

History Index

The material presented in the History Section is an introduction to the Strobel family in Germany and some historical background which lead to the immigration to America. The chapters following trace their emigration from Germany to America, and movement from city to city until they finally settled in Cannelton, Indiana. The Section "Life in Cannelton" is currently under development.

[The Strobel Home Place in Germany](#)

Cities of Residence

[The Strobel Family Roots in Germany](#)

The Remembrances of Margaret Strobel Schatz

[Germany in the Years Leading up to the Strobel Immigration to America](#)

The Enlightenment

The French Revolution and Napoleonic Era

The Wars of Liberation

The German Confederation and Evolution of Parties and Ideologies

Economic Changes The Revolutions of 1848-1849

[Immigration to the New World](#)

The Lure of the New World

The Atlantic Voyage

Finding a Place to Settle

[The Martin Strobels Emigrate from Germany to America](#)

Those Who Came before Martin and Johanna

Diary of the Trip to America

Mathias Schiel

Care of Elisabeth Schiel and Interaction with Mathias Schiel

The Diary Continues

[From Falmouth to Cannelton](#)

Martin and Johanna Leave Falmouth

Eduard Calls the Strobels Back to Indiana

Martin and Johanna Move to Cannelton

[Life in Cannelton](#)

The Strobel Home Place in Germany

Cities of Residence

There is no direct evidence to support the idea that the political and social conditions of southwestern Europe were the specific stimuli for the Martin Strobel family to leave Baden, Germany, and immigrate to the New World, although letters written to Martin in 1850 and oral history handed down through several generations suggest that that may have been the case. However, the historical record is clear that the

upheaval of western European societies in the first half of the 19th century was a major factor effecting emigration from all over Europe.

Martin Strobel and his wife, Johanna Schiel Strobel, were born in in the principality of Baden. In Martin's "diary of the trip to America" he states that he and his wife are from *Hilpertsau, District Gernsbach, Archduchy Baden*. Registration records at the Church of Stabat Mater (Our Lady of Sorrows) in Gernsbach confirm his baptism in Hilpertsau.



Hilpertsau, the birthplace of the Martin Strobel, is a small village located about 2.5 kilometers south of the town of Gernsbach on the west bank of the Murg River. Gernsbach, you will also notice on the accompanying map, is about 10 kilometers west of Baden-Baden where are found fashionable spas and their mineral springs. This whole area lies within the Black Forest, a narrow heavily-wooded mountain range that stretches for 100 miles along the Rhine Valley. Other important cities in Baden-Baden are Karlsruhe, its capital, and

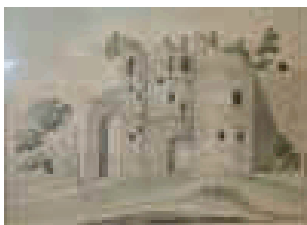
Heidelberg, which has the oldest university in the present German Republic. The Archduchy of Baden was located along the west bank of the Rhine River in the southwestern corner of Germany. Today it is an enlarged administrative division (state) of the German Federal Republic, called Baden-Wurttemberg. Until the French Revolution the area was a confusing jigsaw puzzle of small margravates (early margraves were German governors, and later hereditary princes of smaller principalities in the Holy Roman Empire) and ecclesiastic states. When Martin Strobel and his family emigrated (1849) from Baden, it consisted of the united margravates of Baden-Baden in the south and Baden-Durlach in the north, both ruled by Grand Duke Leopold from 1830 to 1852. Originally Christianized by the Franks in the 8th century, both margravates became Protestant during the Reformation, but Baden-Baden returned to Roman Catholicism in the 1570s.

The Strobel Family Roots in Germany

Remembrances of Margaret Strobel Schatz

Other than minimal German church records listing birth and death dates there is little documentary evidence gathered to date of the Strobel family roots prior to the coming of Martin and Johanna to America. Land ownership, military, tax and census rolls, court and municipal archives and the like have not been investigated in Germany. However, there do exist notes and drafts of several letters that were written to Francis "Mickey" Strobel by his sister, Margaret Strobel Schatz, in 1953. Mickey and Margaret are grandchildren of Martin and Johanna Strobel. What follows has been edited from Margaret's drafts.

