

Weber Family



he oldest of Frankenmuth's 15 original settlers was Johann Konrad Weber who made the trip at age 39. Johann was born April 1, 1806 in Weiler Mittelfranken, Bavaria. He was baptized the following day, and in 1819, he was confirmed in Rohr,

Germany. Johann was the youngest of six children. His mother died when he was 14 and his father died when he was 10. He lived with his sister, who married a wealthy farmer, and since she had no children she left him a sum of money when she died.

Johann attended weekly meetings led by a Pastor Wilhelm Loehe in 1844 in Neuendettlesau, Bavaria in preparation for mission work among the Indians in America in Michigan. On April 20, 1845, Johann was among the group of 14 people trained by Loehe that left Bremerhafen, Germany on the ship "Caroline". Johann was married to Kunigunde Barbara Bernthal April 21, 1845 aboard the ship along with 3 other couples from the group by Rev. Friedrich August Craemer, who had been chosen to be pastor of the group going to begin the settlement in Frankenmuth, Michigan. He was the only one in the group to speak English. Kunigunde's brother John Leonard also took the trip with them; her parents and entire family followed in 1846.

According to Ludwig Weber and his sister, Elsie nee Weber Knoll, Johann brought a large sum of money with him, wearing it in a vest lined with pockets. When he arrived it was very hot, but he wouldn't remove his vest. He gave the money to Rev. Auch for the purchase of 608 acres of land which became Frankenmuth. Johann helped survey the parcels and the Weber name is on most original abstracts from Frankenmuth sections 22, 27 and 28. He gave Lorenz Loesel, another settler, an acre of land for a day's work helping him clear his woodland. In 1852 he deeded the land to Loesel for Loesel's own farm. Johann and his wife farmed 70 acres along the Cass River near St. Lorenz Church.

Of their 9 children, 7 lived to adulthood. The oldest son, Johann Georg Leonhard Weber fought in the Civil War. He married Anna Apolonia nee Heinlein. His descendants began Weber Lumber Company in Richville, Michigan. There were many twins in this branch of the family, a former Bavarian princess, Lutheran school teachers, a Lutheran pastor and high school honor students. His offspring include the names of Nefe, DuRussel, Robinson, Lentner, Olschefsky, Kepler, Kampfner, Bullis, Christenson, Petty, Keyes, Flores, Morris, Reinert, Wilinski, Fehrenbach, Machleid, Noel, Ripper, Knapp, White, Rosencrans, Sherry, Diehl, Weiblen, Buchinger, Atkins, Frank, Thornton, Lauer, Wallen, Gibson and Kern.

One of the original settler's daughters married a Roller and descendants married an Ardussi who had a restaurant in Detroit. There are some Rupprecht relatives, Gleason, Brown, Hurford, Holodnick, Leidlein, Brigham and Hoerauf. Another daughter married a Hegenauer. After serving in World War I, a son visited his brothers in town, left for Chicago and was never heard from again. The first graduate and valedictorian of Frankenmuth High School came from the Weber family; also the Bavarian princesses of 1972 and 1988; and the first presidential scholar in 1986; were from this family.

Other names found in the Weber family tree are VanWormer, Kruska, Murphy, Humpert, Rittmueller, Radka, Kimberlin, Spindler, Duby, Bierlein, Schluckbier, Strickert, Schiefer, Gilbert, Bergdolt, Alsobrook, Terry, Henry, Szekely, Lesko, Gruber, Ross, Baker, Kruse, Mikolicik, Daenzer, Wright, Rohde, Leach, LaPointe, Kinast, Flosi, Reinbold, Frahm, Sherman, Herzog, Howay, Haubenstricker, III, Zehner, Maurer, Mays, Armbrecht, Huntley, Sebert, Peche, Scharrer, Weiss, Block, Schmidt, Sturm, Jeffries and Coughlin.

Johann only lived in Frankenmuth for 16 years. He died May 24, 1861 at age 55. His wife died December 23, 1878.



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