

Burkhart Family History

From Bavaria to Brookville and Beyond

The rolling hills and fertile valleys along the Ohio River, dotted with hardwoods, were a welcome sight to German immigrants in the 1800s. Many came from the Rhine River region and settled in Southern Ohio and Indiana. Even the climate reminded them of home!

Like the Rhineland, Cincinnati was home to the first volume wine production in the USA, flourishing from the early 1830s till after the Civil War. Cincinnati was then known as "*The Rhineland of America*" and later famous as "*Porkopolis*" in the 1930s. In the 1800s, it was also one of the top four US beer making cities, with up to 32 breweries near the *Over-the-Rhine* district.

Butz Burkhart's great-grandfather, George Peter Burkhart, left Germany and arrived in New York on May 10, 1860 after an ocean voyage of 47 days. He brought with him his wife Maria Anna (Bernhart) and their three children, including Butz's grandfather, Ferdinand, who was nine.



Home of George Peter Burkhart and son, Ferdinand, 1860. Built by the Burkharths in Schaidt, Germany ~ 1825.



Ferdinand Burkhart (top center) and children in Brookville 1901. William is front row, left, with glasses.

George Burkhart was born in 1819 in the small village of Schaidt in Rhineland-Pfalz, part of the kingdom of Bavaria (modern Germany). It is located near the Rhine River, due west of Karlsruhe, a stones throw from the ancient Romantic Road which connects the old wineries and castles.

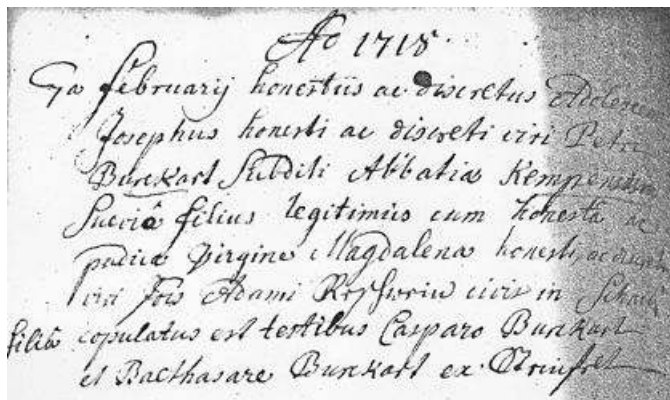
George Peter's father, Sebastian, was born in 1790 and his grandfather, Michael, was born about 1755. They were all "zimmerman", who built the beautiful half-timbered homes of the period, including their own home shown above. The home they left in 1860 is still standing in Schaidt, on the main street, just outside the east city gate. It was built ~1825, after the massive destruction of the region from the Napoleonic Wars. Two of George's brothers lived across the street.

After arriving in New York, the Burkhart family made their way to Cincinnati, and finally to Brookville Indiana by canal boat, where they settled. George was listed as a "day laborer" in the 1860 census, shortly after his arrival. On the eve of the Civil War, he became a US citizen (on January 16, 1861). His son, Ferd, continued the tradition as a "zimmerman" for a time. He was listed as a "carpenter" in

the 1880 census, a “saloon keeper” in 1886, an “agent” in 1899 and was elected Treasurer for Franklin County, Indiana from 1900-1904. He was a “bridge builder” when he died in 1932.

Burkhart's in Kempten, Swabia (*Home of the “Disneyland” Castle, Neuschwanstein*)

Distant cousins in Schaidt and Paris have kindly provided information which confirms the Burkharts lived in **Kempten**, Swabia, Bavaria (southwest of Munich) in the late 1600s. They apparently helped to repopulate the Pfalz region around 1700, as the area recovered from the devastation of the 30 Years War (1618-1648). Our first evidence of this is the 1718 birth record of the **Maria Catherina Burckart**, daughter of **Joseph and Magdalena Burckart**. See photograph of the birth record from Catholic churchbook in Schaidt, below. *Variation in spelling of family names was common. It was mostly phonetic. Roman Catholic church records were in Latin, using the old Gothic script. Ouch!*



1718 birth record for daughter of Josef Burkhart in Schaidt.



