

# Huber Family



he beginnings of the Huber family started with Johann Michael Huber (1827-1882), son of Michael John Huber and Kunigunda nee Winkler. Johann Michael was born in Weinzierlein Bayern, Germany and was baptized in Rosstal. In 1847, when Johann was barely 20 years old, he joined a contingent of other emigrants who left Germany to come to the Frankenmuth area. Excerpts from a letter written by Schneidermeister (tailor) Michael Huber from Frankenmuth, dated July 28, 1847, to his relatives in Germany tell the following:

*“On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April we left Bremen... We boarded the boat named “Creolo” where 70 passengers were booked. Boarding the ship was not by rope ladders as people said it would be, but we walked on... The boats came close to the wharves and the latter are as high as the boats. Now I want to tell you about our voyage which wasn’t so good... When we left Bremen on April 15, we sailed only for a quarter of an hour when unfavorable winds made anchoring necessary and again proceeded the next day. It wasn’t long after our boat left when it began to rock and roll and all began to be sick...and had to vomit except me and a few others. We weathered 3 storms on the way, the last one on June 21, which was the worst. No soup could be cooked; it would all have been dumped over. All sails were lowered and the ship was left to drift. For 24 hours our ship rocked and reeled in the waves. If the Lord had not been with us, we would have been lost. He heard our prayers and we didn’t forget to thank Him for His help. Fifty-eight days we were on the ocean, longer than any other in the crossing...”*

*“On June 12, we arrived in New York... On Saturday we arrived in Detroit... It takes about 30 hours to go from Detroit to Frankenmuth. On June 24, St. John’s day, we arrived in Frankenmuth where we found a very good reception...”*

*All of Frankenmuth is so crowded with immigrants that in every house 2 or 3 families live together... (Michael had made previous arrangements to purchase land in Frankentrost). There are 70,000 acres from which to buy, and a person can buy as much as a person wants. We went out and selected 1,700 acres of which I’m to receive 40 acres. The price is 2 gulden per acre, but it is very good land... It’s all in the woods... We like it in Frankenmuth, especially the church services. Every day there are two services...”*

*“In America, so far I didn’t eat black or rye bread yet. Every day a person drinks coffee twice, and meat costs 4-5 cents a pound. I bought a “gelbbraune” cow for \$14.50. In Germany it would have cost 60 gulden. In America, a person can keep as much cattle as one likes. A person doesn’t have to make feed, for the cattle must find their own pasture. And at that, they look better than in Germany... When it is milking time the cows come by themselves to the house. If I think how the women-folk at home have a hard time with weeds, it makes a person shudder.”*

*“In America, a person can live a quiet and peaceful life. There are no hunters and poachers and what else there may be. Nothing is known of such in America.”*

Michael Huber did settle on 40 acres in Frankentrost with his wife, Anna Margaretha nee Edelmann. The family relates that at one time Anna was returning from East Saginaw, a distance of about 7 miles, when she became lost. She wandered for about three days. When she reached Bay City an Indian showed her how to find home by following the moss by the side of the trees.

Michael became a farmer in Frankentrost. Michael and Anna raised ten children on their farm and five of the sons also became farmers.



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