

# Herzog Family



The Herzog name came here through Johann Michael Herzog, a weaver in Windsbach, Germany, who decided to come to America when he was 28 years old. J. Michael left Germany as a bachelor but arrived in Frankenmuth as a married man July 5, 1852. He married Eva Elizabeth Weiss July 4, 1852 in Saginaw County on the last leg of the journey to the German settlement.

J. Michael and Eva had 15 children: Johann Wilhelm (11-10-1852 to 7-02-1864), Anna Barbara (1-12-1855) and twin sister Eva Barbara (1-12-1852 to 7-31-1891), Maria Margaretha (6-03-1856 to 8-07-1928), Anna Margaretha (3-1859 to 2-1888), Anna Margaretha (3-14-1858), Johann Georg (10-1860 to 9-03-1861), Georg Johann (12-12-1861 to 9-15-1906), Anna Katharina (5-06-1863), Johann Leonhard (8-28-1864 to 12-23-1939), Elizabeth Barbara (1-20-1866), Johann John (9-30-1867 to 7-08-1955), Johann Michael (11-26-1869 to 1953), Johann Adam (5-01-1871 to 7-11-1954) and Maria Katharina (10-15-1873 to 9-26-1951).

Anna Barbara married J. August Rau on May 23, 1877. They had 7 children. Eva Barbara married J. Michael Palmreuter on April 28, 1875. They had 10 children. Maria Margaretha married J. Paulus Ortner on May 23, 1894. They had 2 children. Anna Margaretha married J. Georg Nuechterlein, Jr. on Nov. 10, 1880. They had 3 children. Anna Margaretha Georgina married J. Michael Hildner on May 21, 1888. They had no children. Georg Johann married Anna Barbara Weiss on Nov. 18, 1891. They had 4 children. Anna Katharina married J. Lorenz Hemmeter on May 12, 1886. They had 4 children. J. Leonhard married Anna Barbara Weiss (d. 1898) in 1893 and Anna Barbara Weber in 1899. Elizabeth Barbara Lizzie married G. Heinrich Ferdinand Dirker on June 6, 1892. They had no children. J. John married Emma Graebner in 1900. They had 2 children, John R. and Clara M.

J. Michael married Juliane Christine Schellhas on Nov. 25, 1897. They had 3 children. J. Adam married M. Margarethe Stern on Nov. 13, 1898. They had 2 children, Alma and Selma. Maria Katharina married Georg Ludwig Campau on April 26, 1899. They adopted 2 children.

J. Michael, born Feb. 2, 1824, settled on Junction Road, west of Frankenmuth, and farmed. The farm is now owned by his great grandson Edward, son of Selma Van Wormer. J. Michael died September 26, 1904. Eva, born December 30, 1829 in Rosstal, Germany, died April 2, 1909.

Their son, Johann John, became a wealthy Saginaw industrialist in the furniture business. J. John returned to Germany in 1896 to study architecture. After arriving back in Frankenmuth, he found jobs in a wood planing mill and furniture plants in Saginaw and Grand Rapids. In 1899 John began a small cabinet company in Saginaw, the same year he built the altar for St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth. His big opportunity came when he designed a phonograph cabinet with a bulge, making the phonograph a piece of furniture – with aesthetic as well as functional appeal. Soon the small cabinet shop was transformed into a company housed in a five-story 330,000 square foot building on eight acres of land. His company made cabinets and wooden horns for the Sonora Phonograph Company and employed 800 workers. About 1910 Herzog got his first order from Sonora for 10 cabinets. By 1916, he was making 67,000 of them. He even received an order from Thomas A. Edison, inventor of the phonograph. Herzog and Edison became good friends. The business flourished until the popularity of radio grew and Sonora merged and diversified. The building was sold when Sonora went bankrupt during the great depression. Meanwhile Herzog built a magnificent home at 110 Bradley in Saginaw. The home had 16 rooms on three floors and was modeled after Herzog's phonograph cabinet – with a bulge.