"I have decided to write and give you as much family history as I know first hand from Papa [Margaret's father, Fredrich Robertus Strobel, b.1863]. [Our] name, Strobel, [means] disheveled or tousled hair. He [Martin Strobel, b.1818] had seven sisters and was the youngest of the family, I believe. He had an Uncle Carl Strobel who was a sculptor of some repute. He [Martin] did not attend Heidelberg as our mother said, which is about 30 miles from Baden-Baden, but went to its equivalent in learning, Karlsruhe Technological School or University, this being a school patronized chiefly by Catholics, Heidelberg by Protestants. He apparently studied architecture and allied subjects there and designed or helped design or build the Reichstadt, a convening place for the powers, this was or is in Karlsruhe, Baden or one of the southern towns. Papa explained when I was a child that it was a government building



used to keep records, etc, national assemblies held there, etc. From the plans and drawings and the two framed water-colors of ruins supposedly seen in or about Baden-Baden,..... we know he followed art as a hobby or profession. According to Papa a few months before he died, [he said] the two pictures were painted by grandfather when he was 18 years old. [Grandfather] also had served in the Prussian or German army, it was said.

"His family [Johannes Martinus Valentinus Strobel family] was supposedly titled, being feudal land owners and controlling the serfs or people on their land. There is a bit of history connected with these duchies which have a bearing on grandfather's immigration to this country.the Austrian Emperor tried to free the peasants and the Princes of Baden united against the National Assembly. The Rhineland had been invaded by the French who tried to abolish feudal rights in Alsace, where many of these duchies were located and [where] the German princes held land on the left bank of the Rhine [and] had incurred losses during Napoleon's invasion in 1801. Papa spoke of Alsace being near his [Martin's] father's land. We know nothing of grandfather's family or his life in Germany, but the reason for their [Martin and Johanna] coming to America in 1848 or 1849, is that being titled, grandfather feared for their lives in the uprising against his class which took place in that year in March [1848]. This was against the smaller states of southwest Germany. There were riots, burning of towns, etc. [see 'Germany in the Years Leading up the the Strobel Immigration to America' in the following section]

"Grandfather married Johanna Schiel, a beautiful (so Aunt Ida said) peasant girl who sang in the village choir. When or where they were married and their respective ages at the time, I do not know. G. [Grandfather] spoke H. [High] German, which had been obsolete since 1220, so it is said. Papa is also said to have spoken high G. As for example - he pronounced the e in Karlsruhe. As you may know, none of grandfather's children were permitted to speak to him except at his pleasure (the arrogant old snob)[consequently] Papa's information must have been of the most meager kind and could be inaccurate to a degree, except that he had a particular talent for accuracy of information, dates, etc. These details, though not particularly relevant, might give you a broader picture.

"From the description given, or explanation rather [to Margaret by her brother, Robert Strobel, who had possession of the coat of arms at the time], the situation of the crown on the third [actually, the fourth] from top prong or antler, indicates the degree of title, in this case that of Count equivalent of the English Duke or Earl, third removed from the King or Emperor. The ones symbolized by the closed crown were equal in blood of the sovereign house and entitled [a person] to be called most honorable or illustrious and were considered of 'high nobility.' I haven't seen our coat of arms for so many years, but do remember Papa or Mamma telling me what the crown signified, however I do not remember if it is closed or open [it is closed]."

The Martin Strobels Emigrate from Germany to America

Those Who Came Before Martin and Johanna

Several Strobels, Gerstners and Schiels likely preceded Martin and Johanna to the New World. Given a "chain migration" function, there is the likelihood that some of those persons preceding Martin and Johanna's emigration from Germany were related or least known to our forebears. We know for a fact that Johanna's aunt, Elisabeth Schiel, was to be delivered to her brother, Mathais Schiel, in Kentucky. It is also likely that Martin and Johanna had Strobel and Gertsner relatives in one or more

of the Ohio River communities and who were encouraging of their coming to America and settling in areas that already had German Catholic populations.

