

Ruff Family



he group of 90 settlers that came to Frankenmuth in 1846 included G. Peter Ruff. They left Bremerhaven on March 22, 1846 and arrived in Frankenmuth on May 27, 1846.

G. Peter had been told by a friend that he would obtain land from the church and that there was a need for someone like him to process the abundant game and fish available for food.

G. Peter Ruff was born in 1810 in Schlungenhof, near Gunzenhausen, Germany.

After coming to Frankenmuth, he managed a small farm on Dehmel Road between Junction and Tuscola Roads. Besides being a farmer, he was a butcher and a mason.

When it came time to build a new church, G. Peter was placed in charge of collecting and trimming field stones for the foundation.

G. Peter married Margaretha Mayer who was born in 1817. They had two children, Fred and Mary. Mary moved to Saginaw after she married. G. Peter died in 1868 and Margaretha died in 1874.

Fred Ruff married Barbara Schluckebier. They had twelve children: Oscar, Herman, Gertrude (Leslie), Herbert, Esther (Draves), Amanda (Baker), Henry, Richard, Clarence, George, Mildred (Kischnick) and Arthur. Fred and Barbara had a farm on Hart Road, east of Frankenmuth. They remained members of St. Lorenz as did four of their children: Herbert, Amanda, Richard and Clarence. Fred died in 1919 and Barbara died in 1941.

Herbert and Oscar Ruff worked together as stone masons. One of the few stone houses located in this area is at the corner of Hart and Truax Roads. They built this house for Oscar and his family.

Herbert married Rose Reindel. They had two sons, Ralph and Wilbur. Herbert died in 1970 and Rose died in 1974.

Ralph was born February 15, 1921. He married Lydia Geyer on September 4, 1949. Ralph was a member of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. He served in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, until he was wounded on April 8, 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart. Ralph worked for Universal Engineering for 42 years and was a member of the American Legion Post #150.

Ralph and Lydia had one son, Thomas, and one daughter, Barbara. Ralph died April 26, 1995. Lydia died October 16, 2005.

Wilbur was born March 7, 1926. He married Anne Luta on October 3, 1953 at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. He served in the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Wilbur was an electrician all of his working years. He retired from General Motors Delphi Division in 1991.

Wilbur and Anne had one daughter, Lynne, who passed away in 1989 at the age of 35 years. Wilbur's wife, Anne, died May 21, 1995 at her home, after a lingering illness.



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