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# Die Deutsche Gefe

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The German Corner: # 23

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

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## Der Oldenburger Pilgervater - Franz Joseph Stallo

**The Oldenburger Pilgervater**, Franz Joseph Stallo, founder of Stallstown or Minster [Münster], initiated the first large immigration of people from Oldenburger Münsterland to the United States. Trained as a teacher, Stallo worked also as a bookbinder. He dabbled in the new science of electricity, developed a method for growing buckwheat on the moor, and attempted an ill-fated hot-air balloon to America. He came to hold progressive or liberal views in matters of politics and religion, and was a strong advocate for immigration. Having fallen into trouble with authorities, this eccentric was encouraged to follow his own advice and immigrate. Stallo is thought to have come to the United States in 1830 for a short time and then returned home for his family. Prior to leaving, Stallo's sickly wife died. The family sailed on 2 May 1831 from Bremen on the *Juno*, and arrived in New York on 19 June 1831. Coming to Cincinnati on 21 July 1831, Stallo found employment as a bookbinder, and commenced with a propaganda campaign to the old country, inciting his fellow citizens to immigrate. Immigration, although not sanctioned by the government, but nonetheless not forbidden either, began in earnest by 1832, with the immigrants coming to Cincinnati. Stallo gathered his compatriots, and formed a company for the purchase of land and the establishment of a settlement. After a disappointing search in the Midwest, it was finally decided to purchase land in Mercer County Ohio. The plans for the settlement of Stallstown were formalized on 15 September 1832 in Cincinnati, and a party of young men, including Stallo and his two eldest sons left from the city. Subsequently, land was purchased, a few shelters were thrown up and by December, Stallstown boasted a population of 52 souls. Through the efforts of the Vicar General of Cincinnati, Father Johann Friedrich Reese, Stallo was reconciled to the Church, and sometime in October, Reese visited the settlement and celebrated Mass. The lots of the settlement were drawn out on 14 April 1833. Unfortunately, Stallo had not transferred all the property to the respective owners, when he suddenly took sick and died from the cholera on 23 July 1833. He died, as well, intestate, and it took a number of years till all property owners had legal title. Stallo's orphaned family was taken in by a Cincinnati taverner, Johann Zimmer, with whom Stallo's daughters had been living. Zimmer subsequently moved to Miamisburg, Ohio in 1833, where he was also an innkeeper.

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### FRANZ JOSEPH STALLO

- \* 10 May 1793 Sierhausen, Damme, Oldenburg
- p- Johann Bernard Stallo & Catharina Maria Liening
- † 23 July 1833 Stallstown [Minster], Ohio = St. Augustine Cemetery, Minster, Ohio
- ∞ 27 July 1814 Saint Victor Church Damme, Oldenburg

### MARIA CATHARINA SCHÄPER

- \* 20 January 1793 Sierhausen, Damme, Oldenburg
- p- Johann Heinrich Schäper & Anna Maria Barhorst
- † 2 April 1831 Damme, Oldenburg

children:

- 1) **JOHANN BERNARD STALLO**
    - \* 10 April 1815 Damme, Oldenburg † 9 October 1816 Damme, Oldenburg
  - 2) **JOHANN MARTN STALLO**
    - \* 10 February 1816 Damme, Oldenburg † 4 December 1876 Indianapolis, Indiana
  - 3) **LUDWIG [Louis] STALLO**
    - \* 11 November 1818 Damme, Oldenburg † 1851 Mississippi River
    - ∞ Maria Johanna [Jane] Fullweiller
  - 4) **MARIA ANNA STALLO**
    - \* 1 January 1821 Damme, Oldenburg † March 1915 Indianapolis, Indiana
    - ∞ Louis Kiefer
  - 5) **JOHANN THEODOR CHRISTOPHER STALLO**
    - \* 23 March 1823 Damme, Oldenburg † 1900 Globe, Arizona
  - 6) **VICTOR ERNEST FERDINAND STALLO**
    - \* 23 December 1825 Damme, Oldenburg † 28 December 1825 Damme, Oldenburg
  - 7) **THERESIA CAROLINA STALLO**
    - \* 6 February 1827 Damme, Oldenburg † 31 August 1892 Indianapolis, Indiana
    - ∞ Almus Eugene Vinton
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