

Hochthanner Family



The Hochthanner name came to this area through George Adam Hochthanner. George Adam was born to Anna nee Stienbauer and Johann George Hochthanner in Irrebach Bavaria, Germany on March 7, 1824. There he grew up and worked as a farmer. He married Anna Barbara Anschuetz.

In 1848, the couple joined other Bavarians in immigrating to America. Their trip took the usual six weeks. However, on this voyage the passengers ran out of food before they reached America.

From New York they traveled by steamboat to Albany, then by train to Buffalo, by boat on Lake Erie to Detroit, and then on to Frankenmuth, where George purchased 55 acres on the corner of King and Dehmel Roads.

The couple joined immigrants who had arrived since 1845 and worshipped at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. At that time St. Lorenz had 203 individual members, which meant the original log cabin church was no longer adequate for worshipping.

The congregation then decided to build a new frame building 74 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 24 feet high, with three windows on each side, but no tower. It had no chancel, no organ, and no stove. The congregation was unable to worship in a heated facility until 1853.

The marriage of George Adam and Anna Barbara was blessed with six children: George C.; Johann Christian, who married Marie Rogner; twins, Frederick, who married Eva Maurer, and Eva M., who died at the age of 4; Wilhelm Heinrich; and a daughter Anna B., who died at the age of two weeks.

In 1859 Anna Barbara died, leaving George Adam with four children to parent.

The following year he married the widow Christina Messner. Her two children joined the family. The couple was further blessed with three more children: Barbara E., who married John Spaeth; Margaretha, who married Lorenz Kern (owner of the Exchange Hotel – Margaretha had the distinction of serving the first commercial chicken dinner in Frankenmuth); and Adam John, who married Marie Dinse.

On December 1, 1868, George Adam purchased an eighty acre farm in Blumfield Township located at 1745 South Gera Road. This farm has been in the Hochthanner family for 120 years and is presently owned by fourth generation descendant Carl Hochthanner and his wife Doris nee Leidel.

George Adam died on April 9, 1902. His second wife Christina died on March 7, 1921. Both are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.

Their grandchildren include: Robert, Walter, Otto, Edmund and Norman Hochthanner, Clara Moser, Alma Kueffner, Eleanore Neuenkirch, Clif Hochthanner, Hilda Roth, Herbert Hochthanner, Rueben and Walter Kern, Elsie Roth, Florence Spaeth and Helen Beckton.

As of the year 2005, the descendants number 195.



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