

Trump Family



The Trump name came to Frankenhilf, known as Richville today, when Johann Leonhard Trump and his wife Anna Margaretha nee Hirsch arrived in the spring of 1853. Leonhard was born in Biuberbach, Germany on July 29, 1815 and married Margaretha sometime around 1843. Their trip across the ocean was not without incident. They were blown off course and were rationed on bread and coffee when their trip took longer than expected. Upon arrival in America they bought a farm at what is now 4054 South Hart Road.

Leonhard and Anna Margaretha had eleven children of which five died quite young. The remaining children were:

Johann Georg (1845-1918), a farmer and inventor, married Anna Barbara Bierlein and they had five children.

Marie Anna (1846-1919) married George H. Sitterding and they had six children.

Georg Leonhard (1848-1927), a farmer, married Ann Regina Gruber and they had ten children.

Johann Friederich (1855-1944), a carpenter/contractor worked in Bay City in partnership with a Mr. Heumann. Their firm erected some of the larger buildings in Bay City including the Hawley Block, now occupied by W.R. Knepp & Company. He married Magdalena Leix and they had five children.

Margaretha Barbara (1858-1939) never married.

Johann Paul (1861-1936) married Maria Katherina Engelhardt and they had four children.

Johann Leonhard and his family took an active interest in their church. In 1853, after the meeting room in Mr. Ammon's home became too small, it was decided to build a church. It was dedicated on the Feast Day of St. Michael's in 1853. The dedication was presided over by Pastor Sievers of Frankenlust, and the name of "St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Frankenhilf, Michigan" was adopted.

Johann Leonhard died May 4, 1866 and Anna Margaretha died May 24, 1905. They are buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery in Richville.

In 1874, as the church congregation numbered 35 families, it was decided to build a new "House of God". G. Trump was a member of the building committee. On the Feast Day of St. Michael's in 1875, the new church was dedicated. This church served St. Michaels until 1971 when it was razed and the existing church was built. Two sons of Johann Leonhard, Johann Georg and Georg Leonhard, served their church as elders. In those early years of the church, the elder and trustee positions were combined.

Leonhard Paul, son of Johann Paul and Marie Engelhard, married Mary Bender. They had seven children: Esther, Otto, Betty, Helen, Henry, Otili and Anita. Otto remained on the homestead and married Arlene A. Schmandt. He farmed, raised horses, cattle and hogs on the Hart Road farm while also working at Universal Engineering in Frankenmuth. They had three children: Marlene, James and Sharon. Otto Trump died October 20, 1976.

James R. Trump, son of Otto, remained on the 4054 South Hart Road homestead. He married his first wife, Carol nee Williams, and they had two children, Sherri and Stephanie. James married his second wife, Suzanne nee Hebert Lee in 1985. There are no children from this union. James specialized in raising breeding stock (swine) which he sold worldwide until 1989. He also worked in skilled trades in the tool industry in management capacity. James and Suzanne reside on the 4054 South Hart Road, Frankenmuth, Michigan homestead. James is the fifth generation of Trumps living on the homestead that was established 153 years ago.



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