

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

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### Steffen Twins?

In late 2004 while researching Steffen families for my continuing writings for the Camp Springs Web Site, I was looking at various sources for female Steffen children. The male members are easily traced in cemetery records by family names. The female members are traceable only if the record lists the maiden name.

Although the Steffen family started in Four Mile there are only four Steffen names listed in St. Joseph Cemetery. That does not include Anna Bone Steffen whose grave we discovered in 2003. There are several female spouses although the available lists do not record them by maiden names.

The cemetery book available for St. Mary Cemetery, Alexandria, is the most complete and informative of all Campbell County cemeteries that I have researched. We thank those who gave their time to record the church documents.

While looking at maiden names I found a shocking discovery:

***“Riesenbeck, Maria J. (Steffen) b. 10/11/1870 d.12/27/1908 38 years old.***

***Note: Maria was buried 12/29/1908. She was the daughter of John and Sophia (Greis) Steffen.”***

Wow! My grandmother, **Mary Margaret Steffen Enzweiler** was born **10/11/1870** and these are her parents.

### **Grandma was a twin?**

Grandma Enzweiler lived with my parents and our family from the mid 1940s until her death in 1960. In all that time she told many family stories but never mentioned that she might have been a twin. We heard of twins in the family but that was a twin who died as an infant. Great Aunt Kate Steffen Schultz was the surviving twin. I have not been able to confirm that.

Well I was so overwhelmed that I put out an email to all my siblings and cousins to see if anyone had ever heard of Grandma's twin. They all thought Don's genealogy research had finally gone too far. - **Grandma, a Twin?**

Yet there were too many records to dismiss the information I discovered.

**Our Grandmother was Mary Margaret Steffen.  
The other was Maria J Steffen. Their mother's name in the records was Josepha also recorded as Sophie.**

**Both recorded the same birth date.**

**Both recorded the same parents.**

Well now we had to do research to solve this mystery.

Through these last few years we have developed a network of cousins who are all interested in helping each other to research family and share information from various sources. Many of these cousins have contacted me as a result of this web site.

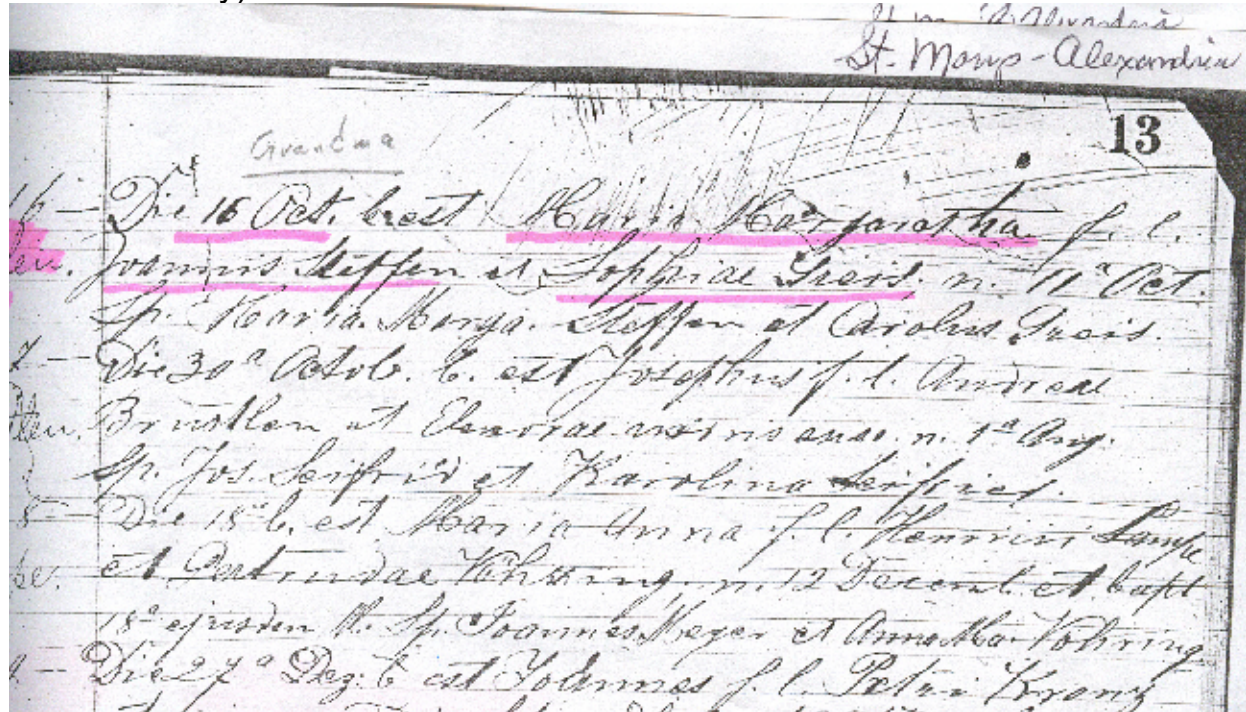
I asked for a search in census records, genealogy charts, and Baptism records while I searched marriage records and family documents at the Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society and the Campbell County Court House.

