he fourth Franconian Colony to be settled in the Saginaw Valley was Frankenhilf, later to be known as Richville. Only two families of the original group remained true to their original goal and came to Frankenhilf in 1850. Others joined them in 1851 and 1852.

Among the group of eight families that came in 1852, were Johann Schwab (1827-1885) and his wife Anna Appolonia (1830-1887).

Johann was born in Unterfeldbrecht, County of Neustadt/Aisch, Germany. Just prior to immigrating to America he married Anna Appolonia on May 15, 1852 in Bremen, Germany.

Johann settled on property several miles from the church in Richville and cleared the land to farm. Here Johann and Anna raised their family of eleven children.

Maria (1854-1907) married Frederick Bernthal. They had four children: Matthew, Nettie Schultz, Lizzie Kern, and George, who married Frieda Ortner.

Anna Margaretha (1856-1900) married George L. Bernthal. They have five children: Michael, Sophie, Anna Nickel, Marie Moderow, and Edwin A., who married Florence Brenner.

Elizabeth (1858-1918) married George Engelhart. They had three children: Bertha Fink, Fred, and Herman.


J. Mathias (1862-1933) never married.

J. Georg (1864-1937) married Caroline Schultz. They had two children: Richard and Edna Mossner.

J. Jacob (1866-1933) married Margarethe Wenderlein (1874-1937). They had two children: Arthur and Ella Heinlein.


J. Andreas (1869-1900) never married.

Kunigunde (1869-1948) married Christian Nickodemus. They had seven children: Elmer, who married Mildred Buchinger; Elsie, who married Rudolf Hildner; Selma, who married Alex Reinbold; and Erwin, Edward, Otto, and Lorna.

Anna Appolonia (1871-1896) married Frederick Bauer and had two children: Edward, who married Martha Heinlein, and Rudolf, who married Idell Haight.