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Ignetious Droege was born and raised in Germany. In the 1850's he and his brother emigrated to the United States and took up residence in Covington. Together they built and operated the Licking Steel Rolling Mill which was then located on the Licking River near Eleventh Street.

The company soon became very successful and one of the leading mills in the state. The iron stoves made by this company became popular throughout the United States as a result of their materials, construction, and weight. It was reported that a Droege stove would outlast two or three of their competitors' stoves. Besides making stoves, the Droege brothers made "any and everything that could be cast in iron."

The Droege house, located at 1213 Greenup Street, was built by Ignatious in 1854. The outside walls of the structure are one and one-half feet thick. The interior of the home included detailed cherry woodwork and marble mantles. Droege made the mantles himself, as well as the wrought iron fence above the outer wall.