Church book listing the newborn infant, parents, god parents.

9 February, 1718... **Josephus**, son of **Petri Burckart**, from **Abbotia Kempensium** (the Kempten monastery district) in **Suevia** (Swabia – part of the Kingdom of Bavaria, now Southern Germany) and his wife **Magdalena**, daughter of **Adami Reschwein** of **Schaidt**. Testibus: (Witnessess) **Casparo Burckart** and **Balthasare Burckart** of Steinfeld, Germany (the village next to Schaidt). *Witnesses are typically relatives, perhaps uncles. See above.*

Petri (Peter) Burckhart from Kempten was born ~1670. He is the great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather of Butz Burkhart. They left Kempten some time after his son, Josef, was born in 1696. It is not clear how long the Burkharts lived near Kempten or exactly where they lived before. However, it's likely that our ancestors lived for centuries between the Rhine/Black Forest and the Danube River near Munich, along the Swiss and Austrian border, just north of the Alps.

We were certainly “Swabians” (“Schwabens”, “Suevi”, “Suebi”) and share many customs with the *Donauschwaben* (Swabians who moved ~1700 to settle the Danube River to the East). The Swabians were also called the Alemanni tribe, who lived in Southwestern Germany, and chased the Romans out of the Black Forest in 260 A.D. The Burkhart family name is most common around Basel, Switzerland, on the Rhine River near the German/French border. Several Burkharts were mayors of Basel in the early 1800s. There are more Burkharts per square mile in Basel, than any place in the world.

The family name was derived from “burg” or village and “hardt” (heart). “Hardt” in those days represented strength or courage. Burkhart or “Burghardt” meant “defender of the town”. In medieval times, he was the one in charge of the watch tower overlooking the city walls, and would sound the alarm if the village was attacked.

Note various spellings of Burkhart in the records: Burkart, Burckhart, Burger (IN census 1860), Burkhardt, Burkhart. Most of the German records used **Burckhart** for Michael, Sebastian and George Peter. Burkhart is also used as a first name in Germany today.

Also **note the longevity**, with four generations of Burkhart males in our direct line (before Butz) living beyond 80 years old...back in the 1800s when average life expectancy was less than 50 years old. Ferd had sons who lived to be 84, 87, 87, 88, and 89. (*Maybe beer really is a health food?*)



Burkhart's ~ 1930 Brookville, Indiana.
Ferd seated, second from right. William standing far left next to boy.



Ferdinand Burkhart at Brookville home ~1920s.



Ferd's wife, Catherine (Peters).

Burkhart Family Crest



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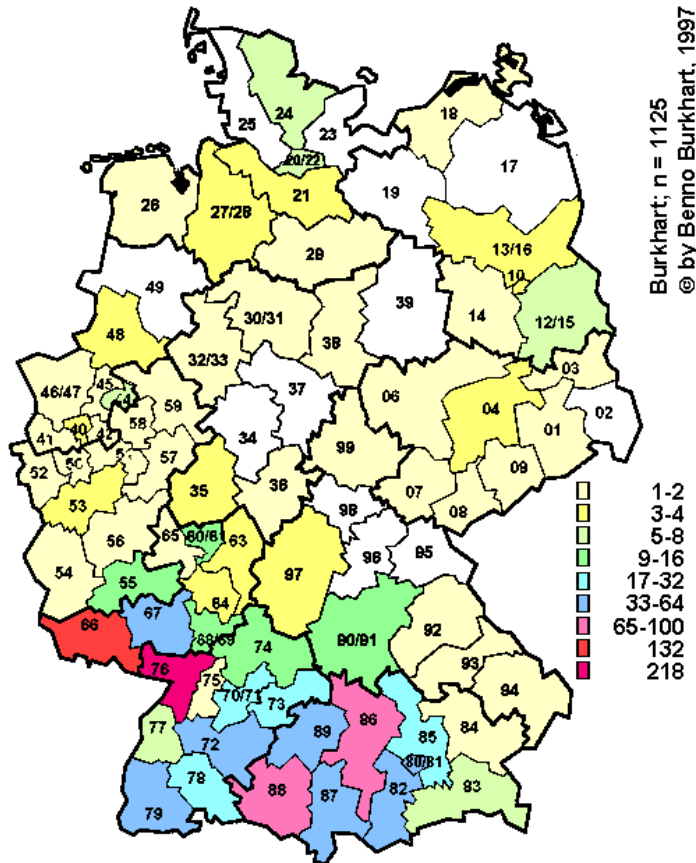
Origin Displayed: German

