Story of Theodore Mesker

By Cheryl Herrmann
November 2026

Every family history researcher knows the feeling: a name on a census record that refuses to give up its secrets. For Theodore Mesker, that name pointed vaguely toward "Hanover" — a place too large, too political, and too ordinary-sounding to lead anywhere useful on its own.

Uncovering his true origins meant setting aside the obvious clues and searching instead in the margins of other people's stories — until, thread by thread, a lost German farmstead, a mistranslated marriage record, and three intertwined immigrant families revealed the full arc of one man's journey from landless laborer to American landowner.

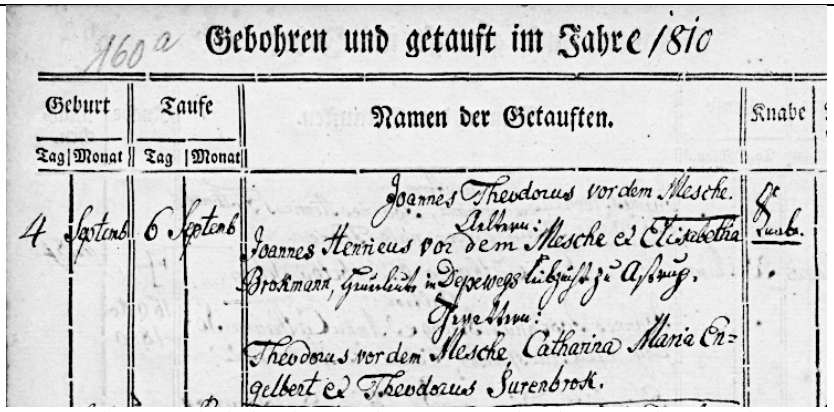
Uncovering the Hometown

Finding the ancestral hometown of an immigrant can sometimes feel like searching for a needle in a haystack. For Theodore Mesker, the search began with conflicting clues. Census records indicated that he was from Hanover, while family folklore said he came from the Netherlands, had worked in Holland, and emigrated from Amsterdam. *Which story was correct?* As with many genealogical mysteries, patience was required to remove one layer of hay at a time. Eventually, the search revealed not only Theodore's true birthplace, but also the farmstead and community where his family lived before he crossed the Atlantic in search of a new life.

One important clue came from an unexpected direction: Theodore's friends and neighbors. Knowing that he was closely associated with the Nurrenbern and Steinkamp families suggested looking beyond Theodore's own records. Sometimes, when the trail of one ancestor disappears, the records of those who traveled alongside him can point the way. Fortunately, the "needle" was finally found through the records available at Matricula Online.

According to the church records at St. Bonifatius Catholic Church in Neuenkirchen, Kingdom of Hannover, Theodore Mesker, born on 4 September 1810, was baptized as Joannes Theodorus vor dem Mesche on 6 September 1810. His parents were Joannes Henricus vor dem Mesche and Elisabetha Brokmann.

The Baptismal Record


160 a Gebohren und getauft im Jahre 1810

Geburt Tag	Geburt Monat	Taufe Tag	Taufe Monat	Namen der Getauften.	Knabe
4	Septemb	6	Septemb	Joannes Theodorus vor dem Mesche. Patrini: Joannes Henricus vor dem Mesche et Elisabetha Brokmann, Gruenlich in Depeweges Liebhaber Asseng.	Knab.
				Theodorus vor dem Mesche Catharina Maria Engelbert et Theodorus Surenbrock.	

Baptism record of Theodore Mesker (Joannes Theodorus vor dem Mesche)
in September 1810, at St. Bonifatius Catholic Church in Neuenkirchen, Grand Duchy of Oldenburg.

German Transcription: *Joannes Theodorus vor dem Mesche* *Geburt 4 Septembre, Taufe 6 Spetembre, Knabe* *Eltern:* *Joannes Henricus vor dem Mesche .et Elisabetha Brokmann, häuslich in Depewegs, leibzucht zu Astrup"* *Grosseltern:* *Theodorus vor dem Mesche, Catharina Marie Engelbert et Theodorus Sorenbrok.*	*English translation:* *Johann Theodore, of the Mesche family* *Born: 4 September, Baptism: 6 September* *Parents: Johann Heinrich of the Mesche family and Elisabetha Brokman, cottager in Depewegs homestead, towards Astrup.* *Godparents:* *Theodorus vor dem Mesche, Catharina Marie Engelbert et Theodorus Sorenbrok.*

The church record provides several important clues about where the family lived: Neuenkirchen, Astrup, and Depeweg. These place names initially created another layer of the genealogical puzzle.

