

# Ranke Family



The Ranke name came to America through John Michael Ranke, born February 23, 1802 in Oburg Sachsen-Weimar, Germany. He married Dorothea Fuecksel in 1820 in Colba, Germany. Dorothea was born in Colba on July 25, 1797.

In 1850, John and Dorothea moved with their family of four, Christina (b. 1822), C. Frederick (b.1836), Wilhelmina (b. 1838), and Ernest (b. 1842), to Block House, Pennsylvania. Dorothea died after the birth of their fifth child, Franz, in 1855.

The following year John Michael moved with his family of five children to Frankenmuth, where he worked as a wagon-maker and farmer until his death in 1878.

Christina, the oldest daughter, married Michael Vogel soon after she came to America and moved to Saginaw, where she died in 1881.

C. Frederick was 19 years old when his father moved to Frankenmuth. He worked in John G. Hubinger's mill and later farmed. In 1858, he married Margaretha Zehnder (b. 1841 in Bausendorf Bayern, Germany).

C. Frederick and Margaretha had thirteen children: Anna Bierlein (b. 1859), Johann (1861-1863), Catherine Fischer (b. 1862), Barbara Moser (b. 1864), Maria Boesenecker Faerber (b. 1866), John E. (b. 1867), Frederick (b. 1869), Wilhelmina Bartel Boesenecker (b. 1871), J. Wilhelm (b. 1873), G. Matthias (b. 1875), Anna C. Ruffertshoefer Koboldt (b. 1877), Rudolph J. (b. 1879), and Agnes (b. 1881).

Wilhelmina, John Michael's youngest daughter, married Theodore Haubenstricker.

Ernest, the youngest son born in Germany, married Mina Rauh in Frankenmuth. Their son Herman later started a florist business which, as of the year 2005, is still located on the original site.

Franz, the son born in Pennsylvania, came to Frankenmuth as a one year old in 1856. As an adult he married Crescendia Bierschneider.

In 1889, Franz bought the cider mill and afterwards added a jelly factory. He later added a woolen mill and for many years it was the only woolen mill in Saginaw County. Franz was the president of the Woolen Mill Co., Frankenmuth Milling Co., and the Light and Power Co. He was also president of the Frankenmuth Village for a number of years.

Grandson John E. married Mary Rummel and worked the family farm called the "Ranke Stock Farm" on M-83, south of Frankenmuth. For 60 years he was the so called "straw-stacker" for the neighborhood farmers.

John and Mary's children included: Mrs. Edward (Florence) Rittmaier; Mrs. Rudolph (Angeline) Trinklein; Henry Ranke, who married Elsa Haubenstricker, and upon her death, married Florence Babcock; Mrs. Louis (Ida) Engel; Mrs. Herman (Anna) Haubenstricker; Mrs. Bernhard (Bertha) Trinklein; Mrs. E. (Agnes) Bickel; and Rudolph Ranke who married Clara Sippel.



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