

Conzelmann Family



The German Lutheran settlement of Frankenmuth in mid-Michigan was 10 years old when Martin Conzelmann arrived in 1855 from Detroit and established the family name here.

Martin was born on November 29, 1831 and was a young man of 22 when he left Wuertenberg, Bavaria Germany. He stayed in Detroit for two years before coming to Frankenmuth. Martin was a farmer in Germany and probably didn't see much future there with the crop failures that occurred year after year. Land was cheaper in America and there were more freedoms and more opportunities.

Frankenmuth residents made considerable progress during that first decade from 1845-1855. The community that was originally dense forest and swampland was transformed into productive farm acreage. Several businesses were in operation, including a saw mill, flour mill and general store. Settlers replaced their log cabins with frame houses that were more attractive and comfortable.

The year before Martin arrived in Frankenmuth, residents formally organized their own township. Officers were elected and a series of improvements were undertaken. Almost all of the township "lanes" (they were too primitive to be called roads) were surveyed and developed along section lines. Public schools were established, supported by local taxes. The church schools that were started also continued and in many cases students attended both.

Martin settled on acreage on the corner of Dehmel and Curtis Roads. He married Anna Christina Zucker on August 18, 1858. The Rev. J.A. Huegle officiated at the ceremony. The couple had 12 children from 1861 to 1878.

Rosina Barbara Veitengruber was born first, followed by George Leonhard in 1863. He married Mary Schellhas. Margaretha was born in 1864 and married Mike Blank; they farmed in Hemlock, Michigan. Johann Martin was born in 1868 and later moved to Oregon, as did Johann George Michael who was born next in 1870.

Their sixth child was Konrad Heinrich (Henry) born in 1874. He married Bertha Zehnder and established a link between the Conzelmanns and the William Zehnder, Jr. family who owned and operated the Bavarian Inn Lodge and the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn. Bertha Zehnder was the aunt of William Zehnder, Jr. She and her husband, a farmer, lived on East Curtis where the Fred Conzelmann family still lives.

The other Conzelmann children were: Johann Michael, who was born in 1872 and moved to Oregon; Johann Friedrich, who was born in 1876 and became a medical doctor in Stockton, California; Emma Christina Blank of Orange, California; Otto Herman who moved to Oregon; and Martin Konrad who married Sophie Auernhamer, and became a miller in Ada, Battle Creek and Frankenmuth.

Their grandchildren are: Ella Schreiner, Helena Hecht, Florence Liebau, Adolph Veitengruber, Walter and Martin Blank, Helen Kennedy, Clara Blank, Laura Brucker, Mabel Conzelmann, Ellen Felgner, Clarence, Fred and Louis Conzelmann, Helmut, Otto, Alfred, William, Armin and Hattie Conzelmann, Agnes Abraham, Emma Bernthal, and Eleanore Kern.

Martin died on March 16, 1914 and is buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery. His wife, Anna died 10 years earlier February 24, 1904.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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