

Anton and Maria Anna Schiele – A Love Story of Resilience and Discovery

By Cheryl Herrmann

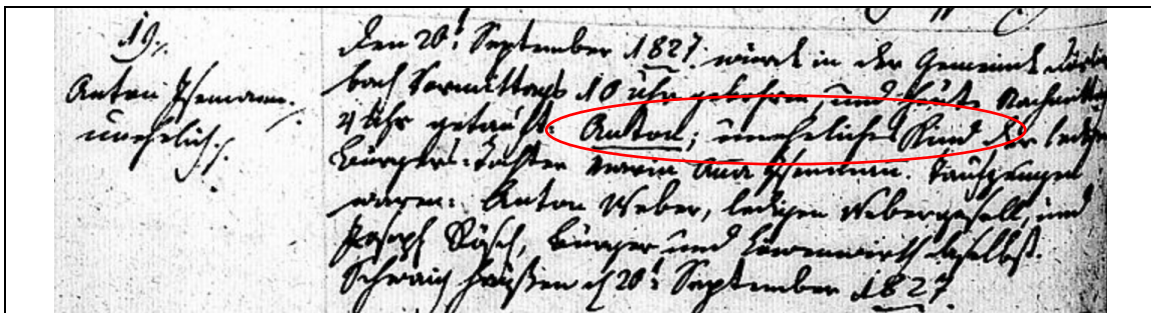
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The discovery began with a single phrase—one possibly carried the weight of shame, mystery, and unanswered questions.

“Antone; uneheliches Kind.”



Staring at the birth record, written in old German script, a surprising story emerged about an ancestor. The German words “Antone; uneheliches Kind”—meaning “Antone; illegitimate child” in English—stood out starkly on the page, raising questions and opening new paths of inquiry about his parents.



Birth Record of Antone Eisenmann, born 20 September 1827 in Dörlinbach, Baden
Source: Dörlinbach, Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, ww2.landesarchiv-bw.de

German: Den 20^{ten} September 1827. wird in der Gemeinde Dörlinbach Vormittags 10 Uhr geboren und nachmittag 4 Uhr getauft: Antone; uneheliches Kind der leidigen Bürgertochter Maria Anna Isenmann. Taufzeugen waren: Anton Weber, leidig Webergeselle, und Joseph Stichl, Bürger und Bärenwirt daselbst. Pfarrie Heustreu den 20 September 1827.

English translation: On September 20, 1827, was born at 10 a.m. and baptized at 4 p.m. in the municipality of Dörlinbach; Antone; illegitimate child of the unmarried citizen's daughter Maria Anna Isenmann. Baptismal witnesses were Anton Weber, an unmarried journeyman weaver, and Joseph Stichl, a citizen and innkeeper of the "Bär" (Bear Inn) in the same place. Parish of Heustreu, September 20, 1827.

This child, later known in America as Anton Schili, was born Antone Isenmann on September 20, 1827, in Dörlinbach, Baden, to a single 23-year-old mother, Maria Anna Isenmann. Over time, his surname evolved through various spellings—Schiele, Schele, Schile, Schili, Schilly, Sheely, and others—reflecting both language barriers and the fluid nature of immigrant identity.

For a genealogist, such a discovery sparks immediate questions: Who was his father? Were his parents together but unable to marry? Could this explain unexpected DNA matches? One small notation in a record had transformed a straightforward family line into a compelling mystery.

Clues began to surface in regional German histories. Entries in the *Heimatbuch Schuttertal* and *Heimatbuch Dörlinbach - Orts und Familiengeschichte*, town and family books by Gerhard Finkbeiner, suggested that Antone's parents, Anton Schiele and Maria Anna Isenmann, were married in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Yet conflicting details emerged—dates, locations, and even the identities of their children varied across records.

