

Scherzer Family



The Scherzer name came to America through Leonard Scherzer, born in Kloster Heilsbronn, Bayern, Germany in 1832. In 1852 he boarded a ship for America and there he met his future wife Barbara Scheuerlein. Barbara was born in Reichenbach, Bayern, Germany in 1832. Leonard and Barbara's friendship grew and a year later they were married in Buffalo, New York. Their oldest son John was born there in 1854.

Leonard and Barbara moved to Amelith, Michigan where they homesteaded a 40-acre tract of land. They had to clear the land of woods and pull the stumps to make the rich soil suitable for farming. Their method of clearing the land was done mostly by hand with the aid of axes, saws and the help of some strong horses. Their first home was a log cabin. Later they built a large two-story house, which still stands as of the year 2007. The house is well over 100 years old and is used as a four-apartment rooming house.

Leonard and Barbara were long-time members of St. John's Lutheran Church Amelith, which was a mile north of their home. Both are buried in the church cemetery. Barbara and Leonard had 12 children: John, Mary, Wolfgang, George, Katherine, Henry, Michael, John Philip, Barbara, Margaret, Anna and Fred.

Henry (sixth child) was born in 1864. He did some farming, although his main livelihood was blacksmithing. He was better known to all as "Scherzer's Schmied". He and a friend of his, a Mr. Loesel, formed the Scherzer-Loesel Blacksmith Shop, just off of Gratiot in Saginaw, Michigan. Henry married Anna Katherine Bauer in 1889 at St. John's Amelith. She came to America with her parents and family. She was born in Kottensdorf, Germany in 1870. Their marriage was blessed with five children: Barbara, Clara, George, Edward and Frederick.

They lived in Saginaw in a house built by Henry. Katherine walked daily to the Saginaw Country Club where she worked as a cook.

Fred, the youngest son born to Henry and Katherine, left home as a young man and worked in the big cities. For a number of years he worked in Detroit, learning the trade of "waterproofing". He returned to the Saginaw area where he met and courted Lydia Haubenstricker, the first daughter born to Ferdinand and Barbara Haubenstricker. The Haubenstricker's home, along with the farm, was on Junction Road just east of Frankenmuth. Shortly after Fred and Lydia were married at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in 1927, they moved into their home on Sheridan Avenue in Saginaw. Two sons, Robert and Albert, were born to them. Lydia died at the young age of 34. Fred was a member of the working force at the Saginaw Grey Iron Foundry where he continued to work for 36 years. He died at the age of 82.

Robert Scherzer was born June 25, 1928. He married Betty nee Jeske June 10, 1951. They had two children, Stephen and Kathy Kempf. Robert was a teacher and organist. He died February 22, 2006.

Albert Scherzer was born December 14, 1930. He married Pauline Bierlein February 3, 1952. They had four children: Lynn Marie Kreutzer, Valerie Beck, James and John. Albert worked for Weber Lumber and Millwork, Inc. for over 25 years. In 1974 a steel division was started and later Albert became owner of Weber Steel, Inc. He died July 2, 2007.

There are five generations of Scherzers descended from Leonard and Barbara Scherzer. Interestingly, all have maintained a German Lutheran heritage. As of the year 2007, the count of the descendants, spouses and siblings, numbered well over 1,300.



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