

Koependoerfer Family



The name Koependoerfer first appeared on the Frankenmuth scene in 1852 when Johann Andreas Koependoerfer arrived from Regelsbach, Germany by way of Hamburg and New York. He was nine years old. Accompanying J. Andreas were his mother, Barbara Ruhl Koependoerfer Schwartz, his step-father, Johann Schwartz, and his four sisters, Margaretha (Mrs. Theodore Haubenstricker), Sibylle (Mrs. J. Adam Held), Anna (Mrs. J. Georg Roth), Katherina (Mrs. J. Georg Brenner) and a half-sister, Kunigunda (Mrs. Fred Rodammer).

The family history parallels the history of many others in Germany at that time. Barbara Ruhl, at age 24, married thirty-three year old Georg Koependoerfer in 1829. She bore him nine children in fourteen years; four children dying before the age of two. George, a farmer, died at the age of fifty leaving the widow with five children; the oldest age fifteen and the youngest age three. The following year Barbara married Johann Schwartz. A daughter, Kunigunda, was born to them a year later.

The Schwartz-Koependoerfer family settled in Frankenmuth Township on eighty acres of land. That farm, located on the corner of Roedel and Beyer Roads, is now owned by descendants of Eva Maria Schwartz, the last child born to Johann and Barbara Koependoerfer Schwartz, who later married Johann Georg Bauer.

By 1885, the four Koependoerfer sisters were married and lived on farms in close vicinity. Sybille died in 1856 at the age of 24.

J. Andreas, at the age of 21, enlisted in the 29th Michigan Infantry and fought for the Union forces in Tennessee and Alabama. After the war, J. Andreas returned and became a farmer.

He married Dorothea Henrietta Schmandt. In 1876, they bought 120 acres in Tuscola Township. Years later, 40 adjoining acres were added. Dorothea and J. Andreas had one son and five daughters: J. George, Wilhelmina Barbara (Mrs. Jacob Schluckebier), Augusta (Mrs. Henry Schluckebier), Bertha (Mrs. Carl Schmitzer), Ida (1892-1894), and Ida (Mrs. Otto Rau). J. Andreas died in 1917. Dorothea Henrietta died in 1947 at the age of 99 years. Their son, J. George, took over the farm and married Sophie Schluckebier in 1895.

It is of interest to note that three children of J. Andreas Koependoerfer married three from the Peter Schluckebier family. This also occurred in the succeeding generation when three of John and Sophie's offspring married three of the George Maurer family.

J. George and Sophie Koependoerfer had one son and six daughters: Florence (Mrs. Herman Maurer), Martha (Mrs. Otto Schiefer), Norman (married Clara Maurer in 1920), Selma (Mrs. Elmer Hecht), Anita (Mrs. Erwin Kischnick), Nora (Mrs. Bernhard Maurer), and Lottie (Mrs. Albert Gugel).

Norman and Clara Koependoerfer had one son and two daughters: Wallace (married Lorna Bierlein), Lillian (Mrs. Henry Keinath), and Norine (Mrs. Harvey Kern).

Wallace and Lorna Koependoerfer had two sons and two daughters: David (married Kathy Hutchinson), Leroy (married Laurie Salvi), Marcia (Mrs. Wayne Smith), and Julie (Mrs. Keith Landskroner).

As of 1989, four Koependoerfer children were living at Koependoerfer farms where their great-great-great-grandfather first tilled the soil 113 years ago.

