

Maurer Family



The Maurer name came to this area through Johann Michael Maurer, the great-great grandson of Hans Sebald Maurer. Hans Sebald Maurer came to Aha, Germany from Austria, probably during the 30-year religious war. There is no record of his birth or marriage in the church at Aha. His son, Johann Sebald Maurer, married Maria Elizabeth Munz and settled in Kalbensteinberg, Germany. Official family records came to us from Pastor Hermann Eysalein of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalbensteinberg.

Johann Michael Maurer, the great grandson of Johann Sebald and Maria, was born on July 19, 1796. He married Eva Barbara Nirminger, born on October 8, 1800. They sold their home in Kalbensteinberg, Germany in 1853 and sailed to America with their 5 children: Johann Paulus, age 27, Maria Margareta, age 24, George Michael, age 16, Eva Barbara, age 13 and Maria Catharina, age 10. Three of their children had died while they lived in Germany: Anna Maria at age 22, Regina at age 7, and Johann at 3 months.

The family became members of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth and made their livelihood in agriculture. Johann Michael died on August 30, 1855 and Eva Barbara died on February 16, 1886.

On June 19, 1861 George Michael volunteered for the U.S. Army and served in the Civil War as corporal in Company K, commanded by Captain Henry Millars, 8th Regiment of Michigan. He fought in Washington, D.C. and later in Fair Oaks, Virginia where, on June 2, 1862 at the age of 24, he died of multiple gunshot wounds.

A letter was found in Kalbensteinberg, which George Michael wrote from Washington D.C. to his neighbor friend on September 17, 1861.

Johann Paulus was born in Kalbensteinberg on November 24, 1826. He was a shoemaker by trade. However, after coming to Frankenmuth, he worked at the Jacob and Margaretha nee Hoffman Schwartz farm.

Two years later there was a tragedy that had a dramatic impact on the rest of his life. Jacob Schwartz was killed by a tree that was struck by lightning, leaving his pregnant wife Margaretha and their small daughter. On September 4th of that year, Margaretha gave birth to a daughter she called Margaretha. In November of that year, she married Johann Paulus Maurer and they continued farming and raising a family. The other daughter may have been Anna, who married John G. Beiser (see Haas Family History for more information).

Johann Paulus and Margaretha had five children in addition to Margaretha's daughters, Margaretha Schwartz Witt (9/4/1855-7/3/1900) and Anna. The Maurer children were Mary Bickel (1/14/1861-9/6/1948), Eva Barbara Hochthanner (12/25/1861-3/18/1946), Karoline Veitengruber (11/30/1865-3/14/1960), John George (1/20/1868-2/28/1949) and George Michael (1/30/1870-10/20/1958). All of the children became farmers.

The couple's grandchildren were: George Witt, Emma, Walter, Herman and Emilie Bickel, Rosa Schmandt, Helen Guenther, Richard, Herbert and August Veitengruber, Richard, Arthur, William and Otto Maurer, Lydia Mossner, Carl and Herman Maurer, Bertha Schiefer, Clara Koeppendoerfer and Bernhard Maurer, Hedwig and Albert Maurer.

Johann Paulus died April 2, 1912 and Margaretha died November 22, 1926. They are both buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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