

# Bauer Family



The steady stream of German immigrants to Frankenmuth continued into the 1870s, 25 years after the community was founded. Early settlers wrote glowing letters back to Germany telling about their success in America. They encouraged relatives and friends to join them in the new land of opportunity.

Frankenmuth Township was described as being one of the best in Saginaw County by a local historian in 1858. Its inhabitants were "industrious and thrifty".

The community included two churches, two schools, two well-supplied general stores, a post office, a grist mill, two saw mills, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop and others.

Farmers were attracted to the area because of its excellent soil, which was a mixture of clay, gravel and a dark loam.

A good suspension bridge crossed the Cass River in town.

Frankenmuth also had the advantage of being close to the markets in Bridgeport and Saginaw.

Johann Jakob Bauer arrived in Frankenmuth on July 19, 1873. The family name "Bauer" means "a farmer". "Jake", as he was called, lived up to the name and description. Jake bought and farmed land in the Reese area and one time owned 540 acres. Jake's brother, George, farmed west of Frankenmuth on Beyer Road.

Jake was born on May 15, 1858, in Maehringen, Germany, which is south of Tuebingen.

Jake's parents were Anna Barbara Riechel and Johann Jakob Bauer. Interestingly, Jake's paternal and maternal grandmothers had the exact same name, Christina Digel.

His paternal grandfather was Johann Georg Bauer and his mother's father was Konrad Riechle.

Jake was only 15 when he made his voyage to America. He married Christina Keinath in Frankenmuth. The couple had five children. Three of their sons, George, Edwin, and Bernhard were farmers like their father. A fourth son, Otto, died at the age of 13. The only daughter was Christina Kern and she was a housewife.

Their grandchildren are: Otto Bauer, twins Elsie Dewald and Esther Schluckebier, Irene Stolz, Elsie Daenzer, Clarence, Elmer, Ralph, Peter Kern, Leona Miller, Luella Hill, Edna Tafel, Erwin and Raymond Bauer, Marie Bauer, Dorothy Balzer, Ruben, Walter and Carl Bauer and Irma Bierlein.

Jake's descendants number 150 as of the year 2005.

Jake was one of 16 children, 10 of whom eventually came to America. His sisters, Christina, Anna Margretha, Maria Katharina, Louise, Anna Maria and Anna Barbara, all left Germany, as did his brothers, Johann Georg, Michael and Ernst Friedrich.

There are still many "Bauers" in Frankenmuth. Some are farming land that their ancestors originally worked. Corn, navy beans, soybeans, wheat, oats and sugar beets are harvested annually. Local businesses, like the Star of the West Milling Company and Weiss Farm Equipment, rely on Frankenmuth's farming population.



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