

Knoll Family



The Knoll family name was established in Frankenmuth in 1851 by Johann Paulus Knoll. Johann was born September 13, 1832 in Germany. He was a young man of 19 looking for economic opportunity when he arrived in America. Land was cheap, jobs were plentiful, and the odds of having a higher standard of living than he could ever achieve in Germany were definitely in his favor.

Johann came to Frankenmuth a year after the community drew up its own set of laws and regulations. In a document drafted January 29, 1850, the colonists outlined regulations governing civil matters such as voluntary labor to the community, the building of roads and fences, damage done to animals, muzzling of dogs, removal of dead animals, and how disputes were to be settled. Johann was probably forced to become a woodsman before he could farm. The land in the area was heavily wooded and the settlers planted fields as they cleared them.

Johann married Ursula Weiss, born December 20, 1837, on June 23, 1858. Johann and Ursula lived on a farm at 5120 Maple Road. The farm was later owned by their son, Johann Georg and Martha nee List Knoll. From there it went to their grandson Walter and Elsie nee Bierlein Knoll. As of 2010, it is owned by great-grandson Larry and Toni nee Grainger Knoll.

Johann Paulus and Ursula had nine children:

Stephan (b. 6-15-1859) married Christine Margaretha Hildner (b. 12-22-1858) on May 16, 1888.

Joh. Leonhard (b. 2-16-1861 to 1920) married Margaretha Barbara Keinath (b. 8-17-1869) on September 4, 1889.

Joh. Paulus (b. 2-21-1863) married Anna Barbara Nuechterlein (b. 2-18-1870) on June 17, 1891.

Maria (b. 3-18-1865 to 9-30-1943) married Georg Matthaus Bierlein (b. 10-2-1863) on October 2, 1889.

Joh. Jakob (b. 4-10-1867 to 12-26-1955) married Anna Barbara Bernthal (b. 7-9-1869) on June 7, 1893.

Andraus Paulus (b. 2-17-1869) married Mathilda Katherina Margaretha List (b. 3-14-1877) on September 1, 1897.

Margaretha Katherina (b. 8-23-1871 to 10-16-1912) married Joh. Georg Schreiner (b. 8-8-1872) on October 17, 1894.

Anna Magdalena (b. 6-11-1874 to 5-31-1951) married Christian Gugel (b. 3-8-1874) on August 31, 1898.

Joh. George (b. 8-5-1876 to 10-7-1957) married Martha List (b. 1-9-1883) on June 3, 1903.

John died November 2, 1911 and is buried at St. Lorenz Lutheran Cemetery. He was 78 years old. Ursula died July 14, 1902 when she was struck by lightning.

A cousin of Johann Paulus also came to Frankenmuth. Stephan Knoll, Sr. was born in Rosstal on January 27, 1835. Stephan married Eva Barbara Galsterer on June 2, 1867.

Stephan and Eva had seven children:

Joh. Paulus (b. 4-9-1871)

Sophia Barbara (b. 10-17-1872)

Maria Katharine (b. 6-13-1875)

Joh. Georg Paul (b. 9-2-1876)

Joh. Georg Michael (b. 12-14-1877)

Ursula Magdalena (b. 1-25-1880)

Paulus Stephan (b. 7-10-1882)

After the death of Eva Barbara, Stephan married a widow, Emilie Mathilda Schuman Kruschinsky, who had four children from her first marriage.



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