

Daenzer Family



The Daenzer family name was established in Frankenmuth by three brothers, Georg M., Leonard and Simon. All were sons of John Simon Daenzer of Zischendorf Bavarian, Germany. The father remained in Germany with a fourth son and two daughters.

It appears that Georg M. and Leonard were the first of the family to emigrate. Leonard came in 1857 and Georg M. in 1860. Georg M. was born on February 25, 1831. He came to America when he was 29 years old and stayed in Detroit for about one year. He found a job there working on the railroad.

When he decided to continue his journey to Frankenmuth, he bought a pear tree and carried it on his back all the way. He planted it at the corner of Jefferson and Weiss, where he settled and began farming. For 95 years many Daenzer families picked pears from it until it was removed to make way for the Schaefer-Bierlein Dodge dealership.

Georg M. met Eva Barbara Maurer in Frankenmuth and they married in 1862. Eventually they moved three-quarters of a mile east of M-83 to a farm on Curtis, now owned by Harold Krafft. Their farmhouse was located on the south side of the road.

The couple had nine children: Anna Bender, Catherine Kempf, Leonard, John Paul, George, Mary Mueller, Ludwig, Ernst and Frederick.

There are 43 grandchildren, 115 great-grandchildren, 248 great-great-grandchildren and 46 great-great-great-grandchildren.

The Daenzers have compiled an extensive family history which includes several interesting letters.

Simon wrote to his father and sisters after he made the voyage to Frankenmuth in 1867, asking them to join his brothers in America.

Georg M. wrote a letter to his father and sisters about Simon's arrival. It is dated June 9, 1867. In it he describes how he found out Simon was already in Frankenmuth. The letter reads in part:

"Eight days ago yesterday I and my wife were by my brother-in-law Heimbish. Someone called to us and said 'your brother Georg Simon from Germany is here'. I went to him but he didn't know me, not I him"

"If Simon would have come 14 days later, we would have naturally waited for him, but this way we could hardly believe that it was really him. Because a few days before we received a letter that was postmarked the 25th of May. You can imagine that we were more than a little surprised and so unexpected to see our brother Simon standing in front of us, two steps away."

Georg continued the letter by assuring his father that Simon would be safe with them. He also encouraged him to come to America. *"You would be four to six years better off than in Germany,"* he wrote . . . *"and then we would all be together again."*

Although the rest of the family never made the journey, Georg remained a strong supporter of Frankenmuth. He borrowed \$1,000 from the bank to help build St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. His brothers Leonard and Simon did no less.

Georg M. died on August 27, 1906 at the age of 75.

