Buchinger Family

The Buchinger family arrived in Frankenhilf in 1856 with three other families, bringing the population of the community up to 24 families in that area. In later years, when the railroad came through the community, the name of the town was changed from Frankenhilf to Richville.

Johann Michael Buchinger (1834-1914) was the son of parents that were too poor to be allowed to marry. He was born in Rosstal Bavaria, Germany. His wife, Margaretha Barbara nee Bauer (1839-1906) was born in Neufas Bavaria, Germany.

Johann Michael eventually owned 508 acres of land. As a successful farmer he also sold oats to the livery barns in Saginaw at 12 cents a bushel.

According to a Civil War draft list of 1862/1863, Johann had one "ill eye". He became blind before he died and had to be led around the house.

A story that was told about Johann is that whenever his wife had a baby (they had eleven children) the "cows went dry". Johann would hold the baby but it was his wife's job to do the milking.

Eight years prior to the Frankenhilf Buchinger's arrival, a <u>different</u> Johann Michael Buchinger arrived in Frankentrost, six miles west of Frankenhilf.

The earliest known record of the Buchinger family's name in the Frankenmuth area is contained in the Immanuel Lutheran Church records in Frankentrost. These records indicate that twins were born to George Leonhard Buchinger and Margaretha Sibilla nee Engelhardt in 1848. The twins were baptized and died on the same day.

George Leonhard fathered three other children – two girls and a boy. The boy, Johann Michael, was born nine months after his father was killed by a falling tree.

J.H. Ph. Graebner, the first pastor of Frankentrost, writes in his reminiscences: *"Cash money was hardly ever seen in Michigan at that time and was used almost exclusively for purchasing flour . . . It was the time Pastor Kuehn had come . . . and was stopping a few days . . . my dear wife came to me with tears in her eyes and said, 'The flour is all used up; I can no longer bake'. I tried to comfort her by reminding her of the little text about the 'young rave' etc. A little while later, as we were standing at the fence, the wife of neighbor Buchinger stepped over to us and said to me, 'Pastor, we have not been able for some time to give you anything. I should like to have brought you some money, but my husband works in the mill at Frankenmuth, and Hubinger says that he cannot give him his wages in cash, but only in flour. Would you have use for a sack of flour?' Then I went in to my dear wife and told her how marvelously the good Lord had helped us out of our predicament."*

The church records contain all of the events of this family of Buchingers including births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths. The last mention of the Buchinger name in Frankentrost is the marriage of Johann Michael to Anna Margaretha Meyer in 1877. Michael died in 1913 and is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Frankentrost.

Johann Jacob Buchinger is mentioned in a "History of Saginaw County, Michigan" as purchasing land in Frankenmuth Township in 1854. However, no other information is available about this Buchinger.