Schemm Family

The Schemm name came to this area through Jacob Schemm. Jacob was born September 16, 1818, in Dinkelsbuehl, Germany, and died February 8, 1889, in Richville, Michigan. He came to the Frankenhilf (Richville) area with his wife and their daughter, Karolina, in 1853. They bought land on what is now known as Krueger Road and farmed.

Shortly thereafter, Jacob and his wife encouraged Margaret Zoller and her son, Fred, to join them. Margaret was a sister to Jacob’s wife.

Tragedy struck the Schemm family when Jacob’s wife froze to death on her way to Vassar, Michigan, to buy flour. Jacob then married Margaret Zoller and adopted her son Fred. Jacob and Margaret had seven more children.

Karolina was the daughter of Jacob and his first wife. She was born March 3, 1850, and died August 18, 1918. She married Ferdinand Horneber and they had eight children: Lenhart, Fred, Lina, Anna, John, Mary, Matthew and Adam.

Fred Schemm was Jacob’s stepson. He was born April 25, 1850 and died June 17, 1929. He married Elizabeth Weiss (October 29, 1855 to May 3, 1925) on October 14, 1877.

Jacob and Margaret’s seven children were:

Mary Schemm, born August 20, 1857 and died April 6, 1939. She married Melchior Zehnder. Their children were: Barbara, Henry, John, Bernhardt, Herman, Edwin, Nora and Oscar.

Matthew Schemm, born July 20, 1860 and died August 19, 1937. He married Barbara Blank and their children were: Rudolph, Mathilda, Carl, who died in infancy, and Oscar.

John Schemm, born August 20, 1862 and died November 19, 1910. He never married.

Maggie Schemm, born January 7, 1865 and died November 19, 1910. She married August Noack. They had no children.

Peter Schemm, born February 22, 1867 and died March 3, 1942. He married Barbara Schellhas. They had two children, Richard and Robert.

Regina Schemm, born February 21, 1869 and died June 11, 1947. She married Fred Roth and they had three children, Olga, Martha and Carl.

Henry Schemm, born March 22, 1872 and died April 4, 1957. He married Mary Heinlein. They had two children, Fred and Erma.

In the 125th Frankenhilf Anniversary Book, Peter and Henry Schemm are shown working at the Richville Lumber Mill. They are also shown as members of the Richville Band of 1900.

Many of the descendants of Matthew Schemm, Jacob’s son, still live in the Richville area.


Mathilda Schemm (12-4-1897 to 11-7-1985) married William Weber, Sr. (11-15-1891 to 3-10-1962). They had six children: Vera (4-8-1918 to 4-1-1961), Albert, Harvey, William Jr., Oscar and Howard. Harvey and Oscar died as infants.


Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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