

# THE EARLY HISTORY OF MILLSTADT, ILLINOIS

Compiled by [Robert Buecher](#)

5400 Pernod Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139-1537

[Revised: June 21, 2013]

The earliest settlers of the Millstadt area were of English ancestry, who had come from the 13 original states. The first land entries in Millstadt Township were first claimed in payment for military services rendered in the late 1700's. These first claims were made to George Lunceford, Thomas Marrs, and Mary Groot, the widow of Sergeant Jacob Groot who died ca 1788. The land issued to Thomas Marrs was survey 782 in Millstadt Township.

[George Lunceford](#), is usually considered the first white settler to have lived in the vicinity of present day Millstadt. He was a native of Virginia and had been a soldier under [George Rogers Clark](#) during the capture of Kaskaskia and Prairie du Rocher in 1778. His land was survey 429 and 430 in Sugar Loaf Heights. In 1796, Lunceford and [Samuel Judy](#) started a farm near Sugar Loaf, which in 1800 became the sole property of Mr. Lunceford.

The following year in 1801, a group of settlers arrived from Hardy County, Virginia. This group was led by the Baptist preacher, [David Badgley](#), and included the families of [Abraham Eyman](#), born in Lancaster, PA, [William Miller](#) from Virginia, and [John Teter](#). They came by flatboat down the Ohio River to Shawneetown, and then overland by horse to this area of St. Clair County, Illinois. In 1802 they were joined by the families of [Martin Christopher Randleman](#) from Lincoln County, North Carolina and [Daniel Stookey](#) from Hagerstown, Maryland.

Other early settlers in this area included: Thomas Harrison (settled 1804) born in York District, SC; [Wm. Holcomb](#) (1812) from Union County, SC; [Henry R. White](#) (1814) from Jackson County, Georgia; [Matthew](#) and Frank Roach (1815) from North Carolina; [John A. Mauzy](#) (1815), and Charles Jones (1815) from Virginia; [James Glass](#) (1816) born in Maryland; [Cornelius](#) and Robert Gooding (ca. 1816) from Fleming County, VA; [William Sample](#) (ca 1816) from Loudoun County, VA; [Joseph Primm](#) (1817) from Stafford County, VA; [Stephen](#) and [John Lacey](#) (1817); [Robert Bailey](#) (1818) from Washington County, VA; David and [Joseph Ogle](#)(1818); [Conrad Goodner](#) (1820); John M. Little (1820) from Boonesville, KY; [Charles T. Askins](#) (1820) from Grayson County, Kentucky; [Evan Baird](#) (1827) from Fleming County, KY; [Joshua W. Hughes](#) (ca. 1829) from VA; and [William J. McBride](#) (1831) from Loudoun County, VA.

In 1813, Thomas Harrison is supposed to have erected here one of the first cotton gins in Illinois. It was propelled by horsepower, but was soon abandoned. [Joshua W. Hughes](#) [ancestor of billionaire [Howard Hughes](#)] came from Virginia and was the first blacksmith (1829) and coal operator (1830) in Millstadt Township. His mine was about a half mile southeast of Millstadt. The Hughes family left the Millstadt area around 1851 and settled in Scotland County, Missouri, where [Joshua died in 1901](#).

The first church in Millstadt Township was built in 1819 on five acres of land donated by [Philemon Askins](#) [another ancestor of the late, Howard Hughes]. The church was called the Union Meeting House (Methodist Protestant) and it was located about a mile east of Millstadt on Route 158. The church burned on 31 March 1881. Adjoining this church was Union Hill Cemetery, the first cemetery in Millstadt Township. The first burials there were [John Ross](#) on 1 Oct. 1823 and [Thomas Jarrard](#) on 16 Oct. 1823.

## **GERMAN SETTLEMENT, 1828-1840**

Prior to 1834, the following German settlers, who were mostly farmers, had settled in what is now Millstadt Township: [Johannes Briesacher](#) (1828); [Anton Wagner](#), [Johann Adam Krick](#), [Carl Grossmann](#), [Johannes Hax](#), [Peter Vollmer](#), [Johannes Eckert](#), and [J. Christian Lindenstruth](#) (1832); [Adam Haas](#), [Nicholaus Hertel](#), [Johannes Freivogel Sr.](#), and [John Weible](#) (1833).