2200 ∞ St.Joseph/Vanderburg/Indiana/USA
Anton Schiele(Schilly) (vermutl.) <aus 2195> * 14.1.1805
Maria Anna Isenmann * Dörlinbach 16.8.1804 <T.d. Gottfried I. ledig in
Dörlinbach u.d. ledigen Maria Franziska Schneider>
Kinder:
1. Anton * USA 21.9.1824 + USA 26.3.1913
<∞ 20.4.1852 Elisabeth Lunkenheimer in St.Joseph/Vanderburg
2. Elisabeth * St.Wendelin/Indiana 19.9.1846
3. Joseph * St.Wendelin/Indiana/USA 28.3.1848

Entry 2200, *Heimatbuch Schuttertal*, Page 709
Note: Maria Anna's parents also were single (ledig, ledigen)

670 ...
Isenmann, Maria Anna Eltern siehe <665>
* 16.08.1804; + . . . in .../USA
∞ ...1830 in St.Joseph/Vanderburg/Indiana/USA mit Anton Schiele (Schilly),
siehe auch Schuttertal Nr. 2200;
Vater: NN NN
Kind(er)
1) Anton * 20.09.1827
2) Maria Anna * 21.08.1831
Beide Kinder sind mit der Mutter 1835 in die USA ausgewandert.

Entry 670, *Heimatbuch Dörlinbach*, Page 555

According to the Schuttertal entry, Anton Schiele and Maria Anna Isenmann were married at St. Joseph in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, USA. They had three children Anton, Elisabeth and Joseph, all born in the USA. Maria Anna was also born to unwed parents – Gottfried Isenmann and Franziska Schneider. Son Anton's birth year is listed as 1824.

According to the Dörlinbach entry, Maria Anna Isenmann and Anton Schiele were married in 1830 in St. Joseph, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, USA. She had two children, Anton (b. 1827) and Maria Anna (b. 1831) born in Dörlinbach. Additionally, the mother immigrated to the USA in 1835 with her two children.

Hmm... a conflict in the dates and places of birth. It's even more confusing when the parents and children have the same name.

Passenger lists added further depth to the story. In January 1839, Anna Eisenmann arrived in New Orleans aboard the ship *Saladin*, traveling with her two children, both still bearing the Eisenmann name. Later that year, Anton appeared on another passenger list, arriving in New York. Their journeys, though separate, led to the same destination – a home in Indiana, where other families from Schutttert, like the Fehrenbacher families, had already settled.

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NAMES	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	Country to which they belong	Country of which they intend to become inhabitants	Whether they have died on the Passage
<i>Joseph Hess</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Boiler</i>	<i>France</i>		
<i>Elizabeth Schenck</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>F</i>				
<i>Begunhard Spitz</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>Anna Eisenmann</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>F</i>				
<i>Joseph Hess</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>Anton Eisenmann</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>Anna Maria Eisenmann</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>F</i>				
<i>Anton</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>Julien Hoyer</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>France</i>		
<i>Jean Stodet</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>Stuzanne</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>				

Passenger ship's list for the Ship *Saladin*, with Captain *Simpson*, departing *Havre*, France, and arriving January 4, 1839 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
 Maria Anna Isenmann (age 34) with children, Anton (age 10) and Anna Maria (age 7)

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NAMES	AGE Years. Months.	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the voyage.
<i>Anton Schili</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Prussia</i>		
<i>John Schili</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>M</i>				
<i>John Schili</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>M</i>				

Passenger ship's list for the Ship *Sully*, with Captain *Wm. C Thompson*, departing *Havre*, France, and arriving November 28, 1839 in New York, NY.
 Anton Schili (age 38) had One Chest and One Bed.

By 1840, U.S. Census records in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, showed a family that fits perfectly: a man and woman in their 30s, with two children of matching ages. Despite phonetic spellings, the evidence pointed clearly to Anton and Maria Anna united as a family in America.

(No. 4.)

