

Kraenzlein Family



he Kraenzlein's probably came to the United States with the Frankentrost group, but like some others, stayed in the Amelith area near Bay City, Michigan. In early 1847, the future colonists of Frankentrost sent 6000 guilders (\$2400) to Pastor Craemer of Frankenmuth to purchase land for the new colony. Johann Michael Kraenzlein sent 300 guilders (\$120) so that a lot of 60 acres would be purchased for him.

Johann Michael Kraenzlein grew up in Aha, Germany. His parents were Michael and Margaretha nee Schmidt Kraenzlein. There were five children in Johann's family: Fred, Adolph, Barbara, Emma and Herman. Fred married Lena Daeschlein and they had one daughter. Adolph married Clara Schmitt and they had seven children. Barbara married Paul Bauman and they had no children. Emma married Leonard Kipfmueller and they had six children.

Herman Kraenzlein was born February 13, 1890 in Amelith. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Amelith. He lived with his brother-in-law, Leonard Kipfmueller, for about two years, learning the blacksmith trade. In 1910, he set up his own shop in Gera, Michigan, three miles north of Frankenmuth. On April 12, 1914, Herman married Lillie Nickodemus at Christ Lutheran Church in Reese, Michigan.

In 1926, Herman was severely burned in his blacksmith shop. Unable to work for nine months, the family never went without food, thanks to the kindness and the help of friends and neighbors. His son, Earl, recalls how Herman used to hang from the rafters in the shop in order to break his skin loose that had tightened from his burns.

In the 1940's Herman left Gera and worked for Rummel and Schaefer of Frankenmuth as a blacksmith. Later he worked for Carling Brewing Company in Frankenmuth for 11 years before retiring on January 1, 1956. Herman and Lillie Kraenzlein had two children, Wilma and Earl. Herman died October 5, 1970 and Lillie died September 25, 1978.

Wilma Kraenzlein was born October 7, 1914. She married Lawrence Poellet on August 22, 1936. Lawrence was a farmer, but later worked for Saginaw Steering Gear before retiring in 1976. They had two children, Kenny and Danny. Lawrence died July 3, 1990. Wilma remained in Frankenmuth.

Kenny married Barbara Buerkel September 22, 1962 and they had three children: Dean, Dale and Dellet.

Danny married Cathy Simmons April 17, 1987.

Earl Kraenzlein was born January 30, 1918. He married Lillian Zoellner on November 9, 1940. Lillian died May 29, 1988. Earl lived in Gera, Michigan. They had three children: Larry, Janet and Wayne.

Larry married Kathryn Schnell and they had two boys, Mark and James.

Janet married Kenneth Dobis and they had two children, James and Kelly.

Wayne married Beverly Thomas and they had two children, Christine and Craig.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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