

GERMAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
Monograph Number 20, Part 4, Fascicle A

EARLY NINETEENTH-CENTURY
GERMAN SETTLERS IN OHIO,
KENTUCKY, AND OTHER STATES:

PART 4A
SURNAMEN A THROUGH J

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First printing, June 1991	ru
Reprint, July 1991	qz
Reprint, September 1991	qz
Reprint, March 1992	u
Reprint, June 1992	u
Reprint, June 1993	qz
Reprint, August 1994	u
Reprint, May 1996	u

HIPP, Wilhelm Christian 8:174 and 8:235

(Article and obituary entitled "Ein vielbewegtes Leben" [An Active Life]) Wilhelm Christian HIPP was born on 9 January 1827 in the town of Neuwied [Germany], where his father was a well-to-do businessman. At the beginning of the 1840s, his business affairs did not do well, and the father decided to emigrate to America with his family.... He bought several hundred acres in the western part of Virginia [perhaps modern-day West Virginia is meant] several miles from the German settlements in the Shenandoah Valley.

[A dishonest seller of land, Herr -- RATHBONE, is mentioned.] The Hipp family arrived at their newly-purchased land in the spring of 1844, only to discover that the land was deeply cut with ravines, etc. Using his remaining capital, Hipp Senior then bought different land seven miles from Parkersburg which had already been cleared. The family moved to the new farm, where they lived for a year. The three eldest sons helped their father with farming. Since the three sons, including Wilhelm, were all highschool graduates [Gymnasisten], farm life did not appeal to them, so the father told them in the spring of 1845 that they should pursue lives in the cities. In April 1845 the sons came to Cincinnati.

The Mexican War then broke out, and Wilhelm, who was already a member of one of the numerous militia companies in Cincinnati, caught the war fever. He joined one of Ohio's voluntary regiments and became a lieutenant in the Washington Cadets under Captain John B. ARMSTRONG. At the end of the war Hipp returned to Cincinnati and resumed his business career until news of the discovery of gold [in California] was received in the east. Hipp then caught gold fever, and he joined a large company of migrants crossing the plains to California. He was unsuccessful in discovering gold and, in 1853, left California for Nicaragua, where -- VANDERBILT was having the land surveyed for a canal to cross between the Pacific Ocean [and the Caribbean]. Hipp remained for a time in western Nicaragua--San Juan del Sur, Granada, and Leon--and then crossed the mountains and took a bongo [dugout canoe] to Greytown. He was especially attracted to land at the mouth of the Serapiqui River and learned from the U.S. consul that the land belonged to the crown of the Mosquito Kingdom and that the government thereof was disposed to sell the land for a nominal sum to any enterprising American willing to develop it. The then reigning princess of Mosquito, the brown-black Queen Inez Anna FRIEDERICH, sold the land on the Serapiqui in fee simple. The estate was larger than that of many principalities in Germany. Hipp had the deed attested to by both the British and American consuls. [In a footnote to the article it is stated that the Kingdom of Mosquito was an ephemeral entity, set up as a puppet of Great Britain, and that all the land south of the San Juan River was also claimed by Costa Rica. Deeds from the government of the Kingdom of Mosquito were not worth the paper they were written on.] ...

Hipp believed that his hacienda would be a point on the route to and from California to be used by many settlers [and businessmen] who wished to avoid the long trip around South America.... [There follows a description of the populace, flora and fauna, and leisurely life style in the area.] In the fall of 1853 occurred an incident which was greatly to affect Hipp's future.

[Continued at 8:235]

Near the end of the 1840s a settlement society was formed in Berlin which, according to its constitution of 16 February 1850, had as its purpose "the foundation of a German mercantile and agricultural colony in one of the republics of Central America." The agent of the society was Baron Alexander von BUELOW. He was entrusted with locating suitable land and he chose a large strip in the valley of the Reventazon River which stretched from the Turriela Plateau to the Atlantic Ocean. He applied to the Costa Rican government for the cession of nine square leagues 954 English square miles) with the stipulation that 7000 adult settlers would be located thereon within twenty years. Thirty-two acres would be given in fee simple to every settler upon arrival.