According to FamilySearch.org, *Neuenkirchen* was a very common name for villages in northern Germany. According to Meyers Gazetteer there were seven different locations within the historical boundaries of the Kingdom of Hanover, which existed from 1814 to 1866.

Research into Neuenkirchen near Astrup, however, provided the crucial historical context. This Neuenkirchen was never part of the Kingdom of Hanover – it sat within the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, a completely sovereign neighboring state to the Kingdom of Hanover. As *Wikipedia.org* explains, "even though Hanover completely surrounded parts of Oldenburg, Neuenkirchen answered to the Grand Duke in the city of Oldenburg, not the King in Hanover."

Because Neuenkirchen was part of the Oldenburger Münsterland, it was strictly Roman Catholic. Its local life revolved around the Catholic parish of St. Bonifatius where Theodore was baptized.

Astrup and the Depeweg Farm

Astrup is identified as part of the municipality of Neuenkirchen in the Vechta District area of Lower Saxony, Germany. The record-keeping logic scribes in this region commonly identified a person's exact dwelling by naming both the parent farmstead (Depewegs) and the specific building on it (the leibzucht), before naming the nearby town/village (Astrup).

That appears to be the meaning behind the description in Theodore's baptismal record: *häuslich in Depewegs, leibzucht zu Astrup.*

Depeweg is not a distinct geographic settlement or village, but rather a family surname and local identifier closely tied to Neuenkirchen-Vörden in the Vechta district of Lower Saxony, Germany.

Individuals with the surname Depeweg (historically also spelled *Depweg*) appear frequently in local civic and community records in the Neuenkirchen area. Depeweg, rather than a place on a standard topographic map, refers to local residents and families rooted in this specific Lower Saxony municipality. In Theodore's record, Depeweg identifies the farm of residence.

Two German words in the baptismal record provide still more information: *häuslich* and *leibzucht*.

Häuslich (from *Haus*, "house") in the context of 18th/19th-century German church and civil records is a social status designation**,** not just the everyday adjective meaning "domestic" or "homely" that it has in modern German In parish registers, it could identify a **cottager or lodger**—someone who lived in a small house or rented part of one, had little or no land of his own, and did not occupy the same position as

a *Bauer* (farmer) or *Kötter/Kotter* (smallholder). Such residents often worked as day laborers or hired themselves out to larger farms.

Leibzucht refers to the retirement house or dower cottage on a farmstead. It was a smaller, separate dwelling set aside for the older or retired generation of a farm family distinct from the main farmhouse. It's a very common term in Westphalian land and church records of this period. The term was often used almost like a sub-address: "[Farm name] Leibzucht" meaning "the Leibzucht house belonging to [farm name]."

Looking at the Meyers Gazetteer, assisted in confirming the hometown of Theodore Mesker.

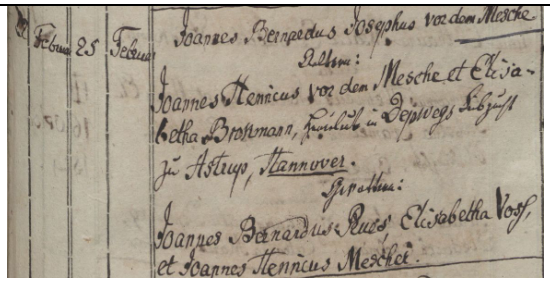
Taken together, these clues provide a much clearer picture of Theodore's beginnings. Theodore Mesker was born in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, at the Depeweg farmstead near Astrup, where his parents were lodgers. He was baptized at St. Bonifatius Catholic Church in Neuenkirchen.



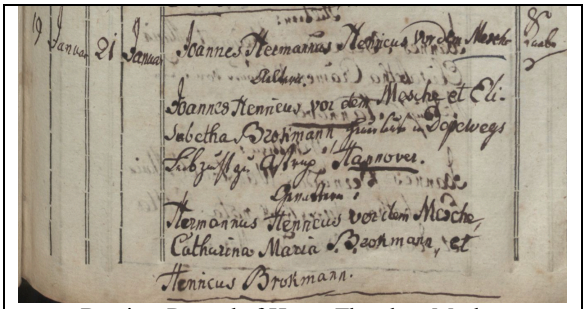
Meyers Gazetteer for Neuenkirchen in the Vechta District.

