

# Reif Family



The Reif name is a family name with lots of history for the Frankenmuth area. Anna Maria Wagner was born in Steinhart Bavaria, Germany in 1809 where she married Johann Andreas Reif Sr. (12-16-1799 to 12-17-1842). The marriage was blessed with three

boys and three girls. Anna Margaret, twin sister of Anna Maria, was stillborn, and Anna Maria lived only one year and one day, from June 17, 1837-June 18, 1838.

After her husband's death, Anna Maria, along with her four remaining children, John Michael (18), John Andreas (16), Maria Margaret (14) and John George (11), joined Loehe's third immigration to this area. Arriving in Frankenmuth in 1848, Anna Maria moved in with her brother Mathias Wagner and served as housekeeper on his farm on Dehmel Road, northwest of Frankenmuth. Mathias was a part of Loehe's second group that came in 1846. All became confirmed members of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church.

John Michael married Elizabetha Palloth on May 20, 1853. They had four children: Anna Kathrina, John Andreas, John Mathias and Elizabeth.

In 1854, Johann Andreas Jr. bought 60 acres of land on north Dehmel from his uncle Mathias Wagner and started farming. A year later he married Elizabetha Reichle. They had one daughter, Elizabetha (Bickel). After his first wife Elizabetha's death, John Andreas married Anna Dorothy Roth. Their three children included John George, John Fred and John Michael. After the death of his second wife Dorothy, he married Caroline Schultz in 1878. Their children were Matthew, Ludwig, and Alma.

J. Andreas Jr.'s daughter Elizabetha married George Bickel. J. George married Anna Zucker in 1899. They lived in Frankenmuth on the corner of Genesee and Reif Streets and farmed acreage behind it.

Their four children were: Linda, who married Peter Weinmueller; Herbert, who married Esther Brenner; Arthur, who married Delilah Thompson; and Louis. George and Anna had 11 grandchildren, about 45 great grandchildren, and many great-great grandchildren. J. Fred moved to Buffalo, New York, as a young man. J. Michael also left home and moved to Chicago, Illinois.

M. Ludwig resided with his father on the homestead and was also a farmer. He married Maria Bierman in 1902. Ludwig and Maria had twelve children: Mrs. Henry (Hulda) Reif, Mrs. Wyman (Erna) Eberlein, Mrs. Norman (Anita) Frank, Ervin (died in infancy), Clarence, Oswald, Waldemar, Arno, Wilmar, Harold, Wilbert (who resided on and farmed the homestead), and Ruben (retired from G. Heileman Brewing Co. after 40 years at the plant). The brothers Clarence, Harold, Wilmar and Ruben served G. Heileman for a combined 125 years of service. Ludwig and Maria had 24 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, and numerous great-great grandchildren.

Maria Margaret married Friedrich Bernthal. Their two children were John Wilhelm and John Michael. After being widowed, Maria Margaret married John Balthas Deuring. Six children were born to that marriage.

John George (5-29-1839 to 3-16-1916) married Sophia Charlot Gansberg (5-20-1841 to 9-9-1879) June 30, 1861. Their marriage was blessed with nine children: Andrew, Martin, Marie Margarethe, Johanna, Elizabeth, William, Sophie Margarethe, Anna Barbara and Henry.

J. Andreas Reif was one of seven children born to J. George Albrecht Reif (8-30-1759 to 2-15-1843) and Anna Maria Wagner (5-20-1773 to 2-26-1837).



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