A town and a number of plantations were surveyed and settlers in Germany were sought. From the German point of view, Angostura, as both the market town and colony were named, was the best possible choice.... In 1856, hardly four years after the foundation of the German colony, Baron von Buelow died in Nicaragua and, with him, Angostura, the German colony in Costa Rica, came to an end.

In the fall of 1853 a second emigration society to settle Angostura was founded, the so-called Pomer'sche Gesellschaft [Pomeranian Society]. Its leader was Herr -- von CHAMIEUX from Koenigsberg, who had visited Costa Rica in 1852 with the first society.... Among the settlers under Chamieux was a young lady from Stettin, Franziska BIBEND, who was visiting Central America with her uncle, a businessman of Stettin, and his family. After the death of her father [Franziska] had come into her uncle's family, who had lost a daughter of the same age. Her uncle gave her a good education and made her the heiress of a considerable fortune.... The immigrant group bound for the Serapiqui Delta, among whom there were two German families, Dr. -- DIEZMANN and -- HANKE (a relative of the [female] author -- HANKE, landed at the beginning of December 1853 in Greytown. They rented a bongo [dugout canoe] from a Senor Alvarado who had a business across from Hipp's Point.... After a miserable four-day trip upstream, they arrived at the mouth of the Serapiqui [about 30 English miles above Greytown].... [Herr Hipp and Fraeulein Bibend fell in love.] From Cincinnati thousands of miles to California and Central America Hipp at last had found a wife.... The young couple spent a happy time at Hipp's Point until the summer of 1854, when an unpleasant affair occurred. Travel to San Juan became impossible, because a U.S. warship frivolously bombarded Greytown on 23 September 1854 and burned the town to the ground. Mr. & Mrs. Hipp had gone to Punta Arenas at the beginning of September.... They returned to Greytown two days after the bombardment, where they had to stop for three weeks. Here, in one of the few remaining huts of the town, their oldest daughter was born on 25 September [1854].

[There follows a short account of affairs in the region. Mentioned are Fruto CHAMORRO, General -- CORRAL, -- JEREZ, -- RIVAS, -- SALAZAR, General Trinidad CABANAS, Juan Rafael MORA, Louis SCHLESINGER, Captain W. A. SUTTER, Manuel ARGUELLO. Mentioned also is a General Carl Friederich HENNINGSEN, an English-born adventurer whose parents

were from Hannover, who had been a Carlista in Spain in 1834 as a cavalry colonel and had participated in the war in Circassia [Russia]. Thereafter, he had gone to Hungary in 1849 and had planned a troop movement for the revolutionists; he then became military governor of Komorn [Hungary]. After the defeat of the revolutionists, Henningsen had emigrated to the United States, where he was associated with -- KOSSUTH.... At the outbreak of the "Filibuster War" in Nicaragua, he was the American commandant and, among other activities, defended the city of Granada. With 300 soldiers he was able to defend the city against a force of 4000 until the city was burned down on 24 November 1856.... He then retreated to the sea coast, losing half his troopers. Between 24 November and 12 December 1856 Henningsen was the most prominent person in Nicaragua. Baron Bruno von NATZMER was general inspector of the army; Louis SCHLESINGER was colonel of the German and French battalions, whose captains were -- PRANGE and -- LEGEAY.... Others in the Nicaraguan army were captains -- RUDLER, -- SCHWARTZ, -- SCHWINGEL, -- and -- HESSE; also lieutenants -- NAGEL, -- NORDECK, and -- STAHLER. Stahle died at the battle of Massaya, in which Schwartz was wounded. Captain Hesse was either killed at the battle of Granada or taken prisoner; he was never heard of again. The German officers had an advantage over the Americans, because they all spoke Spanish.

