

Schluckebier Family



he name Schluckebier has been associated with early politics in Frankenmuth. Peter Schluckebier, who arrived in the German Lutheran colony in 1855, served as the first Frankenmuth village president. His younger brother, Johannes, was known around town as “the Governor”. He was the Frankenmuth Township Supervisor for 10 years as a highway commissioner.

Peter was the first of the Schluckebiers to arrive in Frankenmuth. He was born February 10, 1833 in Dissen, Hessel-Kassel. He learned weaving from his father and also worked as a farmer in Germany. He left his homeland when he was 19, on the ship “Ella”, and arrived in New York harbor December 23, 1852. At first he worked in New Jersey and New York. Then he went to LaPorte, Indiana, where he helped build the railroad.

In 1855, Peter came to Frankenmuth and purchased 80 acres of wilderness. The following year he sent for his aged parents Johannes and Martha Elisabetha Reichhold, his brother Jacob, and his sister Anna Gertrud Geyer. He began work at John G. Hubinger’s saw mill and married Sophia Eisenmaier January 3, 1858. In 1861 he recruited local men for the Civil War. In 1865-66 he was made highway commissioner and he also started a tannery with Martin Haspel.

Peter left that business two years later and worked for the next eight years at the Fallier Brewery. By 1876 he returned to full-time farming. In 1881 he was elected president of the German Frankenmuth Aid Association, later Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company. He was one of the organizers of the Frankenmuth Cheese Factory in 1884. Peter was elected village president in 1904 and held the post for five years. He died August 6, 1911 at the age of 79.

Johannes Schluckebier, Peter’s younger brother, was born in Dissen Hessen-Kassel, Germany May 13, 1835. Like Peter, Johannes left his homeland when he was 19 years old. He arrived in New York in 1854 and then settled in Bronson, Michigan. He worked for the railroad and married Johanna Paulina Reik September 30, 1860.

Johannes and his wife left Bronson to join the rest of the Schluckebier family in Frankenmuth in 1863. He settled on the northeast corner of M-83 and Baker Roads, north of town. In addition to his political positions of township supervisor and highway commissioner, Johannes was also a trustee of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church for 11 years and a stockholder and trustee of the Frankenmuth Cheese Factory.

The couple had 10 children: the first born was a daughter, Anna Gertrud Regina, who married Michael Bernthal; then came Peter Carl, who had a saw mill in nearby Richville; Johann Michael, a farmer; Jakob Konrad, a merchant in Saginaw; Johann Adam, a farmer; Sophia Margaretha who married John Frank; Katharina Gertrud who married Leonhard Frank; Johann Herman, a hotel clerk in Flint; Heinrich Adam, who died when he was three years old; and Anna Martha Barbara who married John W. Putz.

Johannes’ son, John Michael, was the father of Hedwig Hecht. Hedwig is the mother of Dorothy Zehnder who, together with her husband William Zehnder Jr. and their family, operates the Bavarian Inn Lodge and the Bavarian Inn Restaurant.

Johannes died June 26, 1900 at the age of 65. His wife died December 2, 1897.



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