Resolving the "Hanover" Designation

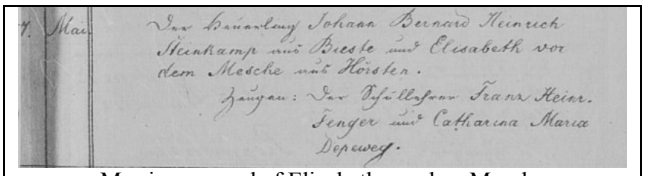
The baptismal record for Theodore's youngest brother, John Bernard Mesker, also identified the location as Hanover. John Bernard was the father of George L. Mesker of Mesker Steel, Inc., who later donated funds to the city of Evansville for the Mesker Park, Amphitheater and Zoo.


Baptism record of John B Mesker, on 25 February 1823,
(Joannes Bernardus Josephus vor dem Mesche)
at St. Bonifatius Catholic Church in Neuenkirchen.

Another baptismal record of sibling Henry Mesker provides the same location. It was noted in Henry's published obituary in the Evansville Courier, that Henry was a prominent member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Also, Henry, as a young boy, worked for General Evans, for whom Evansville has been name. In 1860, Henry formed a partnership with J. L. Kramer and engaged in the dry good business. Henry had been a member of the council and was county commissioner for several terms. He took an active interest in politics and was prominent in his party. Aside from him political acquaintances he was widely known through his businesses.


Baptism Record of Henry Theodore Mesker
(Joannes Hermanus Henricus vor dem Mesche)
St. Bonifatius Catholic Church, Neuenkirchen,
Born 19 Jan 1821, Baptized 21 Jan 1821

The 1837 marriage record of Theodore's sister, Elizabeth, to Henry Steinkamp, (Johann Bernard Heinrich Steinkamp) at St. Paulus Apostel Catholic Church in Vörden. This record identifies three areas of Vörden, Horsten and Bieste, which are nearby Neuenkirchen.



Marriage record of Elizabeth vor dem Mesche
to Johann Bernard Heinrich Steinkamp

The reference to Hanover initially seemed inconsistent with Theodore's baptismal record in Oldenburg. Further research through FamilySearch helped resolve the apparent contradiction.

When immigrants from the Neuenkirchen area stated that they were from Hanover on census records, passenger lists, or naturalization papers, they were generally providing a geographic designation that made sense within the political geography of their time.

Germany was not yet a single, unified nation. Until 1871, the region consisted of numerous kingdoms, duchies, and principalities. When immigrants completed official documents, the name of a larger, recognizable sovereign territory could be used instead of a small village or farmstead that would have been unfamiliar to officials at an American port.

Thus, saying that he was from Hanover did not necessarily contradict his birthplace in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. Hanover provided a recognizable geographic reference, while the church records reveal the much more precise location of his birth.

Connection to Holland

To resolve the family folklore that Theodore Mesker was from Holland, research into the history of emigration from Oldenburg to North America in the 1830s answers the question. In the book, The Trek to Holland, by Bernard Völkerding, writes, "Over a period of circa 300 years, between 1600 to 1900, each year in the early summer months, a stream of migrant workers in the Northwestern section of Germany made the trek to Holland, where they found employment for several weeks and months... the trek to Holland grew with it, to the point that it was a mass people movement." He continues, "The bulk of the Holland trekkers found work in the grass and hay fields, which can be attributed to the confluence of several favorable trends. The farm economy back home in the months of May and June experienced a slack period; such chores as needed to be attended could be handled by the wives and children." So, the day laborers services were available elsewhere.

From Oldenburg to America - Three Families, One Journey to Indiana

. According to family folklore, it was the desire to own land and to find a better home that drew Theodore Mesker to immigrate to America. However, he did not immigrate alone.
Intermarriages closely linked the Mesker, Steinkamp, and Nurrenbern families:

- Theodore's sister, Elizabeth, married Henry Steinkamp.
- Henry's sister, Elisabeth, married Ben Nurrenbern.

In 1837, the three interconnected families emigrated from Germany, using Cincinnati, Ohio, as their initial destination point.

The effort of the people to improve their situation and circumstances was a cause of the emigration to North America, according to historian N. Nieberding in the weekly "Sonntagsblatt," in Vechta, No. 20 in

1834. He explains, “the pressure and the lack of food are even stronger than with us, emigration to North America had begun, and favorable news came back from there.”

He continues in his explanation about the landlords, “Whoever is aware of the sad situation of many haymongs, under what hard yoke many peculiarities live, who is the eye of the landlord, how he has to abdicate himself, to the demands of the state, of the peasants and tenders. He will not blame these poor men if they trust the favorable news from North America, disregard or entirely misunderstand the grievances of the crossing and of the first settlement, their beloved homeland, family, habitual life, and everything, which may be worth their while, to leave a different country beyond the sea, and, as they hope, to find a better home, where they feel themselves to be free from the feeling felt here.”

