

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

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### John Steffen, the fifth child of Wilhelm Steffen and Angela Dillschneider Steffen

The year was 1840.

The Russian composer, Tchaikovsky was born and the Missionary Priest, Father Damien, was born in Belgium.

John Steffen was born in that leap year on Tuesday - Dec 8, 1840, the feast of The Immaculate Conception. This month and day is also the birth date of our first son Robert A. Baumann who was born 117 years after the birth of his Great Great Grandfather.

**Johann Steffen** was born 8.12.1840 in the small village of Losheim Germany in the Saar Region near the French border.



View of the Village of Losheim Germany – 2000      Photo by dab

John was just twelve years old when his family came to America.  
(Chapter five).

In his youth here in America, as recorded in Chapter Twelve, he lived with his family in Alexandria Ky. John became owner of a farm on the original property of his father Wilhelm Steffen. John met a young lady named Josepha (Sophia Greis) who was reportedly born 11.2.1844 in Baden Germany.

On Nov, 26 1867, at the age of twenty six, John married his twenty three year old bride at St. Mary Church, Alexandria Kentucky.



Undated photo of Johann and Josepha Greis Steffen  
Original framed photo in the possession of John Enzweiler - 1933

John must have been a successful farmer. He began to acquire farms in the Hawthorn PO District of Campbell County.

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At various times in the history of Campbell County, the Steffen families owned many farms in the area of Alexandria and the Hawthorn district.

Through my research of property records of farms, I have modified this rare 1922 map to record the Steffen farms. The Peter Steffen, 1782, descendants are indeed here to become the foundation of our present day communities.



Modified map of Campbell County Kentucky.  
Original map at the Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society

To put this to scale, the property indicated by the arrow consists of 78 acres.

Here at Steffen Road a stone home was built. The home was probably built by the same German masons who had built so many stone homes in Campbell County Kentucky.



John Steffen Home at the end of Steffen Road. It is also known as the Bathalter home.  
Photo from the files of a family contributor to these writings.

Look beyond this nice old picture. Reflect on the way of life of our German immigrant families. Notice the shutters on the sunny side are closed. They provide the cooling effect on the house as our cousins in Germany still find functional today. The gutter downspouts are routed to fill the cistern for the family water supply. The unknown people shown in the photo tell a story of the family life in the nineteenth century. The tree would seem to confirm this was a spring day. It seems to say this was a gathering to have an Easter dinner at home with the family.



Johann Steffen b. 8.12.1840 in Losheim Germany, d. 7/16/1920.  
Son of Wilhelm Steffen 1809 and Angela Dillshneider 1810.

Josepha (Sophia) Greis Steffen b. 11.02.1844 in Baden, d. 8/11/1932.

John and Josepha are buried at St. Mary Cemetery in Alexandria Ky.



Photos by dab

John and Josepha Steffen are my maternal Great Grandparents. I am going to change my usual way of describing this family before I record the other children of John and Josepha. My Grandmother Mary Margaret Steffen was the second child of this marriage. She was born Oct 11, 1870, a significant date for what I will tell you in Chapter Eighteen.

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