The first large group of German settlers to arrive in the Millstadt area came from villages near Kaiserslautern in the Rhineland-Pfalz area of Germany. According to existing records at Zion Church, this first group left Germany together on Sept. 4, 1834 and traveled to America on the Ship Ruthelin which arrived at the port of New Orleans, Louisiana on November 17, 1834 <sup>[1]</sup>. The group then traveled by boat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where they disembarked for St. Clair County, Illinois. It is recorded that they settled in the Millstadt area on Nov. 30, 1834. This first group of settlers included the families of Daniel Mueller from Konken; [Daniel Wagner](#) from Doerrenbach; [Jacob Dewald](#) from Schellweiler; [Jacob Weingardt](#) and [Jacob Weber](#) from Rehweiler; [Heinrich Jacob](#)

[Gerlach](#) from Mittelbach; [Jacob Schuff](#) and [Johann Nicolaus Schmalenberger](#) from Schrollbach; and [Theobald Mueller](#) from Quirnbach. Other settlers that came that same year (1834) were the families of [Leonhard Baltz](#) from Gross-Bieberau; [Valentine Gruenewald](#) from Rossdorf; [George Mittelstetter](#) from Reinheim; [Friedrich William Probst](#) from Koelleda; [Heinrich Miller/Mueller](#) from Harpertshausen; [Leonhard Kropp](#) from Crumbach; and [George Kuntz](#) from Alzey. This early group of settlers then attracted large numbers of additional German families.

The following are the “known” German families who settled in the Millstadt area between 1828 and 1840. Entries which contain an asterisk \* have birth information that has been verified from a church or civil record in Europe. Additional information about most of these early settlers is available from Robert Buecher at one of the addresses listed above.

[Baltz, Friedrich](#) - born \* 8 August 1809 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; America 1831; married [Katharina Elisabetha KROPP](#) 4 July 1831; settled Millstadt area about 1835; he died 30 Oct. 1840

[Baltz, Johann Leonhard](#) - born \* 26 July 1797 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; married [Maria Dorothea DAAB](#) 29 April 1819; settled near Millstadt by Dec. 1834; he died 26 Feb. 1861

[Boemer, Caspar](#) - born 8 May 1813 Warstein, Prussia; America 1837; married [Catherine Rodemich](#) Nov. 1840; settled here 1841; he died 2 Sept. 1902

[Breidecker, Johann Friedrich](#) - born 30 Dec. 1811 Wiesbaden, Hessen Nassau; settled 1838; married [Louise MEYER](#) 1841; he died 3 May 1883

[Briesacher, George](#) - born \* 25 March 1807 Offwiller, Elsass; settled 1828 with his parents; married [Christina ROTH](#) Nov. 1837; he died 26 Feb. 1880

[Briesacher, Heinrich](#); born \* 27 Oct. 1819 Offwiller, Elsass; settled here in 1828 with his parents; married [Caroline Wilhelmina Diesel](#) 1847; he died 29 Oct. 1890

[Briesacher, Johannes](#) - born \* 5 Nov. 1775 Offwiller, Elsass; married Christina KOPP 1803; settled 1828; he died 23 Feb. 1847

[Dehn, Johann George](#); born 22 Oct. 1817 Reinheim, Hessen Darmstadt son of Henry; in 1839 he settled here in Section 24 of Millstadt Twp.; married [Anna Barbara Grossmann](#) 1841; he died 18 Nov. 1900

[Dewald, Jacob](#) - born 31 Dec. 1809 Schellweiler, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Margaretha MUELLER](#) 4 March 1834; settled Nov. 1834; buried 26 Aug. 1876

[Diesel, Andreas](#) - born 12 Oct. 1799 Ottweiler, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Louise KIEFER; settled 1836; he was buried 26 Dec. 1879

[Doerr, William](#); born \* 29 July 1821 Sonnenberg, Nassau; settled 1837 with his married sister [Mrs. Katharina Philippina Schweig](#); married [Catharina Hofmann](#) 1846; he died May 11, 1891

[Ebel, Heinrich](#) - born 23 April 1778 Gimmeldingen, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Katharina LINGENFELDER](#); settled by Oct. 1836; he died 8 Nov. 1840

[Eckert, Johann Philipp](#) - born 5 May 1804 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; USA 1831; married [Maria Magdalena OLDENDORPH](#) 1831 at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; he died Dec. 1878

[Eckert, Johannes](#) - born 29 Nov. 1804 Ninselbach by Fraenkisch-Crumbach, Hessen Darmstadt; settled 1832; married Elisabeth Margaretha FO 18 Sep. 1832

[Eckert, Johannes](#) - born 20 Dec. 1770 in Muemling-Grumbach, Hessen Darmstadt; married Elisabetha Margaretha Becker; he died 28 July 1847

[Ellinger, Christian Philipp](#) - born 8 May 1815 Bilzingsleben, Thuringen; settled 1839; married Marie Adelheid SEIFFARTH 24 March 1841

[Ellinger, Johann Andreas](#) - born ca. 1783 in Bilzingsleben, Thuringen; settled about 1839; he died 15 Sept. 1844

[Faas, Francis Martin](#) - born ca. 1813 Goeppingen, Wuerttemberg; settled here 1835; married (1) [Gertrude KUNZ 1841](#) (2) Mrs. [Henriette Stein, nee Huber](#); he was buried 14 June 1875

[Fein, George Philip](#) - born at Saarbruecken, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Sophie Josephine BRUA](#); settled here by 1835; moved to Belleville by 1839.

[Flittner, Fried. Christoph](#) - born 1778 Strausfurt by Erfurt, Prussia; married Sophia Wilhelmina HENFLING 12 Feb. 1809; settled here 1835; he died 17 July 1848

[Freivogel, Johannes \(Sr.\)](#) - born 5 April 1784 Katzenbach near Landstuhl, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Maria Katharina FREIVOGEL](#) on 11 Nov. 1810; settled here 1833; he died 24 Sept. 1850

[Gerhardt, Adolph](#) - born \* 6 Jan. 1791 Reinheim, Hessen Darmstadt; married Anna Katharina HENER 23 Nov. 1814; settled 1838; he died 28 Aug. 1843

[Gerlach, Heinrich Jacob](#) - born 18 Sept. 1793 Mittelbach, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Anna Katharina DRUMM 14 Sep. 1813; settled Nov. 1834; he died March 1838

**Grossmann, Carl** - born \* 14 Oct. 1792 Reinheim, Hessen Darmstadt; married (1) Elisabeth POTH 29 Dec. 1814 (2) [Elisabetha Barbara DEHN](#) 1816; settled here 1832; he died 24 Dec. 1867

**Gruenewald, Valentine** - born 24 Feb. 1806 Rossdorf, Hessen Darmstadt; settled 1834; married [Katharina Baumann](#); he died Sept. 1837

**Gutherz, Johann Philipp** - born 26 Nov. 1787 Hessen Nassau; married [Philippine GREILING](#) Dec. 1824; emigrated 1838; he died 18 March 1866

**Haas, Adam** - born 24 June 1789 Gerolsheim, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Katharina Barbara STEIN](#); settled 1833; he died 20 Nov. 1866

**Hammel, George** - born 27 Nov. 1802 Steinwenden, Rhineland-Pfalz; married (1) [Margaretha BLAUTH/HAMMEL](#) 1828 (2) [Elisabetha Maria HAMMEL](#) 17 Nov. 1840; settled here Spring of 1836; he died 15 March 1863

**Hammel, Jacob** - born 9 May 1791 Steinwenden, Rhineland-Pfalz; married (1) Magdalena LAUFER 13 Sept. 1814 (2) [Barbara \(MUELLER\) SCHWARTZ](#) 10 May 1850; settled here 1840; he died 28 June 1855

**Hax, Johannes** - born 26 July 1780? Gross Umstadt, Hessen Darmstadt; married Katharina TAESCHER 1815; settled here 1832; he died 17 Aug. 1840

**Heitz, Jacob** - born 11 Feb. 1797 Goxweiler, Niederrhein, France; married [Magdalena JAKOB](#) 7 March 1826; settled here 1839; he died 19 Dec. 1865

**Henckler, George** - born 20 Sept. 1796 Wiesbaden, Hessen Nassau; married [Anna Maria BUEFF](#) 29 Aug. 1818; settled here 1835; he died 26 Feb. 1878

**Herlemann, George Friedrich** - born \* 26 July 1807 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; married [Elisabetha Margaretha WETTEROTH](#) 26 March 1829 at Gross Bieberau; settled in Millstadt 1836; he died 13 July 1849

**Hertel, Nicolaus** - born 11 March 1796 Guedingen by Saarbruecken, Prussia; settled here 1833; married (1) A. Barbara SCHMIDT 1820 (2) [Katharina HAUSMEYER](#) 21 June 1834 (3) [Elisabetha Margaretha MUELLER](#) 23 Jan. 1840; he died 30 July 1868

**Hesse, Christian** - born 29 Sept. 1792 Herrnschwende, Saxony, Prussia; married Maria Sabrina MEYER 30 April 1817; settled here 1835

**Hoelscher, Charles**

**Hoepfinger, Jacob**

**Hornung, Gottfried** - born "Johann Gottfried Guenther HORNUNG" on 27 April 1793 Koelleda by Erfurt, Saxony, Prussia; married Juliana Dorothea LANGATZ 30 Nov. 1815; settled here 1834

**Kalbfleisch, Johann Peter** - born 18 Dec. 1811 Billertshausen, Kreis Alsfeld, Hessen Darmstadt; settled here 1836; married [Elisabeth Margaretha OLDENDORPH](#) 1841; he died 12 July 1862

**Keck, Johannes** - born 4 June 1793 Dirmstein, Rhineland-Pfalz; married [Anna Maria BENGEL](#) 1813; settled here 1834; he died 22 March 1846 or 30 Jan. 1846

**Keller, Adam** - born 1808 Karbach; settled by 1835; married [Margaretha GERLACH](#) Oct. 1835; he died 14 April 1861

**Kern, Johann Heinrich** - born 12 April 1805 Nordenstadt, Hessen Nassau; married [Johannette Christiana SCHAEFER](#) 4 June 1827; settled here 1835; he died 8 Sept. 1849

**Klotz, George** - born 17 Sept. 1809 Semd, Hessen Darmstadt; settled here 1838; married (1) [Anna Margaretha APPEL](#) 1835 (2) Maria HUBER 1854; he died 6 Aug. 1866

**Klotz, Heinrich** - born 9 March 1807 Semd, Hessen Darmstadt; settled here 1838?; married [Margaretha SCHIEMER](#); he died 31 July 1877

**Kracht, Dettleff** - born ca 1805 at Wewelsfleth, Schleswig-Holstein; married (1.) [Elisabetha Margaretha ECKERT](#) (2) Sarah WEIBLE 1842; settled here by 1838; died in Hancock County, IL ca 1889/1890

**Krick, Johann Adam** - born \* 19 Jan. 1799 Gerolsheim, Rhinekreis, Bavaria; married [Margaretha Augusta BUSCH](#) 11 March 1827; settled here 1832; he died 22 March 1866

**Kropp, Leonhard** - born 1 May 1809 Crumbach, Hessen; settled here 1834; married Katharina Elisabeth KUEFFNER 26 June 1838; he died 28 Sept. 1882

**Kuntz, George** - born 12/15 July 1787 Alzey, Hessen Darmstadt; married Magdalena SCHIFFER 1810; settled here 1834; he died 15 Oct. 1867

**Kuntz, Heinrich** - born 10 Sept. 1822 Alzey, Hessen Darmstadt; he died 17 Feb. 1877 in St. Louis, MO

**Kuntz, Martin** - born 17 Dec. 1811 Alzey, Hessen Darmstadt; married [Elisabetha HENCKLER](#) 14 Sept. 1845; he died 25 Jan. 1880

**Lambertus, Philipp** - born 2 Feb. 1792 Bindersbach by Landstuhl; married Eva HERMANN; settled here Aug. 1837 with 6 children; he died 5 Dec. 1851

**Lang, Johann Adam**; born 7 July 1807 Reichenbach, Rheinland-Pfalz; settled here by 1834; married Mrs. Anna Maria UTECH, nee EBEL; he died 22 July 1895

**Lang, Philipp** - born 1 Jan. 1775 Reichenbach, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Margaretha KEMPER; settled before 1840; he died 30 Aug. 1840

**Launhardt, Wilhelm** - born 4 May 1807 Brombach, Hessen Nassau; married Katharina Louise MUELLER 30 March 1830; settled here Nov. 1837; family moved to Collinsville, IL in 1859; he died June 3, 1862 in Collinsville, IL