Marriage in Cincinnati

Another important “needle” in the haystack was the discovery of Theodore’s marriage record. After coming to America, the family changed their surname from Mesche to Mesker. On 20 September 1839, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, Theodore Mesker married Anna Catharina Quatmann. The index to the marriage entry was misread and translated as “Wisker” rather than Mesker, adding another small obstacle to the search.



Marriage entry of Theodore Mesker [Theodor Wisker] and A Cath. Quatermann for 20 Sept 1839 at Holy Trinity as listed in the Restored Hamilton County, Ohio Marriages 1808-1849.

Brides	Grooms	Date of Marriage	Code
******	******	**** ** ********	****
Quardmann, Catharin	Overbeck, Heinrich	27, Apr. 1837	FF
Quatermann, A. Cath.	Wisker, Theodor	20, Sept 1839	FF
Quatmann, Carolina	Krummelbeck, Francis		

Grooms	Brides	Date of Marriage	Code
******	******	**** ** ********	****
Wisker, Theodor	Quatermann, A. Cath.	20, Sept 1839	FF

But Theodore’s story was moving forward.

Building a New Life in Vanderburgh County

While in Cincinnati, the Nurrenbern and Steinkamp men each purchased 80 acres of land in Perry Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Theodore Mesker followed their example.

The three families had worked together in Europe, traveled to Cincinnati, settled together in Indiana, and established neighboring farms in their new home. They built their homes together, worked together and raised their children together.

The 1880 atlas of Perry Township in Vanderburgh County, shows the adjacent parcels of land for Theodore Mesker, Henry Steinkamp and Ben Nurrenbern.

According to census records, Theodore and Catherine Mesker had four children:

- **Elizabeth**
- **Catherine**
- **Henry**
- **John Bernard (Ben)**

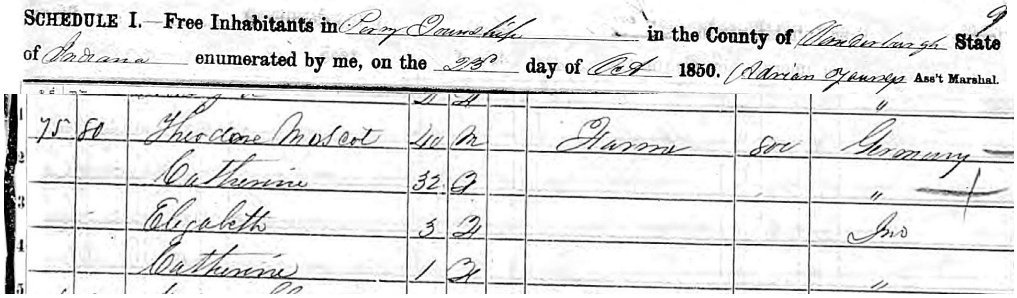


Original log cabin home of Ben Mesker



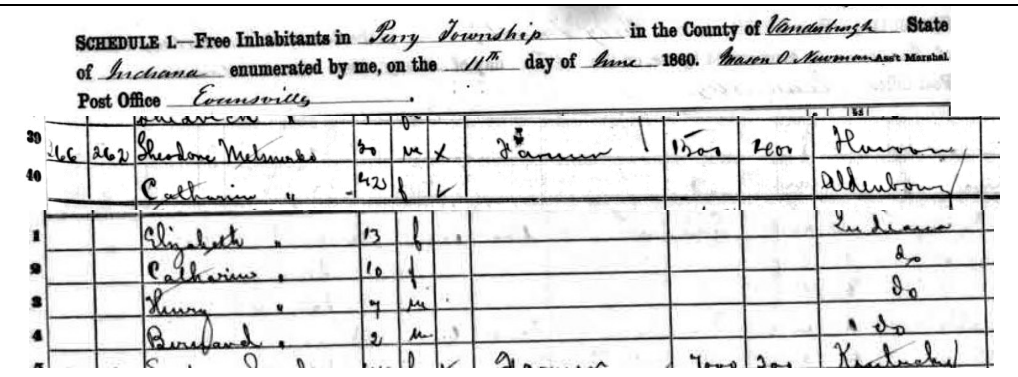
Source: Griffing's Atlas, Vanderburgh County Indiana 1880, From actual surveys under the direction of B. N. Griffing. Published by D.J. Lake & Company, Philadelphia.

