

Wissmueller Family



The Wissmueller forefathers actually originated in Austria according to genealogy records which date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. They were expelled from Austria around 1654, due to religious anti-reformation pressures. The Wissmueller ancestors made their way to Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, called "Luther-Land".

Johann Adam Wissmueller and his wife, Margaretha nee Schaitberger, and Adam's brother, Johann George Wissmueller, a single man, immigrated to the United States in 1847. Both were born in Grosshabersdorf Bayern, Germany. There were five brothers and one sister in Adam and George's family. One brother, Christian Adam, became a Lutheran pastor. Christian received a great deal of support, counsel and encouragement from Wilhelm Loehe, a student friend, during his theological schooling. Even though Pastor Christian never immigrated to America, he remained a Lutheran pastor in Germany until his death at age 70. It was Wilhelm Loehe who encouraged Adam and George to venture to America. They left Nuernberg on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1847, and arrived in Frankenmuth June 24, 1847. It was a joyful reunion for the immigrants who had settled in Frankenmuth the year before to be joined by some of their friends and relatives they had left behind in their homeland. "*Now Thank We All Our God*" was one of their most frequent hymns of thanksgiving.

The two Wissmueller brothers bought 300 acres at 77 cents an acre. Their parents had given them their inheritance upon their departure from Germany. George, who was single, married Margaretha Fuerwitt. She was born in Neuendettelsau and had joined the 1846 group with her sister, who had married Johann S. Zehnder. They were married at the St. Lorenz Log Church on August 1, 1847.

Adam and his wife, Margaretha Schaitberger, were blessed with nine children, two died in infancy.

The family lived in a log house on the north side of Holland Road, across from the American Legion Hall. His trade in Germany was a master comb-maker which he continued besides farming. Adam's oldest son, George, served in the Civil War. Second oldest son, Lorenz, was the father of a son also named Lorenz, who became a Lutheran pastor. He served as vacancy pastor at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church from June through November 1, 1893, during absence of Pastor Fuerbringer. He was a pastor at Mt. Clemens where he died in 1942. The five daughters were homemakers and farm wives. Adam's descendants number approximately 600 as of the year 2006.

George Wissmueller and his family settled on their 150 acres on the south side of Holland Road, east from brother, Adam. George and his wife were blessed with 10 children, but only five reached adulthood. One son, Adam, died at the age of 59 due to blood poisoning from stepping on a nail. One daughter, Margaretha (Maggie), fell from a buggy she was riding in and injured the sight in her only good eye. Out of the family of five children, there was only one daughter, Marie, who was blessed with good vision. Marie married Andrew Eberlein in 1875 in Frankentrost. Marie Wissmueller Eberlein's descendants are the only descendants from George and Margaretha Wissmueller. George's descendants number approximately 150 as of the year 2006.

Later on, the four single family members – Adam, Johann (Hannes), Margaret (Maggie), and Margaretta (Rettel), sold their acreage to Fred Mueller. This was mostly due to their limited sight and advancing age. A house was built for them across the road from their acreage on the north side of Holland Road, next to the present cement factory. The homestead is now owned by Eugene and Nancy Reinbold.

Adam, George, and their families, remained strong supporters and faithful members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Frankentrost.



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