

# Abraham Family



he first group of settlers who established the German Lutheran colony called Frankentrost (seven miles northwest of Frankenmuth) included Johann Simon Abraham, his wife Anna Margaretha (Steinbauer), and their children George, Michael, and Mary.

Unlike Frankenmuth, which was established as a Lutheran mission colony to educate the Indians, Frankentrost was simply to be a community where Bavarian Lutherans could cluster together in the new land of America. The name Frankentrost means “consolation of the Franconians”.

Johann Simon Abraham was a tailor by trade in Wattenbach Bayern, Germany. He took his young family to Bremerhafen in the spring of 1847 to begin a trip to America. His son George was only six years old.

The family, along with others, headed for Frankentrost. They sailed on the ship “Creole”. The voyage lasted nine weeks. When they finally arrived in Detroit, they hired wagons to complete the journey to the Saginaw Valley. Women and children rode in farm wagons along with their baggage. The men walked along side them.

As the settlers approached Frankenmuth, the colonists there came to greet them. They welcomed them into their small cabins where the settlers remained until they purchased their own land and erected their own homes in Frankentrost.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Frankenmuth colony, Rev. August Craemer, and Rev. John Graebner, the leader of the Frankentrost settlement, began the work of finding a suitable location for the new colony.

They finally decided upon a place halfway between Frankenmuth and Blumfield Township. The land was drained by two creeks and would be well-suited for farming. Representatives of the colony purchased the sections on July 22, 1847 at a cost of 77 cents per acre.

Shortly after that each family decided how much land they desired, the areas were then surveyed and lots were assigned. During this work, men built themselves a leaf shelter in the forest to serve as a community home for the settlers while they built log cabins on their own properties.

On Sundays the men returned by footpath through the forest to Frankenmuth where they took part in Lutheran Sunday services with their families and the local congregation.

The women and children remained in the homes of the Frankenmuth residents until fall.

By October the clearing of the forests, at Frankentrost, and the erection of the cabins there, made it possible for the colony to move to its new location.

The early years were difficult and filled with many hardships, but letters written back to Germany a mere two years later praised the new settlement as “nicer than Frankenmuth”.

Johann Simon’s son George grew up and married Barbara Kern, who also came to America with her family as a child. They remained in Frankentrost and had 18 children.

All of the children remained close to their parents and settled in one of three places: Frankentrost, Frankenmuth, or Saginaw.



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