

# Beyer Family



he Beyer name came to this area through Johann Baier. Johann Baier, his wife Katherine nee Lahr Baier, and their children, Kunigunde, Anna Margareta, Elizabetha, Eberhardt, Johann Peter and Kunigunda had a passport issued to them on May 8, 1852. It stated Schmielsdorf as their residence which was in the Landkreis of Kulmbach Kingdom of Bayern, Oberfranken. The 1923 obituary of a daughter, Elizebetha, gave her birthplace as Binzendorf.

Johann also paid the passage for Conrad, Johann Heinrich, Phillip, Katherine, and Heinrich Graebner, the children of Kunigunda Graebner and Andreas Partenfelder.

Apparently Kunigunda and Andreas were not allowed to marry in Germany as a couple had to own both property and a certain amount of money to be granted permission for marriage. The couple wished to come to America to be allowed to marry and to provide a better living for themselves and for their children.

They chose Frankentrost, as Kunigunda had brothers in Saginaw and Frankentrost. The congregation in Germany had supported the family. Johann was to be reimbursed for the passage fee after his arrival to this area. Johann also paid the passage for a six year old girl by the name of Dorothea Staar.

The Baiers settled in Kulmbach, an area in the newly organized Blumfield Township. Others from Kulmbach, Germany had preceded them and settled in this area which was north of Frankentrost.

The area later boasted a railroad stop with a small wooden shelter for a waiting area for the travelers.

In 1875 property for the Kulmbach District #4 public school was purchased. Heinrich Heinlein was in charge of the purchase.

The Baiers purchased their land in this area in 1852. It was all forest, with a trail angling through it. The trail most likely originated in the Detroit Monroe area, eventually wound its way through the Baier farm, on to Arthur, (where at one time a post office and general store were in operation), and then on to the Thumb area where many Indians lived.

Johann and his sons built cabins and cleared the forest for farming. They built a saw mill in the forest. It was in temporary quarters and portable. It provided lumber and work for many during the winter months.

Later a large permanent building was erected on the corner of Beyer and Janes Roads. Logs were brought from a wide area to be made into boards and planks. The mill was able to cut forty-four foot long barn timbers.

The saw mill and a planing mill nearby provided many with extra seasonal income.

The passport for Johann spelled his name "Beier". Loading slips spelled "Bayer," and at some later time the present spelling "Beyer" was taken and remains to this day.

The Beyer homestead was designated a Centennial Farm on August 1, 1969. Elfrieda Beyer-Reif who lived there her whole life, died April 29, 2005. The homestead remains in the family.

