

Brenner Family



The Brenner family trek to America began with Johann Georg, the son of Wolfgang Phillip Brenner (January 19, 1781-1845) and his wife, Katherina Schuerer. Paternal grandparents were Johann Leonhard Brenner (January 28, 1747-March 26, 1802) and his wife, Anna Margaretha Maekin.

Johann Georg Brenner, born in Buechelberg (by Gunzenhausen) Bavaria, May 8, 1816, was the first to travel to America. At age 36, he sailed from Hamburg, Germany on the "George Carming" ship and arrived in New York July 30, 1852. Johann was accompanied by a brother, Georg Leonhard Brenner (32), sister-in-law, Maria Brenner (39) and nephew, Johann Michael (5).

October 17, 1855, at the age of 39, Johann Georg married 18-year old Katherina Koeppendoerfer. She was born in Regelsbach (by Nuernberg) Germany on January 21, 1836. Katherina was the sister of Johann Andreas Koeppendoerfer who owned a farm adjacent to Johann Georg. The couple was married at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church by Pastor Karl Roebbelin, the church's second pastor. With both husband and wife coming from farm families in Germany, Johann Georg proceeded to purchase land at various locations in the Frankenmuth area; namely at, Baker Rd., Weiss Rd., Curtis Rd., Beyer Rd., and Brenner Rd.

Johann Georg and Katherina's marriage was blessed with 13 children. The first two died in infancy. The oldest, Theodor, was custodian for Blumfield Township. The youngest, Johann Georg Ludwig, was a cabinet maker for the Herzog Furniture Company. The remaining nine children made their living farming: Johann Andreas Michael (Mike), Georg Leonhard, Kunigunde Grueber Schleier, Johann Georg (Hans), Johann Georg, Anna M. Matzke, Eva Maria Unger, Johann Heinrich (Henry) and Anna M. Katherina Keinath.

Eva Unger died in 1902 at age 29 leaving six children: Agnes, Ernest, Florence, Julia, Herman and Ludwig. Eva is buried next to her mother, Katherina, who died in 1917. Johann Georg died June 4, 1891 at age 75 and is buried at a separate location in St. Lorenz Cemetery.

The 47 grandchildren of Johann Georg and Katherina were: Sophia Brenner, Lydia Weiss, Angeline Reindel, Hedwig Schwab, Oswald & Ernest Brenner, Clara (Otto) Herzog, Elsie (Arthur) Beyerlein, Alma (Walter) Veitengruber & Berthold (Agnes) Brenner, Margareth, Clara, Florence & Mary Grueber & J.G. Max, Herman & Walter Brenner, Clara McCorkle, Augusta Boesnecker, Anna Diamond, Meta West, Linda Weber & Emma Krause Stadler, Harold, Arthur, Richard & Herbert Keinath, Carrie Kern, Florence Bernthal, Norman & Esther Matzke, Selma Close, Laura Warnemuende, Milda Coffelt Parks, Clarence, Edwin, Arlene & Walter Keinath, Alma & Olga Meyer, Emma Tessin, Zelda Bauer, Meta Fleschman Karam, Edna Williams, Walter & Louis Brenner & Herbert Schleier.

The last Brenner farm in existence was the Berthold Brenner farm at 9665 E. Curtis Road, Frankenmuth. Family history indicated Johann Georg and Katherina were the original owners. They sold the farm to their son Georg Leonhard Brenner & Christina (Weiss) Brenner March 25, 1891. They, in turn, sold the farm to their son Berthold Brenner & Agnes (Krafft) Brenner February 15, 1919.

In 1998, the property was purchased by the Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company for expansion purposes, along with several adjacent farms. Although the barn and outbuildings have been removed, currently in 2006, the original 115 year old farm house is still being used as a residence.



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