**Leonhardt, Gottfried** - born 23 March 1796 Simselwitz, Saxony; married Johanna Christiana GRASSLER 1820; settled 1834

**LePere, Johann Georg**; born 20? Sept. 1810 at Erlenbach, Rheinland Pfalz; son of Johann Philipp Lepere; settled here in Jan. 1837; married (1) Christina WAGNER April 1843 (2) Maria Barbara BIRKNER April 1847; died 10 Aug. 1866

**Lepere, Johann Philipp** - born \* 13 April 1785 at Steinweiler, Rhineland-Pfalz; married (1) Anna Catharina NUSS 6 Nov. 1804 (2) Margaretha SUTTER ca. 1823-24; settled here 1835/early 1836; he died 22 Feb. 1872 in St. Louis County, MO

**Lepere, Johann Philipp**; born \* 12 May 1808 Erlenbach by Kandel, Rheinland Pfalz; son of Johann Philipp Lepere; settled here by 1837; married Mrs. Christina WEINTZ, nee EBEL Aug. 1837; died 3 March 1871

**Lindauer, Friedrich** - born 30 Dec. 1807 Untergruppenbach, Wuerttemberg; emigrated 1830; married (1) Elisabetha LEPERE 21 July 1836 (2) Kath. Margaretha WESTERMANN 1854; he died 17 June 1873

**Lindenstruth, Johann Christian** - born 13 June 1798 Bersrod, Hessen; married Anna Katharina MAGEL Dec. 1825; settled 1832; he died 13 March 1850

**Mayer/Meyer, Peter** - born 16 April 1786 Dornholzhausen, Hessen Homburg; married Anna WALLON 25 Sept. 1810; settled Dec. 1839; he died 26 Dec. 1868

**Mittelstetter, Johann George** - born 14 Oct. 1799 Reinheim, Hessen Darmstadt; married (2) Mrs. Katharine Gruenewald, nee Baumann Jan. 1838; settled here 1834

**Mueller, Daniel** - born 27 Nov. 1791 Konken, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Karolina MATZENBACHER; settled here Nov. 1834; he died 26 March 1867

**Mueller, Georg Friedrich**; born \* 12 Oct. 1813 Brandau, Hessen Darmstadt; America 1834 with his father, Johann Wilhelm; married Katharina OTTERS Aug. 1837 St. Louis; died 27 Feb. 1847 in Millstadt

**Mueller, Johann George** - born 21 Sept. 1787 Gimmeldingen, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Anna Maria SCHULTZ 13 March 1810; settled here 1836

**Mueller/Miller, Heinrich** - born 9 April 1809 Harpertshausen, Hessen Darmstadt; came to America 1831; settled here 1834; married Mrs. Anna Margaretha HARTMANN, nee MUELLER on 19 May 1833; he died Sept. 1886

**Mueller, Jacob** - born 24 July 1820 Konken, Rhineland-Pfalz; settled here Nov. 1834; married Anna Maria SCHMIDT 9 April 1844; he died 22 March 1881

**Mueller, Johann Heinrich**; born 20 Jan. 1771 Semd, Hessen Darmstadt; married Elisabeth JUENGER; settled here before Sept. 1838; he died 26 Sept. 1838

**Mueller, Johann Wilhelm**; born \* 14 May 1776 Brandau, Hessen Darmstadt; married Anna Margaretha BITSCH 1800; settled here after 1834; died 21 Dec. 1840

**Mueller, Peter Wilhelm** - born 28 Sept. 1774 Brombach, Hessen Nassau; married Elisabetha Katharina MUELLER 1800; settled here 1837; he died 19 Nov. 1846

**Mueller, Peter Wilhelm**; born 22 Sept. 1813 Brombach, Hessen Nassau; settled here Oct. 1837; married Katharina MAIER/MAYER March 1840; he died 20 Sept. 1869

**Mueller, Theobald**; born 2 April 1806 Quirnbach, Rheinland Pfalz; settled here after Nov. 1834; married (1) Elisab. Weber (2) Katharine Kilian 1856 (3) [Marial] Elisabetha Becker, nee Biehl Jan. 1861; he died 8 Feb. 1890