Spelling variations include: Burkhard, Burkhardt, Burckhard, Burckhardt, Burkhardt, Burkhart and many more.

First found in Swabia, where the name was closely identified in early medieval times with the feudal society which would become prominent throughout European history.

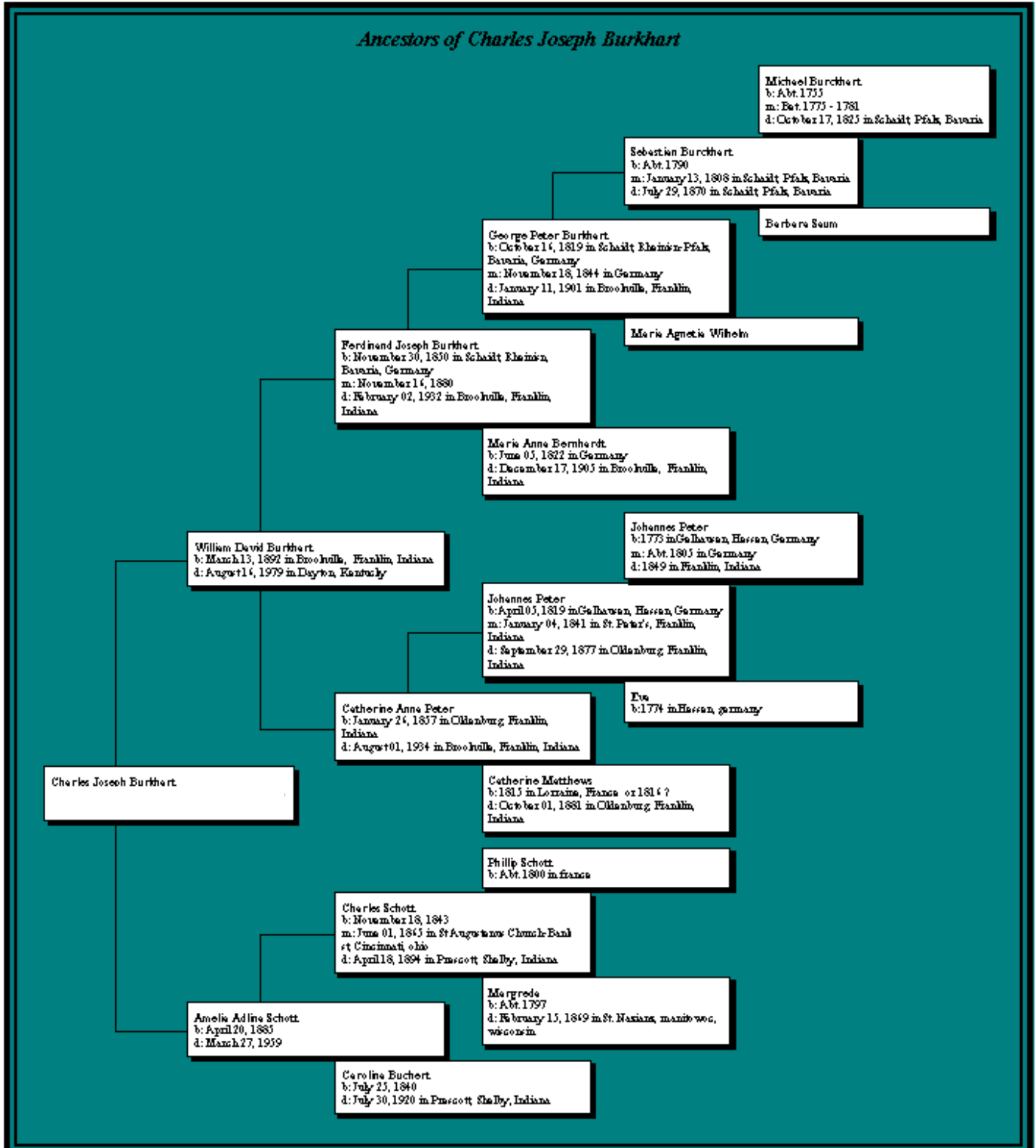
Some of the first settlers of this name or some of its variants were: Johannes Burkhardt, who came to New York in 1709; Carolus Burkhardt arrived in Philadelphia in 1733; as did Georg Jacob Burkhart in 1739; and Simon Burchart in 1751.