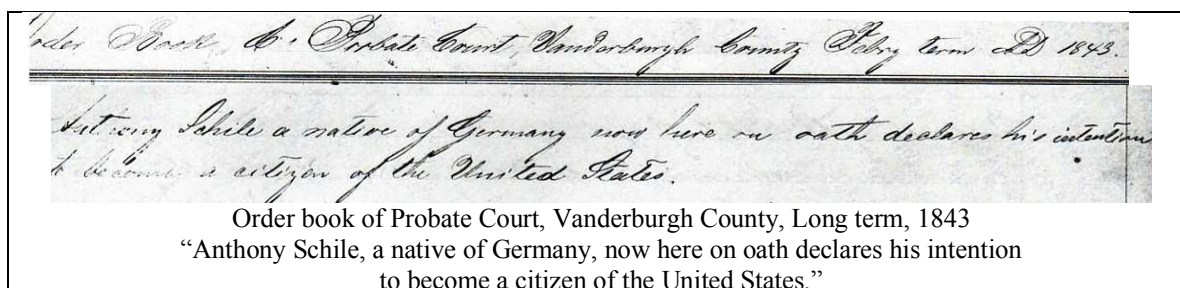
SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																																							
	MALES										FEMALES																													
	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 to 100	100 and up	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 to 100	100 and up
Anthony Sheely		1					1															1							1											

1840 US Census record for Indiana, Vanderburgh County

1840 US Census record for Indiana, Vanderburgh County

A Vanderburgh County Probate court record from 1843 documented Anton's intent to become a U.S. citizen—an important step toward building a new life.



The 1850 census confirmed the same household, now firmly established.

SCHEDULE I. Free Inhabitants in German Township in the County of Vanderburgh State
 of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 15th day of Oct 1850. Adrian Young Ass't Marshal.

NAME	AGE	SEX	COLOR	RELATION
Anthony Sheely	46	M	German	Head
Mary	46	F	"	Wife
Anthony	20	M	"	Son
Mary	19	F	"	Daughter

1850 US Census – Indiana- Vanderburgh County, German Township
 Antony Sheely and Mary are listed with two children, Anthony and Mary.

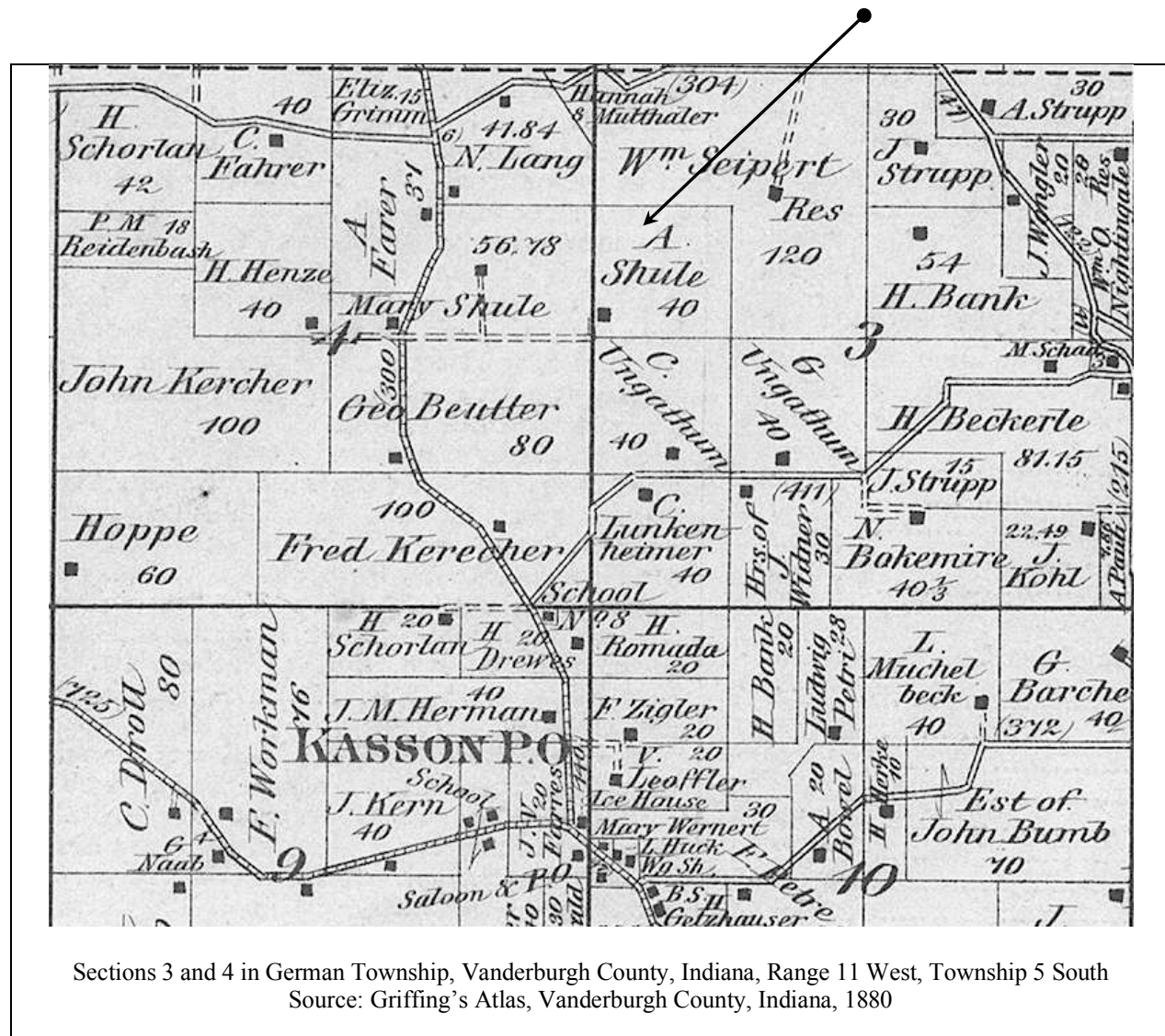
But why was the child, Antone, labeled “illegitimate”?

