

The
Siebenthaler Family
Record

In the United States

1831 - 1941



Revised and Enlarged by
IRA ALFRED SIEBENTHALER
Dayton, Ohio

"I am of the opinion that anecdotes which disclose the virtuous actions of our worthy ancestors should be preserved and held up for the example of their descendants."

—*Longstreth.*

... PREFACE ...

George Siebenthaler was born June 24, 1810, in the Rheinpfalz, near the towns of Winzeln, Pirmarsan and Bayren, Germany. Here he attended school and graduated second in his class when he was sixteen years old. It was customary to give prizes to the students who ranked high in their classes, and grandfather chose a violin with three years of instruction. After his school days were over he worked at the weaver's trade, but did not neglect his violin and became very proficient upon it.

In January, 1831, in company with his father and mother and some friends, he left his home in Germany by wagon for Havre, France, to sail for America. After spending some time here, they went on boardship and in May, after a voyage of six weeks, landed in New Orleans, Louisiana. (His brother Philip started to America a year previous to this, but was shipwrecked off the coast of England, not landing in America until nearly a year had elapsed). Grandfather then went to Cincinnati, Ohio. During the winter months he found employment in a slaughter house and in the summer time worked on the Miami and Erie Canal and helped in the construction of thirteen locks in Cincinnati. He remained in Cincinnati three years. An epidemic of cholera was raging fiercely at this time throughout the city and many and terrible were the experiences he related of this. In 1832, he married Miss Margaret Caroline Moerschel, who also came from Germany.

Grandfather had practically no farming experience, yet he decided to buy some Government land in Indiana. This was during the administration of President Andrew Jackson who cancelled the national debt by selling Government land. The record of his land, obtained from the General Land Office, U. S. Interior Department, Washington, D. C., is as follows: "On October 4, 1833, the U. S. Government sold to said George Siebenthaler for the sum of \$50.00 forty acres in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 25, township 9, range 3 west, Highland township, Franklin county, Indiana. (Receivers receipt No. 4106). On December 5, 1833, the U. S. Government sold to one George Siebenthaler for the sum of \$50.00, forty acres in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 24, township 9, range 3 west, Highland township, Franklin county, Indiana, (Receivers receipt No. 4146). This land was paid for with money earned by Grandmother who had saved the amount while being employed in hotels. Grandfather used the money he had to build a one room log house and equip the farm.

In February, 1834, Grandfather and Grandmother, with his Father

and Mother, left Cincinnati for their new home in Indiana which was near the small town of St. Peter. Here wild game of all kinds abounded and Grandfather's rifle kept the family well supplied with meat, especially turkey. The land was quite hilly and near a small stream named Blue Creek, where fish were caught.

As the family increased, it became necessary to have a larger house; so in about 1840 a five-room building was erected which is still standing and in good condition. (See picture).

His main crop on the farm was hops; these required considerable attention and after being picked had to be dried then packed in large sacks which hung below a circular hole cut through the second story porch floor; they were then taken to Cambridge City, Indiana, and sold. Some corn, wheat and tobacco were also raised and enough fruit, especially apples to keep the family supplied. Two varieties of these apples are still being raised by Cousin Oliver Baas, living nearby, who secured them years ago by grafting. The first one-room log house was used as a cooper shop, and the barrels made, had to be hauled to Cincinnati to be sold. Here he reared his family of fourteen children.

Grandfather received his final naturalization papers September 24, 1839, and thereafter always voted the Democratic ticket. Cincinnati was forty miles away, but he and his brother Philip, who conducted a general merchandise store nearby, walked there many times to play the violin and clarinet for dances and special celebrations. For this, they would receive \$5.00.

It was on this farm that his Father and Mother died, and as they were both members of the German Lutheran Church, were buried in the cemetery nearby. Grandfather helped build this church and his children were confirmed there.

Grandfather learned that it was profitable to raise small fruits and garden produce near Dayton, Montgomery county, Ohio, so his son George was sent to investigate, and after a favorable report, decided to come and try it. Everything had to be sold and he wrote his own sale bills. The sale netted \$1,600 from farm equipment and live stock. Five acres of the farm had been sold about 1858 to his son Henry. The balance, 75 acres, was sold August 28, 1866 to Christian Gamber for \$1,800.

Some of Grandfather's neighbors were: Peter Huber, Frederick Baas, William Shepper, George Moir and the Hoffman family.

November 23, 1866, Grandfather negotiated for the purchase of eight acres of land with residence from John D. Bohlander, et al, for

\$2,000. This property was located three and one-half miles northwest of Dayton, in Harrison township, Montgomery county, Ohio, on what is now Siebenthaler avenue and Catalpa Drive. On account of the illness of Grandmother they did not come to Dayton, Ohio, until March 17, 1867. Grandfather and Grandmother made the trip by train, bringing the three smallest children with them while some of the others drove through. It was on this place that Grandmother died Saturday, December 14, 1867, and was buried in Shiloh Springs cemetery, four and one-half miles north of Dayton on the Covington Pike. Thus Grandmother, it can be seen, did not get to enjoy the new home for very long as she had been ill for quite awhile.

Grandfather owned his place up to the time of his death, Friday, February 9, 1900, and lies buried by the side of his wife. In the latter years of his life he made his home with his son John, nearby, and died at the latter's residence.

Grandfather was 89 years, 7 months and 15 days old at the time of his death which was caused principally by the infirmities of old age. The day of his funeral was a beautiful, sunny winter day, and was attended by a large number of his neighbors and friends and relatives from Cincinnati and cities in Kentucky.