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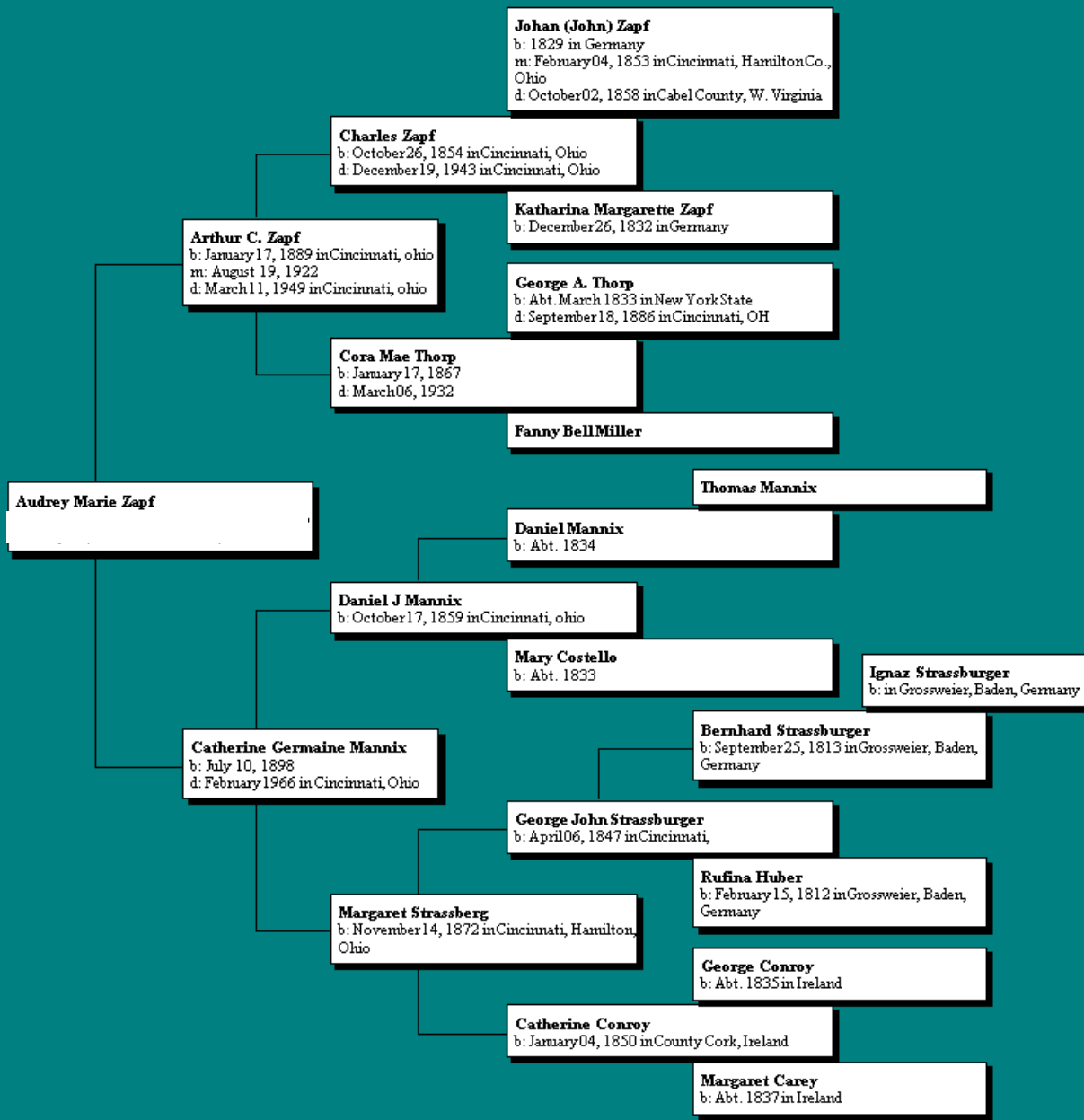


