

Uebler Family



The Uebler name came to this area through Joseph Uebler. Joseph was born in Bavaria, Germany January 3, 1827. He came to Frankenmuth as a young man of 23, probably looking for work. Germany had an unstable economy at that time and many young people were seeking better opportunities. Farmers struggled with crop failures year after year. Good jobs were rewarded to those who were favored by the ruling class and the government was basically uninterested in the problems of the poor. Because military service was mandatory, many young people wanted an "escape". Others made the trip to America so they could be free to marry. In Germany, a bridegroom had to have certain assets before the government would issue a marriage license. For these reasons and more, America offered hope. Between 1840 and 1852, the span of time during which Frankenmuth and the other Bavarian colonies of the Saginaw Valley were founded, the number of German immigrants totaled more than a million. Land was cheap in America and the naturalization laws were simple. There was a great demand for craftsmen and workers of every kind.

By the time Joseph arrived in Frankenmuth, about 1850, the community was five years old. The original purpose of forming a Lutheran colony to convert the Chippewa Indians in Michigan had pretty much ended when the Indians fled the area. Instead the colony became a settlement for German Lutherans who wanted to preserve the traditions and cultures of their homeland. The acreage of the farm that Joseph established in Frankenmuth is still being worked by his descendants. His great-grandson Harold and great-great-grandson Wayne live and work on the Uebler Centennial farm, as of the year 2005.

Joseph married Anna Sophia Krauss August 21, 1853 at Frankentrost, another Lutheran colony just northwest of Frankenmuth.

Later the couple moved to Frankenmuth and purchased 40 acres of Indian Reservation land in Section 9 of Frankenmuth Township. A tax receipt dated January 4, 1855 shows taxes on the parcel in 1854 amounted to \$1.09.

Joseph and Anna continued purchasing acreage in the area. They became full-scale grain farmers working more than 400 acres. The 1870 census records report they had six children: Friedrich George, George Johann, George Peter, Katheer Anna, Michael and Sophia Anna. All of the sons were farmers like their father. George Johann had livestock. Sophia Anna married a blacksmith.

George Peter was born June 27, 1856 and confirmed in 1870. He married Rosine Margaret Beyerlein. He raised cows and farmed. His children were: Johann Adam, Bernhard George Matthaus, Elsa Anna Auguste Henderson and Herman George Michael. Herman served in World War I and later owned a barbershop in Frankenmuth for 30 years. His business was located south of the Frankenmuth Historical Museum.

Bernhard and his wife Regina nee Zoellner had three children: Harold Oscar Herman, Lillie Louise Helen Roth and Wilbur Otto Emil. Harold married Marie Reinbold May 24, 1941 and they continued the family's farming tradition on the Centennial farm. As of the year 2005, they work about 430 acres. Their children are: Kathleen Loraine Lille Nolan, Delbert Wilbur Alvin and Wayne Harold. Kathleen was Frankenmuth's first Bavarian Princess in 1964. Delbert is a Vietnam War veteran. Wayne farms. Lillie's children are Martin Fred and James Harold Roth. James died when he was 26 years old. Wilbur had two daughters, Julie Schwab and Gloria McCracken.

Joseph died September 1, 1898.



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