

Kamm Family



The Kamm family chose to reside in Frankenhilf, known today as the town of Richville, ten miles northeast of Frankenmuth. Johann George Kamm (1817-1892), along with his wife, Margaretha Barbara nee Rogner (1820-1901), and their two children, Anna Margaret (1848-1873) and Elizabeth B. (1849-1922), traveled from Fuerth, Germany to New York, on to Detroit via Lake Erie, and finally coming to settle near Frankenmuth in about 1850.

Records indicate that soon after their arrival a baby girl was buried in Frankenmuth. The couple was blessed with seven additional children: Barbara Partenfelder (circa 1851), Anna M. Spatz Schultz (1853-1935), Catherine Anna Walz (1854-1886), Mary Partenfelder (1856-1937), John (1858-1936), Michael A. (1860-1948), and Johanna Rechlin Helmreich (1861-1944).

The family made their home on land purchased by the Franconian colonies at a price of \$1.25 per acre. The farm was homesteaded by Johann George and his family. Johann George was a farmer and carpenter who supervised the construction of the first log church in Frankenhilf. His pay was reciprocal farming help from the parish members. George described his farmland as "dense forest, swamp and waterholes inhabited only by mosquitoes". His family's hard work turned it into productive land which supported horses, dairy cattle, hogs, chickens and geese.

John, the eldest of Johann George's two sons, was an ardent member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church and served as an officer of the congregation for more than 30 years. He served as Denmark township supervisor from 1916 to 1917 and as town treasurer from 1911 to 1914.

John married Ellen Zwerk (1861-1943). The couple lived on the farm that John helped his father clear. Here the couple raised their family of seven children: Michael (1883-1950), Emma Rechlin (1886-1985), Elizabeth Schluckebier (1890-1983), Adolph (1893-1957), Henry (1897-1968), Herbert E. (1900-1979), and Albert F. (1904-1962).

The second generation of American Kamms assumed the occupations of farming, ministry, bread baking, teaching, hardware, or building/lumber. They lived in Richville, Reese, Saginaw, Bay City, and as far away as Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The third generation entered sixteen different occupations, ranging from auto dealer and banking to ministry and sales. They expanded into seven Michigan cities and three other states adding 38 additional descendants for a total of 47.

The fourth generation brought the list of occupations to around 36 with families scattered among 24 Michigan cities and eight other states. Fifty-four additional descendants brought the total to 101. The fifth and sixth generations of Kamms bring the number of descendants in excess of 200.

Johann George and his wife, Margaretha Barbara, are buried at St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery in Richville. Leona nee Buetow Kamm, the widow of Albert F., grandson of Johann George, continues to live at the Kamm homestead farm.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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