Highest concentration of Burkhart's in Germany is the Southwest corner, near Basel Switzerland and the Rhine River.

Ancestors of Charles Joseph Burkhart



Ancestors of Audrey Marie Zapf



From Burkhart Family Bible

DAY, BORN		196
SATURDAY	108 ⁵¹ Ferd. J. Burkhart Born Nov. 30. 1850	940-
SATURDAY	108 ¹⁸ Cath. A. Peter Born Jan. 26. 1852	90
BORN, DAY	108 ⁸⁷ Frank T. B. Born Oct. 16. 1851	89
SUNDAY	108 ⁸⁷ Joseph B. W. " Dec. 30. 1852	59
WEDNESDAY	108 ⁷⁴ Edward Chs. B. " " Jan. 9. 1855	58
FRIDAY	108 ⁸⁴ Harry J. B. " " Dec. 24. 1856	55
SATURDAY	108 ⁶⁶ H. J. B. " " Oct. 8. 1858	54
MONDAY	108 ⁸³ August M. B. " " June. 6. 1861	52
FRIDAY	108 ⁸³ William D. B. " " March. 13. 1892	50
SUNDAY	108 ⁷¹ Sam. H. B. " " Jan. 21. 1895	48
SATURDAY	108 ⁷¹ Ralph A. B. " " Oct. 25. 1896	47
FRIDAY	108 ⁷¹ Stanley S. B. " " May. 19. 1899	46
	to April 27, 1976	
DAY, DIED	Ferdinand Burkhart Died	
TUESDAY	February 2 - 1932 Age 81-2 - 2 days	
WEDNESDAY	Catherine Burkhart Died	
	Edward Peter - 1937. Age 77 - 6 months	
SUNDAY	Al J. Burkhart Died Feb. 21, 1954	
	Coverage in years 67.6 - in 1954	
	" " " 66.3 - " 1957	
	" " " 65.4 - " 1959	
	" " " 72 - " 1969	

THE SHELBY DEMOCRAT

Thursday, April 19, 1917

page 5, weekly edition

ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH SCENE OF WEDDING

William Burkhart and Miss Amelia Schott Married This Morning

(from Tuesday's Daily)

One of the many early spring weddings of this year was solemnized at the St. Vincent's Catholic Church, east of this city, this morning, when **Mr. William Burkhart**, of Cincinnati, a son of **Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Burkhart**, of Brookville, and **Miss Amelia Schott**, a daughter of **Mrs. Caroline Schott**, east of this city, were united in marriage. The ceremony was read by the Rev. Fr. Frederick Ketter, pastor of the church, and was witnessed by a large company of the relatives and friends of the couple. The ceremony was performed at 8:30 o'clock.

The couple was attended during the ceremony by **Miss Anna Schott**, a sister of the bride; **Ralph Burkhart**, a brother of the groom; **Andrew Schott**, a brother of the bride, and **Miss Agnes Burkhart**, a sister of the groom. The wedding march was played at the organ by **Miss Cecilia Hulsman**, the organist, and also on the violin by **Miss Thelma Hulsman**, a niece of the organist.

The bride wore a matchless creation of white chiffon trimmed in pearls and silk lace and carried a shower bouquet of white tea roses. The bridesmaids were dressed in pink satin and carried pink carnations.

