

Naegele Family



The Naegele name came to this area through Johannes Naegele, born in Lindorf Wuerttemberg, Germany. After coming to America and Frankenmuth, he married Marie Margarethe Beierlein (b.1850), daughter of Michael Beierlein. Marie Margarethe was a local midwife delivering many babies.

Johannes and Marie Margarethe had ten children: Johann George Michael (1871-1940); Anna Margarethe Barbara (b.1872); Anna Marie Sophie (b.1875); Johann Georg Leonhard (b.1876); Johann Michael Karl (b.1880); Anna Marie Mathilde (b.1881); Johann Georg Jakob (b.1883); Johanna Emma Sophie (b.1885); Marie Luise Agnes (b.1890); and Martin Leonhard Hermann (b.1894).

It will be noted that when searching church records of the original immigrants and their families, it is frequently most difficult to sift through the list of first names. The custom dictated that a child was given the names of his/her sponsors or godparents' given name and that the last "given" name was usually, but not always, his signature name.

Johann Georg Michael, the oldest son in the Naegele family, married Margarethe Poellet, one of the eleven children born to Ulrich and Anna Sibylle nee Weiss Poellet. Ulrich was born in Rasch, near Altdorf, area of Nuernberg Bayern, Germany, and Anna Sibylle was born in Dietersheim, Central Franconia Bayern, Germany.

Johann and Margaret purchased the Hotel List built in 1905. Johann and Margaret renamed the business Hotel Naegele & Café. Maggie (Margaret) was a good cook - serving excellent chicken dinners, homemade bread, pickled tongue, kuddelfleck (tripe), and a "glass of beer with foam on the bottom".

The local farmers used this common expression at the time, meaning they wanted a full glass of beer with no foam. The traditional German food brought guests from Flint on the Inter-Urban train on weekends in addition to those rooming there during the week. The Café had an automatic player piano, and a nickel would play the customer's choice; a favorite pastime of the guests. One particular weekend that piano made a profit of \$32.00 – a great deal of money in those days.

The Naegele Hotel and Café was located on the corner of Main and Tuscola Streets. Here Johann and Maggie raised their two sons, Clarence and Herbert. The building was later purchased by Richard and Carl Ortner who developed a thriving general store. Later the building housed the Oscar Rau furniture store until 2008.

Clarence and his wife, Elsie nee Geyer, had three sons: Michael, Wesley, and Alex. Herbert "Toots" and his wife, Clara nee Zehnder, had one son, Stephen.

When Herbert was a toddler, a patron who came into the hotel, tousled Herbert's hair and called him "Toots". The name stuck. "Toots" played 2½ years of minor league baseball. In his first year he led the Northwest Arkansas League with 16 home runs and batted 301. Those numbers helped give Naegele a baseball (bat) contract. The following year "Toots'" baseball contract was sold to Texarkana of the East Texas League. An injury forced him to make a decision between major league baseball or a career and a family. He chose the latter. In 1987, the baseball (bat) contract was honored and he received seven H&B Louisville Slugger bats with Naegele's autograph inscribed on each. In 1989, the Frankenmuth Softball Association inducted "Toots" into the Frankenmuth Hall of Fame.



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