

# Beyerlein Family



The Beyerlein name came to this area when Georg Michael Beyerlein arrived in Frankenmuth in 1846 with the second set of settlers numbering 80 to 100 individuals. Among them were 10 ministerial candidates, 6 Catholic families, 4 Saxons, 3 from Hesse and a number of Jewish passengers. They traveled to Neuendettelsau to bid farewell to Pastor Loehe, who had sent the first group to Frankenmuth in 1845. They then traveled on to Bremen to board ship. Before boarding the ship Pastor Lehman, their leader, performed the marriage vows for 10 couples in the home of Pastor Von Hanfastangel March 18, 1846. The grooms were Georg Michael Beyerlein, Johann Bernthal, Michael Bernthal, Michael Bickel, Lorenz Paulus Grueber, Christopher Hoerlein, Johann Georg Hubinger, Johann Matthaius Hubinger, Friedrich Lotter, Georg Adam Ranzenberger and Paul Schuster.

After waiting a week for a new ship to be completed, the group decided to board a two-mast freighter that had been converted to a passenger ship. Some had to take another ship some weeks later. They set sail March 22, 1846. When all became sick, they realized a smaller ship rocked more. They endured seven weeks of stormy weather before arriving in New York on May 1846. They then traveled by steamboat to Albany and finally on to Detroit. From there the men walked and the children, women, and baggage went by wagon.

The following information is from Pastor Backmaier of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Altenmuhr, sent July 15, 1963. Records were all in German writing and were translated by Martha Smythe.

Johann Paul, grandfather of Georg Michael Beyerlein, was born August 8, 1745. He married Barbara Arzinger, July 10, 1774, at the Lutheran Church in Altenmuhr.

Johann died May 1817 and Barbara died at age 72. Johann and Barbara's son Johann Jakob was born on

April 14, 1779 and died Sept. 28, 1857. Johan Jakob married Barbara Katzmeier Sept. 29, 1811. She died on May 21, 1857. Their son Georg Michael was born on Nov. 29, 1818 and died on July 2, 1903. He married Maria Barbara Veitengruber on March 18, 1846. Maria was born on Feb. 29, 1824 and died on Jan. 20, 1872. Their son, Johann Michael, was born Oct. 30, 1856, in Frankenmuth. He died on March 31, 1912. Johann Michael married Franziska Schultz on May 22, 1878. Franziska was born on May 14, 1860 in New Creek, West Virginia and died July 8, 1934.

Georg Michael was raised on a farm in Altenmuhr. In 1962 the house (Haus #58) where he grew up was still lived in. His report card, with his name Beyerlein written on it, states that he attended school from ages 6 to 14 and was a very good student. Georg Michael's passport was written in German also and states that he had brown eyes and a long nose. The spelling of his name on his passport as "Beyerlein" was not changed when he came to America. Georg Michael bought several farms in Frankenmuth and one in Birch Run. The Frankenmuth property was bought from Georg and Katherina Schleier Sept. 23, 1879. He established his homestead with a log cabin on Genesee Street in Frankenmuth. Later he built a clapboard house which is still in use today. His son Johann Michael took over farming. According to the 1910 census, Georg lived with Johann. Johann and his wife Franziska had 13 children (one a Lutheran pastor and two were Lutheran school teachers).

Georg Michael died on July 2, 1903 at age 85. Maria died on Jan. 20, 1892 at age 67. They were buried at the St. Lorenz Cemetery, west of the present church. They were not buried side by side, because in those days people were buried as they passed away. Burial lots were not purchased in advance nor were they reserved in advance.

