

Rittmaier Family



The Rittmaier name came to Frankenmuth in 1851 when Friederich Wilhelm Rittmaier, his wife Maria Sabina Maier (widowed) and her two sons, Carl August and Gustav Edward, left their homeland of Memmingen Bayern, Germany and emigrated to Frankenmuth. They bought land on Lange Road near Dehmel Road in Birch Run Township and then farmed the land. They had three additional children who all died in infancy. Maria Sabina died on Christmas morning (1855) a week after their last child was born.

On February 27, 1856, Friederich Wilhelm married Johanna Margaretha Goetzinger Reichle (widowed). Friederich Wilhelm passed away on June 18, 1889 and Johanna Margaretha on May 13, 1898. They are buried in the old St. Lorenz Cemetery across the road from the present St. Lorenz Church.

Gustav Edward was born on September 9, 1845, in Memmingen, Germany, and was a young boy when his parents brought him to Frankenmuth.

On August 17, 1864, at age 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He joined his father working on the family farm after a three year term in the army. On June 29, 1873, Gustav married Margaretha Barbara Heidenberger, born August 2, 1854. They had three sons and four daughters.

Georg Matthaues (Matthew) was born on August 14, 1874. He married Emilie Veitengruber and they had five children: Hulda (Kent), Olga (Tibbets), Alvin, Harold and Oswald. Matthew was a farmer in Arbela Township. Harold and Oswald lived in Midland and both had sons to carry on the Rittmaier name.

Johanna Margaretha (Margaret) was born on July 14, 1877. She married Martin Veitengruber and they farmed on Rathburn Road, south of Frankenmuth.

They had four sons: Arthur and Bernhard worked in Flint; Herman owned a grocery store in Birch Run; and Oscar worked the family farm with his wife, Lorna.

Johann Friederich (Fred) was born on June 14, 1880. He stayed on the homestead and took care of his aged mother. After his first wife, Sabina nee Bernthal, passed away, he married Maria (Minnie) Harowitz.

Anna Maria (Mary) was born on March 27, 1882, and married Henry Heine. He worked at Buick in Flint and they lived in Clio. Mary was talented in sewing and doing fancy needlework. She also volunteered many hours to working with the Red Cross.

Johann Peter Edward (Edward) was born on March 2, 1885. He attended Barber College in Omaha, Nebraska, but never practiced professionally. Instead, he worked as a carpenter for Gust Baker Builder and later he worked in the brewery. He married Florence Ranke on July 20, 1919. They had a daughter, Marion Reif.

Bertha Katherina Barbara (Bertha) was born on April 17, 1885. She married Elmer Keinath who was a farmer in Richville. They had seven children: Erna (Schnell), Florence (Bauer), Helen (Miller), Norman, Ernest, Harry and Elmer Jr. Bertha passed away shortly after the birth of their last child.

Johanna Karoline Christine (Lena) was born on July 24, 1889. She moved to Richville with her husband, Fred Laux, a farmer. Their children were Walter, Howard, Frieda (Eckert), Esther (Lich) and Doris (Poppe).

Gustaf Edward died in 1910 and Margaretha Barbara died in 1936.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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