There is a Steffen marriage recorded 1892 as Mary A. Steffen 22 years old (1870), who married Henry Riesenbeck. It fits. Annie Steffen was a witness which also fits since grandma had a sister Anna Steffen Averbeck.

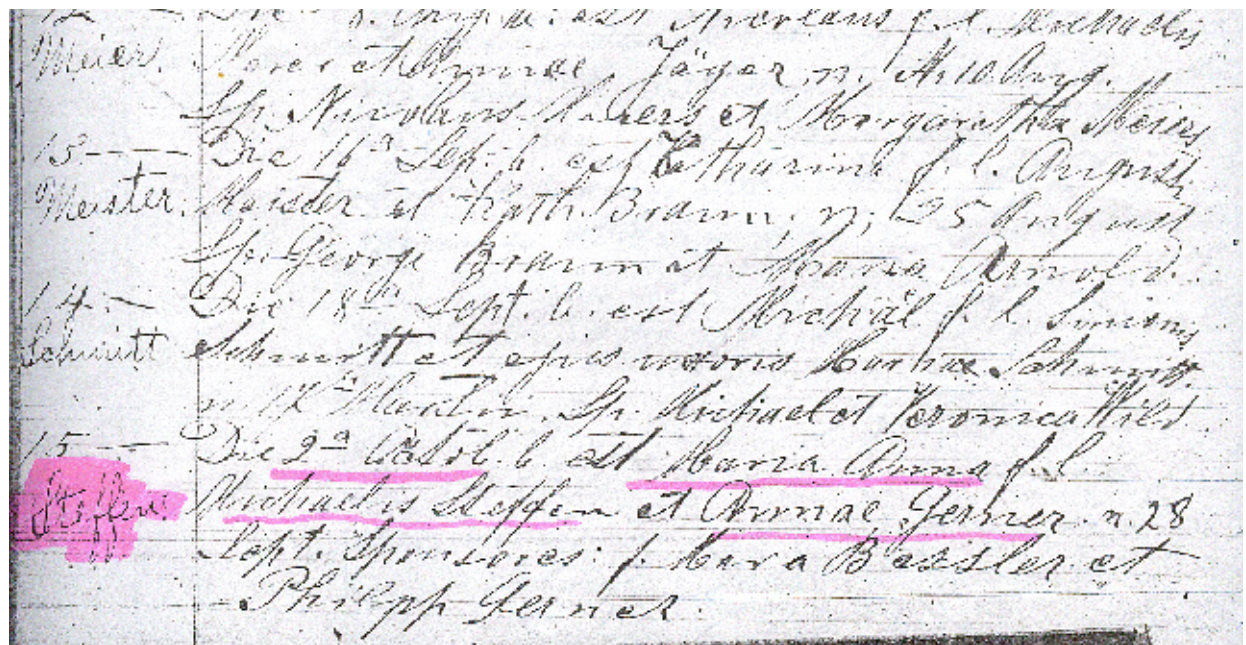
A family tree chart for the John and Josepha Steffen family (source unknown) shows Mary J. whose dates are the same as those recorded for Maria Reisenbeck. Grandma Mary Margaret was not recorded in this chart.

The census record for 1880 does not record a twin but it did reveal another bit of interesting information. Grandma Mary Margaret Steffen Enzweiler then 9 years old attended school. I wonder where. Where did she catch the "school bus"? There was a school noted on old property records very near their farm. (Page 106 Chapter 17.)

Well now I received a report with copies of the original baptismal records which have been copied and made available by LDS library (Latter Day Saints Library)



Grandma is here but no twin. So looking further in the 1870 film we found:



My thanks go to Mary Ann Fassler Izatt who provided these documents from the archives of the Mormon Church.



Maria Anna Steffen a child born to Michael Steffen and Anna Gerner born 28, Sept 1870. Now there is a possibility. But when I go back to family files I thought it recorded that Maria Anna died 2, Oct 1870.

Maria J., Anna Maria, Mary A., which is correct and where do I look next?

