

# Walter Family



he Walter family has been able to trace its family back to 1595, with the birth of Benedikt Walter in Irresdorf in the vicinity of Bern, Switzerland. During the 30-year war (1640-1670) many people in Germany died and as a result people from Switzerland came to

Germany.

It was during this time that Benedikt moved to Auggen, a small city in Baden Germany, in the Black Forest, 27 km from the French border. Auggen, a wine-growing community, is noted for its "Markgräfler" wine. Benedikt's direct line of descendants was: Hanns (1640-1690), Hanns (b.1680), Hanns Jakob (b.1706), Johann Jakob (1744-1779), Johann Jakob (1772-1847), Johann Martin (1801-1887), Johann Ottomar (1822-1902).

Johann Ottomar, who brought the Walter name to America, was born March 22, 1822 and died December 3, 1902. He is buried in the Blumfield Cemetery on Bradley Road several miles north of Frankenmuth. Four tall cedar trees are planted around his grave, possibly as a reminder of his birthplace in the Black Forest.

J. Ottomar Walter, unlike so many German settlers in Frankenmuth, did not come directly from Germany. In fact, it has not yet been determined just when he did come to America. It is known that he came to Frankenmuth from Columbus, Ohio in 1850, where he had married Christine nee Rothfuss, (Feb. 8, 1824 to Feb. 10, 1914) the previous year.

Coming to Frankenmuth, J. Ottomar purchased 80 acres, on what is today King Road, and began farming, as did the majority of the immigrants up to that time.

The Frankenmuth residents kept their German language and customs.

The 1900 census does list J. Ottomar as being able to read, write and speak in English.

J. Ottomar and Christine Walter had seven children:

Johann Ludwig was born Dec. 13, 1852 and died June 27, 1949. He married Anna Roth on June 10, 1883. Anna Roth was born June 6, 1852 and died May 9, 1931.

Charles Friedrich was born Jan. 12, 1855 and died in June of 1944. He married Caroline Bierman who died in 1923.

Christina was born Sept. 9, 1856 and died Mar. 3, 1890. She married Ernest Schultz.

Johann George was born Feb. 8, 1858 and died July 27, 1950. He married Maria Katharina Bauer, who was one of ten Bauer family members who came to Frankenmuth.

Ernest David and Christina Friedrika, twins born, date unknown.

Katherina Margaret was born May 9, 1862. She was married to J. Leonard Mossner on April 30, 1882. J. Leonard was born August 26, 1856 and died April 4, 1927.



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