

Trinklein Family



he Trinklein name was established in this area in the summer of 1853 when John Peter Trinklein brought his bride Eva Marie Bickel to Frankenmuth. They were married April 23, 1853 in Hamburg, Germany before they set out to sail the Atlantic to their new home.

It was John Peter's great-great-great-grandfather, John Thomas Trinklein, who in 1686 was the first Trinklein to migrate to Graefensteinberg in Bavaria, Germany. He and others were exiled from Salzburg because of religious conflicts between the Catholics and the Protestants. Some of his descendants are still living in that area. Many of them left for economic reasons in the mid 1800s to find a better life in America. It was in that town of Graefensteinberg that John Peter was born. He left for America when he was a young man in his early 30s. The house that he was born in was still standing in 1985 when some of his great-grandchildren went to visit there. John Thomas was a sausage maker (Metzger) by trade and some of his sons carried on with that profession.

John Peter, however, was a cobbler or shoemaker. He continued that trade in Frankenmuth on his farm on Dehmel Road. He bartered his services as a cobbler to have his land cleared. He and Eva lived in a log cabin. Their first two children, both daughters, died of Quinsy (an abscess of the tonsils) within two weeks of each other at the ages of 3 and 5 years. Their oldest son Leonard married Johanna Loesel. Their six natural born children were Augusta Schmitzer, Richard, Herman, Rudolf, Emanuel, Ludwig, and an adopted daughter Nina Loop. The next son was John Simon Trinklein who married Barbara Woelzlein. Their children were Traugott, Pauline Rockensuess, Rev. Herbert, Ludwig (died as an infant), Adolph, and Ottomar (died early in life). Pauline, Herbert and Adolph all moved to the Detroit area and raised their families there.

As it was customary for families in those days to have at least one son in full-time church work, the next son Jacob, became a Lutheran pastor and married Emilie Buenger. He served congregations in Texas, Iowa, and Frankenlust, Michigan, before serving as a chaplain in prisons in Detroit. They had eight children, four died in infancy. The surviving children were Rev. Oswald, Ernest, Ottilie Fackler and Ida Trinklein.

John and Eva had two more daughters. The first died in infancy. The next daughter, Maria Margarethe, married Fred Roth but died of TB soon after they were married. They were childless. Fred remarried and had seven children with his second wife. John and Eva's last two children were both sons who also became farmers. Michael married Johanna Paulina Geyer and they had eleven children. They lived and raised a family of eleven children on the farm where the Frankenmuth Public Middle School now stands. It was on this farm that Michael's father John lived with Michael and his family until his death in 1901. He had his own room and cobblers bench at this place where he made shoes for all of his many grandchildren and others. Michael and Paulina's children were: Edwin, Amalie Umbach, Otto, Willibald (Bill), Martin, Hedwig, Bernhard, Rev. Alfred, Ella Trinklein Mueller, Marcus, and Esther who died at age four. The last son of John Peter was George who had a farm near Tuscola, just east of Frankenmuth, where he lived with his wife Barbara Vates. Their children were: Emilie Krafft, Erich, Helena Knoll, Rev. Louis, Robert who died at age 12, Edward, and an adopted daughter Ella Schellhas.

From the time John Peter Trinklein and his wife Eva Marie Bickel came to America in 1853, to the time of this writing in 2006, there were at least 1,400 descendants from these five brothers who were the sons of John Peter and Eva Maria Bickel Trinklein.



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