To understand and solve the mystery, one must look at the social and legal realities of early 19th-century Germany. At that time, Germany was not yet a unified nation but a collection of states with strict marriage regulations. Couples often needed official permission to marry, and economic hardship or social restrictions could delay or prevent legal unions. Children born outside of formal marriage were recorded as “*unehelich*” and faced social stigma and legal limitations. However, a child might later be legitimized by a later marriage or formally acknowledged by the father.

It is likely that parents Anton and Maria Anna intended to marry but were unable to do so in Germany. Immigration offered not just opportunity, but freedom—the chance to formalize their union and redefine their family.

Sometime after arriving in the United States, around 1840, they were finally married in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

They farmed the land in German Township, living on farms of 40 and 56.78 acres of land in the Kasson community. Their son, Antone, established his own household nearby, with his mother living next door—a testament to the strength of their family bonds.



Census records and atlases from 1860 and 1870 show modest but successful homesteads. Their real estate was valued at \$200 and \$800.

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 SCHEDULE 1. Free Inhabitants in German Township in the County of Vanderburgh State
 of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 20th day of June 1860. Anton C. Haumann Ass't Marshal
 Post Office Evansville

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth
Anthony Schiele	34	M	W	200	100	Baden
Elizabeth	24	F	W			Prussia
Christian	5	B	W			Id
David	3	M	W			Id
Mary	11	F	W			Id
Mary Schiele	27	F	W	200	250	Baden
David	15	M	W	100		Id
Joseph	12	M	W			Id
George	5	M	W			Id

1860 US Census – Indiana – Vanderburgh County – German Township

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 SCHEDULE 1. Free Inhabitants in German Township in the County of Vanderburgh State
 of Indiana enumerated by me on the 20th day of August 1870. Anton C. Haumann Ass't Marshal
 Post Office Evansville

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic
201201 Schiele, David	42	M	W	200	100	Baden	
201202 Elizabeth	37	F	W			Prussia	
201203 Christ	16	M	W			Id	
201204 David	13	M	W			Id	
201205 Pauline	11	F	W			Id	
201206 Mary	4	F	W			Id	
201207 Joseph	2	M	W			Id	
201208 Mary	1	F	W			Id	
201209 Schiele, Mary	37	F	W	200	250	Baden	
201210 Joseph	22	M	W	100		Id	

1870 US Census – Indiana – Vanderburgh County – German Township

From that point forward, their story became one of growth and stability. Together, they built a life in Indiana, raising eight children and eventually welcoming 34 grandchildren. Anton's life was cut short in 1854; Maria Anna passed away in 1888.