In searching historical records it is necessary to understand that the spelling of names was often inaccurate. Variation in spelling depended upon pronunciation by the immigrant, and the education, foreign language fluency and penmanship of the recorder/registrar. For example, Strobel sometimes reads as Strople, Strouble, Struble, Stroll, Strob, Schrob, Schohl, Strobl, and Stroble; and Schiel appears as Schell, Scheele, Schill, Schield, Schields, and Shields. Further, immigrants sometimes anglicized their names to fit into the local community (become "more American") or to simplify spelling and/or understanding of their names. Given the multiplicity of possibilities, we've considered the following names probable family members who arrived through the Port of New Orleans prior to Martin and Johanna:

Ness Strobel, 24, who sailed from Bremen, Germany, arrived Port of New Orleans on June 16, 1841.

On November 25, 1850, Ness Strobel's wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter Suzanne, then 33 and 8 years old respectively, arrived New Orleans, also out of Bremen.

Mathais Strobel, age 26 arrived at the Port of New Orleans from Le Havre, France, on June 16, 1845

Mathias Schell, 36, arrived Port of New Orleans June 29, 1846 out of Le Havre on the ship *Meaford*.

Franz Gerstner, arrived from Le Havre on the ship *Taglioni*, April 19, 1847.

Johann Strobel, 25, arrived Port of New Orleans from Le Havre on March 19, 1849.

The Diary of the Trip to America

It is hard for us to imagine just how difficult the immigration to America was for our forbears. But consider these facts: a) Martin and Johanna left Germany with winter approaching; b) transportation in Europe by rail, boat or coach was slow and uncomfortable; c) Johanna was three months pregnant (and hopefully over morning sickness before they departed); d) the Strobels had the care of their two year old son, Eduard, and Johanna's 51 year old aunt, Elizabeth; e) ship travel, even under the best of conditions, was long, arduous and unsanitary; f) they were taking a southerly route to New Orleans during the hurricane season, g) travel in close quarters with many other people undoubtedly led to the deaths of Eduard and Elizabeth (It is doubtful that they would have begun such a trip if any of them were sick.); and finally, g) the likely expectation of a warm welcome from Mathias and possibly a homestead in the Falmouth area was dashed given the acrimonious outcome over monies expected by Mathias.

With the foregoing as background we can begin to trace Martin and Johanna's journey to America. The following is from Martin's hand written account "*Diary of our Travel to America in the Year of 1849*" and translated from the German. Editorial comments are in brackets.

"On September 30, at 6 o'clock in the morning, we departed from our hometown [Hilpertsau] and our travel led us to Baden [now Baden-Baden] from where we continued our journey by railroad to Kiel [sic] [Kehl is located on the West bank of the Rhine River across from Strasbourg]. On October 18 [probably October 1st since they only spent one night in Strasbourg], at 4 o'clock in the afternoon we traveled by coach from Strasbourg to Paris where we arrived at 8 o'clock on March 3 [probably 8 a.m., October 3rd]. That night, at 9 o'clock we traveled by railroad to Le Havre where we arrived at 9 o'clock in the morning [probably October 4th]. At 3 o'clock that afternoon the boat by the name of Ferie [*Fevriere*, as listed

in Port of New Orleans immigration list] went to sea. On November 11 we saw land – two islands – and on November 27 at 8 o'clock in the evening we arrived in New Orleans.

"On December 3 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon we traveled from there on a riverboat, upstream on the Mississippi River. On the 13th at 5 o'clock in the morning, our Eduard died and he was buried in the afternoon in Centeton [Cannelton] in the State of Indiana, the name of the man who took charge of the child was Schembo Ros.

"On March 15 [probably December 15], at 7 o'clock we arrived in Cincinnati. On March 16 [probably December 16] at 3 o'clock, Elisabeth Schiel died and was buried in the cemetery there.

"On December 20 we left at 4 o'clock and we arrived in Falmouth on [not legible, probably December 21st or 22nd]. On March 20, 1850 we left Falmouth and arrived in Newport [also called Newport-Kent in another notation of Martin's] on the 22nd in the evening..... from there to Johannesberg [literally, on the Johannes Mountain] where I took on the teacher's position, 1-1/2 years. On April 21, 1852 we traveled from here to Troy in the State of Indiana and here I took over the German School. From here we traveled, on February 4, 1857, to Cannelton, Perry County, Indiana."