**Mummert, Heinrich Jacob** - born 12 April 1787 Mussbach, Rhine Bavaria; married Clara Elisabetha STAAB 13 March 1817; settled here 1836

**Muskopf, Heinrich**; born 6 Nov. 1797 Kottweiler, Rhineland-Pfalz; married Charlotte Margaretha ULRICH 2 Feb. 1825; settled here 1837; he died 25 March 1882

**Oldendorph, Georg**; born 6 Oct. 1810 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; America 1839; married (1) Margaretha Schaefer 1840 (2) Barbara Hauser Nov. 1849 (3) Friedericke Leinecker Jan. 1860; he died 11 March 1887

**Oldendorph, Henry**; born 20 June 1804 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; married Anna Katharina STAEHR 1829; settled 1840; he died Aug. 1876

**Peter, Nicolaus**; born 19 Jan. 1804 Koendringen, Baden; married (1) Katharina BASTIAN (2) Katharina ENGLER 1851; settled 1831; he died 25 July 1857

**Probst, Andreas Gottfried**; born 22 Aug. 1813 Koelleda, near Erfurt, Prussia; America April 1834; married Maria Katharina KIRSCH March 1840; died 4 Nov. 1899

**Probst, Friedrich Wilhelm**; born 25 Oct. 1779 Koelleda, Prussia; married Maria Christina PETZ; America April 1834; he died 3 April 1857

**Reichert, Lorenz**; born 19 Nov. 1807 Erlenbach am Main; married Catharine WAGNER 14 Sept. 1835 St. Louis, MO; settled here ca. 1839; he died 29 Nov. 1857

**Riess, Johann Jacob (Rev.)**; born 5 May 1811 Tuttlingen, Wuerttemberg; America Oct. 1835; married (1) Margaretha Charlotte Henckler Aug. 1836 (2) Anna Victoria Petit Sept. 1841; he died 8 July 1855 St. Louis, MO; he was the first pastor of Zion Evangelical Church when it was founded in January 1836

**Rodemich, Johann Philipp**; born 12 July 1823 Rossdorf, Hessen Darmstadt; came to America in 1836; married Maria Utech Dec. 1845; he died 16 May 1889

**Rodemich, Johann Philipp**; born 15 April 1790 Rossdorf, Hessen Darmstadt; married Mrs. Elisabeth Margaretha Lorenz, nee Schiemer; he died 26 July 1838

**Roos, Martin**; born 4 April 1789 Dirmstein, Pfalz; settled here 1834; married Anna Maria Schalk; he died July 1860

**Rudolph, Johann Michael**; born 12 July 1808 Plobsheim, Elsass; married Katharina Salomea Hornecker/Honecker Jan. 1832; America Jan. 1836; died 10 March 1892

**Scharf, Bernhard**; born ca 1790 Heldburg, Saxony; married Dorothea Schubert; settled here 1836; died 6 January 1857 Stookey Township

**Schmalenberger, Johann Nicolaus**; born \* 8 Dec. 1799 Schrollbach, Rheinland Pfalz; married (1) Anna Margaretha Gilcher May 1821; (2) Maria Katharina Pfeiffer, nee Ebersohl July 1835; settled here Nov. 1834; he died 23 Feb. 1862

**Schmidt, Nicolaus**; born \* 7 Nov. 1807 Luetzelstein, Elsass; married (1) Margaretha Roth (2) Margaretha Hauser Feb. 1842; settled here in 1837; died August 1875

**Schubert, Nicolaus**; born 11 Feb. 1770 Heldburg, Saxony-Meiningen; married (2nd) Anna Dorothea Scharf 1814; emigrated Sept. 1836; he died August 1842

**Schuff, Jacob**; born 14 March 1792 Schrollbach, Rheinland Pfalz; married Barbara Cappler 1822?; settled here Nov. 1834; died 31 Dec. 1866

**Schweig, Christian**; born 3 August 1805 Sonnenberg, Hessen Nassau; married Katharina Philippina Doerr 1827; America Nov. 1837; died 14 Sept. 1840

**Seibert, Johann Dietrich**; born 28 April 1792 Semd near Gross Umstadt, Hessen Darmstadt; married Anna Regina Stork 1816; America Sept. 1834; he died 11 Nov. 1870

