

Síppel Family



he fourth colony, Frankenhilf, which was established in the Saginaw Valley by Pastor Wilhelm Loehe, had a discouraging beginning. Only two families of the original 1850 group continued to the site where land had been purchased for the colony. In the following years more families did arrive, one of which was the Leonard Sippel family. Leonard, of Mitelfranken, Germany came in 1852. He married Kunigunda Hoffmann June 29, 1853 and bought land in section 29 of Denmark Township in Tuscola County. Leonard applied for citizenship in 1863. He and Kunigunda had 5 children, all baptized at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Only the second daughter Maria Margaretha, born November 8, 1856, lived to adulthood.

In 1863, Kunigunda Sippel died. Leonard's brother in Germany suggested he marry Anna Maria Horneber. She was born November 6, 1832 in Debendorf. She traveled with Pastor Leonard Reck, Loehe's student, to America in 1865. Pastor Reck brought her to Frankenhilf and they were married August 8, 1865.

In 1874, when the log cabin church became too small for the congregation of 35 families, they obtained land to the east by trading property with Leonard Sippel. On this property they built a frame building church measuring 75 feet by 40 feet. It had a chancel measuring an additional 20 feet in length with a tower and steeple reaching 115 feet. Seating was for 500 worshippers on the main floor and balcony. The church was dedicated in 1875 on the Feast of St. Michael's. It served the congregation until 1971, when St. Michael's Lutheran Church of Richville built a new sanctuary.

Leonhard Sippel and his wife had two daughters: Maria was born November 8, 1856 and died

November 10, 1893; and Elizabeth settled in the area of Buffalo, New York.

Maria Margaretha Sippel married George Mayer on May 25, 1874. George was born July 5, 1845 in Bayern, Germany. He came to Richville in 1872. They had seven children:

Mary was born on April 4, 1875. She married George Mossner and they had six children. Mary died on March 4, 1953.

Kunigunda was born October 16, 1877. She married Peter Schury on October 16, 1897 and they had five children. Kunigunda died May 3, 1967.

Johanna was born on May 30, 1879. She married Frederick Bernecker on October 10, 1901. They had five children. Johanna died March 20, 1963.

John was born August 10, 1881. He married Matilda Bierlein and they had seven children. John died February 2, 1971.

Jacob was born February 15, 1884. He married Josephine Auernhammer on February 26, 1911 and they had four children. Jacob died April 5, 1962.

Margaret was born May 26, 1886. She married William Roemer on June 29, 1909. They had eight children. Margaret died on August 5, 1960.

Bernard was born on June 6, 1891. He remained single and died February 6, 1936.

Maria Sippel Mayer died November 10, 1893. George Mayer then married Frieda Marie nee Ehrenberg Miller on October 17, 1898. She had three sons by her previous marriage: Christian, John and William. George and Frieda Marie had three children together: Helen Unger (1899-1990), Minnie Unger (1902-1983), and Frieda Billmeier (1906-1943). George Mayer retired in 1916 and moved to Reese, Michigan where he died at his daughter's house on April 5, 1931. George Mayer's home in Reese was destroyed by fire in November 1922.

