

According to unverified tradition, the settlers of Freistatt held a meeting without the pastor present and selected Freistatt as the name for the settlement, implying “place of refuge” or “haven of rest,” although the literal meaning is “free town.” Supposedly the pastor wanted to name the settlement “Liberty,” perhaps to sound more anglicized. Other verbal sources indicate that the railway’s surveyors wanted to put the railroad through Freistatt, since it was already established, but the settlers felt it would cause difficulties and spoil the community. The railway went through Hoberg to the northeast instead. Some suggest that David Fritz (one of the congregation’s founders) was given the opportunity to choose the settlement’s name, and he selected Freistatt, which was the same name of the community in WI where he lived earlier. See *The First One Hundred Years, 1874—1974, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, Missouri*, n.p.