

# Bergman Family



The Bergman family name has just recently come to Frankenmuth, although it has been in the Saginaw Valley area since 1882. Johann H. C., his wife Dorothea Sophia Marie nee Elbing (1873-1942), and their three children, Doris (age 7), Sophie (nearly 3), and Fredericka (6 months), left Germany on September 30, 1882, and sailed from Bremen on the steamer "Werra" bound for New York. The ocean voyage lasted ten days. After docking in New York, the family traveled on to Michigan.

A sister Katharina had come to America previously and married Reverend Heinrich Abelmann. Their marriage was blessed with six children.

Johann Heinrich Christoph and Katharina were born in Dreilinger Province Hannover, Germany. Johann H. C. was the son of Johann Heinrich and his first wife Anna Dorothea Sophia nee Knack. Anna died at a very young age and Johann Heinrich then married Catharina M. Kohnke of Hanson. Katharina, the sister, was the daughter of this union.

Apparently, Johann Heinrich was a very successful farmer in Germany as he employed men to help with the farm and cattle and had maidservants to help with the housework.

The family dwellings were all under the same roof with the cattle. The body heat of the cattle helped give warmth to the house. The house and barn were separated by a large, heavy metal door that was necessary to help keep both the house and barn clean.

Johann Heinrich Christoph married Dorothea Sophia Marie Elbing, the daughter of Johann Elbing and

Dorothea nee Pohlmann, of Hösseringen Province of Hannover, Germany.

After Johann H. C. and his family arrived in Michigan, Fredericka became quite ill and so the family stayed with a Mrs. Kapp in Northfield, near Ann Arbor, Michigan for a short time before moving on.

In April, when the snow had melted, the family traveled on to Sebewaing. From there they moved to Pigeon, Michigan with the help of their friend John Linsen. A farmer's hay shed served as their first family home until a log house was built on an 80-acre farm just southwest of Pigeon. In later years, 80 more acres were added to the growing family's farm.

After coming to Michigan, Johann H. C., and his wife Dorothea, were blessed with six more children: Henry, Gustav, Adolph, Johannes (died as an infant), William and Marie Licht. All, including the older sisters, Doris Bucholz, Sophie Schuette, and Fredericka Wurst, at one time or another, lived on farms in the Pigeon, Sebewaing and Elkton area.

The Bergman family grew from 97 members in 1937 to over 1300 family members in 2006, residing in more than 13 states.

As of 2006, two grandsons, Gerald and William, along with three great-grand daughters, five great-grandsons, live in the Frankenmuth area. There are eight great-great-grandsons and six great-great-grand daughters. The family continues to grow with three great-great-great-grandsons ranging in age from 2 months to 10 years old.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge  
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