

Hoerlein Family



The Hoerlein name came to this area through Christoph Hoerlein. Christoph was the oldest of eight children born to Johann Peter Adam Hoerlein and his wife Anna Margaretha Birner of Stoeckach, Germany. Christoph was born on November 17, 1800. He married Margareta Barbara Grueber on March 18, 1846 in Bremen, just before they left for America. He bought and farmed 89 acres of land northeast of Frankenmuth, also some land in Saginaw County and Tuscola County.

The couple had eight children: George L., Barbara, Katherine, John George, Paulus, Barbara, Eva Margareta, and Christoph. Christoph died on January 25, 1881. Margareta died on August 24, 1893.

Paulus (Paul) was born in 1856 and became a farmer. In 1884, he married Maria B. List, daughter of Johann and Maria Lotter List, one of the founders of Frankenmuth in 1845. Paul purchased the Richville House, a hotel in Richville, Michigan in 1845. In 1889, Paul and Maria sold the Richville House and bought an interest in a general store, Hoerauf & Hoerlein, located in Richville. Paul was Postmaster from 1885 to 1893. Paul and Maria had three children: Bernhard F., born on September 13, 1885; Richard J., born on May 26, 1887; and Emma, born on September 16, 1891. Paul died in 1893.

Bernhard F. moved to Denver, Colorado in 1903. He was a clerk at the Golden Eagle Department Store for three years and then, in 1906, moved to Ft. Collins, Colorado. He became a partner and then the owner of the Rohling Store. Bernhard married Martha E. Arnold on September 28, 1916. They had three children: Alvin B., born July 4, 1917; Benjamin F., born July 2, 1921; and Mary Ann, born June 12, 1928. Alvin and Benjamin became well known for their work in veterinary medicine. Mary Ann was a victim of the polio epidemic.

She persisted in overcoming her handicap and became an accomplished vocalist and organist. Bernhard F. Hoerlein died in 1954.

Richard J. rented land and farmed for several years. He became a partner in the Richville Elevator and later the sole owner. He married Bertha M. Ortner on September 24, 1914. They had one son, Carl F., born April 23, 1916. Richard died on February 1, 1968.

Carl F. became a partner with his father in the Richville Elevator in 1936. They sold the elevator to Star of the West Milling Company in Frankenmuth in 1964. Carl married Rose A. Rupprecht December 22, 1945. They had three sons: Paul F., born March 9, 1947; John R., born September 9, 1951; and Philip C., born December 22, 1956. Carl was a member of the Board of Directors of Frankenmuth State Bank for 38 years (1949-1987). He was a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church School Building Committee and chairman of the Church Building Committee. Carl and Rose resided in Richville. Carl died June 11, 2001. Rose died September 29, 1994.

Son, Paul F., married Nancy Leigh Johnson September 9, 1967. They had one son, Matthew. Paul and Nancy divorced in 1973. Paul married Mary Helen Hill June 15, 1974. They had two sons, Christopher Paul and Jonathan Dwight. Christopher married Danielle and they had a son, Creadence, born September 20, 2005.

Son, John R., did not marry; worked in Lansing, Michigan; died March 18, 2005.

Son, Philip C., graduated from Michigan State University Osteopathic School of Medicine. He was a Diplomat of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, and a past director of Emergency Medical Services at Traverse City Community Hospital. He died at age 38 on August 5, 1995 after a long illness.



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