Affairs remained favorable to the "filibusterers" as long as the democratic forces remained united. A Father -- VIGIL was elected (in the spring of 1856) to go to Washington to ask for recognition. He was accompanied to Washington by John P. HEISS, but the Pierce administration was cautious and recognition was not possible for the time being. Heiss, along with another German named -- FABENS, owned the Pedro Sosa gold mine. Another mission, led by S. F. SCHLATTER and M. PILCHER, came to New York hoping to get a loan to be guaranteed by a million acres of land. When the Vigil-Heiss mission seeking recognition failed, the [Schlatter - Pilcher] mission to get a loan also failed. Shortly thereafter, -- WALKER [the leader of the filibusterers] declared himself president of Nicaragua and decreed that the institution of slavery would be restored in the country. The decree was fatal to American interests, and the filibuster affair rapidly came to an end....]

For Hipp, the war was of decisive importance in his life. Although he remained neutral, he was somewhat associated with the Costa Rican side, as he had become a citizen and official of that country. Hipp's ranch, or better said, Hipp's Point, was recognized by both sides as being a highly strategic area. President Mora of Costa Rica had stationed a few troops at Hipp's Point. In March 1856 Captain -- BALDWIN sent 250 men to occupy Castillo Viejo and Hipp's Point. They attacked the Point during the morning of 19 March 1856, surprising everyone there while still sleeping. Hipp and his wife and child fled across the river to the home of Dr. -- CODY and three days later fled to Punta Arenas.... The Costa Rican army attempted to retake the Point but were initially repulsed. On 23 December 1856, however, 120 Costa Ricans under the command of an American named -- SPENCER surprised the occupants under Captain -- THOMPSON, killing most of them and taking the survivors prisoners of war. When Hipp and his family returned to his hacienda, he found everything destroyed. They fled to Greytown, where a son was born. A charitable

American sea captain took pity on them and transported the family to New York.

In New York the Hipp family was in poverty. They had only the clothes on their backs; their son had died during the voyage to New York. A dispatch to Hipp's brother in Cincinnati soon brought them money for the trip to Cincinnati. Hipp then became a bookkeeper for George H. HILL and Company; later he was a bookkeeper in the brewery of J. G. SOHN and Company and for George WEBER. After two years in the latter job he founded a drygoods store in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. In Cincinnati Hipp was well-known; for a number of years he was a member of the city council from the twelfth ward but did not belong to any party.

The business in Mt. Sterling appears not to have been particularly successful. In the summer of 1875 he returned to Cincinnati and wrote to his wife saying that he expected to get a job with the Express Company. This apparently did not come to pass and in February [1876?] he sought to sell his business in Mt. Sterling. All the family furniture was given to his son-in-law in Lexington, and his wife went there, as well. Within a few days he had sold his business and was expecting to return to Cincinnati, but another fate was to tear him away from his family.

Hipp had become a passionate hunter during his time in Central America. On the morning of 8 March [1876?] he went hunting with his twelve-year-old son. The day was wet and the earth slippery. He was irresponsible and careless and kept his rifle fully loaded. The gun went off, and he was shot through the heart. Hipp had had a premonition of his sudden death and had written a letter to his wife on 22 June 1875, "in case I should be killed while traveling on the train." He said he wanted to be buried either in Lexington or Cincinnati and that he regretted having settled at Mt. Sterling. He remarked that the slave states were not a place to live for a man of his disposition....

HITE, Abraham. See Appendix 17

HOBERG, Johann Heinrich Member 9:376
Backum, Kirchspiel [parish] Oeffen, Hannover
Member of P-V Cincinnati
Born 24 May 1830; emigrated in 1850

HOHELANDORF, Ernst Hochmann von. See Appendix 4

HOCHMANN von HOHELANDORF, Ernst. See Appendix 4

HOCHSTETTER, Gustav. See obituary of August WILLICH

HOCHWEGGER, Anna. See obituary of Anna MOLITOR

HOECKER, Franz Member 9:126
Planteluenne, Amt Lingen, Hannover
Member of P-V Cincinnati, OH
Born 25 September 1825; emigrated in 1848

HOEFFER, Heinrich. See Appendix 6