The federal Census records offer a four-decade window into Theodore's family life in Indiana, revealing a rich multi-generational timeline of personal, household, and community evolution. Tracking these records over time captures key life milestones, changing family structures, geographic movement, and shifting financial standing.


SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Perry Township in the County of Vanderburgh State of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 23d day of Oct 1850. Adrian Gennett Ass't Marshal.

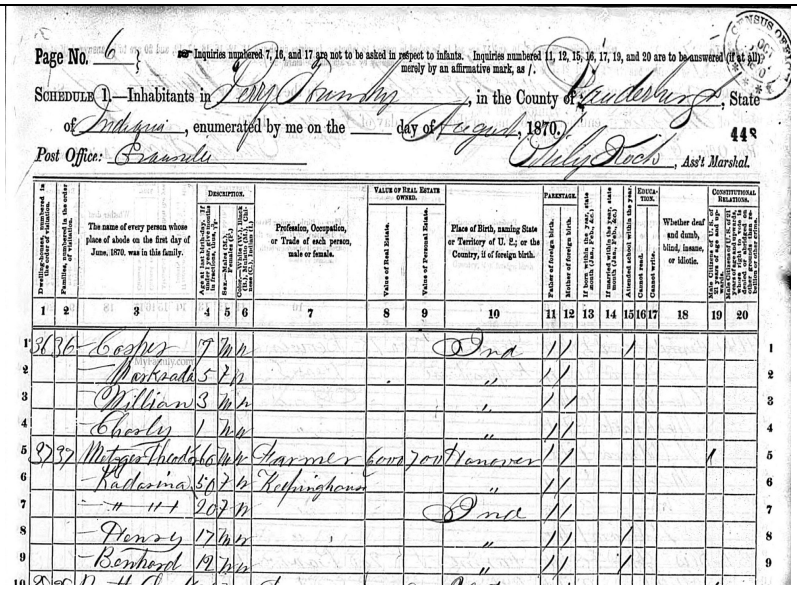
1	75	80	Theodore Mesket	40	M		Farmer	800	Germany
2			Catherine	32	F				"
3			Elizabeth	5	F				Ind
4			Catherine	1	F				"

1850 Census, Indiana, Vanderburgh County, Perry Township


SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Perry Township in the County of Vanderburgh State of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 11th day of June 1860. Mason O Newman Ass't Marshal.
Post Office Evansville

30	166	262	Theodore Meskmeske	50	M	X	Farmer	1500	1200	Germany
40			Catharine "	42	F					Kentucky
1			Elizabeth "	13	F					Indiana
2			Catharine "	10	F					do
3			Henry "	7	M					do
4			Bernard "	2	M					do
5										

1860 Census, Indiana, Vanderburgh County, Perry Township, Pages 34 and 35



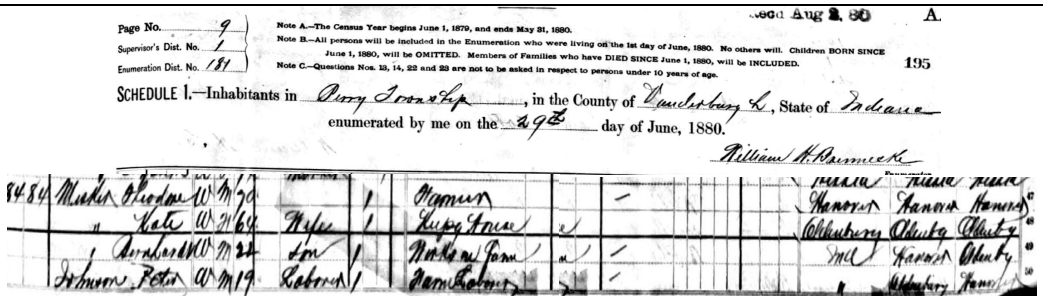
Page No. 6 — Inquiries numbered 7, 18, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township, in the County of Vanderburgh, State of Indiana, enumerated by me on the ___ day of August, 1870. 448

Post Office: Evansville — Emily Fox, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Description: Age at last Birthday. If under 1 year, state months.	Description: Sex (Male, M; Female, F)	Description: Color (White, W; Black, B; Mulatto, Mu; Chinese, C; Indian, I)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage: Father of foreign birth.	Parentage: Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month.	If married within the year, state month.	Education: Attended school within the year.	Education: Cannot read.	Education: Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations: Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years and upwards.	Constitutional Relations: Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or crime.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1	36 Cooper	7	M	W				Ind	/	/				/				1
2		Mary Ann	5	F	W				"	/	/								2
3		William	3	M	W				"	/	/								3
4		Charley	1	M	W				"	/	/								4
5	2	37 Metzger Theodore	65	M	W	Farmer	600	700	Hanover	/	/							1	5
6		Katarina	50	F	W	Keeping House			"	/	/								6
7		" Ida	20	F	W				Ind	/	/								7
8		Henry	17	M	W				"	/	/				/				8
9		Bernhard	14	M	W				"	/	/				/				9

