

Graff Family



The Graff name came to this area through Jacob Graff, who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1837. Jacob was born May 21, 1817 in Mannheim, Germany, Kingdom of Wuerttemberg. He married Mary Wagner, and after their marriage they moved to Niagara County, New York, and then later to Monroe, Michigan. Jacob died on June 20, 1903 and Mary died on October 9, 1895. They had 11 children, three of which died in infancy.

Elizabeth Graff was born June 6, 1843 in New York. She married Andrew Zink on Mary 20, 1863 in Tonawanda Creek, New York. They moved to Monroe County, Michigan and farmed there for 29 years before moving to Flint, Michigan. Elizabeth died on March 10, 1904 and Andrew died on May 2, 1912. They had 9 children: J. Albert was born in 1864; Peter was born in 1865; Elizabeth was born in 1867; Martin H. was born in 1869; Seymour A. was born in 1870; twins George P. and John Otto were born in 1872; Emma was born in 1876; and Louis was born in 1878.

Henry Martin Graff was born March 1, 1846 in Niagara County, New York. He enlisted for military service in the Union Army during the Civil War and served in the 128th Regiment, New York Voluntary Infantry. Henry married Mary Elizabeth Zink, from Erie County, New York on April 12, 1870. They had three children: Elizabeth M. was born in 1873; Jacob A. was born in 1875; and Otto Peter was born in 1880. They moved to Michigan in 1883 and were on their way to Frankenmuth when their wagon broke down. Instead of continuing on, they settled in Genesee County at Hill and Maple Roads. In 1914, they moved to 625 East Fifth Street in Flint. Henry Martin died on November 6, 1928 and Elizabeth died on June 1, 1940.

Anna Graff was born on February 1, 1848 in Niagara County, New York. She married Peter Zink April 3, 1868. They had five children: Lottie, Seymour, Reverend John, Andrew and Mary. Reverend John Zink served St. John's Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth from 1897 until 1918. Anna died in 1906 and Peter died in 1911.

Maria Graff was born in 1856. She married Henry Neubecker. Maria died in 1938. Henry died in 1937.

The genealogies of Charlotte, Seymour, Jacob and Catherine Graff have not been traced.

Otto Peter Graff, the son of Henry Martin Graff, was born March 11, 1880 in Monroe, Michigan. He was three years old when his parents came to Genesee County, and was reared on the paternal farm in Grand Blanc Township. He was a teacher for seven years and was involved in the political affairs of the county, serving as supervisor and county treasurer. In 1915 he organized the Ford Sales Company in Flint and was involved in automobile sales until his retirement. On March 11, 1908, he was united in marriage to Flora B. McNeil. They had three children: Geraldine, Max Henry and Rex Otto. Otto Peter Graff died on January 26, 1967.

Max Henry Graff was born on July 31, 1916 in Flint, Michigan. He attended Flint Public Schools and the University of Michigan. He worked with his father's Ford Sales Company which by now was Otto P. Graff, Inc. Max married Dorothy Trees Taylor on September 10, 1938. They had four children: Patricia Taylor, Dorothy, Max Henry Jr. and Mary Lou. In 1976, Patricia Taylor Graff Arvilla, with her two daughters, moved to Frankenmuth and completed the "Graff" move to Frankenmuth begun by her great-grandfather Henry Martin Graff in 1883.

