Kaiser Family

The Kaiser name was brought to America by Benedikt Kaiser (1816-1895). He was born in Bavaria, Germany. He came to America with the second group of immigrants coming to Frankenmuth, via New York and Detroit. Benedikt purchased a plot of 40 acres of land for $160 on Nov. 19, 1850, which he used for farming. The address today is 5450 Beyer Road. On May 9, 1852 he married Christine Nuechterlein (1821-1855) at St. Lorenz Church. Their infant daughter, Margaretha, preceded her mother in death. On July 25, 1855 Benedikt married Magdalena Meier (1826-1888), who was born in Dietersdorf, Germany and had immigrated to Frankenmuth. Their marriage was blessed with 4 children: Barbara Kaiser (Hoernlein), 4/20/1856; George Wolfgang Kaiser, 6/7/1857; Anna Maria Kaiser (Rau), 2/21/1865; Johann Andreas Kaiser, 9/3/1867.

On Sept. 21, 1885 a “Warranty Deed” was issued between Benedikt and his son, George, for $3,000 for the homestead. After Magdalena’s death in 1888, Benedikt continued to live in the house with George and Emma, his son and daughter-in-law, until his death in 1895. He is buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.

George Wolfgang Kaiser (1857-1947), being the eldest son, spent much of his childhood helping his father on the family farm. At the age of 28 he married Emma Winterstein (8/1863 – 9/12/1919) on Sept. 16, 1885. He remained on the farm his entire life; was born, raised, and educated in the German environment of Frankenmuth, and spoke only German all his life. George died in 1947 at the age of 90. He also is buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery.

Emma and George were blessed with seven children: Johann Kaiser Helpap (during World War II five of her eight sons served in the U.S. military). Adolph Kaiser had 2 sons and 1 daughter, Victor, Edmond and Vera. Otto Kaiser had two sons, Otto and Charles. Margaretha (Meta) remained single and helped Walter on the farm until her death in 1970. Walter was a bachelor and worked the family farm until he sold it in 1974. He died in 1978. Christian became a Lutheran schoolteacher and had two sons, Roy and Ralph.

Gustav had one son, George

The last four generations produced the following professional Lutheran church workers:

Grandson: Christian Kaiser (son of George & Lutheran School Administrator for 48 yrs.)
Great grandson: Roy Kaiser (son of Christian & Lutheran School Administrator for 40 yrs.)
George Kaiser (son of Gustav & Lutheran School Administrator for 20+ yrs.)
Great-great-grandsons & great-great-granddaughters in professional Lutheran church work:

Thomas Helpap (son of Gustav Helpap, a Lutheran School Teacher)
Kurt Kaiser (son of Ralph, a Lutheran Pastor)
John Kaiser (son of Ralph, a Lutheran Pastor)
Jim Kaiser (son of Ralph, a Lutheran Bible Translator)
Ann Kaiser Pfeiffer (daughter of Ralph, a Lutheran Teacher)
Mark Kaiser (son of Ralph, a Lutheran School Teacher for 10+ yrs.)
Tim Kaiser (son of Roy, a Lutheran High School Teacher (2+ yrs.)
Cheryl Kaiser Carothers (daughter of George), Lutheran Teacher
David Kaiser (son of George), Lutheran Teacher
Joel Kaiser (son of Roy) Lutheran Pastor (currently associate pastor of St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth)
Great-great-great grandson: Seth Kaiser (son of Kurt), Director of Christian Education
Benjamin Kaiser (son of Kurt), Lutheran Teacher

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