

Heine Family



The Heine name came to this area through Jacob Heine (1820-1884). Jacob was born in Wurtemberg, Germany in the area of the Black Forest. There he married Elizabeth Goetzinger (1825-1906) in 1852. The following year the couple and their infant son, Fred, sailed for America. They spent several months in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania under quarantine, due to an illness in the area, before being able to continue on to their destination of Frankenmuth. After arriving, they started a general store. Their home and the store were located at the present site of River Place.

Six of the couple's children are known to have survived: Frederick, William, Hannah, Leonard, Charles, and Eva Barbara.

Frederick, who was born in Germany, came to America when he was six months old. The historian, T.J. Pollen, tells us that Frederick was reared on a farm until he was eight years old and then he went into his father's store as an assistant. He married Anna Riethmaier. The couple raised twelve children: Hannah Zehnder, Christ, Frieda Dallas Binder, Caroline Rauh, Elizabeth Galen, Agnes Hoerauf-Rauh, Edwin (for many years the "Schuster", Cobbler in Frankenmuth), Martha (died as a baby), Grover (a salesman in Detroit, Natalie Drews, Charlotte (Mrs. Paul Wascyhelewski), and Laura Bernthal. In order to be able to provide for his family, Frederick would serve on jury duty during the winter days when his children could take care of the farm work.

Leonard married Johanna E. Hubinger, the daughter of John M. Hubinger, the owner of a mill and a store at the time. Leonard and Johann lived on a farm in Birch Run and were widely known as "Ma" and "Pa" Heine. The couple had thirteen children.

One child died at birth and seven children died as a result of illnesses. Those children who reached adulthood were: Leonard, who moved to Omaha to help his uncle. He eventually started his own laundries and he and his uncle owned all the laundries in Omaha. A major part of the business was to do the linens for all the passenger trains coming through on a daily basis.

Bernhard Adam (born 1890), who was an apple picker in the area, packed apples into large barrels and would then haul them to Gera to be shipped by rail to New York. Bernhard married Anna Gauderer and the couple was blessed with four children: Henry, who worked for General Motors in Flint; Eleanore Walker, who was a hairdresser in Chesaning; Harold, who worked for Consumers Power Company in Hale; and Emil, who farmed in Birch Run.

Johannah, the oldest daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth married Jacob Freudenstein.

Charles, the youngest son of Jacob and Elizabeth, also moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and started a laundry business, eventually owning five establishments. Charles and his wife had no children; however numerous Heine nephews and nieces would come to Omaha at times and work for him for a short period of time.

Eva Barbara, the youngest daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth, was born in 1862 and died in 1887.

In 1988, the descendants of Jacob and Elizabeth numbered 623 with 542 still living. Great-grandchildren include: Alfred, Walter, and Martin Hoerauf, Meta Schutt Winkler, Milda Burchill, Ernst Heine, Irene Bickel, Marilyn Dey, Lorenz Heine, Ruth Buschke and Mary Lou Hoffman.



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