

Regener Family



The Regener name came here through Anton Regener. Anton was born about 1825 in Samswegen, Germany, a small village west of Berlin. He married Anna Henning of Samswegen. Their son, Franz Anton Philip Regener, was born July 22, 1851. About 1860,

Anton Regener and his family immigrated to America, arriving in New Orleans. Franz Regener graduated from the Lutheran Teachers College in Addison, Illinois September 1, 1872. After teaching in Lutheran schools at New Orleans, Houston, Detroit and Jackson, Michigan, Franz Regener came to St. Lorenz Lutheran School in 1897. He taught there twenty years. A history of St. Lorenz Church published in 1921 relates: *"In the latter part of 1916, Teacher Regener, teacher of the lower classes, was showing signs of failing health. His heart was heavy when he had to leave his small children, but his strength had become visibly weaker. In December, steps were taken to get help for the class. On April 14, 1917, teacher Regener handed in his resignation. The congregation accepted it with sympathy on April 29, 1917. Through the elders, the congregation extended their heartfelt thanks for his long and faithful service"*. Teacher Regener died on his sixty-sixth birthday, July 22, 1917. He rests in the pastor/teacher corner of St. Lorenz Cemetery, along with his wife, Emma, who died in 1923.

Franz Anton Regener married Emma Tiedgen September 20, 1879, daughter of carpenter Beherendt Tiedgen of Germany. Emma lived with her mother and stepfather in New Orleans where she met and married Franz. Franz and Emma lived in a frame home behind the original site of St. Lorenz Lutheran School. They had six children. Alexander Louis Regener born in New Orleans on December 13, 1882 married Anna List of Frankenmuth, granddaughter of Johann Georg Hubinger and also granddaughter of Frankenmuth architect and sculptor Johann Adam List.

Alexander began his business career tending counter at Dr. Speckhardt's Drug Store in Frankenmuth; he eventually became treasurer of McKesson Robbins Drug Company. Alex Regener, who died April 22, 1937, was an amateur photographer who took many photos of Frankenmuth. His son, Ralph Frederick Regener, was a guest organist in Detroit area Lutheran churches and was an accomplished artist. Alexander's daughter, Margaret, married a Lutheran minister. She donated many of Alexander's "turn-of-the-century photographs" of Frankenmuth to the Museum. Alexander's daughter, Edna, had a son Robert, who became an executive with Ford Motor Co. He married Sandra Campbell, Miss Canada during the late '70s and finalist in the Miss Universe Pageant. Their son, Alexander Burnham, was named for his great-grandfather.

Franz Regener's son, Frederick Wilhelm Regener, was born January 27, 1889. Fred Regener married Regina Zehnder, aunt of William Zehnder Jr., in 1912. He spent his life in the banking business. Their son, Franklin Adolph Regener, born November 19, 1918, founded an Ohio company distributing high technology materials to the aerospace industry. His daughter, Ann, married Dr. Howard Kapp, an orthopedic surgeon in Naples, Florida.

Franz and Emma's daughter Emma Regener, born April 3, 1885, married Franz Pietsch. They lived for fifty years on Cass Street in Frankenmuth. Another son, Adolph Regener, born April 17, 1893, served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the First World War and died in Frankenmuth in July 1965. Franz and Emma Regener had two other children, Gustav and Emma, who lived in Detroit and Saginaw respectively.

Franz Anton Philip Regener and his family remained faithful to their German Lutheran heritage and advanced the work of the Lutheran Church in Michigan and elsewhere in America.



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