

Schmandt Family



The Schmandt name came to America in 1867 when George Martin Schmandt I (1812-1888) and his wife Elizabeth nee Junje (1811-1892), along with their five children, came from Leibzig, Prussia.

Their five children were:

Augusta Treptow Block (1838-1931) 93 years old;
Wilhelmina Tesch (1840-1941) 101 years old;
George Martin II (1843-1936) 93 years old;
Dorothea Koeppendoerfer (1847-1946) 99 years old; and
Johann Schmandt (1850-1889) 39 years old.

George Martin II attended school in Germany. A story that has been handed through the family relates that George Martin would carry beer in a small container for his teacher. However, it seems that he never learned to read and write (in later years his wife had to read for him). He would sign documents with an "X" – but it was known that no one could cheat him as his disability was only with reading and writing. He was confirmed in Leipzig in 1858. He served in the East Prussia Army and was discharged from military service in 1867, just prior to coming to America.

In 1867, at the age of 23, George came with his parents, one brother and three sisters, via New York, Albany, Buffalo and Detroit, to Frankenmuth. He lived with his parents on Mayer Road, north of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. George Martin II worked as a farm laborer in Frankenhilf (Richville) for six years for Lorenz Heinlein, his future father-in-law.

In 1873, George Martin II married Elizabeth Heinlein at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Frankenhilf (Richville).

Their marriage was blessed with twelve children. Martin later became a successful farmer in Tuscola Township.

At one time he owned 290 acres and would have bought an additional 100 acres but a younger son, Ernest, did not want to farm and therefore the purchase was cancelled.

George Martin II and Elizabeth's children include:
Lorenz (b. 1874) drowned in a well at the age of three;
Ann Schwab (b. 1876) was a farmer's housewife;
Marie Schwab (b. 1877) was a farmer's housewife;
Gusta Schluckebier Beckrow (b. 1880) was a farmer's wife and a midwife;
George (b. 1881) was a carpenter and a farmer;
William (b. 1883) was a farm laborer (worked for \$5.00 a month in winter and \$15.00 a month in the summer) and a farmer;
John (b. 1886) was a farmer;
Hannah Enser (b. 1888) was a farmer's housewife;
Bertha Holzhei (b. 1890) was a farmer's housewife;
Ernest (b. 1892) was a carpenter and farmer;
Herman (b. 1896) was a farmer on the homestead;
A child un-named was stillborn.

Johann Schmandt (1850-1889) married Minnie Hogan and then moved to Genesee County. During World War II they changed their name to "Schman". One of his descendants, Mrs. Stanley (Barbara) Baker lived in Frankenmuth.

George Martin I had 38 grandchildren, and as of the year 2005, his descendants number around 480, most of them living in the Frankenmuth area.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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