

Moll Family



The second of Wilhelm Loehe's Franken colonies was established in 1846. It was called Frankentrost, "the consolation of the Franks". The pastor of this colony was Johann Heinrich Philipp Graebner. The colony grew each year as additional families joined the original group. In 1864, Friedrich Karl "Franz" Moll, son of Heinrich M. Moll and Sophie nee Dahlstein Moll, left his home in Mecklenberg, Germany and came to Frankentrost, Michigan.

Franz Moll married Johanna Margaretha Gantz, who also came to America in 1864, at Immanuel Lutheran Church on September 27, 1866. Franz and Margaretha were willed 87.6 acres of land by Margaretha's cousin, Margaretha Schammel, in 1866. The land was located on the Vassar Plank Road, now known as Holland Road. The Moll homestead was designated a Centennial Farm in 1966.

Franz and Margaretha Moll were farmers. They had eight children:

- Heinrich (Henry) was born in 1868.
- Wilhemina (Minnie) was born in 1870.
- Anna was born in 1872.
- Louisa (Louise) was born in 1875.
- Ernst (Ernest) was born in 1877.
- Georg (George) was born in 1879.
- Friedrich (Fred) was born in 1882.
- Maria (Kate) was born in 1887.

Franz Moll, in addition to farming, was also township supervisor for a number of years. Franz's wife, Margaretha, died at home at the age of 80 years. As Franz became weak and sickly, he lived with his daughter, Louise, at whose home he died.

George Moll married Emma Hetzner and eventually took over the homestead. He added more living space so that the house could accommodate two families.

George and Emma had two sons, Herbert and Walter J. Herbert had two children: a stepdaughter, Carol and a son, Richard. Walter and Edna had three children: Marlene Ann (1944); Delores Marie (1946); and James Walter (1956). George Moll died in 1967 at the age of 88. Emma Moll died in 1971 at the age of 86.

Walter J. Moll and his wife, Edna, took over the homestead from his father and continued farming, in addition to working at the Malleable Iron Foundry in Saginaw, Michigan as a maintenance worker. He also painted buildings and drove a gravel truck. Walter died of emphysema in 1991, 20 days short of celebrating his 50th Golden Anniversary. Edna died of cancer in May of 1994.

In 1946, the State of Michigan purchased "right-of-way" which split the farm for the new M-46 (Holland Road). The south side had 57 acres of land, and the north side had 20 acres. Walter and Edna continued to live on the homestead.

After the death of Walter and Edna, the homestead was purchased by fourth generation daughter, Delores Moll Damm and her husband, Martin Damm. Martin and Delores married in 1970 and had four children between them. Martin Damm was a widower with two children, Tammie and James. Martin and Delores had two children, Michael Eric and Martin Jr. Martin Damm worked at General Motors from 1970 and ran a dairy operation in Millington from 1975. He retired from General Motors in 1991.

The Moll family hopes to someday restore the Moll homestead on Holland Road and be able to then share the homestead, the heritage and the ancestry with their children, grandchildren and all other future Moll descendants.

