

Sitterding Family



The early settlers residing in Frankenmuth mostly came from the province of Franken in northern Bavaria. However, Johann Herman Sitterding (1798-1872) and his wife, Catherine Elizabeth nee Dirker (1799-1863), along with their three daughters, Catherine Maria Elizabeth, Catherine Adelheid and Catherine Margaretha Henriette (known as Harriet) came to America in 1834 from the Province of Hannover, Germany. The 1840 federal census indicates that the family was living in what was then Saginaw Township.

Two sons were born to Johann Hermann and Catherine Elizabeth in Michigan; Johann Hermann (1839-?) and George Heinrich (1844-1916).

The oldest daughter, Mary, was married in 1847 and resided in Saginaw. The parents and the other children settled in Frankenmuth.

Johann Hermann purchased land and had a patent dated July 1, 1848 for 45.22 acres in Section 28, Township 11. This location was on the north side of Tuscola Road, west of St. Lorenz Church.

Catherine Elizabeth died in 1863 and is buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery. Around 1870, Johann Hermann moved with his son, George Heinrich, to Frankenhilf (Richville). He died in 1872 and is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Richville.

Catherine Maria Elizabeth and her husband, Thomas Stuart Kennedy, had two children, Stuart and Kitty. Stuart's son, Sherman, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1909. In 1943, Sherman became an admiral in the U.S. Navy.

"The Sitterdings were the first German immigrant family to come to the Saginaw Valley."

Roselynn Ederer in her book, "Once upon a Lumber Town", quoted this from newspaper articles relating to the 50th anniversary in 1907 of the incorporation of the City of Saginaw. Ms. Ederer also stated, "*Mrs. Thomas Stuart Kennedy had the distinction of being Saginaw's oldest continuous resident having come to the Saginaw Valley in 1836 with her father, John Sitterding.*"

The second daughter, Adelheid, married Johann Fischhaber. The couple's eleven children included Johann Georg, Johann Gottfried, Katherine Elizabeth Winter, Johann Henry, Friedrich Heinrich (died as an infant), Christoph, Fred, Leonard John, Sophie Janson, Adam and Johanna Janson. Eight of the children moved to nearby communities. Johann Georg and Johann Henry remained in the Frankenmuth area.

The third daughter, Catherine Margaretha (Harriet), married Joseph Gilbert Manning of Saginaw. The couple's family of seven daughters and one son included: Helen Burdo, Clara Almy, Velona Moiles, John William, Lisabeth Medler, Inez Bradley, Eva, and a daughter that died in infancy.

The oldest son of Johann Hermann, who also was named Johann Herman, is listed as a farmer's son in the 1863 listing of men eligible for Civil War service. He moved from the Saginaw area and further information about him is unknown.

Georg Heinrich, the youngest son of Johann Herman, married Anne Mary Trump and moved to Richville, and later to Bay City, Michigan.

Known descendants of the Sitterding family still residing in or near Frankenmuth are three great-great-grandchildren: Margaret LaMountain, Elmer Kuck and Edna F. Loesel.



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