

Fürwitt Family



he Fürwitt name came to this area through Maria Margaretha Fürwitt. Maria was born on March 30, 1812 to Johann Fürwitt and Anna Barbara Wittman Fürwitt in Neuendettelsau, Germany. She was one of ten children, six of which died in infancy.

Maria Margaretha Fürwitt married Johann Stephan Zehnder, a shoemaker from Weißenbronn, on December 26, 1837.

They had three children, Johann Sigmund, Maria Margaretha and Johann Friedrich, as they left Germany on March 22, 1846. A second daughter, Katherine, was born on the ship on their way to America. Maria Margaretha also brought her sister, Anna Margaretha, along on the trip. Anna Margaretha Fürwitt was 29 years of age; she served as housemaid for the Zehnder family.

They arrived in New York on May 9th and finally in Frankenmuth on May 27, 1846. In Frankenmuth, Johann Stephan bought some land and earned a living as a shoemaker and by farming.

They had three more children in Frankenmuth. Gertrude was born in 1849, Melchior in 1852 and Barbara in 1854.

In 1848, Maria Margaretha's father, Johann, age 69, who was a widower, joined his daughters and son-in-law in Frankenmuth. Johann died there a year later. Maria Margaretha's mother, Anna Barbara, had died on June 29, 1833, before they left Germany.

In 1800, Johann Fürwitt had acquired his father's house and property for 800 Gulden. He, in turn, turned this over to his son, Michael, when he left Germany in 1848 to live with his daughter and son-in-law in Frankenmuth.

The paternal grandparents of Maria Margaretha were: Sigmund Balthasar, born March 17, 1747, and Maria Apolloina Welhōfer, born about 1743. Sigmund died August 19, 1812 and Maria died in 1808.

Her great-grandparents were Justus Jacob from Leonrod, born September 26, 1715. Justus married Susanna Winkler, born June 2, 1710.

In 1739, Justus and Susanna moved to Neuendettelsau where he took over his father-in-law's house (Gut Haus Nr. 62) and farm. The farmland consisted of 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ Morgen Acker (4.65-7 acres) of farmland and $\frac{3}{4}$ Morgen of woodland ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre). Justus died December 1, 1771. Susanna's date of death is unknown.

Maria Margaretha's great-great-grandparents were Christoph Martin from Leonrod, born December 25, 1686. He married Maria Magdalena ? , born April 6, 1680. Christoph died November 1, 1774 and Maria died on August 26, 1758.

The Fürwitt geneology was compiled by Helmut Hans Fürwitt from Eyb, Germany. Helmut is a great-great-grandchild of Johann Fürwitt. Judy Zehnder Keller is a great-great-great-grandchild of Johann Fürwitt.

