

Hubinger Family



he Hubinger family had a significant impact on the new colony of Frankenmuth during its founding years. “Both” brothers made a significant contribution to the community on a business and on a civic level.

Johann Georg was the younger of the two Hubingers who came to America in 1846. He was born on August 31, 1823 at the Louis Mill his father owned. Like his older brother Johann Matthias, Johann Georg got married just before he set sail for America. His bride was Rosina B. nee Keller from the town of Klarsbach, a village not far from Rosstal.

First the brothers built a saw mill which was completed in 1848. A flour mill followed. Both businesses were significant in the fact that they conveniently supplied the early settlers with materials for both building and baking. They no longer needed to travel to Saginaw or Flint to get lumber to build houses and barns or to get flour for their breads and staples.

When the brothers split company in 1849, it was John Georg who bought out his brother’s interest in the mills and continued to operate them. In those early days, farmers had to bag their grain and carry it on their shoulders to the mill. They returned with the ground wheat or corn in the same manner.

John Georg was described by his brother as a genius at business, always ready to increase his holdings. Aside from his business enterprises which included a milling, a tannery (1869), a creamery (1886), and a general store, he was also active in politics. He served as a highway commissioner, Frankenmuth Township treasurer, and even a candidate on the Democratic ticket for the Legislature in the 1860s.

In 1881, he transferred most of his milling interests to three of his sons – John Leonard, John Mathias and Georg Michael. A son, George Adam, took over the tannery business in 1879. In all, John Georg and Rosina had eight children. Besides the four sons mentioned, they had three daughters – Barbara Grauer, Margaret List and Anna Sohn. Another son, Johann George, died in infancy.

Their oldest son John L. is considered to be the first white child born in what is now the City of Frankenmuth. He was considered a local leader in manufacturing and business. During the middle 1860s, he attended business school in Missouri and served as village treasurer in 1903.

Georg Michael remained a bachelor and was involved in the family’s milling business all his life. It has been reported that he had substantial holdings, particularly in stocks, much of which were lost during the 1930’s Depression.

Johann Mathias, Johann Leonard and George Michael formed a stock company in 1900, with John Leonard as the president and his son Arthur serving as secretary and manager. The family continued to operate the business until 1909, when fire destroyed the mills. Then the Frankenmuth Milling Company was formed and a new mill built in 1911. A few years later it was sold to the Star of the West Milling Company.

The building was razed in 1956, but a group of local businessmen and citizens led by Allen Nickless built a turn of the century flour mill at the same location in 1984.

Johann Georg died in 1909 at the age of 86.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
For copies of Family Histories go to www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory