

Holzhei Family



he marriage of Johann Holzhei and Angelika Muttkeller probably took place at the time they left their homeland and came to Frankenmuth. Johann was born on December 15, 1811 in Duerringen the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany. Angelika

was born on May 24, 1829, in Gussenstadt Wuerttemberg, Germany. The couple married May 24, 1854.

Johann Holzhei bought 40 acres of land near Gera that he farmed until his death, December 4, 1886. Johann is buried in the cemetery on Dehmel Road near Gera. Angelika died June 20, 1919 and is buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery. Their six children were all born in Frankenmuth and are:

J. Michael was born December 23, 1855 and died October 18, 1936.

A. Maria was born December 17, 1857.

A. Barbara was born December 5, 1859.

M. Margaretha was born September 28, 1861.

J. Leonhard was born September 1, 1863.

Friederika M. was born October 17, 1867. She married John Bartels.

J. Leonhard married Anna Margaretha Heinlein, born December 9, 1864 and confirmed May 5, 1878 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Richville. J. Leonhard continued farming in Frankenmuth where all four of his children were born. They are:

Emma was born December 27, 1885. She married Roy Haines, and had two sons, Elmer and Clarence.

Richard was born March 11, 1888. He married Alma Rogner and had two sons, Roy and Earl. Richard died April 4, 1939.

Herbert was born April 14, 1892. He married Florence Laux born March 9, 1895. They had two sons, Elmer and Dan. Herbert died January 14, 1984.

Rosa was born on May 17, 1890 and confirmed at St. Michael's in Richville March 27, 1904. She married Chris Keinath. They had three sons: Erwin, Harold and Floyd.

J. Leonhard and Anna Margaretha apparently sold their farm near Gera and moved to Richville after 1890. After Anna Margaretha died, J. Leonhard married Rosina nee Kuthahn Nefe on August 31, 1913. Rosina had five children from her first marriage: Albert, Harold, Anna (Reindel), Frank and Leona (Geyer). J. Leonhard died September 26, 1920.

In the forty years from 1940-1980, farming was a profitable business, especially if the equipment was kept modernized. With the new and larger equipment, farmers could "till" thousands of acres instead of a few hundred. The Holzheis followed this trend and became some of the biggest farmers in the area.

J. Leonhard's grandsons were nearly all involved in farming. Richard's son, Roy, born May 27, 1914, married Lillian Auernhammer. They had two sons, Richard and Kenneth. Roy died December 29, 1980. Richard's other son, Earl born April 15, 1919, married Doris Irene Bierlein in 1940. They had two children, Don and Janice. After the death of Doris in 1969, Earl married JoAnn Herzog. Earl died March 3, 1989.

Herbert's sons, Elmer and Dan, were born November 9, 1918 and June 27, 1927, respectively. Elmer married Martha Ranke on May 25, 1941 and they had one son, Robert. Robert and his wife Shirley live in St. Johns, Michigan. Their children are Matt and Karol Holzhei from Eaton Rapids, Tim and Carol Holzhei of St. Johns, Dr. Greg Holzhei of DeWitt, and Michelle and Dan Triantaflos of Perry. Elmer and his wife Martha have both died.

Dan married Dorothy Marion DeCoe on August 23, 1947. They had four children: Kathleen married Alvin English and they have one daughter, Debra; David married Cinthia Webb and they have one daughter, Rebecca; Mary Beth married Frederick Frisbie and they have two children, Leigha and Christopher; Laura married Keith Probanz, Jr. and they have one daughter, Marie.

