

Schian Family



he times were difficult in Selecia, Germany (Prussia) for Gottlieb Schian (December 14, 1848-1934) and his wife Maria Magdalena nee Sedlatschek (February 9, 1851-1929). They had three children: Richard born May 10, 1872; August born June 3, 1873; and Bertha born July 12, 1875. The final blow was the death of August and Bertha in April of 1876 from the Black Plague. Magdalena's mother, Clara Heinlein, and her sister, Anna Beyerlein, had already sailed for America. Gottlieb and Magdalena left their home on July 8, 1876 with their only surviving child, Richard, and sailed on the SS Lord Clive for Philadelphia. They arrived July 24, 1876 and made their way to Frankentrost, Michigan and stayed with Clara and Johann Heinlein until they purchased their own land in Blumfield in 1881.

Gottlieb and Magdalena eventually had nine more children: Anna, born November 15, 1876; George, born September 6, 1878, died 1939; William Joseph, born August 17, 1880, died 1960; Charles Henry, born July 8, 1882, died 1966; Emil John, born August 24, 1884, died 1972; Bernhard, born October 26, 1886, died 1971; Elizabeth Wilhelmine, born October 22, 1888; Lilly Clara Elsie, born March 2, 1891; and Ida Alice, born August 27, 1893. All nine children were born in Blumfield.

Besides farming, Gottlieb had learned the masonry trade from his father and supplemented his farm income by doing masonry work. Some of the stone foundations near Frankentrost were built by Gottlieb including the basement of the Catholic Church in Reese, Michigan. He also donated the wood beams for Christ Lutheran Church in Reese.

Richard Schian purchased the family farm from his father, Gottlieb, in 1897. This original family farm located on North Gera Road is still run by Gottlieb's

great-grandson, John Schian (as of the year 2005). Gottlieb moved to Dixon Road in Denmark Township, purchased 100 acres, and lived there until 1925 when he moved to Reese. Bernard, his son, kept the farm on Dixon Road until approximately 1980. Gottlieb resided in Reese until his death on October 31, 1934. He is buried in the Denmark Cemetery. His wife Magdalena was Catholic. She died April 8, 1929 and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Blumfield Township.

Richard Schian married Gisela Toth October 4, 1898. They had six children: Florence (1899-1986), Cecelia (1902-1992), Fremont (1903-1998), Joseph (1905-1980), Annel (1908-1995), and George (1911-1986). Gisela worked in the kitchen at Fischer's for 25 years. She started at age 62. She died in 1968 at age 88 and Richard died January 17, 1943.

Fremont married Sivila Wascher (1905-1994) on October 24, 1923. They had six children: Leota (1924), Harold (1925), Raymond (1927), Jimmie (1929-1989), Maxine (1931), and Robert (1942).

Leota married Allen Johnson (1919-2000). They had seven children, twenty-four grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Harold married Verna Trinklein (1922-1999). They had two children and four grandchildren.

Raymond married Lucille Newman and they had eight children and fourteen grandchildren.

Jimmie married Margaret Ann Veitengruber in 1951. They had three children and four grandchildren.

Maxine married William Hogan (1924-2002). They had three children and five grandchildren.

Robert married Carol Lowe in 1962. They had two children and four grandsons.