At this point it may be worth noting the handicaps that travelers faced in early 19th century post-frontier Ohio River settlements. Homesteads and communities were largely self sufficient due to irregular and undependable modes of transportation. This also accounted for locations being chosen along both large and small waterways. Land transportation depended on a month or so of frozen ground in the winter and three to four months of dry ground in the summer and early autumn. Steamboat and other means of river travel were governed by late autumn and early summer periods when river waters were at their peak. One attempt to overcome the handicap of land travel was the plank road, a system of planks laid on top of and perpendicular to parallel rows of timbers embedded in the road. These roads usually lasted about seven years, but saved wear and tear on horses, buggies and wagons, permitted travel on rain soaked roads and were easy to repair with costs often coming out of tolls. Major drawbacks for many cities along waterways were roads that followed the normal course of the water and were often in flood plains. Water levels that rose in the spring and fall also tended to float plank roads away, an expensive and troublesome complication. However, towns that either decided not to build plank roads or that later abandoned them usually kept plank sidewalks in front of commercial establishments and residences to allow all-weather walking.

Matthias Schiel



From piecing together comments from correspondence and scant genealogical records one gathers that Matthias Schiel had a least three siblings: Elizabeth (b.1798), Sebastian and a second sister who married Anton Weiss and lived in Butler County, PA in 1850. Sebastian Schiel and his wife Theresia Wornner (b, 1799, d.1841) had five children that we know of; Johanna (who later married Martin Strobel), Richard, Ottilia, and two other daughters, one of whom was married to Leo Schick (Johanna's brother in law with whom they stayed over night in Strasbourg, Germany the first night of their journey]. Mathias came to America and was settled in the Falmouth, Kentucky area by the mid 1840s. A Kentucky naturalization record lists him in 1846. According to Pendleton County, Kentucky tax records he bought 50-1/2 acres of farmland along the Kincaid watercourse, a small tributary off the Licking River near Falmouth and approximately 31 air miles south of Newport Kentucky (see map). On the 1850 tax roll his name is spelled Matthew Shields, and on the naturalization records, Matthew Schill. Martin Strobel's name also appears on the 1850 tax rolls immediately below Matthew Shields name but without any further information. The entry of Martin's name suggests that Martin and Johanna stayed with Mathias. In the 1850 U.S. Census, Mathias is listed as Matthew Schill, age 42, occupation farmer, married to Rachel Schill, and listing seven children, ages 1 to 13. The 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 year olds were listed as born in Germany while the youngest, 1 and 2 years old respectively were born in Kentucky. The five-year separation between births the census data may indicate that Mathias came to America about five years ahead of his wife, Rachel, possibly arriving in 1843. Since her name does not show up on the Port of New Orleans manifests under Schiel or any other variant, she may have traveled under her family name or used another port of entry. The name Matthew Shields or Matthew Schill does

not appear on Pendleton county records after 1851 or in the 1860 Kentucky Census.
To date, we don't what happened to Mathias.

Care of Elizabeth Schiel and Interaction with Mathias Schiel

Not only did Martin and Johanna lose their first born son, Eduard, during the trip up the Ohio but also Elizabeth Schiel, Johanna's aunt. The latter event would create great distress for Martin. Mathias undoubtedly felt the loss of his sister but also accused Martin of mismanaging the monies that were entrusted to him to take care of Elizabeth's expenses for the journey to America. Martin mentions that because of her age (listed as 51 on the Port of New Orleans manifest) and need of assistance, Elizabeth had to sign a statement before the (Gernsbach) District Office stating with whom she would undertake the journey. This was apparently necessary to release funds to her for the trip. Further, explicit agreements were entered into between Martin, Elizabeth Schiel and her brother Mathias, Mayor Schillinger and Leo Schick. Martin states in his correspondence that they spent nine months in preparation for the journey. It is apparent from the travel dates that arrangements for the trip had been made well in advance. Especially when one considers that travelers often waited for long periods at various ports of embarkation for boats to the New World whereas Martin's family arrived at Le Havre at 9 a.m., boarded the *Fevriere* and sailed by 3 p.m. that same day.

The Diary Continues

"Having had numerous correspondence with Mathias Schiel and per request of his sister Elizabeth Schiel, that the travel expenses for me and my family will be taken care of by her brother, we decided to undertake the journey under the following conditions.

