

# Roth Family



The Roth family history began in Gottmannsdorf Bavaria, Germany June 16, 1823 when Johann Georg Roth was born. His birthplace was 3½ miles southwest of Rosstal. It was a time of uncertainty in Germany, particularly for Lutherans who were not of the same religion as the Catholic rulers. Jobs were scarce and the government was unsympathetic to the needs of the lower class.

Johann Georg Roth came to Frankenmuth in 1851 and became a well-known and respected farmer. He established a family that now numbers more than 133 descendants including his grandson Albert Roth. Albert and his wife Alma had the distinction of being Frankenmuth's longest married couple, as of the opening of the Bavarian Inn Lodge in 1986. Albert and Alma had been married 67 years.

When a German Lutheran Pastor by the name of Wilhelm Loehe proposed that a colony of Lutherans establish a settlement in America to convert the Indians, many were interested. The plan, with a religious purpose, also offered an alternative for economic improvement. It's no wonder hundreds made the journey during those early years.

Johann Georg was 28 when he arrived in Frankenmuth. He spent the early years clearing land to farm, as many of the other settlers did. At first he lived on Bender Road and then he purchased around 55 acres at 3690 Dehmel Road. He married Anna Koeppendorfer January 7, 1855 at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. They had seven children.

Their first child was a daughter, named Barbara. She married Andrew Reif, a farmer. A son was born next and was named Johann Matthaues.

Johann Matthaues and his brothers, Johann Jacob, Johann Georg and Johann Michael, were all farmers like their father. Another daughter, Anna Kunigunde, married Leonhard Veitengruber. Leonhard and his brother Michael operated the Veitengruber Brothers Sawmill. Johann's youngest son worked as a sawyer and a carpenter.

Johann's wife, Anna, died July 17, 1877 at the age of 43. Later he married Anna Susanna Wagner who died September 17, 1883. Johann married for the third time on May 2, 1886. His new wife was Anna Regine Kundinger. There were 24 grandchildren.

Grandson Albert Roth recalls working at the Veitengruber Brothers Sawmill as a teenager making cheeseboxes which he also delivered by horse and wagon to the five different cheese factories in the Frankenmuth area. Albert later entered the auto sale and repair business with his brother Norman. Then he took up farming at 2460 South Beyer Road.

Johann Georg's son, John Matthaues, purchased a lot at 416 West Tuscola in 1919 after he retired from farming. He also worked at the Veitengruber Sawmill. His property has since been divided by Trinklein Street.

Johann Georg remained a farmer all of his life and lived with his youngest son Michael in later years. He died February 28, 1910 at the age of 87.

An obituary in the Saginaw News described him as "*one of the best known and most respected farmers of the vicinity, and through his many years of residence here had drawn about him a circle of friends and acquaintances who had learned to value his friendship for his sterling worth*".



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