

Poellet Family



he community of Frankenmuth was eight years old when George Poellet reluctantly brought his wife and four children to this area in 1853. He wasn't like the eager young settlers who were looking for adventure and economic opportunity in America.

Instead, he agreed to make the trip so his two sons could escape military service in Germany.

The Poellets were from Rasch, Bavaria. George married Margaretha Zeh. Their son Ehrhard was born April 28, 1841, while a younger son Ulrich was born November 8, 1842. There were also two daughters. Ehrhard was 12 when they made the voyage and Ulrich was 11.

It was a time of economic and political unrest in Germany. People were discouraged by unending crop failures, oppressed by military service, disillusioned by their government's lack of concern for the lower class, and frightened by the threat of religious intolerance. An "escape" to America offered hope.

The passage across the Atlantic took 72 days on a sailing ship through the north German port.

Once they arrived, the Poellets purchased acreage in Frankenmuth on Dehmel Road and began farming. But a disaster struck that first year. George died leaving Margaretha stranded with her children. There was no family to offer a hand or support.

The neighbors came to her rescue. Margaretha and her two daughters were given shelter by the St. Lorenz congregation. Ulrich lived with a Weiss family in Saginaw for a number of years while his brother Ehrhard lived with a Bernthal family.

When the brothers were old enough, the family returned to the property on Dehmel Road.

Ehrhard eventually married Barbara Marquardt in 1868 and they settled on a farm on the southeast corner of Townline and Dehmel Roads. They had eight children: Johann Simon, Johan Daniel, Johann George, and Johann Heinrich. Ehrhard established all of his sons on their own farms. Their daughters were Barbara Kathrine Rodammer, Margarethe Barbara, Rosine Theodora and Marie Karoline (a restaurateur).

Ehrhard died in 1936 at the age of 95. His wife died two years earlier. Both are buried in the St. Lorenz Cemetery.

The younger brother Ulrich married Anna Sybillia Weiss on October 16, 1870 in Frankenmuth. They had two farms, one at 8045 Dehmel Road and another at 10137 Townline Road.

The couple had eleven living children plus two that died in infancy. They were: John, a farmer and storekeeper; Mary Block a homemaker and business assistant; George, a farmer and farmhand on the Western Plains; and Margaret Mosher, a homemaker and housemaid.

Also: Henry, a farmer; Barbara Matzke, a homemaker and cook at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth; Carl, an auto worker; William, a factory foreman; Ludwig, a farmer, carpenter and factory worker; Caroline Weiss, a homemaker; and Ida Strassmeyer, a secretary and homemaker. There were seventeen grandchildren.

Ulrich died September 15, 1919 and his wife died December 6, 1923.



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