- Elizabeth Schiel will cover all of the expenses concerning the travel. We had to enter an obligation to take care of the above-mentioned person.
- I received a sum of 453 Franks to cover the travel expenses; it was given to me by Mayor Schillinger in the presence of Elizabeth Schiel and a contract was agreed upon.
- Elizabeth Schiel also had money on her person, sawn into her clothing [on her breast] – 354 Franks – which I personally requested. Since this was too bothersome for her, she handed the money over to me in Le Havre to be added to the travel money to cover the expenses.
- Since we were in hope to receive the above mentioned sum of money, it remained untouched until we reached Arliz [New Orleans]. Since Mathias Schiel did not mention in his written travel instruction how many miles it would be from Arliz to Falmouth, and I had exhausted the money given to me, to be able to continue the journey, we were forced to use the additional sum of money."

What followed in the *Diary* was a strict accounting of monies spent, what remained and what was subsequently turned over to Mathias upon Martin's arrival in Falmouth.

Martin continues:

"It was of her own freewill that Elizabeth Schiel consented to the use of the money to cover all of the expenses during our travel. I also had written to Mathias Schiel about his sister's consent and asked for his approval or his disapproval. If I did not travel to Falmouth, his and his sister's desire to see each other again would have been made impossible. Since Martin Schiel did not make any objections and, in his letter, made some friendly remarks concerning our travel money and not spend everything we decided, supported by Mathias Schiel's letter, to leave our home [Hilpertsau] on

September 30, 1849 and we arrived, weary and full of sorrow in Falmouth on December 21, 1849.”

Mayor Schillinger (It's not clear if he was the mayor of Hilpertsau or Gernsbach, Germany), on behalf of Mathias, filed a charge in the local German court accusing Martin of defrauding Elizabeth of some of her money. Based on Martin's diary it is apparent that the Mayor's comments were extensive and accusative, and likely reflected misinformation that the Mayor received from Mathias. Martin responds to the Mayor point by point in a list of 15 conditions, which were set out prior to departure, concluding with:

“.....I am calling him [Mayor Schillinger] a liar and a slanderer. I can account for the money it will come to light who is right. The money was recounted in La Havre in the presence of Elizabeth, my wife and Johann Zapf from Cincinnati and additional persons whose names I did not learn. In the letter not only was damage done to my good name, but it is also proof that Mathias Schiel had evil thoughts by insisting on his accusations. My wife and I will swear to it that we undertook and completed the journey without bad intentions. [Dated] Falmouth, March 25, 1850. [Signed] Martin Strobel”

This controversy between Martin and Mathias continued on into 1851, and probably beyond that time based on a letter Martin received from Victoria Albrecht dated June 10, 1851. Victoria and her husband were New Orleans residents who emigrated from the Baden area. In her letter she says “I learned that Mathias Schiel had treated you and your wife badly; that, dear Martin and Johanna, I had expected when I heard that you intended to go to him. I remember very well what a bad hypocrite he was in Europe; no telling what will become of such people in America. Let him talk, but don't pay any attention; everybody knows him and nobody can teach him better. Elizabeth died soon after your arrival she chose the better part. She would not have gotten much goodness from her brother; I imagine Mathias came only to ask about money.”

From Falmouth to Cannelton

Martin and Johanna Leave Falmouth

The Strobels left Falmouth for Newport, Kentucky (across the Ohio River from Cincinnati) on March 20, 1850, after wintering in Falmouth. In the interim, Johanna gave birth to a daughter who was named Johanna, on March 3, 1849. Despite the probable hostile environment created by the accusations of Mathias, Martin waited until approaching spring to travel to another community in which they would be welcome. Although their stay in Newport was brief, their family names were listed on July 29th, 1850 in the 1850 U.S. Census, City of Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky, as: Martin Stroll, Age: 33, Laborer, Place of Birth: Germany; Ann Stroll, Age: 24, Place of Birth: Germany; and Ann Stroll, Age: 6/12, Place of Birth: Kentucky



