

Weiss Family



he first member of the second Weiss family to arrive in Frankenmuth was Johann Leonhard Weiss. The first Weiss family, which came to Frankenmuth in 1847, was headed by Johann Adam Sr., born in Kurzendorf Bavaria, Germany in 1814. The second Weiss family came from Rosstal, Germany. The two are not related.

Peter Weiss was the first of six ancestors of Leonhard to live in Rosstal, Germany. It is believed that he and his family moved there from southern Europe because they suffered religious persecution. The line of descendants after Peter, by generations, consisted of Stephen, Wilhelm I, George, Wilhelm II and Konrad (the father of Leonhard).

Leonhard was born in Rosstal, Germany in 1820 and came to America in 1852. He wanted to find a better life for himself because conditions were not good economically in Germany at that time. He married Katherina Barbara Knoll, also from Rosstal, on board ship. They settled on Weiss Road, named after him, northwest of the town of Frankenmuth. They were farmers and had ten children together, seven of whom lived to maturity. That farm on Weiss Road is still owned by the fifth generation of the Weiss family, namely, Roger and JoanMarie Hoffman Weiss and their family. The sons who lived on that farm prior to Roger and after Leonhard were Martin, Balthas and Elmer Weiss. Leonhard was blind in his later years and died on that farm in 1897.

Their first child, Sophia Barbara, was born in 1853 and died in 1855. They had another daughter that they also named Sophia Barbara. She married Adam Jordan and she died in 1932. Their children were Elizabeth Schwartzkopf, Hanna, Anton, Ernest and Martin.

Leonhard's oldest son was John Paulous Weiss (born in 1856), known more familiarly as John P. He moved to a farm on the corner of Block and Townline Roads in 1876. John P. married Anna Katherina Gugel in 1885. This farm is still the homestead of his grandson Fred and his wife, Lorraine Rodammer Weiss.

John P. and Anna had eight children. A twin girl died at birth. The twin brother Herman had special needs and died in 1943. Edwin married Hedwig Trinklein in 1920. They had four children, Esther Fager, Wallace, Fred and Louie. The other children of John P. and Anna were Hedwig, who married Traugott Trinklein. They had one son Norman and a daughter Arlene McIver.

Herbert, the second son, married Louisa Bickel. Their children were Arnold, Edna Galsterer, Raymond, Clarence, Emil and Ruben who died in infancy.

The next daughter was Esther who married Arthur Bierlein. They had two daughters, Adela Rummel and Dorothy Geyer. Another daughter Alma married Henry Bender. Their children were: Eugene, Edmar, Ruben, Henry Jr., Kathleen Weber, Marcus and Lester.

The youngest son was Fred G. Weiss who was a parochial school teacher in Detroit. He married Lorraine Zehnder and they had one son, Merton.

Leonhard's second son was Konrad. He was born in 1858 and died in 1943. He married Carolina Deuring. They had one daughter Florence who married Ernest Nuechterlein. Florence and Ernest's children were Esther Daenzer, Selma, Winfried, and Wilmar. After Ernest died, Florence married John Schreiner and had a daughter, Lorna Bernthal.

After Carolina died, Konrad married Kunigunda Weiss (same last name). The children from that marriage were Berthold and Albert Weiss. Berthold married Renata Bernthal and they had three daughters. Albert married Esther Gugel and they had two children.

The next child of Leonhard was Ursala, 1859-1929. She married Leonard Gruber. Their only surviving child was Lydia, who married Stephen Nuechterlein. Their children were Richard, Oswald, Lorna Reinbold and Marian Schuknecht.

Another surviving child was Martin, 1862-1952. Martin married Elizabeth Gugel. They stayed on the homestead on Weiss Road. They had two children, Agnes and Balthas. Balthas Weiss married Lydia Bernthal and raised seven children on the Weiss Road homestead: Verna Veitengruber, Elmer, Doris Reda, Donald, Ellen Jaquish, Ruth Schluckbier and Martin. Agnes married Henry Weiss (same last name) and they had two daughters, Elizabeth Wertz and Ernestine Nuechterlein.

The ninth child was Maria, 1867 – 1897. She married Johann Mike Brenner. Maria and her husband had Sophia (died in infancy), Lydia Weiss and Angeline Reindel.

Leonhard's last child was Katherina, born in 1868. She married Albert Bierlein and their children were Clara Daenzer, Martin, Florence Landskroener and Lydia Bickel.

Leonhard died in 1897 and Barbara died in 1892. As of 2006, there are approximately 650 direct descendants from their marriage.