His property was then disposed of by the sale of small tracts to settle the estate.

At one time Grandfather could play the violin and clarinet very well and delighted in relating the many good times he had with these instruments. The violin that was given him when he graduated at school in Germany in 1826, is still in existence and is being well taken care of.

In closing this Preface concerning Grandfather's life achievements, we must not fail to give a full measure of credit to Grandmother also, because as a pioneer woman, she surely contributed an equal share to their partnership. When we consider the ordeal of bearing fourteen children in times when there were few of the conveniences which medical science has more recently given us, and which now seem necessary, would indicate a courageous and determined spirit.

These two, Grandfather and Grandmother, were unafraid to purchase eighty acres of Government land which was wild, unbroken and uncleared, and without farming experience, to launch a home in this wilderness. It seems almost a miracle that they were able, with determination, industry and unbroken spirits, to accomplish this in the face of inevitable disappointments. It is also noteworthy that the nine

sons who grew to maturity learned trades which later enabled them to establish homes of their own.

The above is *deservedly* mentioned of Grandmother. However, we must not overlook the fact that, although not much is said of occupations and achievements of other women mentioned in this book, they too have and are playing their part in establishing their homes and rearing children, no doubt with many hardships but perseverance to carry on.

The Siebenthaler Nursery

Dayton, Ohio

The nurseries now operated under the name of the Siebenthaler Company, were founded in 1872 by John Siebenthaler. In 1884 an 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre tract of land bought from Amos Pfoutz, located at the northwest corner of Siebenthaler avenue and Catalpa Drive, was acquired and has since been the principal place of business, which started largely as a fruit tree nursery, but later included ornamental plants as well. Upon the death of the founder in 1911, the business was continued under the management of Wilber G. Siebenthaler, as executor of the estate of his father.

In 1919 the Siebenthaler Company was incorporated in order to expand the nursery activities and additional land and facilities acquired. Wilber G. Siebenthaler was the first president, and continued until his demise in 1940. Various tracts of land totaling 55 acres were added between 1919 and 1926. In June 1926, the corporation purchased all the land and equipment of the estate and an additional 140 acres south of Dayton later known as the Moraine Nurseries. This brought the total land in nursery stock to approximately 225 acres.

Large quantities of specimen trees, shrubs and evergreens are produced and shipped to all parts of the country. In addition, a landscape architectural service is maintained which designs and executes landscape plantings of all kinds.

The present officers are:

Clarence O. Siebenthaler, president.

Mary E. (Siebenthaler) Wilson, vice president.

John D. Siebenthaler, secretary.

George Siebenthaler, treasurer.

Insul-Wool Insulation Corporation

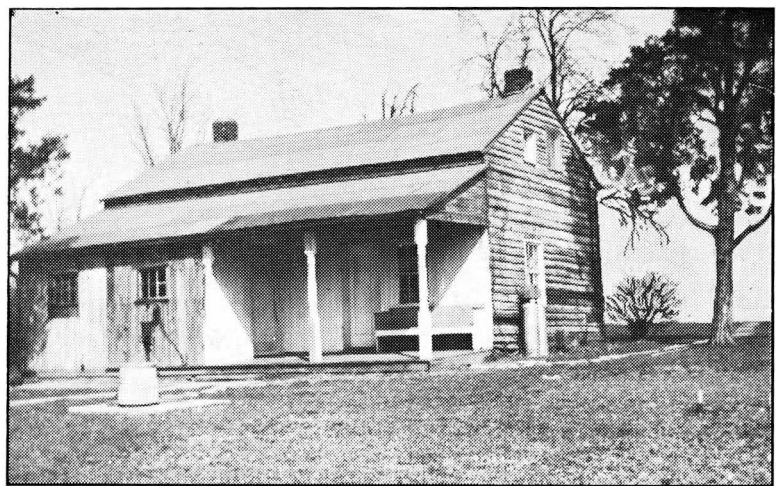
Wichita, Kansas

In 1934 the insulation business was in its infancy, and believing that insulation had a definite place for itself in the future, William J. Kropp started working with the idea of creating a new type of insulation.



The Siebenthaler Homestead near St. Peters, (along Blue Creek),
Indiana. Built about 1840.

— 1940 —



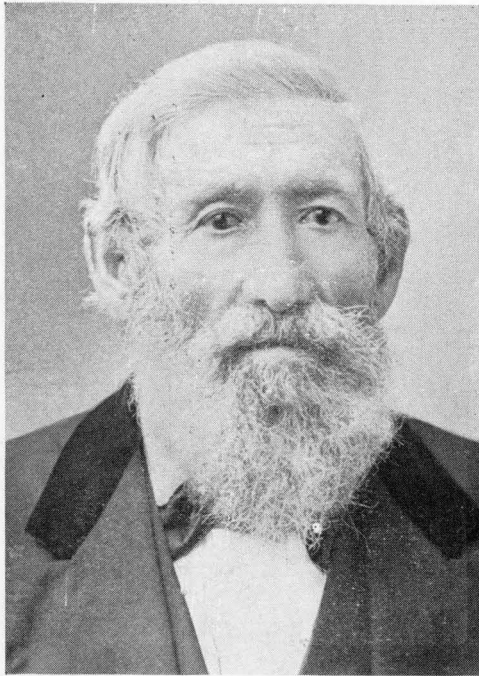
The Siebenthaler Homestead located northwest of Dayton, Montgomery
county, Ohio. Built of logs about 1812, by a Mr. MacElheney.

— 1942 —



JOHN SIEBENTHALER

— 1908 —



GEORGE SIEBENTHALER