From the *Diary* we know that Martin took a teacher's position for a year and a half in Johannesberg (literally, on the Johannes Mountain), KY. That area was first called "Mount St. John" after the local Catholic church, St. Johns. Later the word "mount" evolved into 'hill' and the area is now known as John's Hill, in the City of Wilder, located approximately three miles south of Newport along the Licking River. Martin taught in the German school at St Johns, a small log structure consisting of two rooms, erected in 1847 and first presided over by a priest, Father John Voll, from Newport, Kentucky who traveled to St John's every fourth Sunday of the month to conduct services. Martin taught the children in the same building. Early Diocesan records referred to Mount Saint John of Campbell County, as having "a (log) German church not blessed." The church's Catholic population in 1847 began with nine families from southern Germany. St Johns sat on top of a range

of hills, along with its nearby cemetery (The map, which was made in 1883, shows only the cemetery, circled in red.), for ten years until June 24, 1857 (the feast of St John) when lightning struck the church and burned it to the ground. A new church (now variously called Church of St John the Baptist, St. John the Baptist Church and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church) was built in 1857, a mile below its former location on John's Hill.

On October 8, 1850, tragedy struck yet again. Martin's second child, and his wife's namesake, Johanna died. But life goes on, and the following summer Johanna brought another child into the world. Martin Jakobi Strobel was born on July 24, 1851, in "Johannesburg." Martin and Johanna would live to see this child grow to manhood, the first of two children out of nine babies who would have progeny and extend the Strobel name for the next one hundred and fifty years.

Eduard Calls the Strobels Back to Indiana



Oral history handed down from Martin and Johanna's son, Frederick Robertus Strobel, to his daughter, Margaret Strobel Schatz, tells of how Johanna pined for her first born, Eduard, and of how she and Martin eventually returned to Indiana to be near the burial place of their first male child. With nine-month-old Martin Jakobi in tow, Martin and Johanna left Johannesburg on April 21, 1852 and went by boat to the city of Troy, in Perry County, Indiana, at the time one of the most important shipping points on the Ohio River, where Martin says "I took

over the German School." Three months later, on July 19, 1852, Martin swore allegiance to the United States of America, "to forever renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any and every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and [written in Martin's own hand] 'especially to Leopold Grand Duke of Baden.'" The number of large and prosperous businesses in the Troy area and the concomitant increase in population that in turn supported greater economic and cultural advantages must also have been an

inducement to move. Further, it is known from Perry County church and naturalization records that other Strobels came to this area, namely Alois Strobel, and Franz Strobel (b. 1833, who came with his father, Franz Martin Strobel in 1846), all from Baden, Germany, and settled in Troy. Whether they were related or known to Martin and Johanna is not yet clear, but "chain migration" patterns would suggest some such relationship.

It is also likely that Martin and Johanna had seen recruiting advertisements put out by the Cannel Coal Company extolling the virtues of Perry County. Editorials that appeared in the Cannelton newspaper, *The Economist*, in 1849, stated that the "Company would aid in improving the wharf and streets and in establishing schools and churches..." and "give lots for all religious and educational purposes, also such building materials as are found on their property." Further, the Company held forth about the "healthiness of its site...the purity and supply of water...the character and cost of fuel and building materials... the cost of and supply of food... opportunities for investment... education and religion... the price of lots and tracts of land... works in progress and the probability of other...". And perhaps more important, "The Germans have services every Sunday, and in their own language. They have also a large Benevolent Society, which holds monthly meetings. The Free Schools of the town, supported by a general tax and State aid, are open eight months in the year." Veins of "potter's" and "fire" clay were discovered in Perry County and led to the Indiana Pottery Company (IPC) and other potteries being established in the city of Troy. By the 1850's a large number of workers from Staffordshire, England were engaged to work in the potteries. Though considered by historians somewhat of an exaggeration, it was once reported that the IPC brought over 800 workers from England and had some 1200 to 1600 people working in their pottery. Other businesses of note were the distilleries which manufactured beer, corn whisky, peach and apple brandy and grape wine; large wood yards which sold cordwood for steam and other boats; and shippers who handled large quantities of beef, pork, corn and other grains.

It's not as yet clear whether the "German School" in which Martin says he was recruited to teach was connected with a church, private or public institution but one can surmise, given the large English population of Troy at the time, that his teaching position was connected to a German Catholic church or German Benevolent Society.

