

# Fischhaber Family



The Fischhaber name came to the Franconian Colonies in 1847 through Johann Fischhaber. Johann was born in Rosstal, Bavaria in 1828. Accompanying him were Elizabeth Barbara Fischhaber, Sophia Barbara Fischhaber and Johann and Margarethe Barbara nee Fischhaber Nuechterlein. All came from Rosstal and were sisters of Johann Fischhaber. Records indicate that the single women were daughters of a master butcher and that Johann was in the butchering business.

After arriving in America, Johann made his living as a farmer and surveyor. He owned 40 acres east of Frankenmuth on Curtis Road. Until recently, it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Daenzer. Elizabeth Barbara married Johann Gottfried Ortner. Sophia Barbara married Christian Voss, but died shortly after their marriage in 1852. Johann was married to Katherine Adelheid Sitterding in St. Louis, Michigan in 1851. Her parents were Johann Herman Sitterding and Katherine Elizabeth nee Dirker Sitterding. The Sitterding family came to the United States in 1834. Most likely, Johann Herman is the Mr. Sitterding mentioned by Johann Georg Rummel in his book of 1895 commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Frankenmuth. An innkeeper in Saginaw called upon a Mr. Sitterding to translate when the second group of Franconian settlers came to the Saginaw Valley in 1846. An old map, circa 1847, shows a Sitterding homestead in the area of Dehmel and Tuscola Roads west of the present St. Lorenz Cemetery.

Johann and Katherine Adelheid Fischhaber were the parents of eleven children: Johann Georg, Johann Gottfried, Katherine Elizabeth Winter who died two years after her marriage, Johann Henry, Friedrich Heinrich who died as an infant, Christoph, Fred, Leonard John, Sophia Janson, Adam and Johannah Janson. Johann Gottfried, Katherine Elizabeth Winter, Fred, Sophia, Adam and Johannah Janson moved to the Saginaw and Freeland areas.

Christoph settled in the Millington area and Leonhard John in the Bay City area. Fred and Adam never married. Johann Georg and Johann Henry remained in the Frankenmuth area and were farmers. Henry was also a butcher who went from farm to farm conducting the whole butchering and sausage making process. Henry married Barbara Schmidt and they lived on Lange Road. Barbara was a mid-wife. At the time of her death in 1932, it was recorded in the "Frankenmuth News" that she assisted in over 800 births in the community. Henry and Barbara's children were George Henry, Katherine Felgner, Adam, Adelheid Roth, Lena Beyerlein and Ada Cox.

Georg married Margarete Putz in 1883. She was born in Neustadt am Kulm, Bavaria and immigrated to the United States in 1882. They had five children: Elizabeth Knieling, Mary Kuck, Emma Kuck, August and Ludwig, known as Louie, who later moved to Oklahoma and farmed there. Georg and Margarete's children recall hearing various stories and accounts of Indians when they were small. They were apprehensive of the Native Americans. Margarete told the children not to be afraid of Indian Dave, whom they called Uncle Dave, as he was a good and trusted Indian. He was a roving Chippewa Indian who stopped at the farm from time to time for eggs, bread and other food items. A book has been written about Indian Dave, telling he was buried at the Wisner Cemetery near Wisner Michigan, and the State of Michigan erected a historical marker at his gravesite. Georg owned a farm east of Frankenmuth which was passed on to his son, August. The farm eventually passed from August to his son, Harold. The William "Tiny" Zehnder family owns the farm at the present time.

Margarete suffered a stroke in 1911 at the age of 50. George died in 1931 at the age of 79. Johann and Katherine Adelheid Fischhaber had 33 grandchildren. Great grandchildren that resided in or near Frankenmuth are Margaret Knieling LaMountain, Elmer Kuck and Edna F. Kuck Loesel.

