

Bergdolt Family



The Bergdolt family can be traced to the Salzburg, Austria area. They fled Austria for religious reasons, settling in Hechlingen, Germany where Johann Gottfried Bergdolt (1816-1905) was a wagon maker. His son, Johann Friedrich Bergdolt (1850-1928), moved to Nordstetten, Germany where he also made wagons in addition to farming. He married Anna Maria Bickel (1859-1927) from Grafensteinberg. Johann Friedrich and Anna Maria had eleven children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Two of their sons, Johann Georg and Johann Michael, brought the Bergdolt name to Frankenmuth.

George (1896-1986) and Michael "Mike" (1900-1981) left Nordstetten and departed February 11, 1923 on the freighter "Minnekahda" from Hamburg, Germany. They immigrated through Ellis Island, New York February 25, 1923. Each had \$25.00 upon arrival. They were sponsored by their uncle Johann Friederich "Fritz" Bickel who had come to Frankenmuth earlier in 1888.

George and Mike arrived 78 years after Frankenmuth was founded in 1845. By this time the community was thriving and farms were established.

Upon arriving in Frankenmuth, George lived with the Alfred Krafft family where he worked on their farm to pay off his passage to the United States. Mike went to the Erich Trinklein family farm where he also worked to pay off his passage.

Later, Fritz Bickel and his wife Margaretha provided a home for both of them and a place to work at the Star of the West Milling Company in Frankenmuth.

George continued working at the Star of the West until his retirement as head miller in 1969.

Mike worked at the Star of the West until 1930 when he was married, and then he farmed in Tuscola Township. Mike served on the Tuscola Township Board for nearly 20 years.

Both men loved to sing and were members of the Concordia Male Choir.

George married Emma M. Kuhl (1895-1971) in Frankentrost November 27, 1930. Their two sons were Harold Michael, born on August 2, 1932, and Waldemar George, born June 16, 1934. Harold married Esther L. Schwab August 18, 1962. Waldemar married Lorna W. Kruckenberg June 18, 1961.

Mike married Florence Schiefer Maurer October 25, 1930. Florence (1897-1982) was a widow that had been married to Richard Maurer (1896-1929) and had four children. Erna Lydia, born on August 31, 1920, was married to William J. "Bill" Hutchison Sr. (1919-1996). Dorothy Lydia, born on June 20, 1922, married Albert J. Weber. Lorna Ada, born on May 20, 1925, married Elmer Weiss. Arnold Otto (1927-2002) was married to Elaine B. Zehnder.

Mike and Florence had six children. Raymond George, born on September 27, 1931, married Lois Keinath. Lenore Alma, born on December 16, 1933, married Clinton C. Poellet. Norman John, born on November 6, 1935, married Bonnie J. Ludlum. Wilmar Henry, born on October 11, 1937, married Joan L. Bobcean. Ruth Florence, born on May 9, 1940, never married. Paul Frederick, born on September 18, 1941, married Carol A. Schluckebier.

