

Engel Family



he name Engel was brought to Frankenmuth from Heilbronn, (near Feuchtwangen) Germany in 1885, by Johann Leonhard Engel, a farmer and tanner. He was the son of Anna Barbara Kohn and Johann Georg Engel. His paternal grandparents were

Anna Maria Engel and Johann Jonas Engel.

Johann Leonhard Engel was born February 2, 1849 in Heilbronn, three kilometers east of Feuchtwangen, Bavaria. He was christened February 4, 1849 in Johanniskirche. His sponsor was the married protestant farmer, Johann Georg Holz of Heiligenkreuz.

He married Eva Babette Hofer, who was born February 17, 1855. The couple made the journey to America when Johann was 36 and Eva was 30.

They had nine children in all, two born before they arrived in Frankenmuth. George Friedrich was born September 20, 1880 in Gastenfelden, near Schillingsfuerst, Bavaria. George died when he was only 21 years old, after being kicked by a horse. Their second child, Anna Margaretha, was born June 2, 1883 in Bavaria and married Martin Spaeth in 1902. Anna was a baker.

The couple's other children were born in Saginaw County:

Johann Jakob Ernst was born in 1885 and never married. He worked for the village of Frankenmuth Maintenance Department.

Johann August, a veterinarian, was born in 1886 and married Emma Pauline nee Frank.

Andreas Ludwig, a farmer and carpenter, was born in 1889 and married Ida nee Ranke.

Christina Emilia was a housewife. She was born in 1890 and married Fred Morse.

Barbara Marg. Bertha was born in 1892. She married Leonard Rummel.

Michael Wilhelm Gustav was a store clerk and an employee at Zehnder's Restaurant. He was born in 1895 and married Lydia Maria nee Schreiner.

Martin Edwin was born in 1903 and was a baker. He married Irene Mildred Redemsky.

August and Gustav, both known to the community as "Gust", lived their adult life in the village of Frankenmuth. August graduated from Grand Rapids Veterinarian College in 1917 and became Frankenmuth's first college-educated veterinarian.

August was followed by sons Victor and Marvin in 1943 and 1952, respectively, both educated at Michigan State University, then fondly known as the "cow college".

Johann, Eva, and their children settled two miles south of the village of Frankenmuth. Eventually Johann owned a 110-acre farm in Birch Run Township. Johann died February 14, 1910 at the age of 61. Eva outlived him by 33 years. She died March 31, 1943 at the age of 88. Both are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Their grandchildren are: Leonard Spaeth, Aldina Filbert, Ruth Sorgatz, Edna Yeaster, Clarence Morse, Anna Morse, Florence Emery Spencer, Ida Glaser, Sara Cook, Harry Morse, Warren Morse, Walter Morse, Helen Eischer, Laura Hoesli, Herman Rummel, Herbert Rummel, Marcus Rummel, Alice Trinklein, Earl Rummel, Melvin Engel, Louise Haubenstricker, Marvin Engel, Victor Engel, Marcella Millette, Lois Poweff, Raymond Engel, Walter Engel, 55 great-grandchildren, 93 great-great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-great-grandchildren.

Raymond Engel's son, James Engel, is the Chief Operating Officer at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge.