1870 Census, Indiana, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Perry Township, Page 6



Page No. 9 — Supervisor's Dist. No. 1 — Enumeration Dist. No. 181

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

Aug 2, 80 A. 195

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township, in the County of Vanderburgh, State of Indiana, enumerated by me on the 29th day of June, 1880.

William H. Bennick

84	84	Mesker Theodore	W	M	70			1	Farmer									Hanover	Hanover	Hanover	
		" Kate	W	F	69	Wife		1	Keeping House									Oldenburg	Oldenburg	Oldenburg	
		Arnsberg Ben	W	M	22	Son		1	Working on Farm										Ind	Hanover	Oldenburg
		Johnson Peter	W	M	19	Laborer		1	Farm Laborer											Oldenburg	Perry

1880 Census, Indiana, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Perry Township
Theodore Mesker was born in Hanover. Kate was born in Oldenburg. Ben was born in Indiana

As a prominent farmer, Theodore's hard work gradually transformed his circumstances. In 1850, his real estate was valued at $800. By 1860, the value of his real estate had increased to $2,000, and he had a personal estate valued at $1,500.

By 1881, when Theodore wrote his will, he had acquired 168 acres of land in Perry Township and owned six lots in Lamasco City. He divided his land among his four children.

The Nurrenbern – Steinkamp – Mesker family connections continued courtships and weddings.

- 1867, Bernard F. Nurrenbern, son of Ben Nurrenbern, married Elizabeth Mesker, daughter of Theodore Mesker.
- 1880, Susanna Nurrenbern, granddaughter of Ben Nurrenbern, married Bernhart John, son of Theodore Mesker.

Over the decades, Theodore's family continued to expand. Through his four children, he was blessed with seven grandchildren during his lifetime and 14 more after his passing. Tragedy also touched the family, as seven of the grandchildren passed away before reaching adulthood.

Theodore's legacy carried forward across generations—growing to 31 great-grandchildren, 89 great-great-grandchildren, and ultimately encompassing more than 400 descendants by 2026.

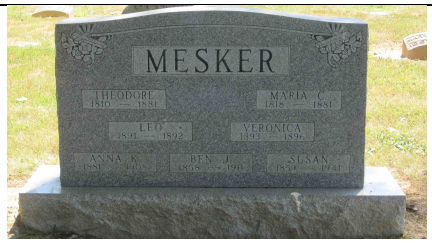
A Dream Fulfilled

The journey that had begun on the Depeweg farmstead had brought Theodore a long way.

On 20 March 1881, Theodore Mesker, age 70, died of kidney disease.

Later that same year, on 13 August, his wife, Maria Catherine, age 63, died of old age.

They were laid to rest together in the family plot at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery on Mesker Park Drive in Evansville, Indiana.



Gravestone of Theodore and Maria C Mesker

From his humble beginnings as a landless laborer born in a modest *leibzucht* cottage on the Depeweg farmstead, Theodore Mesker's life embodies the classic immigrant journey.

His story is a reminder that an immigrant's identity can be hidden beneath layers of changing borders, unfamiliar place names, altered surnames, and imperfect records. Born **Joannes Theodorus vor dem Mesche** at the Depeweg farmstead in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, he crossed the Atlantic in 1837 with family and friends, changed his surname to Mesker, settled in Vanderburgh County, and slowly built the life he had dreamed of.

From a lodger on a German farmstead to a husband, father, grandfather, farmer, and landowner, Theodore transformed a desire for land and opportunity into a lasting American legacy.

In the end, the needle found in that haystack was more than a hometown; it was the story of a man who set out with nothing but hope for land of his own, and left behind roots that still run deep in the soil of Vanderburgh County today.

Transcription: Will of Theodore Mesker recorded in Vanderburgh County, Ind.,
Vol. D-G Pages 148-149

I Theodore Mesker of sound mind of the County of Vanderburgh and State of Indiana do make and publish this my last Will and Testament.

First – I hereby give and bequeath in fee simple to my wife Catherine Mesker the following Real Estate to wit: Lot Number Seven (7) and Eight (8) in block number forty-three (43) in Lamasco City so called now a part of the City of Evansville in Vanderburgh County and State of Indiana.

