

Kuck Family



he Kuck name was brought to the Frankenmuth area in 1871 when Wilhelm Kuck came from the Hinterpommern area of Germany. His parents, Christian Kuck and wife, a sister and her family, Johann and Marie or Mary Lange, and possibly one other brother, also immigrated. Wilhelm purchased 40 acres in Birch Run Township and started clearing the land and farming it. Property taxes in 1873 were \$5.63. Many of the early tax receipts and also the 1877 Saginaw County plat book spell the name "Cook" which is the way it has been pronounced through the years.

In 1873, Wilhelm married Maria Rosenthal who was born in the Vorderpommern Preusen area of Germany. Their marriage was performed by Rev. Conrad Volz in East Saginaw. They had four daughters: Frederike, who married Leonhard Fischhaber; Mary, who wed Herman Berlin; Wilhelmina, who married Leonhard Dittmar and was widowed and then married John Keinath; Emilie who died at the age of 21 of appendicitis; and two sons, William and Carl.

In 1886, Wilhelm Kuck signed the Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States and renounced his allegiance to the Emperor of Germany. Wilhelm died of lung disease in 1895 at the age of 47. His father, Christian, living at the time of his son's death said, "I am going to follow him soon." Two weeks later Christian died at age 80. At that time, members of St. Lorenz Church were buried in rows as they died. Since there were no deaths between father and son, they were buried next to each other. A tombstone was erected for Wilhelm but not for Christian. According to Wilhelm's will, his wife Maria would have the land for 10 years after which time it would pass to the oldest son, William, who would then care for his mother as long as she lived. The other children inherited various sums of money.

William married Emma Fischhaber in 1911. They were the parents of Agnes Hoerauf, Linda Mosey, Elmer, Edna (Mrs. Edwin G.) Loesel, and Alvin who died as an infant. Besides farming William operated a stump-pulling rig. A stump-puller consisted of three large beams erected to form a tripod. Then by means of block and tackle lines fastened from the tripod to the stump and pulled by horses, the stump was lifted from the ground. Sometimes the stumps were lined up to form a fence. The cork pine stumps did not rot easily. In recent years some remaining stumps have found a place in landscaping designs.

William bought an adjoining 40 acres in 1919. He was afflicted with asthma. He developed pneumonia and died in 1926 at the age of 46. Emma and her children continued to farm with help from relatives and neighbors. Then came the Depression and it was a struggle, but the family pulled together and weathered the lean years. Emma lived until 1960.

Wilhelm Kuck's son, Carl, was married to Mary Fischhaber, sister of Emma. They had nine children: Selma Sahr, Celia Rodammer, Helen Rohloff, Arthur, Elsie Kern, Clarence (Dusty), Rosie Nurminger, Emilie Krause, and Alice who died in infancy. Carl started farming in Birch Run, moved to Oklahoma, returning to Michigan in seven years. He then purchased a farm near Reese and farmed until his retirement. Carl died in 1970.

Other grandchildren of Wilhelm and Maria Kuck were: Helen Popp, Norman Fischhaber, Carl Fischhaber, Gertrude Spencer, Arthur Fischhaber, Alvin Fischhaber, Heiner Berlin, Tina Bennett, Lottie Reinert, Hugo Dittmar, Walter Keinath and Fred Keinath. Maria Kuck died in 1915 and was buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery next to her daughter, Emilie, who had died ten years earlier. Maria and Wilhelm's descendants number in excess of 325, as of 2005.

