

## THE RIBLIN FAMILY

### MARTIN RIBLIN

Father of Katharine Riblin, wife of Adam Kern, Sr.

? - 1793

Martin Riblin and his brother, John, were German immigrants in the same fashion as Conrad Kern. We have no information on John, but Martin had a farm close to Conrad's in Rowan County, N. C., and it seems logical that Conrad's son, Adam, Sr., would marry Martin's daughter, Katharine. As stated previously in the material about Adam Kern, Sr., a grandson, Henry Barton Kern, left a record that his grandmother's name was Katharine Riblin and that his great-grandfather was Martin Riblin. Further, all deeds extant record Adam's wife as being named Katharine, Katherine, Catherine, or in one instance, "Caty."

Katharine Riblin must have been married by at least 1785 which no doubt explains why she is not mentioned in her father's will drawn up May 19, 1791, where he lists names of his daughters, still unmarried and at home. Assuming that these were younger sisters of Katharine, it is interesting to note that she named her own daughters after them. The oldest daughter of Adam and Katharine Kern was Mary M., undoubtedly named for her grandmother, Conrad's wife, Mary Magdalene. However, the other four daughters bear names corresponding to the four Riblin girls in the will and in the same order according to age. Martin mentions Anna, Elizabeth, Sarah and Susanna; Katharine named her second, third, fourth and fifth daughters Anna, Elizabeth, Sarah and Susan respectively.

But to return to Katharine's father, Martin Riblin (or Raiblen, Reblin, Roblin, Ribley, Roebeling, Ribelin, Ribeling). Rupp's Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants, 1727-1776, page 289, lists a Hans Martin Raible and a Johannes Raible. Strassburger German Pioneers, Vol. I, page 498, verifies this by listing Hans Marti Raible and Johannes Reiblen as arriving in this country on the ship Duke of Wirtemberg, Daniel Montpelier, commander. They came the usual way--from Rotterdam by way of Cowes, England--and were received at the Philadelphia Court House Oct. 20, 1752. They could write.

Martin Riblin was an early settler in Rowan County. Carolina Cradle says (page 87) that no Germans were in Rowan before 1752 and by 1762 there were 43. It is suggested that Martin "Raiblen" came to Rowan about 1762. According to a map showing the original grants of land in Rowan County (see page 10 this booklet) Martin Riblin owned 300 acres "on little south fork of Crane Creek" due south of one of Conrad Kern's tracts of land. Deed to the Riblin land can be found in Rowan Deeds, Book XI, page 639. Original grant number is 1684.

Martin "Ribley" appears in the 1790 census for Rowan County and is shown as having in his family

1 male over 16; 1 male under 16  
6 females, including wife

Further tying him in with the Kerns, Adam Kern, Sr. was one of the executors of his will (see page 27 this booklet). As an interesting commentary on the era in which he lived, we also have a record of the settlement of "Ribley's" estate on April 29, 1793. (On file in the State Archives, Raleigh, N. C.) An inventory of his estate was made and a sale held. Purchasers of items included many well-known names in the Rowan German community such as the "Widow" Ribley, Harmon Butner, John Eller (John Kern's son-in-law), George Smith (Riblin's son-in-law), Peter Ribley, Peter Brown. The amount received from the sale: \$117.12.

The 1800 census lists the "Widow" Riblin as still living in Rowan County, her family consisting of

1 male 16-26; 1 female 16-26

Note the change in spelling from "Ribley" in 1790 to Riblin in 1800. Adam Kern, Jr., third son of Adam, Sr., named his third son (born Jan. 8, 1821) Martin Riblin Kern, so we assume that when Raiblen was Anglicized it was accepted as Riblin. However, a current member of the family says that the early name was also spelled Roebeling, later changed to Ribeling. The Ribelins of North Carolina still pronounce the name as Ribel with accent on the first "i" but others pronounce it Rib-e-lin. Tombstones of later members of the family in Old Union Cemetery spell the name Ribelin (David Ribelin and Martin F. Ribelin).

Martin Riblin, Jr. moved to Kentucky (and possibly up into Lawrence County, Ind. for a time) and died in Kentucky March 29, 1831; his will is dated March 23, 1831 with Adam Kern, Jr. as executor. The David mentioned above was his son. Abraham Kern (oldest son of Adam, Sr.) was executor of the will of Martin F. Ribelin (and perhaps guardian of his estate), David's son, who only lived to age 19. (Lawrence County Probate Book A, page 410, May 1837.) David Ribelin was a charter member in the Old Union Church, Lawrence County, Ind., along with the Kerns.

The children of Martin and Anna Riblin were:

Katharine	born 1762	married Adam Kern, Sr.
Martin, Jr.	?	?
Jacob	?	?
Anna	?	?
Elizabeth	?	George Smith, Jr.
Sarah	?	?
Susanna	?	?
Rachel	?	?