

Grauer Family



The Grauer name came to this area through Christian Friedrich Grauer. In 1849, Christian was born and baptized in Menzingen Baden, Germany. In 1853, at the age of three years, his parents came to America settling in Bellville, Illinois, where he was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church. He entered Addison Teacher's College in 1864, became an assistant teacher at the college in 1866, and graduated in 1867. He then accepted a call to teach at Trinity congregation in Monroe, Michigan.

In 1871, he accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran School in Saginaw, Michigan. He then moved to Indianapolis, Indiana; but due to failing health, he returned to Michigan, accepting a call to teach at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Frankentrost. He was advised prior to his acceptance of the position that it was the custom for the Lutheran teacher to also serve as an instructor in the public school. Besides his regular salary, which was paid every three months, Christian also received \$50.00 yearly for playing the church organ.

During this time he usually had over 60 and sometimes 70 pupils in his classroom. He also served as secretary of the congregation for many years and took over the chairmanship of the congregation during the pastor's absence. In appreciation of his services, the congregation provided him with free living quarters in a home situated across the street from the school. The congregation also presented him with a Ford Model T automobile.

In 1889, Christian, have been widowed twice, married Barbara Hubinger, the daughter of John G. Hubinger, who was a businessman and one of the original settlers in Frankenmuth.

Christian and Barbara's marriage was blessed with two children: Elsie (1891-1977) and Walter (1894-1979).

In 1918, Mr. Grauer resigned after teaching 53 years; 36 of those he lived in Frankentrost. In 1933, Christian moved to Frankenmuth to live with his son, Walter, on land inherited from Barbara's father. Christian died in 1934. Barbara died in 1947. Both are buried in the St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Cemetery in Frankenmuth.

Christian and Barbara's son, Walter, married Delia M. Bierlein (1906-1982), daughter of Leonard and Barbara nee Schiefer Bierlein of Richville.

Walter was a beekeeper all his life and was known in Frankenmuth as the "honey man". He sold honey to customers in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Michigan, including bakeries and companies, such as Sanders Candy, Ford Motor Company, the A&P Grocery chain and Gase Baking Company.

Delia was a cook at St. Lorenz School and also at the Frankenmuth Middle School. She loved cooking for all the students. When she died, a shrub was planted at the Middle School in her memory.

Walter and Delia had two daughters, Barbara Klein of Saginaw, Michigan and Margaret Yaeger of Illinois.

Their grandchildren include Elizabeth Klein Reyes of Saginaw, Michigan, and John and Elizabeth Yaeger, residing in Illinois.



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