

Muehlfeld Family



he Muehlfeld family name came to America through the descendants of Johann Peter Mühlfeld III. Johann Peter Mühlfeld III (10-28-1804) was baptized at the Catholic Church in Wald Michelbach, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany. He was the son of Johann Peter Mühlfeld II (1776-1843) and Gertrude nee Schmitt, citizens of Wahlen. His grandparents were J.

Peter I (1744-1791) and his wife Elisabeth nee Werner. His great grandparents were Benedict Mühlfeld (?-1750) and Elisabeth nee Jäger Mühlfeld. February 18, 1830, J. Peter III married Anna Maria Keil at Wald Michelbach. Anna Maria was the daughter of Eberhard and Christina nee Heckmann Keil. Six children were born: Johann Peter, Georg Peter, Valentine, Leonard, Gertrude and Barbara. The eldest, Johann Peter, died in Germany. The other five all immigrated to America. Anna Maria died September 23, 1843 in Wahlen at the age of 47 years.

J. Peter III married again on November 26, 1844 to Elizabeth Margaretha nee Schafer Mühlfeld of Wahlen. This was a unique marriage, as the groom was Catholic and the bride was Lutheran, and also they were first cousins. The marriage certificate tells that permission was granted from His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Hessen Darmstadt. Elizabeth Margaretha (March 23, 1817) died in 1892 in Frankenmuth, MI. J. Peter III and Margaretha had six children: Adam, Anna Maria, Peter, Mary, Anna and Elizabeth. Anna Maria died in Germany. Adam, Peter and Mary were born in Germany and traveled to America with their mother. The youngest two daughters were born in Ohio.

J. Peter's children, G. Peter, Gertrude and Barbara, arrived in New York on April 28, 1855, coming from London on the ship "S.S. Sir Robert Peel". About 2 years later, on April 25, 1857, J. Peter's wife Margaret and their children Adam, Peter and Mary, arrived in New York coming from London aboard the "Plymouth Rock". They were accompanied by Peter's son, Leonhard. There are no ship records for J. Peter or his son Valentine. The following story, told by Valentine, may explain this: "J. Peter came to America some time around 1854. He came to this country on a cattle boat under an assumed name, after being accused of shooting a tax collector off of his horse. When they came to arrest him, they stabbed knives into the hay trying to find him. His son Valentine kept him fed and hidden and made arrangements for him to come to this country. He told his son that he did not shoot the tax collector.

He was in this country about a year when he sent for his family." J. Peter declared his intention to become an American citizen November 8, 1856 in Springfield, OH. His "Declaration of Intent" is the first recorded instance of J. Peter in America that has been found. Filing their declarations of intent on the same day were Peter Muehlfeld, Jr. and Valentine. J. Peter and his family lived in Mad River Township, Clark County, Ohio; according to the 1860 U.S. Federal Census.

Around 1867, J. Peter and Margaret brought their family to Michigan. They established their home on King Road in Frankenmuth Township, Saginaw County. J. Peter was a farmer and this homestead still belongs to one of his descendants.

Three of J. Peter's children stayed in Ohio; sons Leonhard and Adam also moved to Frankenmuth, while daughter Gertrude moved to Amelith, Michigan. J. Peter died on August 26, 1873 at age 69. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport. Margaret died November 8, 1892 and is buried in Janson Cemetery, Blumfield Twp. Their first son Adam (12-26-1844 to 8-3-1917) is buried next to his mother. Adam's descendants are: son Karl Anton (7-2-1888 to 1-11-1949), grandson Karl Arthur, Jr. (Jan 18, 1926), and great-grandson Dale Michael 'Munchy' (Jan. 20, 1951) married Sandra Rogner on July 26, 1975.

J. Leonhard Muehlfeld born Sept. 9, 1835, in Germany, married Katherine Kling October 6, 1857, in Clark County, Ohio. She was born Dec. 25, 1835 in Germany. Their first three children: Valentine (1858-1930), Christian (1861-1936), Mary Schaitberger (1862-1935) were born in Ohio. Their fourth child, John L. (1876-1963), was born in Michigan. J. Leonhard died July 29, 1917 and Katherine died August 29, 1922.

John Lorenz Muehlfeld (March 12, 1876-Oct. 4, 1963) married Anna Margaret Barbara Fischer August 14, 1898. They had eight children: Lillian, twins Helen and Hedwig, Edwin, Harry, Selma, Clarence and Erna.

Clarence (4-11-1909 to 4-15-1996) married Erna Angeline Schluckebier (7-19-1908 to 6-3-1995) May 11, 1930. He farmed and was known as an excellent hybrid bean breeder. They had 5 children: Lloyd, married to Bernice David; Phyllis, married to Eugene H. Frank; Kathleen, who married Donald Boesenecker, and after he died, Otto Frank; Betty, married to Jerry Jerome; and Bonnie, married to David Duclos.