Second – I hereby give and bequeath to my wife Catherine Mesker all what she can desire by the laws of the state of Indiana from my decease demise or death in fee simple.

Third – I hereby give and bequeath to my oldest son Henry Theodore Mesker the following Real Estate as follows to wit; The East half of the Southwest quarter of Section Number Eight (8) in Township Number Seven (7) South of Range Eleven (11) West containing Eighty (80) acres more or less and all the personal property is on the aforesaid from my decease in fee simple.

Forth – I hereby give and bequeath to my second son John B. Mesker the following Real Estate to wit; the South West quarter of the North West quarter of Section Number Seven (7) in township Number Seven (7) South of Range No Eleven (11) West being forty acres, further taken of the East side of the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section Number Seven (7) Township Seven (7) South of Range Number Eleven (11) West containing ten (10) acres further, The undivided one half of the west half of the south west quarter of the North west quarter of Section Number Seven (7) Township Number Seven (7) South of Range Number Eleven (11) West containing Ten (10) acres of land – further, The undivided half of Twenty acres of land taken of the East side of the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section Number Seven (7) in Township Number Seven (7) South of Range Number Eleven (11) West in said County and in the Vincennes Land district all the Real Estate in Section Number Seven (7) shall be his John Ben Mesker from my decease.
The South East quarter of the South West quarter of Section Six (6) in Township Seven (7) South of Range Eleven (11) West in the district of Land subject to said Vincennes Indiana containing Sixty-Eight (68) acres and Seventy five hundredths of an acre (75) and all the personal property on the aforesaid farm shall be his from my decease devise or death.

Fifth – I give and bequeath to my Daughter Lisa Nurrenbern in fee simple the following Real Estate as follows to wit – Lots 9 and 10 blk 20 Lamasco in the City of Evansville Vanderburgh County Indiana from my decease, devise or death in fee simple.

Sixth – I have given and bequeathed to my Daughter Catherine Behme the following Real Estate which has been deeded to the said Fred Behme her husband and the said Fred Behme sold said Real Estate which is two Lots 3 and 4, Block 16 in Lamasco City of Evansville the aforesaid Fred Behme her husband sold said lots to Thacking for Eleven Hundred dollars so the said Fred Behme and my daughter his wife have received her part and no more.

Theodore Mesker

Signed sealed in the presence of us by the said testator Theodore Mesker in our presence subscribed the same and declared the same to be his last Will and Testament and in his presence and the presence of each other have subscribed all names as witnesses thereto.

Dated this 18 day of March 1881
Henry Meynert {seal}
Fred Keck {seal}

Four Generations in America

Theodore Johann Mesker (1810 - 1881) & **Maria Catherine Quatmann** (1818 - 1881)

| ***Elizabeth Mary Mesker*** *(1847 - 1930) & Bernard F Nurrenbern (1840 - 1886)*
| | **Bernard Theodore Nurrenbern** (1868 - 1887)
| | **John Antone Nurrenbern** (1870 - 1921) & Anna C Spieker (1872 - 1935)
| | | **Anton Joseph Nurrenbern** (1901 - 1905)
| | | **Clemens Johann Nurrenbern** (1906 - 1920)
| | | **Mary Anna Nurrenbern** (1908 - 1908)
| | **Joseph Thomas Nurrenbern** (1873 - 1950)
| | **Bernard Nurrenbern** (1875 - 1875)
| | **William Henry Nurrenbern** (1878 - 1952)
| | **Mary Elizabeth Nurrenbern** (1885 - 1967)

| ***Catherine Mesker*** *(1849 - 1916) & Frederick Behme (1855 - 1933)*
| | **Anna Elizabeth Behme** (1881 - 1943) & Frank Berg (1879 - 1960)
| | **Katherine Ann Behme** (1882 - 1956) & Charles Kaltenbacher (1874 - 1936)
| | | **Arthur Kaltenbacher** (1901 - 1972) & Cecelia Catherine Durringer (1902 - 1966)
| | | **Loretta Kaltenbacher** (1903 - 1995) & Roderic Malcolm Koch (1904 - 1981)
| | | **Infant Kaltenbacher** (1907 - 1907)
| | **John Edward Behme** (1884 - 1949) & Louise Wilhelmine Frank (1886 - 1979)

