

# Haas Family



The Haas family name came to this area through Johann Paulus Haas. Johann Paulus (1829-1909) was born in Rosstal Bavaria, Germany. He was the son of Johann H. and his wife nee Winter Haas.

Johann came to America in 1850 and was employed in Detroit for one year before coming to Frankenmuth.

In 1855, Johann Paulus married Eva Maria Leykam. They had six children: Maria, Sophia, Frederick, George, Magdalena and Johann Christian Jakob.

In 1873, Johann Paulus (John Paul) purchased 26 acres of land at \$25.00 an acre from the Dr. Augustus Koch estate. Additional land was acquired later.

Son, Johann Christian Jakob Haas (1875-1937) was baptized and confirmed at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church by Dr. Ottomar Fuerbringer. In 1906, he married Anna Barbara Beiser (1887-1940), the daughter of John G. and Anna B. Maurer Beiser of Monitor.

In 1907, Johann Christian Jakob was granted 51 acres of land, and in 1914, additional acreage from his father's estate. They had seven children: Lydia (Riethmeier) Haack, Edna (Billmeier), Elmer, Clarence, Elvira (Knight), Betty and Jean (Hamlin).

The Haas farm has been in the family since 1873. Fields were tilled with horses. Crops included wheat, oats, corn, beans and hay. A small herd of cows produced milk that was hauled to the Frankenmuth Cheese factory in town until the middle 1950's.

In winter, trees were harvested from a 15 acre plot of woods and then used for lumber, heat and cooking. A new barn was built in 1915 and still exists today.

The house on the farm at West Tuscola Road was moved there in 1921 from a site near Weiss and Baker Roads. It had been built in 1915 and was purchased for \$3,000. It was moved by horses pulling log skids over frozen ground across fields for about five miles. Cement blocks for the basement, dug by hand, were made on site. Electricity was introduced in 1924.

Jacob purchased his first car, a Willys-Knight in 1925 from Barney Schaefer, today known as Schaefer and Bierlein, for \$1700.

Because of the hilly fields, a tractor was not introduced until 1942, by the eldest son, Elmer, who had inherited the farm.

Jacob and Anna Haas had 21 grandchildren: Bernice, Arthur, Shirley, Betty, Bonnie, James and Patricia Riethmeier, Sally and Susan Haack, Donna and Lois Billmeier, Richard Haas, Dorothy, Marcella, Marie, Mildred and Kathleen Haas, Kenneth, Gerald and Nancy Knight, and Allen Hamlin.

Currently, Richard Haas resides in said house. In 2002, most of the farm land was purchased by St. Lorenz Lutheran Church.



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