Immediately following the ceremony the guests assembled at the Schott home, where an elegant wedding breakfast was served, among the out-of-town guests present being **Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hulsman** and **Gus Burkhart**, of Cincinnati; **Ed Burkhart** and family, **Harry Burkhart**, **Ralph** and **Stanley Burkhart**, of Brookville, and **Miss May Stahlmaier**, of Cincinnati.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart will leave tonight on the Knickerbocker Big Four train for Cincinnati, where they will make their future home. Mr. Burkhart being regularly employed there. The couple has many friends in this county who will regret to see them leave this county, but will wish them well in their new home.

Contributed by [Mary M. Bittner](#) and [Linda Mohr](#)

Obituary for George Peter Burkhart

"George Peter Burkhart was born October 16, 1819 at Schaidt, Rheinisch, Bavaria, Germany. On November 18, 1844 he was married to Miss Mary Anna Bernhardt. He with his family emigrated to America in the last of the year 1859, arriving at New York on May 10, 1860 after an ocean voyage of 47 days. From New York he brought his family to Cincinnati and from there by canal boat to Brookville, which he made his permanent home. Through hard labor he gained means to buy himself a house and provide for the comfort of his family. After the last flood he sold his property in the valley and with wife and daughter moved in the house occupied by his son Charles in the Fries Block on Main Street.

On Saturday, Jan 19th, he fell while out in the yard and had to be taken to bed from which he never more arose. Being well prepared, receiving the sacraments of the Holy Catholic Church, he died at 11:50 Tuesday night, Jan. 11, 1901. He was a devout and faithful Catholic, a member of St. Michael's congregation and of St. Michael's Men's Society since its organization. To him and wife were born eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. Four sons and one daughter preceded him in death. He leaves a wife, four sons, two daughters, twenty-seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to mourn for one that always was a kind and loving husband and father. May he rest in peace."

George Peter Burkhart renounces his allegiance to the king of Bavaria
and becomes a US citizen on January 16, 1861

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



THE STATE OF INDIANA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, SS:

Be it Remembered, That on this 16th day
of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred
and fifty one, personally appeared before me, Henry B. J. Clerk
Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Franklin, in the State of Indiana,
Peter Burkhart, an alien, who, being duly
sworn, declares on oath, that it is bona fide his intention to become a CITIZEN OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any
foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty, whatever, and particularly to
the King of Bavaria

whereof he is now a subject

Given to and subscribed before me, said Clerk, this 16th day
of January, A. D. 1861.

Henry B. J. Clerk
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



BROOKVILLE DEMOCRAT

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR--NO. 13.

BROOKVILLE, INDIANA, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1900.

THE PRIMARY ELECTION

HELD LAST SATURDAY BY THE DEMOCRATS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

Results in the Election of an Executive Ticket--Sheriff and six Commissioners as in Convention.

The Democratic primary election held last Saturday for candidates for county offices, brought out the largest vote ever cast in a primary election in the county, over 2300 votes being deposited in the ballot boxes for the four candidates for County Treasurer.

Ferdinand J. Burkhart, of Brookville township, was the successful candidate for Treasurer. Edward Hooper, of Brookville township, was nominated for Sheriff; O. Henri Rogers, of Brookville township, for Coroner; John C. Ellis, of Brookville township, for County Assessor; Jacob H. Moore, of Brookville township, for County Commissioner from the second district; Louis W. Kestner, of Ball Creek township, for County Commissioner from the third district; William H. Young, of Blooming Grove township, for County Surveyor; John R. Appleton, of Springfield township, and William Stumman, of Peasey township, for Commissioners-at-Large; Theodore A. Moore, of Blooming Grove township, for Commissioner from the first district, composed of the townships of Peasey, Laurel, Blooming Grove and Fairfield; Highland Oak, of Ball township, for Commissioner from the second district (Ball, Springfield, Whitewater and Highland townships); Peter Ritter, of Ray township, for Commissioner from the third district (Ray, Butler, Ball Creek and Metamora townships); and Louis Fedelesian, of Brookville township, for Commissioner from the fourth district (Brookville township).

