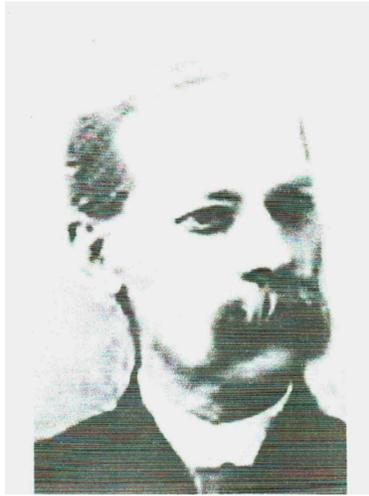


## Rev. Wilhelm Flickinger



Rev. Johann Wilhelm Flickinger was born in Zweibruecken, Rheinpfalz (present-day Germany) on April 7, 1808 and christened with the name Johann. [1] He was in support of the first democratic government movement in Germany and as a result of these viewpoints, immigrated to the United States. Prior to immigrating he studied theology in Bavaria at University of Erlangen. [2]

Once in the United States, Rev. Flickinger was a leader in the movement to establish a German Protestant church in Belleville. Shortly after the establishment of the Freie Protestantische Gemeinde (i.e., the Free Protestant Church present-day St. Paul's UCC in Belleville) on August 1, 1839, he was elected by the congregation as its first resident pastor. [2]

Flickinger gave up his pastoral duties because his annual salary of one hundred fifty dollars did not meet living expenses for he and his family. He retired to farming. [2]

After serving as a pastor in Johannesburg, Illinois from 1848 to 1856, Rev. Flickinger served as pastor at Concordia, where the building was nicknamed the Flickinger Church. [2] While serving the church, Rev. Flickinger rented a house, garden, and orchard from John Meyer as there was no parsonage yet. [3] The Illinois State Census of 1865 lists his wife, Madaline, seven children, and a school with 40 pupil next to his name. [4] The church was served by Rev. Flickinger for eleven years until his death in 1866. Rev. Flickinger is buried in the church cemetery. [3]

## Sources of Information

1. "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NT9M-QPB> : 10 February 2018), Johann Wilhelm Flickinger, 10 Apr 1808; citing ; FHL microfilm 434,561.
2. St. Paul UCC Church Archives
3. Concordia UCC Church Archives
4. "Illinois State Census, 1865," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-559Y-98?cc=1803971&wc=M8D2-8TL%3A146074801%2C146113701> : 20 May 2014), St Clair > Township 1N, Range 9W > image 7 of 10; Illinois State Archives, Springfield.