In the almost five years that Martin and Johanna lived in Troy, two more children were born: Franz Michael Strobel on August 21, 1853 and Maria Elisabeth Strobel on January 22, 1856. Maria, who didn't marry, would live with the family until her death in 1893, but Franz never saw his first birthday, dying on August 9, 1854.

Martin and Johanna Move to Cannelton

The decline of the IPC, the decrease in the need for wood to fuel riverboats or the increase in population and prosperity of Cannelton, may have each contributed in some measure to the Strobel move to Cannelton on February 4, 1857. However, since Martin didn't immediately go to another teaching position in Cannelton, it is unclear whether there were more forces pushing the family from Troy than were pulling them to Cannelton. But we know from U.S. Census records that Martin was employed as a "vine dresser" in 1860, three years after they moved to Cannelton, and had "real" property with a tax valuation of \$160 and personal property valued at \$150. The move, therefore, may have been made in order to start a vineyard on his own land. In a promotional brochure dated June 1, 1857 the American Cannel Coal Company states:

"The climate and soil of this district are peculiarly favorable to the cultivation of the grape. The Coal Company are very desirous to encourage this branch of industry, and will sell five and ten acre lots for this purpose on a credit of four, five and six years, thus giving the coal miners a double field of labor,

and enabling them to pay for the land out of its product. Inferior lands near Cincinnati yield an average of 200 gallons of wine, which usually is sold at \$1 the gallon

Lands from four to ten miles from Cannelton which, six years ago, were valued at \$1.25 per acre, are now worth from \$2.50 to \$10 the acre. The advance in price (is) in consequence of the rapid growth of the Town and the increase of German emigrants to the County."

Cannelton owes its existence to the high grade of semi-cannel coal found in the Indiana hills along the Ohio River in 1835. In 1837 mines were opened in an area called "Coal Haven," which was changed to "Cannelburg" in 1840 and finally to Cannelton by 1844. Prior to 1851 when the Cannelton Cotton Mill became operational, Cannelton was basically a company town. The coal company owned nearly all the lots in and around the town and some 6000 acres of surrounding land. It also managed and sold real estate as well as quarried stone and managed the mines. The advent of the mill was a natural fit for the coal company and for Cannelton. The coal company provided the coal for the mill's boilers, employment for the wives and children of the men who worked in the mines and boosted the economy of the area. At least five of the coal company stockholders were incorporators of the mill and five others were mill directors in effect creating an interlocking board of directors. Financing came from southern landowners and local investors. As for the Cannelton Mill, it was to become the largest mill west of the Appalachians and the largest factory in Indiana. The main building, a four-story affair approximately 290 feet long and 60 feet wide, held some 300 employees, many of whom were experienced textile women brought from England. Young children were also employed in the mill. Laws passed by the Indiana legislature in 1867 provided that workers under 16 were not to work more than 10 hours a day in a six-day week. This was apparently considered an improvement from previous years. Martin's daughter, Maria, was one of those children affected by early child labor laws. She was listed as working in the mill at the time of the 1870 U.S. Census when she was only 13 years old. Martin and Johanna lived in the Sulphurspring area, about one mile east of the village center, land owned by the coal company. If Martin bought land at the coal company price, he could have purchased up to 16 acres. More likely, his \$160 brought him far less acreage given that a stone hotel was built in Sulphur Spring Hollow in 1851 to take advantage of the sulphur waters, and an entry was made into Sulphur Spring Hill by the coal company, about one-half mile east of the spring in the summer of 1857 to meet the high demand for coal.

Four more children were born to Martin and Johanna during their residence in Sulphurspring. Anna (Johanna) Veronica was born on January 22, 1859, Antonia Theresia on June 14, 1861, Fredrich Robertus on March 26, 1863 and Ottilia Christina on December 20, 1865. Anna died at age six, Antonia at 29, Fredrich at 63 and Ottilia at age 69. Martin Jakobi would live to be older than his parents and all his siblings. Perhaps clean air and the good farm life in Brazil, Indiana, where Martin Jakobi moved in the 1870s contributed to his long life despite his having worked in the mines at an early age.

Life in Cannelton

[To be continued]

The Martin Stobels Emigrate from Germany to America

Those Who Came Before Martin and Johanna