The ticket nominated is one that should command the support of every Democrat in Franklin county. The only intimation that was not made at the primary election last Saturday are Sheriff and county Commissioner from the first district. These nominations will be made at the delegate convention to be held in Brookville next Saturday, April 14th.

The candidates for Sheriff are Joseph E. Hooper, of Brookville township, who received 1661 votes and will have 34 delegates in the convention; Lewis Loper, of Fairfield township, who received 207 votes and is entitled to 23 delegates; Frederick W. Baker, of Brookville township, who received 93 votes and has 22 delegates; and Edward H. Farnsworth, of Fairfield township, who received 333 votes and has 12 delegates.

The vote for County Commissioners from the first district was as follows: R. P. Whitman, of Ball township, 511 votes (12 delegates); Simon Hooper, of Highland township, 708 votes (16 delegates); Joseph Fritsch, of Highland township, 725 votes (16 delegates); Moses Whitney, of Whitewater township, 123 votes (3 delegates).

The list of delegates to the convention next Saturday appears elsewhere. Let every delegate be in his seat when the convention is called to order.

Primary Election Vote.

Candidate	Votes	Delegates
Moore	933	23
Hooper	1661	34
Burkhart	1219	25
Ritter	127	3
Total vote for Treasurer 2320.		
Dudley	1007	24
Loper	207	23
Baker	93	12
Farnsworth	333	12
Total vote for Sheriff 2340.		
Hooper	1231	21
Ritter	708	16
Loper	207	23
Farnsworth	333	12
Total vote for Coroner 2479.		
Hooper	1011	19
West	629	12
Total vote for Assessor 2240.		
Ellis	1234	25
Young	972	21
Total vote for County Assessor 2206.		
Whitman	511	12
Hooper	708	16
Fritsch	725	16
Whitney	123	3
Total vote for Commissioners, 1st district 2033.		
Hooper	303	3
Ritter	708	16
Young	725	16
Moore	489	12
Total vote for Commissioners 2nd district 2225.		
Hooper	230	30
Kestner	1104	25
Young	492	12
Total vote for Commissioners, 3d district 1826.		
Loper	127	12
Young	1239	25
Total vote for County Surveyor 2366.		

Bargains for Ten Days

Moore Cook & Hooper, the Brookville mercantile firm, being in need of cheap goods, and money, will have a box line of goods on hand, after which bargain to purchase for the next ten days. Call at their place of business, east of Court House and see samples.

That Throbbing Headache.

Would you like to have your head feel as if it were on fire? Thousands of sufferers have proved their worthless merit for such and various headaches. They submerge blood and strong nerves and build up your health. Easy to take. Try them. Daily 25 cents. Money back if not cured. Sold at King's Pharmacy.

Remarkable Cure of Rheumatism.

Dr. W. J. W. VA. About three years ago my wife had an attack of rheumatism which confined her to her bed for over a month and rendered her unable to walk a step without assistance. Her legs being swollen to twice their normal size. Dr. H. M. Smith, residing on my farm, administered his Pain Balm. I purchased a fifty-cent bottle and used it according to the directions and the next morning she walked to breakfast without assistance in my opinion, and she has not had a similar attack since. A. B. Farnsworth. For sale at King's Drug Store.

LIST OF DELEGATES

To the Franklin County Democratic Convention to be held at Brookville next Saturday, April 14, 1900.

BAVE TOWNSHIP--James Doss, Edward H. Hyde, James H. Whitman, Moses P. Jones, Thomas Murphy, Albert Cox.

BLOOMING GROVE--William H. Young, Frank M. Stobbs, Theodore Farnell, Oscar O. Taylor, J. H. Mitchell, John K. Whitney.

