

Billmeier Family



he name Frankentrost was chosen for a second colony in America so that the residents there would always remember the consolation of God's "Word" in every hardship of their new home. During the autumn and winter of 1846-1847, Wilhelm Loehe of Neuendettelsau let it be known that he intended to establish this second colony. A number of Franconian peasants applied for the privilege of joining this expedition. Among these were Friederich Thomas Billmeier and his wife, Eva Margaret Friederich. Friederich was born February 10, 1819 in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria. He married Eva Margaret Bitzinger who was born on November 15, 1821. They had one daughter, Maria, who was with them when they came to America. Maria was born in 1845 in Neuendettelsau.

They boarded the sailing vessel "Hermine" April 21, 1847 in Bremerhaven, Germany. After a 40 day voyage, they docked in New York June 1, 1847 and reached Frankenmuth June 11, 1847. The women and children stayed in Frankenmuth until the land was purchased, was surveyed, and some housing was built. The Billmeiers purchased 33 acres of land July 22, 1847 for 77¢ per acre from the Government Land Office in Marshall, Michigan. They only had enough money to pay their passage, buy a barrel of flour, and a cow. They had to borrow enough money to pay for their land.

Friederich and Eva Billmeier had eight children:

Maria was born in 1845, and married John Schnell. They had five children: Katherine, George, Leonard, Fred, and John. Maria died in 1924.

John Simon was born on November 16, 1849 and married Elizabeth Schury.

They had nine children: Elizabeth (Gebel), George, Margaret (Reinbold), Christine (Reinbold), Emma (Nuerminger), William, Alma (Hoppe), Martha (Hetzner), and Carl. John died May 12, 1915.

George was born August 14, 1851 and married Margaret Nickodemus (first wife) and Rosina Reichard (second wife). He had 11 children: John, Magdalena (Reinbold), Regina (Crydeman), with his first wife, Margaret; and Herman, Arthur, Alfred, Martin, Bernhard, Gottfried, Harold, and Clarence with Rosina, his second wife. George died November 27, 1919.

Elizabeth Eva was born on July 6, 1853. She married but didn't have any children.

Regina Anna was born March 20, 1855 and married G.H. Happ. They had two children: Arthur and Carl. Regina died September 9, 1928.

Eva was born April 17, 1857 and married Leonard Veitengruber. They had eight children: Lizzie (Rau), Sophia (Reinbold), Amelia (Rittmaier), Bertha (Huber), Clara (Bluemlein), Olga (Beyer), Rose (Techentein), and Elsie (Engelhardt). Eva died in 1934.

Anna Eva was born February 12, 1859 and married Michael Veitengruber. They had five children: John, Caroline (Arndt), Edna, Hulda (Roth), and Norman. Anna died November 28, 1927.

Paul John was born September 15, 1864 and married Sally Davis. They had five children: Mary (O'Dell), Hardy, Mabel (Johnson), Pauline (Schnell), and Elsie (Hogan). Paul died in July, 1930.

Friederich died on February 8, 1892, and Eva died on February 11, 1899.

