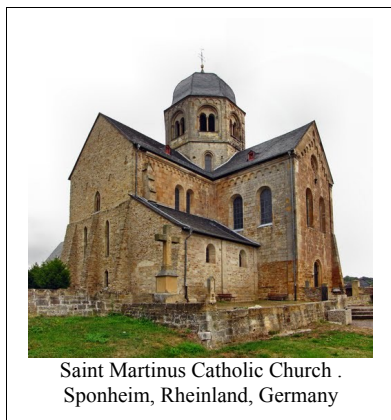


Through data collected in US census records of 1870, 1880 and 1900, Martin Wilhelm was born someplace in Germany in February of 1845 and in 1870 was listed as a US citizen living in Pomeroy, Ohio. Around that time the immigration laws of the United States stated that a male 18 years or older and has lived in his current state of residence for at least 5 years may apply for citizenship. This would place his arrival, contrary to the 1900 census immigration year of 1868, prior to 1865.



Saint Martinus Catholic Church
Sponheim, Rheinland, Germany

Catherine Neutzling was born and christened August 2, 1846 in Saint Martinus Catholic Church in Sponheim, Rheinland, Germany.

In the spring of 1848, due to widespread dissatisfaction with political leadership, demands for more participation in government and democracy, the demands of the working classes and the upsurge of nationalism, 50 countries in Europe went through failed revolutions.

In 1848, Prussia controlled the Rhineland as part of "West Prussia." The Rhinelanders remained hopeful that King Frederick William IV would institute democratic reforms and did not participate in the early round of uprisings that were occurring in other parts of Germany. However, most of the revolutions throughout Europe failed. Afterward, facing arrest and persecution at the hands of the German princes, between four and ten thousand "forty-eighters" immigrated to

the United States.

Because of their dissatisfaction to their political, working and living conditions the Neutzling family led by Petri and Anna Susanna Kuss, who were married August 17, 1830, fled their home in Sponheim with their eight children (Jacob 18, John 16, Maria 14, Henry 13, Peter Jr. 8, Adam 6, Joseph 4 and Catherine who was 2 years old).

They would have boarded a sailing ship in Berlin Germany and traveled anywhere from 6 to 10 weeks to arrive in either Baltimore or New York. From there they would have traveled by either canal or train to Harrisburg Pennsylvania where they would have continued on to Pittsburgh. This trek would have involved canals and trains and would have taken roughly 7 to 10 days over and sometimes through the mountains. At times they would spend almost a full day on a canal boat in a tunnel thousands of feet long in total darkness.

From Pittsburgh they would have boarded a steam ship to Pomeroy Ohio where they settled to work in the coal and salt mines which were prevalent in that area of the Ohio River Valley.

Martin and Catherine were married October 26, 1868 in the old Sacred Heart Catholic church on Mulberry Street, situated upon the hillside that flanks the natural water drain called Sugar Run by Rev. John Kalenberg Minister of the Gospel.

The 1870 US census, taken June 25, 1870, finds Martin and Catherine renting a home in the 3rd ward of Pomoroy, Meigs County, Ohio next to Petri and Susan Neutzling. Martin is listed as 27 years old, a stone mason and with a value of their personal estate as \$100. He was also listed as a male citizen of U.S. of 21 years of age and upwards. Catherine was listed as 23 years of age, keeping house and born in Prussia. Both were marked as having both mother and father of foreign birth.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|-----------------|----|---|---|---------------|-----|-----|---------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| 26 | 177/182 | Neutzling Peter | 65 | M | W | coal miner | 400 | 300 | Prussia | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 26 |
| 27 | | - Susanna | 65 | F | F | keeping house | | | Prussia | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 27 |
| 28 | 183 | Drilling John | 32 | M | W | farmer | 300 | 200 | Ireland | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 28 |
| 29 | | - Olga | 25 | F | F | keeping house | | | Ireland | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 29 |
| 30 | | - Edmond | 3 | M | W | stone mason | | | Ohio | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 30 |
| 31 | | - John | 3 | M | W | oil burner | | | Ohio | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 31 |
| 32 | 188 | Williams Martin | 27 | M | W | Stone Mason | | 100 | Germany | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 32 |
| 33 | | - Catherine | 23 | F | F | keeping house | | | Prussia | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 33 |

1870 US Census showing Petri and Susan Neutzling and Martin and Catherine Wilhelm (written as Williams)

In the 19th through the early part of the 20th century it was very common to have very large families with 6 to 8 children being the norm. On January 28th, 1874 Charles Edward Wilhelm was born. At the time of this writing I am not entirely convinced that he was born to Martin and Catherin but instead may have been adopted. Their was a large catholic school and orphanage in Poreroy, Ohio located right across the street from the old German Sacred Heart church which both the Wilhelm and Neutzling families were members. This fact and the fact that Charles was an only child during the late 1800s leads me to believe that he was adopted. I have yet to find any birth record and the only place I have found the actual birth date is on his tomb stone.

The 1880 US census finds Martin, Catherine and Charles living in the village of Elyeria in Loraine county Ohio. While in Elyria, Martin worked in the Clauss Shear Factory until August of 1887 when the owner, John Clauss, moved the plant to Fremont, Ohio to be near an accessible, abundant supply of natural gas which had recently been discovered. The gas was ideally suited to fuel the furnaces for the company's forges and foundry.

A snippet of a 1880 US Census record. The first row shows Martin Wilhelm, age 36, born in Germany, living in Elyria, Ohio. The second row shows Catherine Wilhelm, age 34, born in Germany, living in Elyria, Ohio. The third row shows Charles Wilhelm, age 6, born in Ohio, living in Elyria, Ohio. The record also indicates that Martin is the head of the household and that they own their home free of mortgage.

