

Riedel Family



he parents of Simon Riedel were Johann Nikolaus Riedel (1772-1845) and Katharina nee Trentel from Altenplos, Germany. Johann was a weaver and also a “Royal Prussian Grenadier”. Their son Simon was born June 7, 1827 in Altenplos (near Bayreuth) Germany, and came to the state of New York between 1848 and 1851. After graduating from the Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan, he taught school in Eden, New York.

In 1854, Simon received a divine call from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan to teach school and direct the music program for the church. He was installed August 13, 1854. On June 19, 1855 he married Johanna Buckel in Monroe, Michigan. Their first home was a “teacherage” located on the site later occupied by St. Lorenz Church. The west portion of the house served as a classroom. The congregation grew rapidly and soon Simon had 80 children in his classroom. He taught the children singing in two and three-part harmony. In 1868, a second teacher was called to join Cantor Simon Riedel, and then in 1889, a third teacher was called. This situation resulted in the building of one-room schools serving small districts.

In 1880, when a new brick church was being erected on the site of the original school, Simon and his family moved to 211 Hubinger Street, one block east of Main Street on the southeast corner of the intersection of School Street and Hubinger Street. That house, known as a “teacherage”, housed other teachers after Riedel, and was conveniently located across the street from the Central School of St. Lorenz congregation.

Simon Riedel was known as one of the great men of music at St. Lorenz. He was widely known as Kantor Riedel (“Kantor” is the German for “Cantor”).

Before organs or pianos were used in church (the first organ was installed in 1861), he led the singing, hence “Cantor”. Cantor Riedel receives much credit for instilling the growing St. Lorenz congregation with an appreciation of good music as an expression of praise to the Lord, not only in the church setting, but also in the home and in social gatherings. He was credited for maintaining correct liturgical character in services and teaching hymns and chorales in the German hymn book. Simon Riedel was known for the well-trained Men’s Choir, which he organized and directed in 1875. At that time there also was a Mixed Choir and a Trumpet Choir led by Teacher Strieter.

After retiring as a teacher in 1901, Cantor Riedel led a quiet life under the care of his daughter Emilie. Johanna, his beloved wife, entered her heavenly home on October 22, 1899. Even though he was still spry and filled with the spirit until his last days, he also sensed the hardships and handicaps of old age, so that his daily prayers were that the Lord may soon take him to his eternal home in heaven. Cantor Riedel died February 8, 1916 and was laid to rest in the St. Lorenz Cemetery. His grave is located directly west of the church in the third row, the tenth stone north from Tuscola Street.

Simon and Johanna had eight children: Karl, Johanna, Herman, John, Maria, Christian, Fred, and Emilie.

Maria (February 14, 1863-November 25, 1937) married Gottfried Hubinger on May 4, 1884. They had five children: Richard, Hedwig, Ella, William, Carl, and a foster daughter Lillian (also known as Martha). Gottfried and his wife operated a grocery store, and he also was a Mayor of Frankenmuth. Riedel descendants in Frankenmuth followed from Ella Hubinger (April 30, 1892-February 1, 1954) who married Herman Bronner on June 11, 1916.



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