

# Hoerauf Family



The Hoerauf name came to Frankenmuth through Michael Wilhelm Hoerauf. Michael was just a young boy of 13 when he arrived in Frankenmuth in 1854 with his 21-year-old brother. They left Germany because of the poor economic outlook

there. As young men they were eager to find work, buy property and eventually support a family.

Michael was born May 13, 1841 in Altenmuhr, Bavaria. He was baptized May 15 of that year and confirmed in May 1853, the year before he came to America.

Michael found his first jobs working for farmers south of Frankenmuth. Then he became a carpenter and landed a job in Flint. He kept a tiresome schedule. Because he had no transportation he had to walk to Flint – about 25 miles – every Monday. He'd work all week and then walk home Saturdays to arrive in time for church services.

Michael never made the weekly trip empty-handed. On the way to Flint he would be loaded down with chickens, lard or other goods "Frankenmuthers" wanted to sell in the larger city. On his return trip he carried food, clothing and other necessities that were not available in Frankenmuth.

On August 17, 1864, Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve in the Civil War. He was 23 years old. He volunteered so that married men could stay home with their families. His enlistment papers show that he had blue eyes, light hair, a light complexion and stood five feet, nine inches tall. He was mustered in Camp Saginaw and was promoted to corporal June 12, 1865. He was discharged in Tennessee, September 6, 1865.

Two months after his military discharge, he married Anna Margareta (Rauh) at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth. Documents show the ceremony took place November 12, 1865 with Rev. O. Fuerbringer officiating. John Rupprecht, of Birch Run, and John George Hubinger were witnesses.

The couple purchased an 87-acre farm, one mile southwest of Frankenmuth, for \$2 per acre and settled there. They had 8 children, four boys and four girls. The four sons: Johann George was a tailor in Frankenmuth and Saginaw while Johann Wolfgang was a salesman in Detroit; Johann Adam was a farmer in Frankenmuth; the youngest son, Georg Wilhelm, was a cheese maker in Trump, Michigan.

The daughters were: Maria Johanna, a restaurant operator in Chicago, Marie Wilhelmina, who married Gotlieb Kern of Frankenmuth, Rosine Martha, who married Henry Nuechterlein and lived in Saginaw, and Julianna Barbara, who married Frank Korbein, also of Saginaw.

The couple's descendants numbered 225 in 1988. They had 33 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, 112 great-great grandchildren and 21 great-great-great grandchildren at that time. Now the total is more than 500.

Michael applied to the State of Michigan for a pension based on his Civil War service May 15, 1911. He died December 30, 1912 at the age of 70. Anna Margareta, his wife, died January 5, 1917. They are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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