1880 US Census showing Martin Catherine and Charles Wilhelm

After the closing of the shear factory, the Wilhelm family moved to Columbus where Martin took a job as a stone mason working for the Pennsylvania railroad, at its pan-handle shops in the city.

Since the 1890 US census was destroyed by a fire in Washington DC the next record found of their lives is the 1900 US Census where Martin and Catherine are sharing their home with their son Charles, his new wife, Susie and grandson, Frederick H.

Martin was listed as head of the household, born in February 1845 and is currently 55 years of age. Martin was listed as being born in Germany as well as both of his parents and immigrated in 1868 (in conflict with previous data) and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. His occupation was listed as stone mason and can read and write and speak English.

Catherine was listed as wife and born in August of 1846 and 53 years of age. She is listed as keeping house at their residence, which they owned free of mortgage, at 1042 Devoice St. Columbus, Ohio 9th ward and mothering only one child. According to this census record she was born in Germany (not Prussia as in previous records) and immigrated in 1848. She can also read and write English.

Charles E., son, was listed as being born in Ohio in January of 1874 and has been married for 4 years placing the marriage year at 1896, however the marriage certificate states the actual date as February 16th 1898 in Columbus, Ohio. His occupation in 1900 is written, as best as I can tell, as Tinner & Slater and can read and write English.

Susie M, daughter-in-law, was born in Ohio in May of 1876 to parents who were both born in Germany. She is the mother of one child and can read and write English.

Frederick H., grandson born in Ohio in November 1896 was three years old at the time of the Census, June 5th, 1900.

A snippet of a 1900 US Census record. The first row shows Martin Wilhelm, age 55, born in Germany, living in Columbus, Ohio. The second row shows Catherine Wilhelm, age 53, born in Germany, living in Columbus, Ohio. The third row shows Charles E. Wilhelm, age 26, born in Ohio, living in Columbus, Ohio. The fourth row shows Susie M. Wilhelm, age 24, born in Ohio, living in Columbus, Ohio. The fifth row shows Frederick H. Wilhelm, age 3, born in Ohio, living in Columbus, Ohio. The record also indicates that Martin is the head of the household and that they own their home free of mortgage.

1900 US Census showing Martin, Catherine, Charles E., Susie M., and Frederick H. Wilhelm

On Jan. 5th, 1902, Charles was a laborer, employed at the Baltimore and Ohio round house, working in the pit under a train engine cleaning out the ash pan. As he started to crawl out from under

the engine it was started and he was caught under the driving wheels and his right leg was crushed at the hip. He was rushed to St. Francis Hospital, located on the site of what is now Grant Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where it was determined that the injuries were too severe and no attempt of surgery was made. He died a short while later around 4:30pm at the age of 27. He left behind his son, Frederick Harold and wife Susannah Marie Klingler. He was taken to Pomeroy, Ohio for his burial at the old catholic sacred heart cemetery.



Columbus Dispatch April 8, 1903 - Martin Wilhelm dies of injuries received five weeks ago while supervising construction work at Pan Handle Shops. - an old employee.

Martin Wilhelm, a foreman in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad, at its shops in this city, died at 6:15 o'clock, Wednesday morning, at his home, 1042 De'Voise street, as the result of injuries received five weeks ago.

The deceased entered the employ of the Pan Handle 17 years ago and at the time of the accident was supervising the construction of a foundation for a large steam hammer. In some manner a piece of timber fell and struck him on the head and breast, causing concussion of the brain. He suffered from the day of the accident to the time of his death but did not get discouraged as he believed he would get better.

He was in his 59th year and one of the most popular employees at the shops. During his sickness hundreds of his fellow workmen called to pay their respects. He leaves a widow to mourn his death.

Martin is buried next to his son in Pomeroy at the Old Sacred Heart Cemetery.

After the death of her only son Charles and husband Martin, Catherine moved back to Pomeroy, Ohio to be back to the place of her birth and two living brothers, Joseph and Henry. She became ill at her home on Mulberry St. and was taken back to Columbus to be attended to by the doctors at St. Francis Hospital. She received an operation on Thanksgiving Day and was improving nicely until a just few hours before her death on December 2, 1908.



Grave markers for Martin and Charles Wilhelm located in the Old Sacred Heart Cemetery in Pomeroy, Ohio

Victor Neutzling, which is most likely a nephew, returned her body back to Pomeroy for her funeral at the Sacred Heart Church. According to church documents she is buried in the same cemetery as Charles and Martin however, I am unable to find a marker for her. The marker for Martin is large enough for two inscriptions but only his is listed. My guess is that she is buried next to Charles and Martin but no one every had her name inscribed to Martin's marker.

I found the story of Catherine's death in four newspapers in Pomeroy and all but one were in agreement. In the December 4th, 1908 edition of The Independent. In this front page article it states that Mrs. Wilhelm was survived by the brothers and sister mentioned in the other papers but also states that she was survived by two adopted sons as well. I don't know about the church rules governing adoption by single, older widowed women but I am currently researching it.

After the death of Charles E. Wilhelm, Susan married Charles Albert Taylor on June 26, 1907. Frederick H., Susan and Charles Taylor appear on the 1910 US Census in Ward 3 of Columbus, Ohio. According to an unreliable source on Ancestry.com Charles Taylor died in 1913 but I have been unable to verify this claim.

On December 8, 1927 Susan married Thomas Moore in Columbus, Ohio