

# Jordan Family



The Jordans, along with so many of the immigrants coming to Frankenmuth, were hardworking and industrious, determined to make a better life here than what they had in Germany. The 15 immigrants who had come to Frankenmuth several years previously had been admonished by their pastor to dwell together in unity, to keep close to God, and to convert the Indians to the Christian religion.

T. J. Pollen, in his "History of Frankenmuth" written in 1914, tells of the difficulties the first 15 immigrants endured: "It was no picnic to start in that wilderness . . ."

They endured great privations; they had none of the commodities and conveniences that we look upon as necessities of life. They had no stoves, only open fireplaces, no lamps, only pine torches to light up at night; their main street was only an Indian trail through the forest, where not even a wagon could be drawn.

"They were inexperienced in a life in the woods and suffered from exposure and strange diseases and often for want of proper food. A trip to Saginaw took days and what they were able to buy had to be conveyed up the Cass River, or carried on their backs from Bridgeport."

"But with all their troubles, their ills and privations, they held on and they held out. They had found what they sought; freedom, political liberty, religious liberty, social liberty, and they were welcome to the land as they found it. No counts, barons, or dukes made their lives one of misery and servitude and they could be their own barons here in the 'Land of the Free'."

Johann Friedrich Jordan was born on February 2, 1812 in Buttendorf Koenigsreich Bayern, Germany, where he was confirmed at the Rosstal church. There, also, he married Eva Marie Bergmann.

A son, Johann Martin, was born in Zurndorf Bayern, Germany, in 1847. He came to America with his parents soon after. After coming to Frankenmuth, a son Adam was born in 1856 and a daughter Anna Barbara was born in 1861.

An 1877 Saginaw County Platt map indicates a Mrs. A. M. Jordan owned 80 acres on the corner of King Road and Gera Road which was settled in 1851. Also, there was a J. M. Jordan that owned 40 acres of land on Baker Road.

All of Johann Friedrich and Eva Maria's children made their living on a farm.

Johann Martin (1847-1893) married Margaretha List. Their daughter Wilhelmine Margaretha lived only one year. Adam (born 1856) married Sophia Barbara Weiss. Their children were Ursula Maria Johanna (born 1881), Johann Martin Friedrich (1882-1946) who married Emilie Block, Anto Martin (born 1886), Maria Elisabeth (born 1891) who married Carl Schwartzkopf, and Ernst Friedrich Konrad (born 1892).

Johann Friedrich and Eva Maria's grandchildren included Elsie Bruns, Wilmar Jordan, Ruth Jordan, Harold Schwartzkopf and Rudolph Jordan.



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