**Seibert, Johann Georg**; born 4 Feb. 1787 Semd, Kreis Dieburg, Hessen Darmstadt; married Elisabeth Stork 1810; America 1834

**Vogel, Johann Conrad**; born 1796 Ottweiler, Saarbruecken; married J. Christine [???]; settled 1838; died 1879

**Vogt, Peter Georg (Sr.)**; born 18 Sept. 1800 Erlenbach, Rheinland Pfalz; America ca. 1835; married (1) Margaretha Catharina Lepere Dec. 1826 (2) Eva Maria Hutmacher July 1846 (3) Margaretha Koch, nee Schaumann May 1867; he died 26 Nov. 1880

**Vollmer, Jacob**; born 25 July 1818 Lambsborn, Pfalz; America 1833; married Caroline Geminn Dec. 1854; he died 10 May 1894

**Vollmer, Peter**; born 1796 in Lambsborn, Rheinland Pfalz; settled 1832; married Eva; he died April 1852.

**Wagner, Anton**; born \* 30 Jan. 1784 Baerendorf, Bas-Rhin; married Elisabeth Fiegel 1815; settled here 1832/1833; he died 26 Aug. 1851

**Wagner, Daniel**; born 7 Feb. 1802 Rehweiler, Rheinland Pfalz; married Elisabetha Ulrich Sept. 1827; settled here Nov. 1834; he died 29 May 1887

**Wagner, Johann Nicolaus**; born \* 28 Feb. 1795 Wolfskirchen, Elsass; married Eva Schmidt Feb. 1816; landed in America May 1838; he died 9 Nov. 1838

**Weber, Jakob**; born 27 July 1808 Rehweiler, Rheinland Pfalz; married Katharina Weingardt Oct. 1831; settled here Nov. 1834; he died 23 Nov. 1861

**Weber, Theobald**; born 25 June 1786 Rehweiler, Rheinland Pfalz; married Elisabeth Grossglas? 1806; America Jan. 1836; he died 2 Oct. 1844

**Weingardt, Jacob**; born 12 March 1811 Rehweiler, Rheinland Pfalz; settled Nov. 1834; married Elisabetha Keck May 1838; died 12 Aug. 1855

**Weingardt, Jakob**; born 29 Oct. 1788 Rehweiler, Rheinland Pfalz; married Margaretha Schneider 1807; settled here Nov. 1834; died 13 Sept. 1835

**Wetteroth, Johann Ludwig**; born \* 28 Nov. 1777 Gross Bieberau, Hessen Darmstadt; married Anna Maria Rutz 1806; America 1838; died 10 Sept. 1842

**Wiesenborn, Johannette Margaretha, nee Doerr**; born 15 Feb. 1787 Sonnenberg, Hessen Nassau; married Johannes Wiesenborn 1811; America Nov. 1837

[Zaenger, Christoph](#); born 20 July 1813 Minderslachen, Rheinland Pfalz; married (1.) [Esther Margaretha Lepere](#) about 1835 (2.) [Mrs. Anna Maria Wuest nee Martz](#) in Sept. 1853; settled ca. 1840; died 11 Oct. 1885

[Zimmermann, Wilhelm](#); born 1 April 1780 Hemleben, near Koelleda, Prussia; Marie Elisabeth Margktscheffel 1803; settled here 1834

## ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The German church which many of these early settlers attended was Zion Evangelical Church which was first located in Section 21 of Millstadt Township. Zion was founded on 17 Jan. 1836 at the log cabin home of [Johannes Freivogel Sr.](#). The first minister was Rev. [Johann Jacob Riess](#) who served at Zion from Jan. 1836 to Oct. 1846. He had arrived in St. Clair County in November 1835. Rev. Riess was sent by the Basel Missionary Society in Switzerland because of letters sent to that society by the German settlers in the county who wanted a German speaking minister.

Rev. Riess preached throughout St. Clair County and services were first held at Zion only once a month. At the same time he was also serving congregations at Dutch Hill, Turkey Hill, and Prairie du Long. In nice weather, the members met in the forest and in bad weather in the Freivogel cabin. The first log church of Zion was dedicated on 26 June 1837 and was built along very simple lines. Freivogel Cemetery, consisting of 40 acres, was deeded to the Zion congregation in April 1838 by [Johann Nicolaus Schmahlenberger](#) and his wife, [Mary Katherine](#).

