

Leidel Family



The Leidel name came to America when John Mathias Leidel (born 1822) and his wife, Margaretha nee Schiffermueller (born 1827), arrived in 1854. John Mathias had been a farmhand in Weisenbronn-Heilsbronn.

After arriving in Frankenmuth, they joined St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and took their first communion in April of the same year. By this time, St. Lorenz had their second pastor, Reverend Karl Roebbelen, who was an outstanding preacher.

A professor at the Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis related how, at the time of a synodical meeting, he heard Pastor Roebbelen preach as a guest preacher in such a masterful way that when he heard he was preaching at another church in the afternoon, he decided to hear him again, assuming he would preach the same sermon. However, to his surprise, even though Pastor Roebbelen preached on the same text, he preached an altogether different sermon, even more masterful than the morning service. Pastor Roebbelen said later, somewhat humorously, that when he saw all those same faces again, it scared him so much that he forgot everything he had written.

John Mathias purchased 40 acres of land in August of 1854 for \$50. Although he was not a trained woodsman, he learned the trade by necessity and found it a profitable endeavor.

John Mathias cleared his land and hauled the logs to Gera where they were shipped by railroad to Bay City, Michigan, and there transported to the boat docks where they were shipped to distant cities. This activity enabled him to purchase another 40 acres of land by 1864 for \$300.

Repeating the process of clearing the land and selling the logs allowed him to purchase 80 additional acres in 1878 for \$2900 and a 114 acre farm in Tuscola County for \$5130 in 1883.

After this purchase John Mathias sold the original 80 acres and moved to the 114 acre farm in Tuscola County, just northeast of Frankenmuth village but adjacent to Frankenmuth Township.

A daughter was born soon after their arrival in Frankenmuth, but died a month later in June of 1854. Seven more children were born to the couple, including: Michael (farmer); Margaret (homemaker); George (mail carrier); Johann (farmer); Maria (homemaker); Jacob (farmer); and Barbara (homemaker).

Their grandchildren included: John Leidel, Bertha Galsterer, Klara Campau, William Stellwag, Carl Stellwag, Louise Bluemlein, Carolina Heidenberger, Maggie Heidenberger, Clara Schmidt, Jacob Leidel, Margaret Grueber, Barbara Schmandt, Emma Gey, Bernhard Leidel, Anna Leidel, Jacob Bauer, John Bauer, Phillip Bauer, Herman Bauer, Mary Salbenblatt, Margaret Bauer, and Barbara Hecht.

John Mathias died in 1899 at the age of 77. Margaretha died in 1895 at the age of 68. Both are buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.



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