BROOKVILLE TOWNSHIP--Christian Hofer, Jacob Seligson, James A. Redman, George Hera, P. A. Bradburn, Richard B. Taylor, Frank A. Wright, William H. Vanness, William H. Berry, Charles E. Martin, A. J. Cook, Evan L. Patterson, Caspar Schuck, Michael Redman, William Bessert, Frank Myers, Allison A. Smalley, Charles Seefeldt, George D. Anderson, W. D. Clark, John Bennett, John Edgar, P. T. McCaskey, Charles Hooper, Robert M. Kough, John Burkhart, Peter J. Spacht, Herman Jones, William Beckwith, James V. Young, John Platt, Albin Colbank, Michael Kuhn, Jr., William M. Baker, Herman Trishler.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP--Robert Cook, Lyle Jones, Wesley White, Tobias Sherman, Lewis Hofer, James Lansing, Andrew Brantmeier, Joseph Gorman, George Hofer, Joseph Rosenbaum, Henry Palkamp and Peter Kasta.

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP--E. F. Seamer, John W. Davis, Theodora Cromwell, Edward Lykes, Ormsby H. Loran, Lewis Young, John Klucik.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP--August Hooper, William Hooper, Al Rosenberger, K. K. McCarty, George Whitaker, Oscar A. Cooley, George Wipperfurth, Frank Starwood, Joseph Menz, Joseph Rosman, John Lawrence, F. J. Starfeld, John J. Packer, Abraham Rosent.

LAUREL TOWNSHIP--William F. Butler, Thomas Brown, Fred Krumpholtz, Clyde C. Williams, John Tiggler, J. M. Williams, Joseph Hunter, Warren Allison, William DeWesse, Forest Hooper, James Jackson.

METAMORA TOWNSHIP--Pho Laning, Ed Brooks, Clarence W. Higgins, George Hanson, J. C. Swan.

PEASEY TOWNSHIP--George Goble, Frank Hanson, Mat James, George Croddy, Guy Moore, Ed Hunt.

RAY TOWNSHIP--Ben Naba, Henry Klau, Ben Leising, Theo. Heldags, Joe Tabor, Harry Burdick, Harry J. Harbeck, Ben J. Kossing, John Gehring, Frank Fritsch, John Hofer, Geo. A. Clemens, Henry Hooper, Henry Stumman, Henry Fritsch, Geo. Wessel, Sr., Frank Gehring.

SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP--John Woodard, James McCarty, Joseph Hubel, Herman Behlisch (this present only. We were unable to secure the names of the delegates to the other precinct--Editor Democrat).

WHITWATER TOWNSHIP--James W. Whitney, Milton Linn, George McNeill, Elmer Gibbs, W. H. Blair, P. M. Shaw, H. E. Schaefer, Joseph Zell, P. T. Hoard, Elmer Cook.

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP--Thomas J. McCarty, Frank McNeill, Charles Wright, Thomas Hines, William Rosent, Henry Grestbach, William Kraus, George Goss, Lewis J. Brown, Smith Lord.

TOWNSHIP

That Were Saturday

Of Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

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Blooming Grove, Fair Creek, etc.

KING'S!!

That's all you need.

Associated with Drugs, Perfumes, Toilet Articles and Prescriptions, everybody knows it means the best, purest and safest to be had. The latch-string is always out at

King's Drug Store,

BROOKVILLE, IND.

U. B. Services.
Services at the Brookville U. B. Church, April 12th, at 7:30 p. m., and each evening during the week. All are invited.
John Jackson, Pastor.

Care of Thanks.
I desire through the columns of the Democrat to thank my many friends for their magnificent support last Saturday, and promise them to make as good an Assessor for Brookville township as my best abilities will allow.
W. H. VANNESS, LEAD.

A Frightful Murder
Will other cause a horrible murder, Cat or Brain. Baskin's Brain Balm, the best in the world.

What do the Children Drink?
Don't give them tea or coffee. Have you tried the new food drink called Grala-O? It is delicious and nourishing and takes the place of coffee. The more Grala-O you give the children the more health you distribute through their systems. Grala-O is made of pure grains, and when properly prepared tastes like the choice grade of coffee but costs about 1/4 as much. All grocers sell it. Use and see.

Lutheran Services.
Good Friday, April 14, 10 a. m. services and Lord's supper, at Laurel; at 2:30 p. m., at Peppertown; regular services.
Sunday, April 15, 10 a. m. Easter services and Lord's supper, at Peppertown.