Are the cemetery Records incorrect?  
Are the family charts incorrect?

There are no other Riesenbeck family members recorded in my search. Henry was from Covington, Ky. and probably returned after Mary died in 1908. I have not been able to establish any children from this marriage.

My next step in this investigation was to search the St. Mary Cemetery. We hoped to establish if Maria Riesenbeck was or was not a twin to Grandma Mary Steffen Enzweiler.

January 15, 2005, - It was a mild sunny day so my wife and I went to St. Mary Cemetery in Alexandria Ky. in an attempt to find a headstone and a birth date for Maria Riesenbeck.



We found her grave but the birth date is only shown as 1870.

Darn, that doesn't help.

Maria J. Riesenbeck

NEE Steffen 1870 – 1908.

Photo by dab

But then we saw the stone to left of Maria's grave. **Anna Steffen** - born "Gener" born in Cincinnati 20, Feb 1845 died in Campbell County Ky. 24, Feb 1872. The stone to right was **Eugen Gerner** 11, Mai 1806 – 7, Nov 1877



Photos by dab

Maria J Riesenbeck is buried in the Gerner - Steffen plot. So herein we find the answers to our family "twins".

**Anna Gerner Steffen** - 1845 was the first wife of **Michael Steffen** - 1844. **Mary Anna Steffen Riesenbeck** -1870 was their daughter. Anna Gerner Steffen's father was **Eugen Gerner** -1806. The space between the stones may have been Eugen's wife although the cemetery records do not record that.

## **CORRECTIONS NEED TO BE MADE FOR THE FUTURE RECORDS**

**Maria J. Steffen Riesenbeck -  
b. 9/28/1870 - d. 12/27/1908**

- **Mary Margaret Steffen Enzweiler**
- **B.10/11/1870 - d. 5/11/1960**

1. The cemetery record is **incorrect**. Maria J. - ( Head stone Maria J.) was Christened Maria Anna 9/28/1870 - (baptism original record)
2. I read the family group incorrectly. Anna Mary, child of Michael Steffen and Anna Maria Gerner was born 28, Sept 1870 and baptized 2, Oct 1870. (Which I read as date of death.)
3. The cemetery record of the parents of Maria J. Steffen is **incorrect**.
4. The cemetery record of birth date for Mary J. Steffen Riesenbeck is **incorrect**. It lists the date of birth for Mary Margaret Steffen, my grandmother.
5. The John Steffen chart is **incorrect**. Maria J and Henry Riesenbeck are not part of this family. It should be grandma, Mary Margaret Steffen and Matthew Anthony Enzweiler.

To correct all those records out there here is the real story of the

### **“STEFFEN Twins”**



## My Grandmother

**Mary Margaret Steffen:** b.10/11/1870 - d.5/11/1960  
Daughter of **John Steffen** b.8.12.1840 - d.7/16/1920  
And **Josepha M. Greis** b.11.2.1844 - d.8/11/1932  
**John** was the son of **Wilhelm and  
Angela Dilschneider Steffen**  
Mary Margaret married 11/17/1891 to  
**Matthew Anthony Enzweiler** b. 1/10/1865 d. 4/17/1928

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**Mary Anna Steffen:** b.9/28/1870 - d.12/27/1908 (Anna Maria, Maria J.)  
Daughter of **Michael Steffen** b.2/23/1844 - d. 4/4/1912  
And first wife **Anna Gerner Steffen** b.2/20/1845 - d.2/24/1872  
Anna Gerner Steffen died just a year and a half after the birth of their second  
child Mary Anna.  
**Michael** was the son of **John Peter and Mary Gasper Steffen**  
Mary Anna married 10/6/1892 to **Henry Riesenbeck** who was born in  
Covington Ky. about 1868.

After the death of Anna Gerner, Michael Steffen married Mary Heck.

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**Wilhelm and John Peter Steffen** were brothers.  
**John and Michael Steffen** were first cousins.  
**Mary Margaret Steffen Enzweiler**, (grandma) and **Mary Anna (J) Steffen  
Riesenbeck** were second cousins, born 13 days apart. They probably  
never knew each other or did they? Families were closer then.

The mystery of the Steffen “**twins**” is resolved and it will be almost  
impossible to correct all the misinformation recorded in various records.  
Did you follow all that or are you confused? I am - and I have researched  
and recorded all these Steffen families.

I thank those who gave their time to help me with the research to establish that Grandma was not a  
Steffen twin. **Your help is most appreciated.**

Special thanks to my wife, Judy who helps me with my research and never complains about my long  
hours on the computer.

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