

# Palmreuter Family



The German Lutheran colony was a mere two years old when George Christopher Palmreuter came to Frankenmuth April 20, 1847. George established a family that as of 2005 totaled 263 descendants, including a Lutheran minister, a Lutheran school teacher, and a Frankenmuth village councilman.

George was born in Wettelsheim, Germany October 25, 1818. He grew up when jobs were scarce and the government was unsympathetic to the needs of the working class. Land was expensive in Germany and often unavailable for sale. It was difficult for a young man to make a living and begin a family.

The German Lutheran colony of Frankenmuth in America offered a variety of opportunities. Here you could purchase land for as little as \$2.50 an acre, farm the land, and greatly improve your standard of living.

George arrived in America in 1846. He came to Frankenmuth the following spring when he was 28 years old.

George met Katie Elizabeth Keller who was born in Germany April 24, 1817 and came to America from Rosstal in the spring of 1847. After a brief courtship, the couple was married July 25, 1847 by Rev. August Craemer – the Lutheran minister who led the first settlers to the new colony.

George purchased land in Section 23 of Frankenmuth Township and began to farm. Section 23 is now known as the Sunburst Subdivision and includes the List Elementary School area. A portion of the original homestead is still occupied by Herbert Palmreuter – George's great-grandson, and his wife Caroline.

The farms in Frankenmuth were organized much differently than what George was probably used to in Germany. Here every family wanted to live on their own land so homes were spread far apart. Although this meant settlers had to travel to attend church services, shop or visit, they were conveniently close to their farm work. In Germany, homes were built close together in a row.

George and Katie had four children: John Michael, Henry A., Elizabeth, and Rosina M. Henry and Rosina never married. Elizabeth married John Helmreich and they had one son Martin. Martin died from the mumps at age 11. Therefore, there were no more descendants from these three children.

Their oldest son, John Michael, married Eva Barbara Herzog and they kept the family name alive with 10 children. They were: Henry George and John August Palmreuter; Margaret Elizabeth Vogtmann; John Leonhard and John George Michael Palmreuter; Augusta E., and Valentine Michael Palmreuter.

Henry George became a Lutheran School teacher, Valentine Michael became a Lutheran minister and John George Michael served on the Frankenmuth Village Council for 24 years.

George Christopher died July 14, 1895 at age 76. His wife Katie died 10 years earlier on November 3, 1885 at age 68. Both are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.

As of 2005, there were 20 great-grandchildren, 52 great-great-grandchildren, 109 great-great-great-grandchildren and 67 great-great-great-great-grandchildren.



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