

Witt Family



he Witt family name was brought to this area in 1874 when Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Witt, the son of Johann and Dorothea nee Roeder, at the age of 18, came to America and settled in the Saginaw-Blumfield Township. He worked as a lumberman until he had enough money saved to purchase a farm. In 1881, he purchased an 80-acre farm in Blumfield Township.

Johann was born in Mecklenburg, Germany on October 11, 1856. On April 20, 1882 he married Margaretha Brechtelsbauer of Carrollton. Eleven months later she died, following the birth of a son, Friedrich. The baby died seven weeks later.

The following year Johann married Margaretha Schwartz Maurer of Frankenmuth. Margaretha was the daughter of Jakob Schwartz and his wife Margaretha nee Hofman.

Her father was struck by lightning and died several months before her birth. Later her mother married Paulus Maurer, who then adopted little Margaretha. (Some records refer to Margaretha as a Maurer and others refer to her as a Schwartz).

Johann and Margaretha had three children: George, born in 1885, continued working the family farm; Emma Bickel, born in 1887, was a housewife; and Caroline (Lina), born in 1890, was a housekeeper.

The following year, 1891, Johann sold his farm in Blumfield Township and purchased a 90-acre farm in Tuscola County for \$5000.

The farm, which is just east of Frankenmuth Township, was located close to his wife Margaretha's family farm and was probably a factor in his decision to purchase it.

The farm is still in the family today and being actively farmed by a great-granddaughter Jane and her husband Michael VanWormer.

The old house was torn down and a new house was erected in 1906. The old barn was also razed and two new barns put in its place.

Johann's wife, Margaretha, died in 1900 at the age of forty-four and never had a chance to live in the new house. Johann worked the farm with his children and remained on that farm for the rest of his life. After his son and daughter-in-law, George and Martha Witt, took over the farm, he continued living with them until his death in 1937 at the age of 81.

Johann and Margaretha's grandchildren included: Ernst, Erwin, Walter and Herbert Witt; Elmer and Alwin Bickel.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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