

Dietzel Family



The Dietzel name came to America in 1853 through Johann Dietzel and his brothers. They left their home in Melkendorf, Germany where their father, also called Johann, continued to live until his death on December 6, 1856. Their mother, Christina nee Herr Dietzel, died June 11, 1833, at the age of 27. They farmed on Shattuck Road in the area that used to be called Saginawtown.

Johann Dietzel married Kunigunda Groll October 22, 1853. Kunigunda came to Saginaw from Schwarzach, Germany. They were married at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saginaw, by Pastor O. Cloeter. They had eight children of which Henry was the oldest. Johann died on May 2, 1881 and Kunigunda died May 22, 1874. Both are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. Their gravestones are engraved in German. Their known children are the following: Henry, Christopher, John, William, Mrs. Henry Dirken, and Mrs. Burt Livingstone.

Henry Dietzel was born December 3, 1854. He married Barbara Wolf (September 28, 1855-August 2, 1924), on January 16, 1876. Henry died November 30, 1904, as a result of a farm accident. Included in his obituary was the following information:

“Henry Dietzel was one of the prominent farmers of Saginawtown, and one whose death will be regretted by a very large number who have know and esteemed him in life. Some years ago he turned his attention to farming, and secured the farm on Shattuck Road in Saginawtown, where he died. He brought to that business the energy, sagacity and perseverance which wins success.”

Some months ago his home burned, and at the time of his death he had just completed a new house, which is one of the best farm houses in the county. He leaves his wife, seven sons and two daughters.”

Henry’s wife Barbara was left with a large family. One of her sons, Harvey, described her in this way, “Barbara Wolf Dietzel was known to be a good cook. She baked 8-10 loaves of bread three times a week. After her husband died, she helped her older sons with farming the large family farm out on Shattuck Road. She had a five bedroom home which she kept very neat and clean. She cooked on a wood stove and heated house with several wood stoves. She was very active in the Lutheran church and attended church every Sunday possible.”

Henry and Barbara’s children were: Louis, Fred C., Henry Phillip, Benjamin, Walter, Harvey, Adelbert, Anna Cavanaugh, and Harriet Howell.

Henry Phillip Dietzel was born on February 18, 1887. He married Katherine (Kate) Wilhelmina Koepplinger January 20, 1909.

Henry and Kate had five children: Norman, Henry Lester, Elmer, Glen, and Elizabeth. They moved to Frankenmuth in 1920 after these five children were born. They purchased a farm on Tuscola Road and had four additional children: Ralph, Howard, Myron, and Lorraine. Kate was known to make large Sunday dinners and invited all of her married children and their families to come home to the farm to eat with her. Henry died on November 29, 1940 and Kate died February 5, 1953. They are both buried at the St. Lorenz Cemetery in Frankenmuth.

