Engelhardt Family

The name Engelhardt was brought to this area in June 1865, when Johann Georg Engelhardt came to Gera, Michigan three miles north of Frankenmuth. Johann Georg was born in Bavarian, Germany on October 12, 1859. He was baptized eleven days later and then came to America as a young boy. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in 1874. Johann married Emilie Louise Albrecht on February 19, 1884. They had six children before Emilie Louise died April 29, 1893. Johann Georg then married Anna Dall on October 15, 1893. They had six children.

Johann Georg and Emilie Louise’s children:
Richard Ludwig
Wilhelm August*
Ida Alberline Barbara
Herman Johann Karl
Norman Georg Frederick
Amanda Augusta

Johann Georg and Anna Dall’s children:
Norman Fried Georg
Herbert Henry John
Adelie August Margaretta
Olga Anna
Mabel Pauline Elizabeth
Aaron Henry Conrad Fried

Wilhelm August* Engelhardt married Mary Ann Hill. They had 15 children.

Herbert Leroy was a chef.
George Edward was a carpenter.
Herman William was a mechanic.

Alvina was a production worker.
Elmer was a furniture finisher.
Esther Arlene was a housewife and waitress.
Donald William was a truck driver.
Charles only lived for six months.
Royal James was a truck driver.
Peggy Joyce was a housewife.
Martin Edward was a production worker.
Lydia Martha did domestic work.
Donna Jean was a clerk.
Doris Ann and Delores Arlene were twins. Doris Ann was a housewife and Delores Arlene died as an infant.

William August died February 24, 1958 and Mary Ann died on April 22, 1973. William August and Mary Ann Engelhardt have 42 grandchildren and 57 great-grandchildren.

Lydia Martha Engelhardt Dinse recalls some of the family history. Her father, Wilhelm August, was the butcher at the Goetzinger Farm for a number of years. Later he worked a farm owned by William (Tiny) Zehnder and Otto Trinklein in Reese, Michigan. They raised and provided chicken for the Zehnder Restaurants in Frankenmuth. All the members of the family either worked on the farm for Tiny or at the restaurant. With such a big family, Lydia’s mother butchered ten chickens for Sunday dinner. Often she had to feed 30-35 people. When they went to church her parents would march everybody up to the front to occupy the first two benches. They would have to sit still or they would receive a spanking after they got home.

All the brothers and sisters remained in the area except Donna, who moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

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