

Schiefer Family



he name Schiefer came to this country in the mid 1800s when Georg Michael Schiefer was among the great number of Germans immigrating to America. He was the first of two brothers to leave their home in Hofstetten-Heilsbronn Bayern, Germany to come to Frankenmuth in 1851, settling on a 140 acre tract of heavily wooded land about 2 miles east of the St. Lorenz Church site. Presently, that area is the northeast corner of Junction and Block Road, across the road from St. John's Lutheran Church.

On June 22, 1851, he married Anna Schwartz at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. They had 6 children, with only 2 living past infancy. Georg Michael later married Eva Margaretha Beyer August 18, 1858. They had 7 sons: Johann Andreas, Georg Leonhard, Johann Christian, Christian Friedrich, Johann Georg, Johann Michael and Johann Michael Paulus.

An amazing part of the Schiefer history was the finding of the "Schiefer Letters" that were sent back to Hofstetten from 1852 to 1882. After 1882, contact was lost but was re-established in 1969, almost 100 years later. Until then, third and fourth generations of Schiefers had no idea of their ancestors' origination.

After World War II, in 1945, Dr. Herbert Schiefer, a grandson of Georg Michael's brother, started going to Germany in search of his ancestors. On June 20, 1969, he was alerted to a note that indicated some Schiefers were in Hofstetten. Upon arriving, he stopped at a house and asked if this was the "Schiefer House". He was told that indeed this was the "Schiefer House from where two brothers immigrated to America". The widowed father, Johann Michael Schiefer (12-4-1891 to 5-30-1972) told them the story that caused the lack of contact to occur in 1882. He died in 1972, only a few years after telling this story.

The relationship was rekindled June 20, 1969. More research led to the discovery of the original letters,

dating back to 1852, safely kept by a granddaughter of following generations. Without these letters, much of how our forefathers started from scratch and toiled from morning to night would never have become known to us. They trusted God for everything. They faced forests with large trees hundreds of years old. The work it took to cut out a space to build a log house, grow crops and build roads was huge – all without mechanical power. It is then, as you look at the Frankenmuth community today, one must see that God was at work with the people that he created and loved.

Among the generations that followed was George Leonhard (7-13-1861 to 11-18-1922). He married Margaretha Weiss (7-12-1871 to 11-20-1960) on October 29, 1890. Their son, Otto Andreas (11-4-1891 to 10-31-1982) worked for three different farmers for room and board. In 1916, as a single man, he bought an 80 acre farm at 12811 Roedel Road. He married Martha Koeppendoerfer (10-12-1898 to 1-29-1977) on May 18, 1919. They had 7 children: Lester, Lorine, Elvira, Arnold, Bernice, Elinore and Roy.

The author of this history, Arnold Otto Schiefer (b. 12-8-1927) represents the fourth generation Schiefers. Arnold married Ruth Agnes Weber (b. 7-12-1933) on May 22, 1953 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Millington. They had four children: Norma (Gene) Palmreuter, Beverly (Thomas) Gilbert, Donna (Jeffrey) Schmitzer and Steven Arnold.

Steven Arnold Schiefer (b. 3-28-1963), of the fifth generation, married Tamara Lynn Worden. They had two children, Dexter and Kelly. Dexter is the eleventh generation in a row, where there has been a son to carry on the Schiefer name, tracing the history back to Martin Schiefer (1656-1728).

In 1999 and 2000, Arnold Otto Schiefer and his wife, Ruth, plus several grandchildren, visited and stayed at the Schiefer ancestor farm home at Hofstetten.



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