

# Rummel Family



he Rummel name came to this area through Michael Adam Rummel. When Michael Adam brought his young wife and family to settle in Frankenmuth in 1851 he probably never imagined his eight year old son would grow up to become the community's first and only member of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Not much is known about Michael Adam. He was born in 1802 and his wife Anna Eva Barbara was born in 1800. They had three children: Johann Sebastian, Eva Barbara and Johann George. The family lived in Ansbach, Germany.

Johann Sebastian may have fled to America sometime before the rest of the family during one of the student uprisings in Germany. He owned a store in Gera and eventually settled in Sebewaing. Eva Barbara married and stayed in Frankenmuth.

Michael's son, Johann George Rummel, is credited with introducing the law that required Michigan businesses to be licensed to sell alcoholic beverages. He also initiated legislation that called for free libraries in every Michigan county.

Johann George was born April 13, 1843. He was confirmed at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth when he was fourteen. Sometime between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two he went to Chicago and studied Latin and music. He returned to Frankenmuth in 1865 and married Maria Pickelmann May 5, 1867 when he was 24 years old.

The young couple lived on a farm on what is now called List Street. Rummel worked as a farmer and a carpenter, but he had other interests, too.

He was a school inspector in the parochial school for many years checking to make sure classes were conducted properly and reporting his findings to the authorities. He also served as a Justice of the Peace for twenty years, ruling over minor and non-criminal matters and performing marriages. He was elected to the State Legislature in Lansing in 1883, and served three or four two-year terms.

George kept an office on Main Street, just north of the Frankenmuth Historical Museum. It was the same location that George's grandson, Richard Rummel, later selected for his photography studio when he began his business. Rummel Photography Studio later relocated at 130 West Tuscola in Frankenmuth. Richard passed the business along to his son William G. Rummel and his grandson William R. Rummel.

The upstairs tenant at George's Main Street office was a man named Pausch. It wasn't long before he and George began a business venture together. They produced the only history book of Frankenmuth in the 1800's written independently of the Lutheran Church. The project marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Frankenmuth in 1895 and highlighted a "fall festival" to celebrate the occasion. George did the writing and filled the history with many of his own observations. Pausch did the photography and never allowed the pictures to appear in any other publication.

As a family man, George and his wife had thirteen children and forty-nine grandchildren. George died September 29, 1911 at the age of 68.



*Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge*  
*For copies of Family Histories go to [www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory](http://www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory)*