will by these presents
 forever warrant & defend In witness whereof the said Peter Steffan
 with Mary Steffan his wife who hereby relinquishes all claim to do her
 in the hereby conveyed premises have hereunto set their hands and seals this

Peter Steffan (Seal)
 his wife
 Mary Steffan (Seal)

When Peter Steffen arrived to establish his new home for his family, there were no Catholic Churches in this rural area of Kentucky. These early Kentucky German immigrants traveled to Covington or Cincinnati for infrequent religious worship or to make "Their Easter Duty". The Churches listed in some of the early records were the German speaking churches of Mother of God Church in Covington or Holy Trinity Church in Cincinnati. Mother of God church still remains in Covington but The Holy Trinity Church, which was located on Fifth, Street in Cincinnati, in the general location of the I-75 expressway has long been demolished.

When searching these early documents, I found that some of my ancestors were married at The Old Saint Mary's Church in Cincinnati. This Church is the oldest remaining German speaking church in Cincinnati.

The Diocese of Covington had not been created until 1854. Peter Steffen the oldest settler in Four Mile along with Michael Enzweiler and other German immigrants began to bring the Catholic Church to this small community. Peter Steffen donated a half acre of his property to Bishop Carrell for the construction of a church. Another half acre was purchased by the community for the sum of \$10.00. The property is located on the land transfer above. The original church was located at the base of the hill where the present church is located. It is now part of the St. Joseph Cemetery.

Logs were cut and prepared thru the winter months of December, 1845 and January and February, 1846.

On the 24th day of March, 1846, these German Catholic immigrants began the construction of their first church and placed every log in an eight hour work day. The building measured 35x50 ft. The church was completed two months later and was placed under the Patronage of Saint Joseph.

Source of information is in part from the souvenir book of the Diamond Jubilee 1920 St. Joseph Parish.