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHAPEL

The early German Catholic settlers in the area worshipped at a log church that was built about two miles southwest of Millstadt. It was called St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel and was dedicated on 26 Nov. 1837 by [Bishop Joseph Rosati](#) of St. Louis who on that same day opened the parish register. The present day [2009] location would be in Section 20 of Millstadt Township somewhere near the intersection of Illinois Route 158 and Bohleysville Road. The 1958 dedication program for the new school of St. James, states the log church was on the farm of [Edward Roenicke](#). The place was also called Johnson Settlement. It is also reported that a few parishioners were buried around this first log church. It is recorded by Rev. J. F. R. Loisel of Cahokia that he said the first mass for the new congregation of St. Thomas in the home of James Powers on Nov. 17, 1836. The first 3 trustees of St. Thomas were elected on 24 Jan. 1837 and were John O'Brien, James Powers & Bernard Slocy. St. Thomas was a mission church and did not have a resident priest but was served by priests from the surrounding area. The first baptism was recorded on 10 Dec. 1837 by R. Loisel. St. Thomas gradually declined after a new brick church was built in Millstadt in 1851. The new congregation was called St. James. [[St. Thomas & St. James Milestones](#)]

Additional German immigrants continued to settle here in the 1840's, with a second large wave beginning in 1848 after political turmoil in Germany. There were also numerous families who settled in this area that came from the Alsace-Lorraine area. The ownership of that area in Europe varied between France and Germany, but the residents usually spoke German and fit in with other Germans who had settled previously in the Millstadt area.

Many of these early German settlers were farmers who came here seeking better farm land and better economic conditions. Many of the settlers were also escaping the political, social, and economic turmoil that the German states were experiencing at that time. Most wanted a better life for themselves and more opportunities for their children. This German immigration was so large in the Millstadt area that the *1881 History of St. Clair County* reported that "only seven families of English descent" were still residing here.

The majority of the first Germans who settled in this area did not know the English language and few had the time or opportunity to learn it. Many preferred to use their native German in most everything that concerned their life, including: business, social organizations, church services and records, public notices, tombstone inscriptions, letters, and wills. Some of the earlier English speaking settlers did not always get along well with their newly arrived German neighbors and some called the Germans clanish and unfriendly.

## FOUNDING OF CENTREVILLE/MILLSTADT

The founding of the town of Millstadt dates back to 1836 when [Simon Stookey](#) was having a barn built a short distance north of present day Millstadt. [Joseph Abend](#) and [Henry Randleman](#) were helping him and it was proposed to Randleman that another piece of his land in Section 9 would make a most eligible town site. Abend proposed the name "Centerville" for the new town since it would be seven miles from Belleville, seven miles from Columbia, and seven miles from Pittsburg Lake. Henry agreed, and the town of Centerville was platted and surveyed on 13 March 1837. It originally consisted of only 40 lots. That was the part of town bounded roughly by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe streets. Some of the earliest purchasers of lots were: John & [George Briesacher](#) on 4 Sept. 1837; [George Henckler](#) on 28 Aug. 1838; and [Evan Baird](#) on 26 Nov. 1839. Later additions to the town were made as the existing lots were sold out.

Although the village name was officially spelled as "Centerville" in the records of the Recorder of Deeds of St. Clair County, the German settlers usually used the European spelling of "Centreville". [George Kuntz](#) was appointed the town's first postmaster on June 7, 1843. When the application was first made for a post office at "Centreville", that name was rejected in Washington, DC since there was already a post office in Centreville in Wabash County, Illinois. It is reported that the petitioners then decided to translate the name "Centreville" into German and came up with the name of "Mittelstadt". Either the writing was not clear or the officials in Washington could not read the German writing because the name that was approved was "Millstadt". Thus from 1843-1878, the people in town lived in Centreville but got their mail at the Millstadt Post Office. On September 14, 1878 the Board of Trustees of the Village of Centreville passed a revised ordinance to change the name of the village to the 'Village of Millstadt'. Now the village name and the post office name were the same. [\[Millstadt Milestones\]](#)

---

<sup>[2][1]</sup> *Quarterly Abstracts of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1820-1875*; Jan. 1, 1820- Dec. 30, 1837, Microcopy M-272, Roll No. 1.