

Janson Family



The Janson name came to this area through Peter Jacob Janson (1825-1905). Peter Jacob was born in Ottweiler Leberbach, near Meissenheim Landgrafschaft, Hessen-Homburg. He was the son of Peter John and Katharina nee Decker. It is believed that Peter John migrated from Sweden to France and after settling in Alsace-Lorraine for a time, he moved into Germany and settled in what was then Prussia.

Peter Jacob was baptized in infancy, attended the village school from age six to fourteen, and was confirmed in 1839. At the age of 25, Peter, his uncle, and his cousin John Janson, sailed to America. Leaving Germany on March 6, 1851, they arrived in New York on April 28, 1851. Two days later they left New York, arriving in Michigan on May 5, 1851.

Peter's uncle settled in Blumfield Township, Saginaw County, where he purchased land. His son John remained on the homestead after his father's death, where he and his wife raised their four children: Leonard, Matthew, Adam and Henrietta Ritter. Leonard remained on the homestead farm, and the other three family members settled on separate farms on M-46 in the Frankentrost area.

Peter, however, worked on a farm near Flint for three summers and then worked in a hardware store in Saginaw for a year. He then purchased 56 acres adjoining his uncle's farm.

In 1855, Peter married Fredericka Hartmann (1836-1900) who was born at Marbach Kkoenigreich, Wuerttemberg, the daughter of Heinrich and Dorothea nee Fink Hartmann.

The couple settled in a log house on their 56 acre farm. Here they raised their large family: Margaretha Meyerhuber (1857-1937), Peter (1859-1953), Ernest (1860-1942), Frederica Greening (1862-1947), Louise Paul (1864-1904), John Leonard (1866-1866), Leonard John (1867-1945), Carolina Daeubler (1869-1950), Fred (1871-1871), Eva (1873-1945), Augusta (1875-1965), Rose (1877-1950), Emma (1879-1881), and Herman (1883-1898).

As the family grew, Peter purchased 40 additional acres for his farm. Around 1878, he erected a large brick house. This house was destroyed by fire on December 23, 1980.

The farm stayed in the Janson family for several generations. Leonard John inherited the farm around 1900. After his death in 1945, his son Otto Erwin received ownership of the farm. Some 20 years later he sold the house along with three acres, building himself a new house on a two acre plot adjacent to the original brick house. In 1978, the remaining acreage of the original farm was also sold.

Peter Jacob and his wife Fredericka and their four children, the ones who died in infancy or youth, are buried in the Janson Cemetery adjacent to the original farm.

At the time of this compilation, the descendants of Peter Jacob include 33 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and an innumerable number of great-great-grandchildren.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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