| ***Henry Theodore Mesker*** *(1853 - 1924) & Elizabeth Jansen (1859 - 1940)*
| | **Clara Mary Frances Mesker** (1882 - 1941) & Adam Nicholas Schenk (1872 - 1953)
| | **Cecelia Josephine Mesker** (1885 - 1968) & William Happel Sr (1886 - 1966)
| | | **Edward Henry Happel*** (1911 - 1994) & Marie A Miller (1911 - 1987)
| | | **Edward Henry Happel*** (1911 - 1994) & Helen Elizabeth Ohl (1919 - 1997)
| | | **Leo Theodore Happel** (1912 - 1988) & Dorothy Mae Andrews (1920 -)
| | | **William George Happel*** (1914 - 1988) & Virginia Marie Schuck (1911 - 1981)
| | | **William George Happel*** (1914 - 1988) & Alma Henderson
| | | **Francis Joseph Happel** (1916 - 1963) & Marie Kathryn Antey (1917 - 1992)
| | | **Julia Elizabeth Happel** (1919 - 1944) & Sam Mayer (1910 -)
| | | **Rudolph John Sylvester Happel*** (1928 - 2006) & Loretta Burton (~1926 - 1989)
| | | **Rudolph John Sylvester Happel*** (1928 - 2006) & Martha Lee Chappel Morris (1928 - 1993)
| | **Joseph Henry Mesker** (1889 - 1963) & Sophia Mary Catherine Lutz (1890 - 1969)
| | | **Mildred Elizabeth Mesker** (1922 - 2007) & Victor R Hordynski (1925 - 2014)

| | **Edward Frank Sylvester Mesker** (1892 - 1973) & Viola M Johnson (1902 - 1986)
| | | **Eveline Mesker** (1925 - 2011) & Charles Jerome Hayden (1927 - 2004)
| | | **Edith Jeanette Mesker** (1928 -) & John Larson
| | | **Dorothy Mae Mesker** (1932 -) & John Thomas Hermann (1927 - 2015)
| | **Julia Mary Elizabeth Mesker** (1895 - 1982) & Anthony Francis Rieber (1889 - 1976)
| | | **Martha Elizabeth Rieber** (1921 - 2016) & Frederick James Degray (1919 - 1972)
| | | **Juanita Josephine Rieber** (1922 - 2005) & Peter Kukay (1921 - 2004)
| | | **Francis Henry Rieber** (1924 - 2018) & Hazel Savannah Keenum (1918 - 2010)
| | | **Marie Antoinette Rieber** (1927 - 2008) & Edwin Alexander Gartland (1928 - 1996)
| | | **Julia Mary Josephine Rieber** (1934 - 2014) & Walter B Muckerman Jr. (1924 - 1997)
| | | **Louise Cecelia Rieber*** (1935 - 2016) & Leon M Olszewski (1935 - 2024)
| | | **Louise Cecelia Rieber*** (1935 - 2016) & Ed Kelley
| | | **Louise Cecelia Rieber*** (1935 - 2016) & Ray Vogt

| ***John Bernhardt Mesker*** *(1858 - 1911) & Susanna Nurrenbern (1859 - 1941)*
| | **Anna Katherine Mesker** (1881 - 1908)
| | **Frank Bernard Mesker** (1883 - 1961) & Estelle Cecil (1895 - 1972)
| | **George William Mesker** (1885 - 1937) & Elizabeth Katherine Schell (1891 - 1974)
| | | **Leona Susan Mesker** (1915 - 1994) & Orville Frank Deig (1915 - 1988)
| | | **Edward Theodore Mesker** (1919 - 2003) & Mary Margaret Weinzapfel (1921 - 1991)
| | | **George Clemens Mesker** (1921 - 2010) & Arvilla Mary Paul (1923 - 2009)
| | | **Norma Mary Mesker** (1923 - 2015) & Charles Henry Herrmann (1922 - 2009)
| | | **Elnora Amelia Mesker** (1924 - 2017) & John Lawrence Fischer (1913 - 1974)
| | | **Clarence Leo Mesker** (1926 - 2020) & Rosalie Orth (1931 - 2024)
| | | **Arthur Albert Mesker** (1930 - 1949)
| | | **Verna Susan Mesker** (1933 - 2008) & Clarence Francis Winiger (1931 - 2016)
| | **Leo George Mesker** (1891 - 1892)
| | **Veronica Susanna Mesker** (1893 - 1896)
| | **Susan Magdalena Mesker** (1896 - 1988) & George Bernard Geuss (1901 - 1982)
| | **Theodore T Mesker** (1901 - 1981) & Louise Elizabeth Nigg (1902 - 2000)
| | | **Martha L Mesker**

* denotes more than one marriage

The End