No shame, no mystery, questions answered. The legacy that they had created, endured across generations. From uncertainty to opportunity, Anton and Maria Anna Schiele's genealogy is not just about where they came from—but about everything they made possible for themselves and their children.

Their story is a powerful reminder: *one document rarely tells the whole truth*. It is through the careful weaving of many records—birth entries, passenger lists, census data, and historical context—that a fuller picture emerges. From the recorded "*uneheliches Kind*" to landownership, family, and prosperity, Antone's journey, with his parents, reflects the heart of the immigrant experience. It is a story of families overcoming barriers, embracing new beginnings, and building a legacy that would last for generations.

Three Generations in the United States

Anton Schiele (1805 - 1854) & Maria Anna Isenmann (1804 - 1888)

Antone F Schili (1827 - 1913) & Elizabeth Lunkenheimer (1835 - 1909)
Christian Schili (1854 - 1904) & Margaret Meser (1854 - 1932)
Maurice David Schili (1857 - 1933) & Ella Farrell (1866 - 1913)
Anna Maria Magdalena Schili (1859 - 1863)
Valentine Schili (1861 - 1945) & Julia Josephine Anna Koester (1866 - 1943)
Johannes Schili (1862 - 1862)
Elizabeth Schili (1863 -)
Joseph Schili (1865 - 1865)
John Henry Schili (1866 - 1945) & Florence Barker
Joseph John Schiele (1868 - 1957) & Veronica Katherine Dewig (1881 - 1934)
Mary Magdalena Schili (1868 - 1920) & George J Folz (1865 - 1950)
Anna Maria Schili (1869 -)
Katherine Schili (1871 - 1947) & John Kercher (1870 - 1922)
Anton Frank Schili Jr. (1874 - 1952) & Catherine Kercher (1878 - 1957)
Elisabetha M Schili (1877 - 1881)
Maria Anna Schiele (1831 - <1904) & William Henry Hochhalter (1825 - 1904)
Catherine Hochhalter (1855 -)
Katharina Schiele (1841 - 1908) & Valentine Effinger (1833 - 1912)
Leonard Effinger (1861 - <1900)
Elisabeth Effinger (1863 - <1900) & John Stephan
Leonhart Effinger (1865 - 1887)
Joseph Effinger* (1866 - 1948) & Maria Theresia Ochsner (1871 - 1895)
Joseph Effinger* (1866 - 1948) & Rosina Agatha Angermeier (1879 - 1952)
Mary Margaret Effinger (1870 - 1953) & William Louis Burgdorf (1872 - 1941)
Valentine Effinger (1871 - <1880)
Catherine Effinger (1872 - 1951) & Anton Laugel (1862 - 1945)
David Effinger (1875 - 1954) & Anna T Schuler (~1881 - 1957)
Adolph Effinger (1877 - 1935)
Agatha Effinger (1877 - 1880)
Francisca Effinger (1880 - 1959) & William Robert Wolf (1881 - 1972)
Louise Agnes Effinger (1882 - 1953) & Joseph Henry Macke (1884 - 1932)
Rosa Elizabeth Effinger (1886 - 1886)
David Schele Sr (1842 - 1926) & Margaret Meser (1852 - 1924)
Anna Maria Schele (1868 - 1954) & Valentine Weissman (1860 - 1922)
Joseph Schele (1870 - 1940) & Lula Loeffler (1879 - 1964)
George Schele (1873 - 1941)
David Schele Jr (1876 - 1943)
Matthew Schele Sr (1880 - 1967) & Mary Ann Gaiser (1881 - 1959)
Katherine Schele (1882 - 1958) & Peter
Anna Maria Schiele (1844 -)
Elisabeth Schili (1846 - 1846)
Joseph Schili (1848 - 1901) & Catharina Schmitt (1850 - 1912)
George Schili (1854 -)

Note the changes in the original surname of Schiele.

The End